

WOC Fall Legacy Luncheon (see pages 14-19) Young Life Summer Celebrations

(see article pages 9-11)

"Behold I Am With You"

(see Pastor's article pages 2-3)

Pastor's Article

Behold, I Am With You

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

My daughter told me a sad story recently. Apparently a friend of hers was in a swimming pool accident and suffered a severe concussion. The concussion resulted in a pretty severe case of amnesia. This poor young adult does not remember her friends or family prior to the accident. This lack of recognition of the people who love her most has given her an overwhelming sense of mistrust. Affection and an easy-going sense of humor have been replaced by fear, jealousy and suspicion with people around her.

Forgetting the faces and names of the people who love us most must be devastating.

Over the summer, I began reading a book called *Lead* by Paul David Tripp. In this book about Christian leadership, Tripp identifies a variety of habits and attitudes that undermine our relationships with God and with one another.

One of the biggest crises in the church and its leadership is that we have developed what he calls "Presence Amnesia." Presence Amnesia is present when we think we are on our own, and that we must go it alone—without God. Presence Amnesia is involved when we forget the essential promise of the great commission: "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20).

Tripp writes,

"Bad things happen to a ministry leader and to a leadership community



when ministry leadership work so commands focus that they begin to functionally forget the presence of the Lord."

"When, as leaders, we are daily blown away by the presence and glory of God ... we joyfully do our work inside the boundaries of the two great commandments, laboring for God's glory and the good of others. **But** if we become presence and glory amnesiacs, our actions will be driven by a very different set of motives."

When we forget the presence of the Lord:

- We try to do the impossible by our own power.
- We try to do everything by our own endurance.
- We begin to believe that we HAVE all the answers and that we ARE the answer—and we forget that every good thing there is the work of hands greater than your own.

When I forget the presence of God, I feel like I have to be the biggest, the baddest and the best. I feel that the weight of the world is on my shoulders, and that I must generate all of the ideas and provide all of the answers.

But, when I remember that He is present—I remember that Lord is bigger than all my challenges, and those challenges look much smaller. As my friend Pete Johnson, our church planter at Christ of the Hills in Boerne, said,

When your God is too small your problems get too big.

When your God is big, your challenges seem smaller.

Jesus said,

"Behold— I am with you always even until the end of the age."

The power of our witness does not come from something in us— it comes from the presence of God.

The living and lived-in presence of God is the key that turns the ignition of our discipleship. Our Strength is supernatural— and when we are fueled by the presence of God—the conviction of his truth and the confidence of his love— He can make us capable of things that we would never dare to consider.

A few weeks ago I also made a really obnoxious pun. I said that when *you*

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behold *God*, and what He has done for you, you will realize that *He* BE-HOLDING *you*! That you are being held— in your salvation and in your mission— in the Father's grace.

Everything I believe and everything I trust for my life and for the people I love— I trust because I know that God is holding me.

Psalm 100 says:

- ² Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
- ³ Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- ...⁵ For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

BEHOLD that God is Real and that He is with you until the end of the age. BEHOLD who He is, and Be-HELD in the palm of His hand—knowing that He will not let you go and that He will empower you to "Go forth as His witness."

Grace and peace,

SAVE THE DATE

- 4 Fall Sunday Schedule Change, Fall Ministry Guides, FPC Job Openings, Pastor's Bible Study, Prayer Training, DivorceCare,
- 5 Stephen Ministry Training, Financial Peace University, Israel 2022 Trip, Children's Communion Workshop, Children's Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Men's Quarterly Dinner, Men's Small Group Kickoff, WOC Legacy Luncheon,
- **6** Women's Bible Study, Gospel Community Groups, University Group, Gospel Community Gathering, FPC YAC Lead, 7-11 Youth Event, Youth Fall Retreat, Global Missions Weekend, Love SATX, Praying with the Ministers,
- 7 2022 NAMI-Walks Your Way, Literature Circle, Marriage Ministry & Weekend
- **8** Literature Circle Reading List & WOC September Circle Meetings

MINISTRY ARTICLES

- 9-11 Summer Celebrations with San Antonio East Young Life
- **12-13** Mission South
 - 14 September Letter from the WOC President
- 15 -19 Church, Castle, Cathedral
- **20-21** KEYS

FIRST CUP

22-23 Readings and Prayer List

First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team.

Want to be featured in FIRST PRESS?

Deadline to submit content: the 15th of the previous month.

Hank Cherry: **Director of Communications**Dorothy Hecimovich: **Graphic Designer**Sam Simpson: **Print Tech & Media Assistant**

Questions? Contact: Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org)

Save the Date

FALL SUNDAY SCHEDULE CHANGE

Our NEW Sunday schedule has begun! FPC³ - Coffee, Cookies, & Connection - will be set up in the McCullough Room from 9:15 AM - 12:00 PM. Be sure to stop by during FPC³ 30 Minutes, a special half-hour specifically set apart for the FPC family to spend together.

- 8:30 AM: Early Sunday School classes
- 9:30 AM: Traditional Worship & Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 11:00 AM: FPC³ 30 Minutes Half hour for church-wide fellowship in the McCullough Room
- 11:00 AM: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary Contemporary Worship in Westminster Hall

FALL MINISTRY GUIDES

Check out all of our fall Sunday school classes, Bible Studies, programs and many more ways to get connected at FPC. We look forward to seeing you this fall at FPC! Visit fpcsanantonio.org/fall2022 to view or download the Fall 2022 Ministry Guide.

FPC JOB OPENINGS

We are currently seeking the following positions. Details can be found at fpcsanantonio.org/jobs.

- Director of Emerging Adults & University
 Ministries (This position oversees ministries in
 and through First Presbyterian Church connecting
 emerging young adults (university age) to Christ, the
 Church, and God's work in the City.)
- Director to Children & their Families (This
 position is part of the Christian Education team with
 a specific dedication to the education and edification
 of children and their families.)
- Media Coordinator (This position is part of the Communications team.)
- **Receptionist** (Part-time position, assists with KEYS ministry and Front Desk.)

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY "ON LOCATION: THE PEOPLES AND PLACES OF THE BIBLE"

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM | Covenant Hall
Thursdays | Covenant Hall & fpcsanantonio.org
9:30 AM (Large Group) & 10:30 AM (Small Groups)
Join us this fall as we unlock the beauty of the Bible and our understanding of God's Word by learning more about the historical, cultural and geographic context of God's covenant history. Join Dr. Bob Fuller in Covenant Hall Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM (Preview Edition), or on Thursday mornings. You may also join us virtually on Thursdays via live-stream through the FPC app or fpcsanantonio.org. Questions? Contact Sheila Figueroa at sheilaf@fpcsat.org. For small group placement, please contact Lellen Lane at lellenlane@aol.com or (210) 860-1395.

PRAYER TRAINING: PERSONAL PRAYER

Tuesday, September 6 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | 226 Please join us for one or all of our free prayer training sessions to enrich your own prayer life, become more comfortable leading others in prayer, and spend time listening to Jesus. Register by contacting Lisa Snow at lisas@fpcsat.org or 210-226-0215. For questions contact Laura Sasser, 210-286-1530. Next Prayer Training on Praying for Others will be Sunday, October 2, 5:30 - 8:30 PM. Additional Fall prayer training dates and topics at fpcsanantonio.org/prayer.

DIVORCECARE

Wednesdays | Sept. 7 – Dec. 14 | 6:00 PM | 226

DivorceCare is a video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on divorce and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussions of the materials presented during the video. Please feel free to connect with Butch Gerfers at 210-862-9998 or gerfers@flash.net, if you have any questions or visit fpcsanantonio.org/support-groups for more information. Special one-day event, "DivorceCare: Surviving the Holidays," coming November 2, 2022.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Tuesdays, August 23 - November 15 6:00 PM | Room 226

Stephen Minister training teaches principles and skills that equip you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others. The training helps deepen your faith, as the Holy Spirit fashions you into a Christ-centered caregiver and builds a special bond of Christian community and camaraderie among all those in your class. For more information contact Rev. Scott Simpson at scotts@fpcsat.org.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Thursdays, August 25 - October 20 | 7:00 PM | Zoom Financial Peace University is a 9-week class that teaches you to pay off debt, save, and invest for the future from a biblical perspective. Financial Peace University has helped nearly 6 million people discover the right way to handle money. We hope that you will join us by registering via this link: https://fpu.com/1153106. For more information, contact Morris Camp at morriscamp@gmail.com.

ISRAEL 2022 TRIP

Deadline: September 7

Trip: Monday, November 7 – Wednesday, November 16 Join Bob and Morgan Fuller on a pilgrimage of faith and adventure to Israel. The trip will be led by Dr. Mike Fanning. The group will leave San Antonio on November 7, 2022, and return on November 16, 2022. The final payment deadline is September 7. If you are interested, please check out the detailed trip and registration information available through MBF Enterprises Inc at bit.ly/fpc-israel.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sunday, September 25 | 9:30 - 10:30 AM | 108

This workshop is designed for children in 1st-5th grade and their parents. Families will be led in activities and conversations to help teach children about the significance of the Lord's supper. Contact Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org with questions.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Wednesdays | 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM | Assembly Room

Children's Choir is a fun and exciting way for your kids (Ages 4yrs – 5th Grade) to get involved, make friends, learn great lessons, and get the opportunity to perform! Register online at fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-choir. Contact Kathy Jamison, kathyj@fpcsat.org, for more information.

SING WITH THE SANCTUARY CHOIR!

Wednesday Rehearsals | 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal Room 318

Have you ever sung in a community chorus, high school, college, or church choir? Did you learn to read music as an instrumentalist, vocalist, or pianist? Would you like to lead worship through the art of choral singing? If your answer to these questions is 'yes' or even 'maybe,' we would like to tell you more about the work of our Sanctuary Choir. Our choir rehearses weekly and prepares 75-100 choral pieces each year. While we do not require a formal audition, we will do a basic skills/gifts inventory to help you evaluate the choir as a place of ministry. Please contact Tom Dooling, Minister of Music, at tomd@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2717 to find out more about this unique opportunity in the life of our church.

MEN'S MINISTRY QUARTERLY DINNER

Sunday, September 11 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Westminster Hall

Join us as men of all ages come together for food, fellowship, and a message from our guest speakers, Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller and Rev. Mitchell Moore. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/men-dinner to register for dinner. Questions? Contact Trebes Sasser at tsasser@rpitx.com or Cody Heffron at codyheffron@yahoo.com.

MEN'S SMALL GROUP KICKOFF

Sunday, September 25 | 5:00 PM | Geneva Room Interested in joining a small group of men for study, prayer and fellowship? Join us for the Men's Ministry Small Group Kick-Off as we form our groups and launch this exciting new opportunity! Contact Gardner Peavy at gardnerpeavy@gmail.com for questions about small groups.

WOC FALL LEGACY LUNCHEON

Monday, September 26 | 11:30 AM (Doors open at 11:00 AM) | Westminster Hall

Join us for our annual Women of the Church Fall Legacy Luncheon. Our keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Anna Catherine Armstrong, granddaughter of Reverend Dr. P.B. Hill, speaking on his life and missionary legacy. The price for the luncheon is \$25, cash, check, or credit card. Payment is your reservation. You may also register online at fpcsanantonio.org/woclunch or at the table in Mauze Lobby. Contact Susan DeKoch at 210-508-7127 or susandekoch@gmail.com with questions.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | Sept. 6 - Oct. 18 | 9:30 AM | Covenant Hall Join us for Melissa Spoelstra's 7-session study, *Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More.* We will explore Isaiah's message to the nation of Israel and its prophesies of the Messiah and how they teach us that following God isn't about striving harder; it's about trusting God more. Childcare available upon request. Contact Catherine Miller, 210-394-2045, grcmiller@sbcglobal.net.

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Study the Bible in community with other young adults so that you can grow together in knowing God and His Word. These small groups meet at least twice a month for fellowship, study, and prayer together in homes. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/gcgroups for a full list of groups.

UNIVERSITY GROUP

Sunday, Sept. 4 | Evening | Student Center

The University Gospel Community College Group begins Sunday, September 4. Don't miss out on this chance to go deeper in God's Word and in relationships with other believers! Contact Bella Martinez, bellajmartinez18@gmail. com or 210-379-7374, to sign up!

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GATHERING

Monday, Sept. 26 | 7:00 PM | Student Center (Dinner at 6:30)

Join other young adults for a time of dinner, worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and prayer. This is our monthly gathering for all of our Gospel Community Groups which meet throughout the month. Contact Carrie Everson (carriee@fpcsat.org) or Mitchell Moore (mitchellm@fpcsat.org). More information at fpcsanantonio.org/gcgroups.

FPC YAC LEAD

Wednesday, Sept. 21 | 6:30 - 7:45 PM | TBD (Light Dinner at 6:15 PM)

Join us for an interactive, practical training time for leaders and potential leaders within the Young Adult Community! We will look at biblical principles of leadership and how to apply them in our lives, both within the church walls and without! No experience or formal leadership title is necessary – all that is required is a desire to serve!

YOUTH FALL RETREAT

Friday, Oct. 14 – Sunday, Oct. 16 | Camp Zephyr, TX All students and friends of students grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a fun weekend for our annual Fall Retreat! Activities will include team building exercises, good food and snacks, fellowship, and so much more. Online registration coming soon at fpcsanantonio.org/youth. Contact Alex Clary at alexc@fpcsat.org or Kerri Napoli at kerrin@fpcsat.org.

GLOBAL MISSIONS WEEKEND

Friday, Sept. 30 - Sunday, Oct. 2

FPC will be joined by several of our Global Mission Partners to connect with and learn about what God is doing in the Global Church. Join us for opportunities in Sunday schools, small groups, and more to connect with our ministry partners and find out how you can participate in using your gifts for God's glory globally! Contact Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org with questions.

LOVE SATX – LOCAL MISSION CELEBRATION AND PARTICIPATION

Monday, October 17 – Sunday, October 23

Join our FPC family in loving and serving San Antonio through participating in Love SATX October 17-23! We will have opportunities for everyone to participate in loving our neighbors and neighborhoods, including a dinner on Wednesday, October 19, and serving opportunities with partners on Saturday, October 22. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details to come soon!

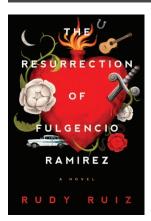
PRAYING WITH THE MINISTERS

The Deacons, Elders, and Covenant Partners are encouraged to sign up to pray with the ministers before the Traditional Services. The person is to be in the Robing Room 10 minutes prior to the service (9:20 AM and 10:50 AM). A short prayer with the Pastors starts when all are present or the Pastor gives the go-ahead. To sign-up please go to this link for Praying with the Ministers: bit.ly/pray-with-ministers.

2022 NAMIWALKS YOUR WAY

Saturday, Oct. 8 | 7:30 – 10:00 AM | San Antonio Zoo The time is upon us again for our NAMIWalks Your Way San Antonio 2022. NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) is excited for this year's walk to be in person for the first time since the pandemic. Our walk will be held at the San Antonio Zoo on October 8, 2022. Registration will begin at 7:30 AM. We ask that you consider joining us and help us make this year extra special. If interested, contact Jenn Borges at jennborges@hotmail.com.

LITERATURE CIRCLE



Join the FPC Literature Circle on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 in the McCullough Room for S.A. author, Rudy Ruiz, who will review his novel, *The Resurrection of Fulgencio Ramirez*. The story is set in the fictional border town of La Frontera. Fulgencio Ramirez is a first-generation norteamericano and an ambitious high school student who gets a job in a local

pharmacy. There, he falls in love with the Anglo daughter of the pharmacist. The plot thickens as Rudy relates the story in the magical realism fashion.

Author, Rudy Ruiz, was born in Brownsville, TX, the son and grandson of Mexican immigrants. He received his Bachelor and Master degrees at Harvard.

The circle will meet at 1:00 PM for a social and 1:30 PM for the review. Men and women of all faiths are invited to attend or view the review, and list of upcoming books, at our website: fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle. Two copies of each book are available in the church library to be checked out.

Grace Clouse
Grace Clouse, Chair

Willie Willming

Willie Willming, Publicity

MARRIAGE MINISTRY

This Fall, FPC Marriage Ministry invites you to read *The*



Acceptance: What Brings and Keeps Lifelong Love by Jon Anderson. Whether you are looking for a mate, engaged, or married for forty years, you will find this book to be the most important resource you've ever read on the subject of relationships and marriage. For more information, check out fpcsanantonio.org/marriage!

FOCUS ON MARRIAGE WEEKEND

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 - 16 | FPC

An Evening with Author Jon R. Anderson Saturday, October 15 | 7:00 PM | Geneva Room

Marriage Ministry is bringing you a special guest speaker! Jon R. Anderson, author of "*The Acceptance - What Brings and Keeps Lifelong Love*," will join us for dinner to discuss practical ways to pursue the principles of true love. He will explain what's going on in our



relationships and how to practice acceptance. Jon Anderson is the founder of Growing Love Network, has over 25 years as a counselor & therapist, and 35 years of 'real life' experience. Registration coming soon!

Author Jon R. Anderson in Sunday School Sunday, October 16 | 9:30 - 10:30 AM | Room 309

Small Group Leader Training Sunday, October 16 | 12:15 - 2:00 PM | Geneva Room

Marriage Ministry is offering this Small Group Leader Training for couples who would like to lead 4-5 couples in their home or at church using "The Acceptance" materials provided by author Jon R. Anderson. To learn more about this and other Marriage Ministry Programs go to: fpcsanantonio.org/marriage. Contact: Bobby or Downie Mickler, 210-284-1497 rmickler@gmail.com.

PREPARE SENRICH.

Get Your Marriage Snapshot

Register for a free assessment at fpcsanantonio.org/marriage



LITERATURE CIRCLE READING LIST 2022-2023

September 13

The Resurrection of Fulgencio Ramirez by Rudy Ruiz

Reviewer: Rudy Ruiz

October 11

<u>The President and the Freedom Fighter</u> by Brian Kilmeade

Reviewer: Martha Smith

November 8

Broadway Musical Presentation

"Porgy and Bess"

Reviewer: Bill Hensley

December 13

The Leopard is Loose by Stephen Harrigan

Reviewer: Rev. Scott Simpson

January 10

The Captured by Scott Zesch

Reviewer: Janet Wernli

February 14

<u>The Tigers of Bastogne, Voices of the</u> <u>10th Armored Division in The Battle</u> <u>of The Bulge</u> by Michael Collins and

Martin King

Reviewer: Hank Cherry

March 14

<u>The Book Woman of Troublesome</u> Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

Reviewer: Jane Hanson

April 11

*The Honey Bus*by Meredith May
Reviewer: TBD

May 9

<u>These Precious Days</u> by Ann Prachett Reviewer: Jane Hanson WOMEN OF THE CHURCH CIRCLES SEPT. 2022

(Circles meet September through May, except for Circles 18 & 20, who provide service all year)

Circle 1/12 Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240)

Grace Labatt, Moderator

SEPTEMBER 19, Third Monday, 11:30 am, Geneva Room

(with meal)

Circle 5 Kay Weber, Co-Chair (210-288-5290)

Mary Fruge-Medford, Co-Chair (210-823-7054)

SHAWL MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 21, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228

Circle 6 Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483)

Members of Circle, Moderators

SEPTEMBER 20, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room

Circle 7 Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549)

SEPTEMBER 20, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, in member homes Meredith Park's home, 28926 Front Gate, Boerne, TX 78015

Circle 8 Nancy Turnbull, Chair (210-606-5420)

Members of Circle, Moderators, Circle for mothers of

young children

SEPTEMBER 23, Fourth Friday, 11:45 am, St. Andrews Room

(byo lunch or buy at KEYS)

Circle 9 Grace Clouse, Co-Chair (734-718-7057)

Janice Wilson, Co-Chair (210-492-0333/210-260-4157)

Ann Smith, Moderator

SEPTEMBER 20, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am, Breakfast Room

Circle 11 Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)

Members of Circle, Moderators

SEPTEMBER 19, Third Monday*, 12:30 pm

at Pat Brodeen's, 2307 Oak Trace St. 78232 (210-383-3083)

(*moved from fourth Monday for Luncheon)

Circle 13 Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057)

LITERATURE CIRCLE

SEPTEMBER 13, Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, McCullough Room

Circle 14 Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589)

Suzie Simpson, Moderator

SEPTEMBER 19, Third Monday, 12:00 pm, St. Andrews Room

(with meal)

Circle 18 Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)

Pat Brodeen, Email Contact (pat@brodeen.com)

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Small home baked cookies always needed for receptions

Volunteers for help with receptions needed

Circle 20 Muffin Camp, Chair (210-789-1808)

CIRCLE OF SERVICE - volunteers to make/take meals

when needed

LOVING THE CITY

Summer Celebrations with San Antonio East Young Life





@saeastyl



San Antonio East Younglife





On June 11th, 2022, 31 high school students said "yes" to the promise of having the best week of their lives and boarded a charter bus destined for Windy Gap, North Carolina. For many, this would be their first time leaving the state, but for all, it would be their first time experiencing a full week at a Young Life camp. After several DVDs, pitstops at Chick-Fil-A and The Waffle House, and 26 hours of travel total, the anticipation set in as our bus rolled onto the camp property. We watched as our students gazed out the windows in awe. The lush green forest, rolling hills, and the Blue Ridge Mountains stared back at them. With pillows and bags in tote, our high school friends dashed through the aisle and out the bus doors and were greeted with the loudest cheers and chants.

It was as if the party being thrown was exclusively for them. Little did they know, that the party was just getting started and the real celebration was well on its way.

Each day at camp held new adventures. Pool Olympics, zip-lining, fishing, ropes course, high dive, Naskarts, mountain swinging, sand volleyball,



square dancing, and enjoying a Cheerwine slush at the sippy were just a few of our camper's mostloved activities. The fan favorite, however, didn't usually come around until later in the evening after dinner. When campers heard the bell ring as the base of the music echoed out the wooden doors, they knew it was time to party, and by party, it meant club time. Controlled chaos filled the room as students sang, danced, and hopped on stage to play the most ridiculously fun games. Belly laughs rippled through the crowd as the program team got into character and performed their acts for the night. The smiles on our camper's faces are engrained in our hearts - this is what pure fun and joy looked like. Each night halfway through, the tempo of the music slowed and the atmosphere

Continued...





shifted. Our students had an opportunity to lean in and hear about a man named Jesus and a God who loves them deeply. They were presented with the unfolding of The Gospel, bit by bit, day by day. Here are a few of the miracles that Jesus did in the lives and hearts of our students during our time at Windy Gap:

Syese - "Camp reminded me of Psalm 23:2, there were no cell phones or distractions to suck us back into the world so we felt completely safe like sheep with their shepherd."

Michael - "I came here expecting church camp where you shove the Bible down our throat but instead



you've presented the gospel in an amazing way and have given us the option to accept it or not. I appreciate that."

Geovanny - After leaving the club room in tears he said, "It's been a very long time since I've felt this." His whole demeanor changed after that and he spent his time walking and talking with



God and sharing with us how the Lord was speaking to him!

Alex - "I didn't know what to expect coming into camp, but I'm really glad that I came because now I know who I am in Christ and I can use my story to share God with other girls who may be going through the same struggles as me."



Sarita - She began to hear God calling her while at camp and felt the urge to respond. Cabin time provided the safe space and opportunity to express fears, doubts, letdowns, and hurt. After the 15 minutes of silence, Sarita heard and listened to the voice of God. She became curious and asked more questions about God and what it looks like to have faith and trust in Him.

Desiree - After having an incredible camping experience, Desiree felt called to give other campers the same experience she had and volunteered as a server out at Lonehollow Ranch for the month of July. She was the youngest volunteer at just 14!

Another school year is around the corner and our Healy Murphy and St. Philip students desire authentic relationships with caring adults who listen and meet them where they are at. If you are interested in volunteering and participating with us this fall, here are a few ways you can serve:

- By signing up to cook a delicious dinner for 50 students on a designated club night.
- Volunteering as a leader on club nights to listen, to talk about Jesus, and provide transportation home for some students
- Through your financial resources by donating to our mission at www.saeastyl.com

With deep gratitude, San Antonio East Young Life thanks FPC, our donors, and prayer warriors for making this camp trip possible. Your unwavering support is not and shall not be lost on us.

By Grace,

Eric Collins, Baylie Collins & Felix Chavez

Eric Collins, Baylie Collins & Felix Chavez











Mission South



Did you know that, since 2020, FPC has been developing ministry partners and supporting students studying for ministry in the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico? Each student is supported by their home church, Presbytery, and the Biblicus México scholarship. Three of our students visited San Antonio August 4-8 for the Biblicus México Gathering 2022. In July, three of our scholars graduated from seminary and are serving in the church as a pastor or counselor, youth director and in women's ministry. This summer, we received applications from six more students. As you can see from the Mission and Vision statements, the program is much more than financial support:

- The purpose of the seminary scholarship offered by Biblicus México is to create disciples of Jesus who will create more disciples. (Mission Statement)
- To advance the Kingdom of God in México by providing scholarships and cultivating a community to
 equip Christian leaders who think theologically, engage sacrificially, and live biblically in every area of their
 lives. (Vision Statement)

Perhaps you had the opportunity in worship or Sunday School to meet (pictured left to right) María José 'Majo' Navarro, Raquel Cahuich, or Alex González on Sunday. Each one has been blessed with a prayer partner, member of FPC, and a mentor, a ministry partner from Mexico. Cynthia Robinson is Majo's prayer partner, Cassie McMillan is Raquel's, and Ron Scates is Alex's. (Knowledge of Spanish is not required to be a prayer partner).

While in San Antonio, the students joined our Young Adult Community for Game Night, toured the KRL, SAMA Latin American Collection, the Briscoe Western Art Museum and the Alamo. On Saturday we met with members of the Mission South Champion Team. We shared God's word, worshiped and spent time in prayer together. A Zoom call, that included those present in SA, mentors from Mexico and other Biblicus México students, about 11 people total, met to consider the hopes and challenges of the future.



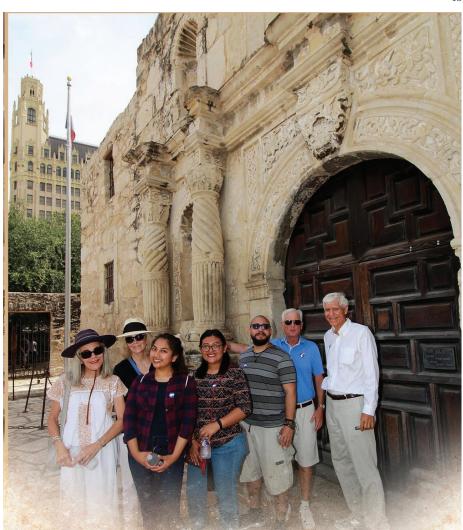
A most wonderful outcome of our growing relationship with seminaries, present and future pastors is the invitation extended to FPC by the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico to enter into a five year covenant of ministry partnership. Morgan and Bob Fuller traveled to Mexico City in June to officially represent the Session of FPC by signing the covenant with members of the Board of Directors of the General Assembly of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico.

Please join us by praying for this ministry and that God will continue to raise up people from FPC to participate and befriend the future leaders serving God's Kingdom in Mexico. We welcome your interest by emailing: biblicusmexico@gmail.com.



Kathy Scruggs







WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

President's Letter Sept. 2022

Women Of the Church has always done so much to support First Presbyterian Church, but in reality we depend on the staff to support us. They set up the rooms for all of our meetings, do our accounting and bookkeeping, do our printing and publicity, cook and feed us, and help us with all of our special events. In



particular, we would like to extend our deep appreciation to Susan Dullnig as she begins her retirement from being Director of Facility Operations. Susan has faithfully served our church for many years and has overseen the facilities and kitchen staff. She has been a model of joy and grace in all that she has done. Susan has overseen countless luncheons and events, and her attention to



detail is beyond compare. We have gotten used to things always running smoothly and flawlessly! We will miss seeing her smiling face with her walkie talkie in hand. We wish her the best as she will now be able to enjoy more time with her husband and grandchildren. And we look forward to working with the new Director of Facility Operations, as we know that the Lord will provide just the right person. Godspeed, Susan!

I would also like to invite everyone to our Fall Legacy Luncheon on Monday, September 26th at 11:30 AM in Westminster Hall. Dr. Anna Armstrong will present "The Life and Missionary Legacy of Reverend Dr. P.B. Hill." Anna is the granddaughter of our pastor Dr. Hill, and has wonderful stories and personal history to share about his extraordinary life as a missionary, evangelist, church planter, and Texas Ranger. Tickets are \$25 and reservations are required. Scholarships are available. Register online at fpcsanantonio.org/woclunch or at the table in Mauze Lobby on the Sundays preceding the luncheon. Please contact Susan DeKoch at susandekoch@gmail.com or (210) 508-7127 with any questions.



At last year's Legacy Luncheon we were blessed with Ambassador Sichan Siv recounting his most recent trip to France with a presentation entitled, "*Hope and Heaven*." Sichan kept us spellbound with stories about his remarkable life history and highlights from his trip. What a privilege for all of us! Thank you Sichan! His article follows, and his presentation was recorded and can be found on our website at fpcsanantonio.org/women.

Happy Fall Everyone!

In His Love,

Linda Delano

Linda Delano, President Women of the Church

Church, Castle, Cathedral

An Adaptation of the 2021 WOC Legacy Lunch Address from Deacon Sichan Siv

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. - Isaiah 65:24

The First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, chartered on Easter (April 4) 1846, turned 175 in 2021. Our Senior Pastor Bob Fuller asked me and a few others to serve on a committee planning the year-long commemoration. We first obtained a proclamation from Texas Governor Greg Abbott recognizing the important historical role of our Church. We were blessed to come up with many interesting programs.

This is an adaptation of an address to the Women of the Church Fall Legacy Luncheon about my journey of *Hope and Heaven* which was the curtain call of our 175th anniversary celebration.

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

- Isaiah 30:21

When I was a child, my mother took me to see Angkor Wat (built in 1113 A.D.), currently the world's largest religious monument.



Women of the Church Luncheon Easels (L to R): Texas Gov. Abbott's Proclamation, Gutenberg Bible, Martin Luther's 95 Theses. (Photo by Nona Hall)

Since then, I have been fascinated with history and architecture. In my travels, I have never missed a chance to stop and visit notable buildings and learn about their stories. In 1992 while working for President George H.W. Bush, I visited St. Thomas Basilica in Madras (now Chennai). There I was, a Buddhist (at the time) in a Hindu state, being mesmerized by the life of the Apostle who was killed in service to God.

We all make plans but the Lord determines our steps. - Proverbs 16:9

The Church of the Nativity (326 A.D.) commissioned by Constantine the Great in honor of his mother Helena's visit to the Holy Land stands out as special and spiritual. In Trier, Germany, the Constantine Basilica is most beautiful in its simplicity. Charlemagne's throne in Aachen Dom and his coronation robe in

Basilique de Saint Denis denotes a borderless Europe.

In Mainz, from a similar printing machine Gutenberg invented which revolutionized the spread of ideas and information, I was privileged to print a page of the famous Gutenberg Bible containing *In principio erat verbum*



Aachen Cathedral where Charlemagne's Throne is located.



The 95 Theses Door, Schlosskirche, Wittenberg, Germany (Photo by Christa Wilke)

(In the beginning was the word). Goethe's birthplace in Frankfurt and Beethoven's in Bonn are two important contributions to human culture. Northern Europe's largest Gothic cathedral in Cologne of *Sankt Petrus*, started in 1248 A.D., was completed only on August 14, 1880. On the opposite scale is beautiful *Maria im Kapitol* where worshippers offer an apple to make a wish come true.

The greatest of all Germany is probably Wittenberg, nearly halfway between Berlin and Leipzig. Neglected under Communist East Germany, the city has been restored to its historic 16th century grandeur. Staying at a special place where earlier guests included Carl XII (1707) and Peter the Great (1711) was surreal. It is in front of *Schlosskirsche* where





Mainz: Gutenberg Printer, perhaps the 15th Century's most important invention.

Luther displayed his 95 theses on the main door and was later buried. About 3 AM from my window, I admired an incredible full moon descending on the church making the famous Door visible. I suddenly realized that it was the same moon that Jesus, Luther, von Steuben, Washington, and Lincoln saw. It was otherworldly. On October 31 (Reformation Day), 2019, I presented the Gutenberg Bible Page and a copy of Luther's 95 Theses in Latin from Schlosskirsche to Bob Fuller. They are on prominent display in our Church library.

There are some two dozen *Notre-Dame* churches in Paris. The *grande dame* is the medieval catholic cathedral *Notre-Dame de Paris* which was engulfed in a fiery fire on April 15, 2019. I was in College Station visiting the George Bush



(Photo by Jean-Conrad Hottinger)

Presidential Library and Museum with my sisters and brothers in Christ that day. Having grown up in the French culture, I was heartbroken. Fear Not, which appeared 365 times in the Bible, reassured my belief to Never give up hope no matter what happens for nothing is permanent except change, *and the best is yet to come.* By the Grace of God, not only was I able to visit, but also taken to the very top where I could touch the highest stain glass. Going up in an outfit similar to a space suit among some 10,000 tons of scaffoldings near the largest door in Europe was breathtaking. If all goes well, the iconic cathedral will reopen in 2024 to coincide with the Olympics.

Except for Napoleon, who crowned himself at the *Notre-Dame*, most French kings ascended the throne at Reims Cathedral, another stunning architecture with incredible stain glass windows at par with Chartres.

Saint Denis Basilica is the resting place for many French kings and queens. Next to it the prestigious *Maison d'Education de la Légion*

Continued...



Joan of Arc in front of Reims Cathedral

d'Honneur, founded by Napoleon for the daughters of the Medal recipients. I was honored to speak to them at the Grand Library, a special place for me, having been married to a librarian. The first time I interacted with the demoiselles was a few decades earlier. A group of their predecessors



La Grande Bibliothèque under the watchful eyes of the Emperor and President. (Photo by

Nicholas Chriss)

visited me in New York when I was ambassador to the United Nations.

Like any other houses of worship, churches in Paris from *Saint-Germain-des-Prés* to *Saint-Sulpice* (where Jacques Chirac's State Funeral was held) to *Sainte-Chapelle*, *Saint-Roch* (where the Landscape Artist Le Nôtre was



Versailles Hall of Mirrors: In the footsteps of Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, and Monroe!

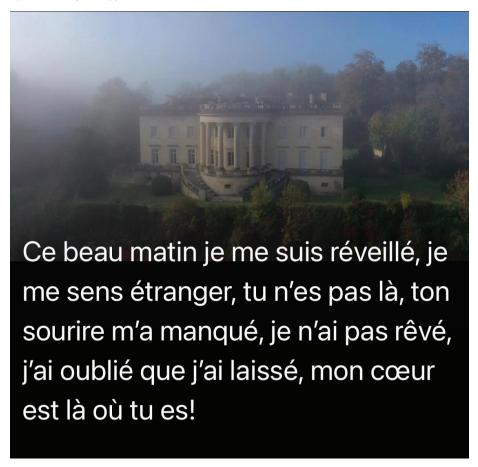
buried), *Montmartre*, and the charming *Notre-Dame de la Paix* at Picpus contain many interesting stories and histories with pretty art works.

There are so many beautiful castles in France. First among equals is the exquisite *Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte*, precursor to *Versailles*. It is an outstanding symbol of French classical architecture, built by Louis XIV's Finance Minister Fouquet who assembled an excellent team of the Architect Le Vau, the Landscape Artist Le Nôtre, and the Painter Le Brun to create his masterpiece. Unfortunately, Fouquet was quickly arrested after his Château completion in 1661. Exiled, he died two decades later.

The delightful *Souper at Vaux-le-Vicomte*, hosted by Alexandre de Vogüé, was accompanied by 17th century music, thousands of candles, and spectacular fireworks. It easily rivaled White House state dinners. (In August 1989 President George H.W. Bush sent me to Paris to accompany Secretary of State James A. Baker, III on a diplomatic



Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte (Poem by S. Siv)



Château de Rastignac. Poem by S. Siv (Photo: Gift of Valentine & Francis Rodriguez)

mission. I stayed behind long enough to be joined by my beloved francophone and Francophile wife Martha to discover the incredible *Vaux-le-Vicomte*).

Ironically, Louis XIV used the same super trio to turn a hunting lodge into a most glorious palace we know now as Château de Versailles. Thanks to our extraordinary Alexandre, Versailles, closed on Mondays, was opened for us on October 18, 2021. It was a fantastic feeling to walk in the dazzling Hall of Mirrors passing the Queen's Chamber where Vigée Le Brun had her attractive Marie Antoinette paintings, to the Throne Hall where Franklin and Jefferson presented their credentials to the King. We were treated to a special concert at the Royal Chapel and

a sumptuous luncheon at the apartment of Louis XVI's Foreign Minister Comte de Vergennes, who played a key role in the American Revolution. The symbolism clearly was not lost.

Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you.

- Matthew 7:7

The lovely *Château de Rastignac* bears an eerie resemblance to The White House which had its cornerstone laid in 1792. Jefferson, the second ambassador to France following Franklin with a strong affinity for French wine, visited nearby Bordeaux and might have

seen a plan of the Château before he returned to New York to become the first secretary of State under Washington.

Three hours east of Rastignac via scenic country roads, on a hill overlooking a gorgeous valley stands Château de Chavaniac where Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier was born on September 6, 1757 making this his 265th birthday. No one played a more important role in the American Revolution than The Marquis de Lafayette who once said: The moment I heard of America I loved her; the moment I shall be able to serve her at any time or any part of the world will be the happiest of my life. He was only 19 when he came to America, fought valiantly, and built a special fatherson relationship with Washington. On his second Atlantic crossing on L'Hermione in 1780, Lafayette brought the good news that France's financial and military support had been secured. It sealed American victory at Yorktown.

Château de Chavaniac, built in the 14th century, did not come to the Lafayette family until 200 years later. The museum contains important artifacts including a lock of Franklin's hair and portraits of Washington and other Founding Fathers. A big U.S. flag flown over the Capitol on July 4, 2005 draped over an elegant wooden staircase. Underneath is a certificate of authenticity which misspelled Lafayette's name. Never mind that there are numerous towns and counties in America named for the Hero of Two Worlds.

At the end of an exceptionally

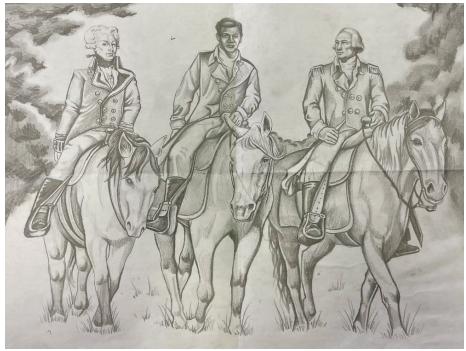


Resting Place of Adrienne de Noailles and Marquis de Lafayette, Picpus Cemetery, Paris (Photo by George Geobel Hoyeck)

distinguished life dedicated to freedom and democracy, Lafayette was buried at Picpus Cemetery in Paris next to his strong, supportive, and loving wife Adrienne de Noailles, near a mass grave of some 1,300 people guillotined in the bloody French Revolution.

The Daughters of the American Revolution adorned the gate with two marble plaques honoring The Marquis and General John Pershing's visit (*Lafayette, nous voilà!*). In 2009, the Sons, not to be outdone by the Daughters, mounted a plaque at the grave site commemorating Adrienne's 250th birthday. For 19 minutes, I rested my U.S. flag pin on Lafayette's grave and reflected on his extraordinary life.

In Washington to attend the National Celebration of Reading, founded by First Lady Barbara Bush, I walked to Lafayette Park in front of The White House, my favorite place for brief respites and depressurization while serving under President George H.W. Bush. Andrew Jackson



BROTHERS by J. Rivera 2022. Sichan Siv with Lafayette and Washington in The American Revolutionary War.

on horseback is at the center, surrounded by foreigners at the four corners of the Square: a Pole, a German, two Frenchmen: Kosciusko, von Steuben, Rochambeau, Lafayette. Within a few days, I had been to The Marquis' birthplace, his burial site, and now his statue. I said a prayer and looked up to him: "Lafayette, nous voilà! Together again! Thanks for your service to humanity!"

From Genesis 1 to Revelation 22, from Alpha to Omega, from ashes to ashes, our dash of existence is filled with *Carpe Diem* moments. It is a blessing to seize and share them for a good life, as George H.W. Bush once described, is a perfect combination of faith, family, friends.

To whom much is given, much will be required.

- Luke 12:48

Blessed are they who love. For love is caring and sharing. Those who care, share. They who share, love. And pure love waits for nothing. It gives but never asks.

Love never ends. - 1 Corinthians 13:8

To Martha Pattillo Siv, Martha and George Washington, Adrienne de Noailles and Marquis de Lafayette, Barbara and George Bush, Thanks for the inspirations!

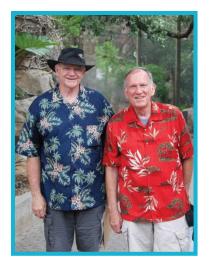
I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. - Ephesians 1:16

Sichan Siv

Sichan Siv,

Deacon of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio









September brings the beginning of a new KEYS year of activities. We look forward to regular weekly luncheons. Kicking off on September 9th, Wild Things Zoofari will be with us to introduce several small critters. They will all be created or under full control of their handlers. We will have opportunities to reach out and touch some of them. On September 16, Spencer Brown will be back with a panel of experts to walk us through what resources are available to keep us on track in retirement. In order to keep our budding relationship with Morningside Ministries we have been invited to celebrate September Birthdays at the renovated Chandler Estate. Lunch is free for everyone and there will be an opportunity to tour the facilities. San Antonio native Brad Normandeau who is famous for his crooning will be with us for a tribute to Frank Sinatra. This would be a great day to invite someone to join you at KEYS.

In November, we will be returning to wrap Christmas Gifts for Elf Louise. In December we are working on a trip to the Woodlawn Theater to see "White Christmas "and Rick Cavender is recruiting his band to join us in February.

Looking forward to a great New Year!!

Rev. Dr. Joe Moore
Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and
Congregational Care

Save these Dates

September 9 The San Antonio Petting Zoo's, Wild Things Zoofari will

be visiting with Live Animals

September 16 Spencer Brown Care Manager lead a panel of experts on

resources to survive retirement

September 23 Birthday Lunch and Tour of Chandler House

September 30 Brad Normandeau - famous for his Frank Sinatra tribute







Friday Fitness will continue via Zoom. Join Jacqueline Crow at 9:30 AM. Jacqi has been a champion for us and everyone loves the time with her. If you want to be included on the email notifications, send your email address to joem@fpcsat.org. You will be sent a link to join the Zoom Meeting. When our programs begin in September there will be a TV in room 224 so that you can participate in the fitness group and also make it to KEYS at 11:00 AM.

We are working to schedule an in person AARP Safe Driving Class this fall.

All onsite KEYS lunches begin with our speaker at 11:00 AM, followed by lunch at Noon. Cost is \$13, make your reservations by signing up or calling into the church office.

Birthday Lunches begin at 11:30 AM at the restaurant a shuttle from FPC leaves at 10:45 AM. Birthday Lunches are \$15.

Blessings and love in Christ,

Sandy Sturch

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.—Psalm 143:8

- 1 Leviticus 25; Deuteronomy15:12-18; Jeremiah 34
- 2 Jeremiah 35; Numbers 30:1; Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Ecclesiastes 5:4-7
- 3 Jeremiah 36; Proverbs 29:1; Isaiah 30

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me; It was not I that found, O Savior true; No, I was found of Thee. Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine enfold; I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea; 'Twas not so much that I on Thee took hold as Thou, dear Lord, on me. I find, I walk, I love, but O the whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to Thee! For Thou wert long beforehand with my soul; Always Thou lovedst me. (The Hymnbook, No. 402)

- 4 Jeremiah 37; Hebrews 11
- 5 Jeremiah 38; Psalm 143
- 6 Jeremiah 39; Psalm 41
- 7 Jeremiah 40; Psalm 109
- 8 Jeremiah 41-42; Deuteronomy 5:28-33; 29:16-29; Jeremiah 2:13-19
- 9 Jeremiah 43; Jeremiah 26
- 10 Deuteronomy 5:1-10; Jeremiah 44; Proverbs 19:21; Ezekiel 30

O Love of God most full, O Love of God most free, Come warm my heart, come fill my soul, Come lead me unto Thee! Warm as the glowing sun so shines Thy love on me, It wraps me round with kindly care, It draws me unto Thee. The wildest Sea is calm, The tempest brings no fear, The darkest night is full of light, Because Thy love is near. O Love of God most full, O Love of God most free, Thou warmest my heart, Thou fillest my soul, With might Thou strengthenest me. (The Hymnbook, No. 118)

- 11 Isaiah 5:5-7; Jeremiah 36:1-8; Jeremiah 45; Matthew 6:16-34
- 12 Jeremiah 46; Psalm 9; Hebrews 12
- 13 Jeremiah 47; Isaiah 14:28-32
- 14 Genesis 19; Jeremiah 48; Psalm 2
- 15 Amos 1:13-15; Zephaniah 2:8-11; Jeremiah 49
- 16 Jeremiah 50; 31:31-34
- 17 Jeremiah 51:1-26; Isaiah 13:19-22

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, Or to defend His cause, Maintain the glory of His cross, and honor all His laws. Jesus, my Lord! I know His name; His name is all my boast; Nor will He put my soul to shame, Nor let my hope be lost. I know that safe with Him remains, Protected by His power, What I've committed to His trust Till the decisive hour. Then will He own His servant's name before His Father's face, And in the new Jerusalem appoint my soul a place. (The Hymnbook, No. 292)

- 18 Jeremiah 51:27-64; Psalm 137; Psalm 46
- 19 2 Kings 24-25; Jeremiah 52
- 20 Revelation 18
- 21 Romans 1; Leviticus 18; Psalm 106
- 22 Romans 2; James 1:19-25; Matthew 7:1-5
- 23 Romans 3; Psalm 14; 5; Ephesians 1:3-14
- 24 Romans 4; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 6:28-40

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, That in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee; My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be. O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be. (The Hymnbook, No. 400)

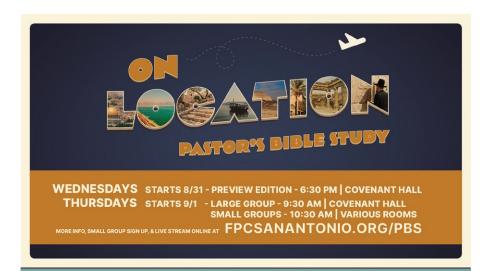
- 25 Romans 5:1-11; Colossians 1:21-23; 1 Peter 4:12-19; James 5:10-11
- 26 Romans 5:12-6:23; Ephesians 1:3-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:8
- 27 Romans 7; 2 Samuel 11; Mark 14:26-38; 51-71; Psalm 32
- 28 Romans 8:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58
- 29 Romans 8:18-39; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 118
- 30 Romans 9; Jeremiah 18; Isaiah 29:13-16; 64:5-9



FIRST CUP PRAYER LIST

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).

DATE	NAME OF PERSON	REQUEST	GOD'S ANSWER



FPC MEN'S MINISTRY

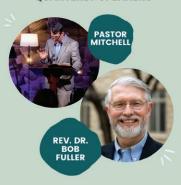
Sunday, September 11 | 5:00 PM **FPC Westminster Hall**

REGISTER ONLINE

fpcsanantonio.org/men-dinner

Questions? Contact: Trebes Sasser, tsasser@rpitx.com Cody Heffron, codyheffron@yahoo.com

QUARTERLY SPEAKERS







MAKE DISCIPLES WHO LOVE CHRIST. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. **LOVE THE CITY.**

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