

Celebrating a Wonderful Missions Month in October (see pages 9-11) Children led worship and received Bibles (See page 16)

#### **NOVEMBER 2022**



FPC SAN ANTONIO STEWARDSHIP 2023

## Stewardship 2023 Giving as Witness

(see Pastor's article page 2 and feature articles pages 12-14)



Our New Director to Children and their Families is "Sweet" (see page 17)



Christmas at First - Traditions Continue

(see pages 7-8)

#### Pastor's Article

# Witness

#### REV. DR. BOB FULLER

At the beginning of the book of Acts, Jesus said,

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and <u>you</u> will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

With these words the Lord empowered this little group of incredible, bold, men and women to launch a 2000 year, worldwide movement that would change the world by telling the story and sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

We all know the common definition of a witness. A witness is a person who sees something, or hears something, or experiences something and then testifies—or tells or shows others—what he/she has seen, heard, or discovered. But, in the Bible a witness is someone who is willing to bet his or her life that what she has seen is true. **Witness** is a living testimony.

From the day of Pentecost forward, the early Christians began publicly declaring the grace of God by telling the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. And when the people heard the good news of Jesus Christ, the Bible tells us that the church grew every day, and it grew by thousands (literally).

But it wasn't just because of what they heard the Christians SAY. It was because of what they SAW. When people SAW how Jesus changed the lives of those who believed—it got their attention.

They saw people of all nationalities,



economic classes, backgrounds, and families setting aside traditional taboos and building for the sake of community (koinonia). They saw people getting together to study God's word, to worship together, to pray together, to take care of one another and to share the healing and compassion of Jesus Christ with the lost, the lonely, the broken and the sick. The Bible tells us that "awe came upon every soul," and that "they had favor with all people." And "the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47)

When people heard what the followers of Jesus had to say and how the gospel made a difference in their lives, **people took notice.** What they saw was that the truth of Jesus affected the lives of real people in real time. It affected the way they prioritized their time, applied their abilities and efforts, used their resources, and shared their faith. Their reputation for love, and truth and power—for compassion and the ability to make a difference in people's lives began to grow as well

(and it became contagious). The Holy Spirit started using the transformed and restored lives of the disciples to transform and restore the lives of the people around them. That is a witness.

Witness is a living testimony that I trust Jesus Christ and I am willing to bet my life on Him for the sake of my church family and the city. This November, we want to encourage you to think about giving to the church in a different way. We want you to think of **GIVING** as **Witness**.

**GIVING** your **time** is a **witness**. Think about the way you spend your time. Does it bring glory to God, promote health in yourself and others, serve those in need, and create margin for enjoying the abundant life God has promised us? Let your priorities be a witness to the life God calls you to live.

Sharing your God-Given **talents** is a **witness**. Take the Spiritual Gifts Survey (fpcsanantonio.org/giftssurvey) and get involved in a church ministry. Find ways to serve God by serving others and sharing your faith in a hands-on way. God wants to mobilize your passions and talents as a **witness** to His love and glory.

GIVING your treasure is a witness. Pray and ask God to open the door for you to give generously to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Think about what the ministry of FPC means to you, and what it has meant to the people and history of our city. Pray that God's love would take over our

## CONTENTS

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

- 4 Ministry Guides; FPC Job Openings; A/V Support; DivorceCare-Surviving the Holidays; Pastor's Bible Study (PBS); 7-11 Youth Event; Prison Ministry Training; Gift of Christmas
- 5 Women's Bible Study; Men's Quarterly Dinner; Men's Small Groups; Christmas Shoeboxes; Children's Pi's, Breakfast Tacos & Shoebox Sunday; Team World Vision; College Group; YAC Lead; Gospel Community Gathering; Andy Squyers Free Concert; Thanksgiving Holiday
- 6 Advent Festival; Youth Christmas Party; Virtual Prayer Room; Young Adult Groups; Praying with the Ministers; Hurrican Ian Donations; Literature Circle November
- 7 FPC Deacon Joins WRF Board; Children's Center Hiring & Enrolling; Poinsettia Order Form
- 8 Children's Christmas Pageant; Midday Noels; Christmas at First

#### **MINISTRY ARTICLES**

- 9 **Global Missions Sunday**
- **10-11** Love SATX
- 12 14 Stewardship 2023
- 15 Focus on Marriage Weekend
- 16 Children's Sunday and Bibles
- 17 Welcome New Director to Children and their Families Gift of Christmas
- **18-19** WOC Circles and Letter from the President
- 20-21 KEYS Upcoming

#### FIRST CUP

22-23 Readings and Prayer List

#### **BACK COVER FEATURE**

24 October New Covenant Partners

First Press is a monthly publication from the FPC 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: Media Coordinator Nona Hall: Volunteer Photographer

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

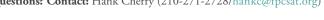
lives, and challenge us to **witness** that all we have is God's blessing for God's purposes.

Sharing your testimony is a witness. witness is not the righteous telling the unrighteous about how they must straighten up and save themselves. It is about broken people telling other broken people what Jesus did for them. A friend of mine, Dr. Singh has said, faith sharing is simply "one beggar telling another where he found bread." It starts with telling people how Jesus Christ makes a difference in your life. A difference worth claiming is a difference worth sharing, because the difference Christ makes in your life can make a difference in the lives of others.

Please read the information that you will receive this month and pray that the Lord would lead you in your support of FPC in 2023. Witness is not just about what we SAY. It's about what people SEE. What will people see and hear from each one of us and from the church together? Let's join together to be a living testimony of the love we have for Jesus Christ, for one another and for the city.

Grace and peace, Bob Fuller

Bb Julier



## Save the Date

#### MINISTRY GUIDES

Updated monthly, 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 full-time positions. Details can be found at fpcsanantonio.org/jobs.

- Director of Emerging Adults & University Ministries
- Director to Youth & their Families
- **Receptionist** (Part-time position)

#### **AUDIO/VISUAL SUPPORT NEEDED!**

We are currently looking for contract and volunteer support for our Audio/Visual efforts on Sundays and for events. If you are interested, please contact Sam Simpson at sams@fpcsat.org.

## DIVORCECARE: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Wednesday, November 2 | 6:00 -8:00 PM | Room 226 Seminar for people experiencing separation or divorce who are facing the holiday season without their former spouse. Contact Butch Gerfers at 210-862-9998 or gerfers@flash. net. Register at fpcsanantonio.org/support-groups. \$10 registration includes a survival guide booklet, scholarships available.

#### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (PBS)

#### **Spring Session Begins**

Wednesday, Jan. 11 | 6:30 PM | Covenant Hall and Thursday, Jan. 12 | 9:30 AM | Covenant Hall The fall cycle of Pastor's Bible Study will wrap up on Thursday, Nov. 3 (Wednesday, Nov. 2 has been cancelled). The Spring Session will begin the second week of January 2023. Contact Sheila Figueroa at sheilaf@fpcsat.org for more information or Lellen lane at lellenlane@aol.com for small group placement.

#### 7-11 YOUTH EVENT

Friday, Nov. 4 | 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Student Center All students, grades 6-12, are invited back to our favorite fun event of the semester! Students are encouraged to bring friends and come spend the evening playing games, eating good food, and catching up. Contact Kerri Napoli at kerrin@fpcsat.org.

#### PRISON MINISTRY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Saturday, Nov. 5 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Room 302
Training with the Director of the Rehabilitation Division and the Deputy Director for Religious Programs of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Please arrive before 8:00 AM so we can start on time. Coffee and pastries will be available. Contact Rev. Dr. Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat. org for more information and registration.

#### **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**

#### Sunday, November 6

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, clocks are set back one hour (i.e., gaining one hour) to "fall back."

#### THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

#### Forms Due by Sunday, November 6

An opportunity for individuals or groups to share Christ's love with others by giving food, clothing, gifts and/or gift cards to families referred to us by the House of Neighborly Service (HNS) who are in need. Visit the table in Mauze Lobby on Sundays through Nov. 6 for forms and to donate cash, gifts, or cards. Families will be assigned by Nov. 13. Contact Lellen Lane at lellenlane@aol.com or other Gift of Christmas Committee members. Download the forms or fill out online at fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving.

#### PRAYER TRAINING WITH ONE

Tuesday, Nov. 8 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Room 226 Practice hearing God's voice together and learn to pray from a place of connection with God. Sessions may be taken in any order. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/prayer for a full training schedule. Contact Lisa Snow (210-226-0215 or lisas@fpcsat.org) to register.

#### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS**

#### Tuesday, Oct. 25 (through Nov. 15) 9:30 AM | Covenant Hall

Join us for Keri Denker's Philippians Journal and Doodle Bible Study. We will work chapter by chapter through the book of Philippians in a creative and refreshing way—tracing the themes of growth and joy and creating a beautiful keepsake journal. Childcare available upon request; email beckyp@fpcsat.org. Contact Catherine Miller, 210-394-2045, grcmiller@sbcglobal.net.

#### MEN'S MINISTRY QUARTERLY DINNER

#### Sunday, Nov. 13 | 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 speaker, Pastor Mitchell. Register for dinner at fpcsanantonio.org/mendinner. Contact Cody Heffron at codyheffron@yahoo.com or Trebes Sasser at tsasser@rpitx.com.

#### **MEN'S SMALL GROUPS**

Interested in joining a small group of men for study, prayer and fellowship? Join a Men's Ministry Small Group as they each study "33 The Series: A Journey to Authentic Manhood as Modeled by Jesus in His 33 Years on Earth." This video series will help you discover a healthy vision for manhood and a community where you can be yourself. Contact Gardner Peavy at gardnerpeavy@gmail.com for questions about small groups.

#### **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES AVAILABLE**

Pick up your Samaritan's Purse shoebox after each Sunday service. Follow the included instructions for packing and return by Shoebox Sunday, Nov. 13. More information can be found at samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - PJ'S, BREAKFAST TACOS, & SHOEBOX SUNDAY

#### Sunday, Nov 13 | 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Nutrition Center

FPC Children's Ministry welcomes families to roll out of bed in their cutest pj's, join us for some yummy breakfast tacos, and bring in your Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes for us to pray over before sending them to children all over the world. Don't forget to bring your shoeboxes and shipping! For more info contact Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org.

#### TEAM WORLD VISION (RUN THE ALAMO)

#### Training starts Oct. 31 | Race March 5, 2023

Marathon & half-marathon to raise funds for clean water projects. Register &/or donate at bit.ly/FPC-runthealamo. Contact Gordon Smith at gordons@servicetitlesa.com

#### YAC COLLEGE GROUP

#### Sundays (bi-weekly) | 6:00 PM | Student Center

The 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!

#### **FPC YAC LEAD**

#### Wednesday, Nov. 9 | 6:30 - 7:45 PM | 302 (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!

#### **GOSPEL COMMUNITY GATHERING**

## Monday, Nov. 14 | 7:00 PM | Student Center (Dinner at 6:30)

Join other young adults for our monthly gathering with dinner, worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and prayer. Dinner begins at 6:30 PM. Christmas Party coming up December 5. More information on the Gospel Community Gathering at fpcsanantonio.org/gcgathering or contact Carrie Everson at carriee@fpcsat.org.

#### ANDY SQUYRES FREE CONCERT

#### Friday, Nov. 18 | 7:00 PM | Westminster Hall

Part of the Poet Priest Tour—hailing from North Carolina, Andy Squyres is a singer-songwriter in the tradition of artists like Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, and Rich Mullins, unafraid to poetically tell the gritty details of life while remaining deeply rooted in faith. Contact Callan Brown at callanb@fpcsat.org for more information.

#### THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Church Offices will be closed **Thursday, November 24** and **Friday, November 25** for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Regular services will take place on Sunday, November 27 and office hours will resume Monday, November, 28.

#### **ADVENT FESTIVAL**

Sunday, Nov. 27 | 3:00 PM-5:00 PM Westminster Hall

Free event for all ages! Come explore the sights and sounds of Christmas as FPC hosts the annual Advent Festival. Childcare available for babies through 3 years by reservations. Contact Becky Prichard, beckyp@fpcsat.org, for questions and childcare reservations.

#### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Sunday, Dec. 4 | 5:00 PM-7:00 PM | Student Center** Students, kick off the holiday season by making Christmas crafts, playing games, & participating in a White Elephant gift exchange. Contact Kerri Napoli, kerrin@fpcsat.org.

#### **QUARTERLY VIRTUAL PRAYER ROOM**

Wednesday, Dec. 7 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Zoom We have our very own FPC Virtual Prayer Room. Fill in the registration form at fpcsanantonio.org/virtual-prayer-room to receive the ZOOM meeting link & phone number. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 9365 7302 | Password: 727274. Please don't hesitate to ask for prayer. You can call or login to receive and offer prayer.

#### YAC 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.

#### 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, Room 227, 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-fall22.

#### **HURRICANE IAN DONATIONS**

Help provide families with the resources necessary to rebuild their lives after Hurricane Ian. Donate through World Renew Disaster Services online at fpcsanantonio. org/hurricane-ian. All checks are payable to World Renew.

#### LITERATURE CIRCLE

November Literature Circle to feature Bill and Patrice Hensley giving a presentation on the musical story of PORGY & BESS on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, in **COVENANT HALL** (on the 3rd floor) at 1:00 PM (social) followed by the review.

Porgy & Bess is an opera composed by George Gershwin with libretto by DuBose Heyward and lyrics by Ira Gershwin, it features hit songs such as, "Summertime." The opera relates the story of Porgy, a disabled black street beggar living in the slums of Charleston. He is trying to rescue Bess from a violent lover and drug dealer

Men and women are invited to attend. The circle meets the second Tuesday of each month. Two copies of each book are available in the church library to be checked out. Delayed streaming is available on our FPC website: fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle

Grace Clouse, Chair Willie Willming, Publicity

#### **Reading List 2022-2023**

Date	Book	Reviewer
November 8	Broadway Musical Presentation (Porgy and Bess)	Bill Hensley
December 13	The Leopard is Loose by Stephen Harrigan	Rev. Scott Simpson
January 10	The Captured by Scott Zesch	Janet Wernli
February 14	The Tigers of Bastogne, Voices of the 10th Armored Division in The Battle of The Bulge by Michael Collins and Martin King	Hank Cherry
March 14	March 14  The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson	
April 11	The Honey Bus by Meredith May	TBD
May 9	May 9 These Precious Days by Ann Patchett	

### **FPC Deacon Joins World** Reformed Fellowship Board



The World Reformed Fellowship Board just voted unanimously to receive FPC Deacon and former U.S. Ambassador Sichan Siv as a newly elected board member! He was officially installed

Monday, October 31, in Orlando, Florida. The WRF seeks to serve the Kingdom of Christ by advancing Reformed partnerships worldwide, and believes this can be done so that the strengths of some might become the strengths of all in the service of Jesus Christ (see Ephesians 4:11-13). Join us in congratulating Sichan with this honor!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER

#### **CURRENTLY ENROLLING**

ACCEPTING TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS (2.5- 4 YEARS OF AGE)

A great place to work... learn... play

Address: 404 North Alamo San Antonio, Texas 78205 For more information, please contact Laura Ortiz (210)225-0960 laurao@fpcsat.org



Committee. If you would like to participate, the cost is \$15 to reserve a plant for one individual or one couple. Proceeds have enabled the Sanctuary Flower Committee to make many special gifts to beautify the church over the years. Your check should be made payable to the Sanctuary Flower Committee. Mail to First Presbyterian Church, clo Each year during the Advent season the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in the Chancel by the Sanctuary Flower Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 North Alamo, San Antonio, 78205-1918, or place in the Sanctuary Flower mailbox n the workroom. Requests received later than December 11, 2022 will miss the insert printing deadline.

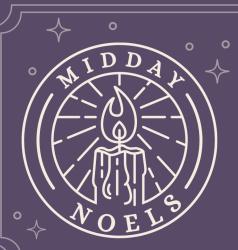
# PHONE EMAIL \$15 PER PLANT - PLEASE PRINT WHEN FILLING OUT FORM (30 Character Limit) insettias IN MEMORY OF IN HONOR OF **GIVEN BY** (30 Character Limit) CHECK ONE) ADDRESS

# Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 4
11:00 AM Traditional Service
in the Sanctuary & Streamed
Live Online at fpcsanantonio.org

Mandatory Rehearsal Dec. 3





#### MIDDAY NOELS CONCERT SERIES

Thursdays, December 1, 8, & 15 12:00 - 12:45 PM

Once again, FPC offers its holiday 'gift to the city' with three free concerts in the sanctuary of the church. Following the concert, we will be offering a hot lunch (\$15) in Westminster Hall or 'Grab and Go' lunches (\$5), available on the sidewalk just outside our sanctuary doors. Invite a friend, co-worker, or neighbor to come along with you!



#### Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 4

11:00 AM - Pageant in Traditional Service & Live Streamed at fpcsanantonio.org (9:30 AM Traditional Service also meeting)

#### Communion Sunday, December 11

9:30 AM - Traditional Service 11:00 AM - Traditional & Contemporary

#### Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24

2:30 PM - Communion 5:00 PM - Family Service 7:30 & 10:00 PM - Candlelight Services featuring Brass and Full Choir

#### Christmas Day Sunday, December 25

11:00 AM - Combined Service

#### New Year's Day Sunday, January 1

9:30 AM - Traditional Service 11:00 AM - Traditional & Contemporary

## MISSIONS



## MONTH

fpcsanantonio.org/global-missions



#### Global Missions Sunday Celebrated

On October 2, 2022 FPC was joined by several of our Global Missions Partners to connect with and learn about what God is doing in the Global Church. We welcomed: Cristina Inchaustegui (AMO), Chris and Francelia McReynolds (AMO), Teri Adair (The Antioch Partners), Luly Inchaustegui (AMO), David Chakranarayan (Mission India), and Piotr Nowak (WSTS Poland). We also celebrated the diverse members of FPC!

















www.fpcsanantonio.org

# Love SATX GOD'S MISSION. OUR CITY.

## **FPC Witnesses Love SATX Efforts in October**

Missions Month featured several Local Missions efforts during the week of Sunday, Oct. 16 – Sunday, Oct. 23. We are grateful for the involvement, effort, and witness with the many ministry partners FPC engaged with.



Sunday, October 16, we enjoyed a very inspirational joint worship service with local churches we have supporting in planting, prayer, and fellowship, including La Familia Church, RISE, ACC Downtown and more!

#### Local Missions Virtual Prayer Room

Tuesday, October 18, we prayed together for our Local Missions Partners, with a special virtual prayer hour via Zoom.

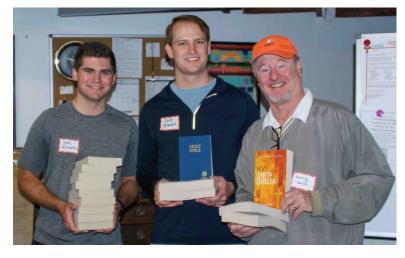














fpcsanantonio.org/local-missions













#### Serve Day

Saturday, October 22, about 200 FPC volunteers engaged in service projects with over 10 different Local Missions Partners, including the KRL, Haven for Hope, Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM), Morningside Ministries, Mission Road Ministries, Pay it Forward, Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS), San Antonio YoungLives, San Antonio East Young Life, and more!



Thank you to everyone who made this week of outreach and evangelism possible!



www.fpcsanantonio.org



#### Dear FPC Church Family,

What a difference a year makes! We are grateful that we're no longer seeing each other in little squares on a screen, and that most of our congregation has returned to worship, learning, serving, and enjoying each other in person. We've resumed our original worship and Sunday School schedule. We've once again shared fellowship time with homemade cookies and hugs at FPC<sup>3</sup>. We have more first time visitors and new Covenant Partners (members) joining our congregation, and Sunday School classes – children, youth, and adult, are thriving—if you're not attending, this is the time! We especially rejoice at the population boom in our nurseries, and are excited about the energetic young adult community, our Women's and Men's ministries, and the other great ministries at FPC.

Even as we're happy to have turned this corner, the uncertainty of inflation and other economic challenges lie ahead for all of us. Those on the edge suffer most in these times, and FPC has always stepped up in leadership. The needs of many of our downtown neighbors continue to be critical, and the Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL) as well as other ministries of FPC and our mission partners, are working to address those needs—spiritual as well as physical.

Our global mission partners have been at work in Eastern Europe in response to the Ukraine/Russia war and its

many refugees. Groups from our church have been there (Poland) as well as to some of our long-time ministries in Africa and Mexico.

The many outreach ministries of FPC and our partners have been highlighted during the "Mission Month" of October, and we were convicted about the needs even as we were encouraged by the good work being done—all capped off with a successful and invigorating LoveSATX. Thanks be to God!

Your Stewardship and Finance Committee is, as always, working to be good stewards of the Lord's gifts given through you to FPC. We are eternally grateful for the blessings bestowed upon our church and are so very thankful for generous financial support from our covenant partners past and present.

We're convinced that the Lord is going to do something worth celebrating in 2023 at First Presbyterian Church. Our task, now and in the months to come, is to dedicate ourselves through the use of our time, talents, treasure, and testimony.

May we be **GIVING…witness**.

YOUR FPC STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE









ARTIST STATEMENT: Our current sermon series on "Witness" has been utilizing graphics illustrating the "ripples" or "waves" of influence radiating outward from a dot representing San Antonio on a map of the southern United States and northern Mexico. As a continuation of this theme, but reimagined, the concentric circles progressively becoming thinner as they expand are also reminiscent of the "ripples" of influence a person's **Witness** can effect. The four colored dots are each representative of the four categories of giving we will be focusing on during the campaign: time, talent, treasure, and testimony. Visually the circles are a reminder of both the "ripple" shape as well as an ellipse (...) which is culturally used to indicate talking or speech. This is a subtle reminder that it is our speech, story, and action going outward into the world that compose our **Witness**.



**witness** through using your **time**. Think about the way you spend your time. Does it bring glory to God, promote health in yourself and others, serve those in need, and create margin for enjoying the abundant life God has promised us? Let your priorities be a **witness** to the life God calls you to live.



**witness** through sharing your **talent**. Take the Spiritual Gifts Survey (fpcsanantonio.org/gifts-survey) and get involved in a church ministry. Find ways to serve God by serving others and sharing your faith in a hands-on way. God wants to mobilize your passions and talents as a **witness** to His love and glory.



**witness** through giving generously of your **treasure**. Pray and ask God to open the door for you to give generously to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Think about what the ministry of FPC means to you, and what it has meant to the people and history of our city. Pray that God's love would take over our lives, and challenge us to **witness** that all we have is God's through **GIVING**.



**witness** through sharing your **testimony**. Love the questions in life. Observe and share how you see God at work in people's lives. Encourage a friend, family member, or stranger today with your **witness** to God's presence and power in our lives.

our mission is to make disciples who

#### LOVE JESUS CHRIST









The Great Commission is to make disciples, and our mission as a church is to make disciples who love Jesus Christ, who love one another, and who love the city. Through our ministries of worship and discipleship, we turn people's attention to God, leading them to His glory and giving them a vision of light beyond the darkness and distress of the daily news. This is our moment to **Witness** to the steadfast, never changing love of the Lord.

our mission is to make disciples who

#### LOVE ONE ANOTHER









This year, as we hope to return to "normal" fully, we will deepen our relationships spiritually and make every effort to meet together. As we build our own relationships, we want to make sure that we have the resources to enrich families, support marriages, comfort people who are grieving, and walk with people through crisis. This is a time for us to reconnect in care and concern, but also in experiencing the joy of being with our sisters and brothers in Christ. This is the year to **Witness** to the world what it means to love one another as Christ has loved us.

our mission is to make disciples who

#### LOVE THE CITY









Through our local partnerships and ministries of our church, we are addressing homelessness, domestic violence, mental health issues, and family breakdown. Through our global mission partners, new and old, we are building up the church around the world and are carrying Christ's hope and truth to the nations. This is our moment to let the light of Jesus Christ rise and to **Witness** to the world what it means to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.



## COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 20

Commitments can be made by doing one of the following:

- 1. Visit our website at www.fpcsanantonio.org/give.
- 2. Download the FPC App and go to the "Give" section.
- 3. Fill out a commitment form and bring it to the service of dedication on Sunday, November 20. You may also mail it to the church office, drop it off, or bring it to church any Sunday.

As an act of **GIVING....Witness** in response to God's generous gifts and by faith, I/we intend to support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio with the following gift to its 2023 budget:

\$ PER (Please check one)
■ WEEK ■ MONTH ■ YEAR ■ OTHER
FORANNUALTOTALOF:\$
PLEASE PRINT NAME(S):
ADDRESS:
EMAIL.
EMAIL:
PHONE:

# where are our priorities?

A few years ago I read an interesting book—
The Time Bind, by sociologist Arlie Russell
Hochschild, author of The Second Shift.
Hochschild was invited into a Fortune 500
Company (code-named "Amerco") in order to
help them understand why their "work/family
balance" programs were failing. The resulting
book documents ways in which our homes
are being invaded by the time pressures of
work—and, distressingly, the ways in which the
workplace has increasingly become an escape
from the pressures of home.

Hochschild gives intimate portraits of the lives of this company's workers. One description continues to haunt me. After witnessing the exhausting, complicated day of a young working couple and their small child, Hochschild is given a tour of their home. She is shown an expensive electric saw and drill set the young father had bought two years earlier—with the intention of building a tree house for his daughter. The tools had never been used. Hochschild makes this comment: "Once, those tools must have represented the promise of future projects. Now they seemed to be there in place of the projects. Along with the tools, perhaps John has tried to purchase the illusion of leisure they seemed to imply. Later, as I interviewed other working parents at 'Amerco', I discovered similar items banished to attics and garages. Timmy's father had bought a boat he hadn't sailed all year. Jarod and Tylor's parents had a camper truck they had hardly driven. Others had cameras, skis, guitars, encyclopedia sets, even the equipment to harvest maple syrup, all bought with wages that took time to earn. . . John's tools seemed to hold out

the promise of another self, a self he would be 'if only I had time.' His tools had become for him . . . a magical substitute for time, a talisman."

This story haunts me because it is such a universal indictment. Are we using God's time and God's money in order to buy useless substitutes for the abundant life God promises us?

Remember the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21.

My prayer: Lord, let the way I spend my time bring glory to God, promote health in myself and others, serve those in need, and create margin for enjoying the abundant life God has promised me. Let my priorities **GIVE** .... **Witness** to the life God calls me to live.

Your 2023 Stewardship Chair, Nancy Cross

Mongson

## Focus on Marriage Weekend

On the weekend of October 15-16 we enjoyed hearing from Jon Anderson, author of "The Acceptance" in three different events: a large group dinner, Sunday school, and a training. Some of the golden nuggets we came away with were the fact that your spouse chooses you and chooses to love you. Your spouse chooses to accept you even when they know all about the hard things. That there is no "we" it's that each individual must work on their own issues in order to help the marriage. We cannot "fix" or "change" one another, or hope they change. We must be the ones to change. Also we liked the picture of a swimming pool he drew with a shallow-end and a deep-end. He said to begin your together-time in the shallow-end. The shallow-end represents issues that are not too difficult to think about or share. Always ask your spouse what happened in their day and how it was. Then listen well. There were many more, but we came away with the challenge to keep a journal of what you are thankful for about your spouse. Write something down each day that you are thankful for about that person, watch how your heart begins to value that person more, and your marriage relationship becomes better. All we want is better.

Learn how you can continue getting better at marriage by visiting fpcsanantonio.org/marriage.

## Save the date for our next Marriage Weekend coming March 31 - April 1, 2023!





## Children's Sunday Celebration

**Features Workshops and New Bibles** 

Children's Sunday at FPC on October 16 was a joyous day of celebration for our children and their families! The 5th grade students served alongside our pastors as liturgist leaders in all three worship services and they did a fantastic job! Thank you to our wonderful students who accepted the call to lead in worship and led with the confidence of the Holy Spirit. In addition, 27 of our two-year-old children and 3rd graders received their brand new Bibles at the 11 a.m. Traditional Worship service.

The parents of two-year-olds participated in a workshop about how to teach our kids at a young age the importance of the Bible and God's love for us. It is amazing that even at the young age of two, kids are able to understand the stories of the Bible and a solid foundation of truth will follow them as they grow up.

The 3rd grade students learned about their new Bibles alongside their parents and they learned how to navigate through them in order to grow deeper in God's Word. The kids were excited to have their very own Bibles and could not wait to show them off to their parents and grandparents.

Our FPC elders, deacons, and staff members highlighted the 3rd grade Bibles with their favorite Scripture verses

and passages so that the kids would be encouraged as they discovered their new Bibles.

Many thanks to the children's committee and the many volunteers who prayerfully wrapped the Bibles and prayed over the children and families as they received their Bibles.

Thank you to the congregation of FPC for supporting our children and their families and for continually praying for them as they walk on their journeys of faith. If you see one of these children carrying around their Bible at church, give them a high five and congratulate and encourage them as they enjoy their new Bibles.

Rev. Becky Prichard
Associate Pastor for Christian Education





## Welcome to Our New Director to Children and their Families!



Dear Church Family,

I look so forward to serving the children and families at FPC starting on November 1st.

A little about me - I am a 5th generation Texan. I was born in Nacogdoches but went to schools in Austin. I graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

I am married to Jim who is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist church. We have 4 children and 5 grandchildren who live in Austin and Houston. I love the Lord and find so much joy in serving families.

I have worked in Children's Ministry for the past 30 years either as a volunteer, or as staff. In my spare time, I volunteer at a medical clinic, garden, and read.

Thank you so much for allowing me this opportunity to be a part of this wonderful church.

Blessings, Rebecca Sweet



Provide the true gift of Christmas to a local family in need this Christmas by participating in FPCWOC's Gift of Christmas! This is an opportunity to love on our neighbors on the west side served by the House of Neighborly Service by "adopting" a family and personally providing a few requested gifts to each family member.

A Bible, devotional and children's book will be provided by WOC for each adopted family. Information and family request forms will be available at the GOC table in the Mauze lobby on Sunday mornings from October 23 through November 6, online at fpcsanantonio.org/christmasgiving, or can be requested by emailing committee members Kim Smith, Lellen Lane, Liz Medley or Susie Patterson. Family Request forms are due Sunday, November 6. All families will be assigned before Thanksgiving. Merry Christmas y'all!

Blessings,





#### WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

## Nov. 2022









#### **Circle Chairs & Bible Moderators**

(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
NOVEMBER 21, 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
NOVEMBER 16, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228

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

Members of Circle, Moderators

NOVEMBER 15, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room

Circle 7 Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549) NOVEMBER 15, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, in member homes Sheila Murray's home, 419 King William St. (byo lunch)

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

Members of Circle, Moderators, Circle for mothers of young children

NOVEMBER 4 (date change), 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
NOVEMBER 15, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am, Breakfast Room

Circle 11 Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)
Members of Circle, Moderators
NOVEMBER 28, Fourth Monday, 12:30 pm,
Suzanne Norton's, 310 Singing Sumac Way,
San Marcos, TX 78666, 210-287-1392, carpools recommended

Circle 13 Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057)
LITERATURE CIRCLE
NOVEMBER 8, Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, Covenant Hall

Circle 14 Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589) Suzie Simpson, Moderator NOVEMBER 28, 4th Monday due to holiday, 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

#### WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

## President's Letter Nov. 2022

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" 1 Chronicles 16:34

The year is racing along! We have had so many wonderful events so far this year. Last month we enjoyed a well-attended Ladies Night Out at the home of Catherine Whitsett. It was a beautiful night, full of fun and fellowship. And since the event fell in the middle of Love SATX week, we also collected quite a few items for school care packages to donate to School Connect. Many thanks to Ellen Meadows and her team who put together such a lovely event, and to Catherine for opening up her home to all of us. I think we are very grateful for the blessing of being able to gather together in person once again, and to share our blessings with those in our city who need it.

We also had the privilege to honor our pastors and staff with a fabulous luncheon on October 26. The pastors and church staff assist us with everything that we do, and we are forever in their debt. Their love for the Lord and their dedication to our church are truly special, and it was nice to show them our gratitude. Virginia Beeler and Mary Wilde rustled up a delicious Texas Barbecue for all 75 staff members (including those from the Children's Center). The food was scrumptious, and a good time was had by all!

WOC will be selling our new Christmas ornament on Sundays during November. It was designed by Anne Folkes and features the beautiful Celtic cross which hangs in the sanctuary. A brief history of the cross, which was donated by Mrs. Mary Pat Stumberg, is included with each ornament. The cost is \$10 each, and they are selling fast, so get yours while you can!

At the same table you can also sign up for a **Gift of Christmas** family. This is an opportunity to love on our neighbors on the west side served by the House of Neighborly Service. Kim Smith and her committee will have all the information you need to see how you can participate. It has always been a wonderful way to personally share the Christmas joy with another family in our city.

May you and your loved ones enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving! We can never give enough thanks to our Lord!

In His Love,

Linda Delano

President, Women of the Church











#### fpcsanantonio.org/keys

#### KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT







Thankful: No ghosts or goblins and trick-or-treats. No candy or flowers for your sweets. No gifts to buy or presents to give. Just be THANKFUL for the life that you live." November is all about being thankful. It is the runway to advent and our anticipation of its blessings. Be sure to reflect on how you have been blessed this year.

On **November 4** we look forward to hearing from Cody Knowlton from the Baptist Health Foundation. The Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio is one of the Lord's conduits to provide spiritual and healthcare services to His people and reflect His presence in the community.

On **November 11** we have a special treat - meeting students from Austin Classical School who have sent letters to our Veterans over the past few years. We are excited for the students to meet in person with the recipients of their letters. Nicole Ogden, Pastor Joe's daughter, has been instrumental in overseeing this project and will be leading the students in their salute to Veterans and Veteran's Day.

On **November 18**, as a special Birthday Lunch, we will be celebrating with a Thanksgiving Dinner at Marie's Café, 12475 Starcrest Dr., San Antonio, TX. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 AM or

take the shuttle from FPC at 10:30 AM Cost is \$15, unless you have a November Birthday, then it's on us.

KEYS will not meet on **November 25**. Enjoy the Holiday Weekend!

Elf Louise will be back to normal this year and we are scheduled on **November 28** to wrap presents from 10:00 AM to Noon. The Shuttle will leave FPC at 9:00 AM. We will lunch together at The Acadiana Café.

Mahjong players are meeting on the **1st and 3rd Fridays** (only in November and December) in the Geneva Room, immediately after lunch. We are also recruiting Bridge Players as well. You don't have to be a seasoned player and if you have a game you would like to play, let us know and we will make room for you!

**December 4**, we have 20 tickets to see White Christmas at the Woodlawn Theater. Show time is 3:00 p.m., there will be a shuttle from FPC leaving at 2:15 p.m.

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.

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













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 Genesis 44-46:7; Romans 8:28-39; Psalm 16
- 2 Genesis 46:26-47:31; Psalm 65; Proverbs 3
- 3 Genesis 48-49; Acts 7:2-26; Hebrews 11:21; Isaiah 46:3-4; Psalm 116:15
- 4 Genesis 50; Hebrews 11:22; Deuteronomy 33:13-17; Proverbs 22:1; Psalm 116:15
- 5 Exodus 1; Acts 7:17-19; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3

When Israel was in Egypt's land, Let my people go, oppressed so hard they could not stand, Let my people go. Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, Tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go. The Lord told Moses what to do, Let my people go, to lead the Hebrew children through, Let my people go. Lord, help us all from bondage flee, Let my people go, and let us all in Christ be free, Let my people go. (Spiritual)

- 6 Exodus 2; Hebrews 11:24-26; Psalm 5
- 7 Exodus 3; Romans 8:31-39
- 8 Exodus 4; Acts 7:20-22; Matthew 10:19-20; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5
- 9 Exodus 5; Matthew 10:32-39; 1 Peter 2:19
- 10 Exodus 6:1-7:7; Romans 9:14-18
- 11 Exodus 7:8-24; Psalm 2
- 12 Exodus 8; Psalm 142

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim thro' this barren land. I am weak, but Thou art mighty. Hold me with Thy powerful hand. Bread of Heaven, Feed me till I want no more. Bread of Heaven, Feed me till I want no more. Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing waters flow; Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey thro'. Strong Deliverer, be Thou still my Strength and Shield. Strong Deliverer, be Thou still my Strength and Shield. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside. Bear me thro' the swelling current; land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises I will ever give to Thee. (Worship in Song #65)

- 13 Exodus 9; Proverbs 16:4; Jeremiah 10:1-16
- 14 Exodus 10; Psalm 105
- 15 Exodus 11-12; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Psalm 103
- 16 Psalm 139

- 17 Exodus 13; Hebrews 11:24-29
- 18 Exodus 14; Ephesians 6:10-18
- 19 Exodus 15:1-21; Ephesians 5:19-20

The Lord is God, There is no other. God spake these Words, O Israel hear, what I now command; the Lord and only God am I, who with Almighty Hand. From Egypt's land, and from the house of bondage set thee free; and therefore, Israel, thou shall have no other gods but Me. Have mercy on us, Lord, and all our hearts incline, with diligence and care to keep those righteous laws of Thine. (Reformed Protestant Hymnal #465)

- 20 Exodus 15:22-16:35; Matthew 6:28-34; 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- 21 Exodus 17; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 1 Timothy 2:8
- 22 Exodus 18; Acts 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:1-12
- 23 Exodus 19; Psalm 24
- 24 Exodus 20; Matthew 5:17-20; James 2:10; Psalm 145
- 25 Exodus 21; Matthew 5:38-48; Matthew 15:1-9
- 26 Exodus 22; Leviticus 25:35-38; Romans 15:2-6

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie. All over these wide, extended plains shines on eternal day; There God, the Son, forever reigns and scatters night away. No chilling winds, no poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore; Sickness and sorrow, pain and death are felt and feared no more. I am bound for the Promised Land, I am bound for the Promised Land; O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the Promised Land. (The Baptist Hymnal #479)

- 27 Exodus 23; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- 28 Exodus 24; Matthew 17:1-3; Revelation 4
- 29 Exodus 25; Hebrews 9:1-5; Revelation 11:19
- 30 Exodus 26; Hebrews 9:6; Hebrews 10:19-25



## 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

## **New Covenant Partners!** Joined us in October



**Clint and Sarah Bonn** 



**Ashley Dike** 



**Andrew and Jaime Fields** 



**Debbie Fu** 



**David Geraci** 



**Tommy and Carol McDonald** 



**Karen Saunders** 



#### **LOVE CHRIST. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.** LOVE THE CITY.

404 N. Alamo Street San Antonio, Texas 78205 210-226-0215 fpcsanantonio.org

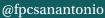














First Presbyterian Church SATX



@First Pres & @fpcsanantonio



#### **CONNECT** WITH US!

Interested in receiving the First Press magazine digitally? Want to get the weekly newsletter email?

Sign-Up at: www.fpcsanantonio.org/ comm-connect

Download the free FPC San Antonio App



