

Bob & Morgan Fuller Celebrate 30 Years of Grace (Pastor's article, pages 2-3)

## **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Love SATX D'S MISSION. OUR CI

MISSION. OUR CITY.

## **Love Our City** in September! (See page 13)

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Kickoff Sunday Brings in the Fall with Faith, Fellowship, and Kids' Carnival! (See pages 14-17)

FPC Welcomes **Several New Covenant** Partners in August (See pages 10-11)

Young Adults/ University **Welcomes LEAD Team** (See pages 8-9)

#### 2 FIRST PRESS Pastor's Article

## **Thirty Years of Grace**

#### Read Proverbs 31:10-31

<sup>10</sup> An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels...

I am writing this article on August 28, 2023. 30 years ago today, Morgan Elizabeth Warner and I were married. It all happened on August 28, 1993, in Odessa, Texas at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

You have known Morgan now for seven years, some of you longer (as Camp Waldemar's Ideal Girl, or as a student and soccer player at Washington and Lee), but on this occasion I want to take a moment of personal privilege to celebrate, and to re-introduce you to a true covenant-partner and leader in our congregation.

Morgan and I met at Washington in the University in 1988. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and then went on to get a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Virginia while I was in seminary in Richmond. When she finished at UVA, she was asked to return to W&L to teach biochemistry for one academic year in 1994. While I was serving a church in Virginia, Morgan served as an instructor of chemistry at the University of Richmond, and worked in research and development for orthopedic casting at Smith and Nephew Medical in Charlotte, North Carolina.

After years of volunteering in our kid's elementary school library, Morgan launched a second career

#### REV. DR. BOB FULLER



and graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Master of Library and Information Science. She became an elementary school librarian for five years and now is enjoying serving as one of our church librarians, giving her an opportunity to interact with members, mission partners, and even our churchplanters on a regular basis—all while keeping her skills sharp.

In 2000, Morgan took on the most important job in the world: Mother.

She is a great mom, fielding every demand, need and request with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. She is the only one competent enough to help our son Bo with his studies in Chemistry and Physics. Last Thursday, when our daughter El got a job offer in New York, Morgan dropped everything to drive with her to get her there for her first day on Tuesday.

Morgan has a wonderful sense of humor and her playfulness has always energized our relationship. She's a great storyteller and has a treasure trove of memorable quotes and old Texas proverbs. Whenever I show up at a gathering or party alone, the first question I'm always asked is "where is Morgan?"

She is the most conscientious and thoughtful person I have ever met, and generous with her time. Behind the scenes, she is just and fair. She has never had much taste for what she often calls *"girlatics."* She is quick to sniff-out pettiness for what it is, and she does not suffer unkind people well. She is often the one to stand-by the people who are alienated or left out of the group.

I have watched her serve in an orthopedic hospital in Kikuyu, Kenya, and I have seen her run Vacation Bible School in Honduras. We have traveled all over the world together, most recently to Israel. She has represented First Presbyterian Church in Warsaw, Poland, and in Mexico City to sign a partnership agreement between First Presbyterian Church and the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico. Most recently, she has loved serving with the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services. I have watched her lead teams building homes with Habitat for Humanity and she has served as a Bible study teacher and a Sunday School leader.

Life as a pastor's wife is not always easy. She has endured the long hours and the last-minute changes in plan. She is a veteran of our denominational and theological battles. She knows the best and

3

# CONTENTS

worst of both pastors and congregations— but has never withheld her patience, even from the biggest troublemakers. She has been a confidant, counselor, and friend, always offering a hand to hold, a shoulder to lean on, and an ear to listen.

<sup>29</sup> "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

My initial assessment upon seeing her one evening in the college library has been confirmed now for 33 years: that she is the most beautiful woman I've ever seen. But, the most important thing to know about Morgan is that she is a true disciple of Jesus Christ. She loves to worship, and to study his word. Her faith is personal, but not private—generously shared with others.

The apostle Paul compares marriage to Christ's love for the church. In many weddings I have taught that marriage is one of the best human illustrations for God's long-suffering patience and unmerited favor. Whenever I have trouble grasping the meaning of grace, I think about Morgan and the way she has loved me, especially when I am not at my best. She is the best example I have experienced and that my human mind can apprehend. Morgan represents the greatest grace of my life, ranked only behind the grace I've received from Jesus Christ.

As with every other proud husband who reads Proverbs 31, I believe that this is not only a beautiful passage, but a prophecy about my own beloved wife. Proverbs was wise to pay tribute to the great wives and women who make a difference in our lives. Thank you all for loving us as a family, and for allowing me to celebrate the gift of marriage and a woman who is a blessing to us all.

Grace and peace,

Bb Juller

#### SAVE THE DATE

4-5	September Dates & Ongoing	
6	Literature Circle, Alpha, & PBS	
7	Fall Groups & Studies Weekly Schedule	
MIN	ISTRY ARTICLES	
8-9	Care Group Leaders Needed	
	Young Adult Communities LEAD Celebrates Seven College-Age Interns	
10-11	New Covenant Partners Joined in August	
12-13	FPC Missions Ministry & Love SATX	
14-17	Kickoff Sunday Recaps and Photos	
15	New Director to Youth and their Families	
18-20	September WOC Circles	
	Women of the Church Resumes for Year	
21	KEYS Older Adult Ministry: September	

#### FIRST CUP

22-23 Readings and Prayer List

#### **BACK COVER**

24 Young Adults Community Semester

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** Edwin Stephens: **Media/AV Manager** Robynn Amy: **Media/Production Specialist** Nona Hall: **Volunteer Photographer** 

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

# **Save the Date**

**FALL MINISTRY GUIDE -** Visit <u>fpcsanantonio.org/ministry-guide</u> to view or download the current Ministry Guide for a weekly schedule and events where you can get connected at FPC.

**FALL GROUPS & STUDIES -** There are many opportunities this Fall for all ages to grow in their relationship with God and their knowledge of His Word. Check out <u>page 7</u> for more information.

#### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

#### **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED**

FPC offices will be closed for the Labor Day holiday. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, Sept. 5.

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

#### **USHER & GREETER SAFETY TRAINING**

Time:After 11:00 AM ServicesLocation:TBDContact:Wendy Garcia, wendyg@fpcsat.org

This is a general information and FPC safety training for our Sunday greeters and ushers. Jeff Carawan will lead us in an active shooter and other emergency safety training. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Wendy Garcia.

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

#### MEN'S MINISTRY QUARTERLY DINNER

Time:5:00 PMLocation:Chris Madrids, 1900 Blanco Rd.Contact:Cody Heffron, codyheffron@yahoo.com<br/>Trebes Sasser, tsasser@rpitx.com

Join us at Chris Madrid's as men of all ages come together for food, fellowship, and a message from our guest speaker. Register for the dinner at <u>fpcsanantonio.org/men-dinner</u>.

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

#### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TOP GOLF

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Location: 5539 N. Loop 1604 W Contact: Kyle Bowden, <u>kyleb@fpcsat.org</u> Kerri Naploli, <u>kerrin@fpcsat.org</u> Preston Miller, <u>prestonm@fpcsat.org</u>

All high school students are invited to tee up for a night of fellowship, food, and golf. To register go to <u>fpcsanantonio</u>. <u>org/youth</u>.

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

#### YOUNG ADULT BBQ KICKOFF

Time:	12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Location:	Lane Residence
Contact:	Mitchell Moore, 210-226-0215 ext. 214
	mitchellm@fpcsat.org

Come after church to the Lane residence for BBQ and fellowship. Children are welcome and if you want to swim, bring your suits and towels. BBQ will be provided but please sign up to bring additional items: <u>https://bit.ly/YABBQKickoff</u>.

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

#### NEW COVENANT PARTNER GATHERING

Time:	5:00 - 6:30 PM	
Location:	Home of Sallie & Tom Guy	
Contact:	Michael McNeil, 210-857-7213,	
	mcneilm_24@yahoo.com	

We will be hosting a New Covenant Partner Gathering to welcome those who have joined FPC since January 2023. Meet other new Covenant Partners, FPC Pastors, and Program Directors. The event will take place off campus.

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

#### PRACTICAL PRAYER TRAINING WITH ONE

Times:	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location:	Room 224
To Register:	Lisa Snow, <u>lisas@fpcsat.org</u>
Questions:	Pamela Young, 210-896-0455,
	pyoung141@gmail.com

Did you know that prayer can be a two-way conversation? We will practice together in this class, taught by ONE. All three fall sessions will be similar, but can be repeated for more practice.

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

#### **FPCC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Time:	7:45 AM - 2:30 PM	
Location:	Olmos Basin Golf Course	
	7022 McCullough Ave, 78216	
Contact:	Colby Prichard, Forefpcc@fpcsat.org	

Get ready to tee off at FPCC's First Annual Golf Tournament at the Olmos Basin Golf Course. Join us for a day of fun and friendly competition on the greens as we raise funds to support our amazing Children's Center! \$250 for individual/\$1000 for 4-person team. Check-in starts at 7:45 AM with a shotgun start at 8:30 AM. Registration includes a hamburger lunch with a drink ticket and winner prizes. Register at fpcsanantonio.org/golf-tournament.

#### **SEPTEMBER 23 - 30**

#### LOVE SATX WEEK

Contact: Lindsay Selli, 210-271-2758 lindsays@fpcsat.org

Debra Sirakos, <u>dsirakos@gmail.com</u>

Save the date for Love SATX week to love and serve our city alongside our FPC Local Missions Partners. Will include opportunities to love our neighbors and neighborhoods. See page 13 for the current information - more to come!

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

#### CHILDREN'S COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Time:9:30 AM - 10:30 AMLocation:Room 108Contact:Becky Prichard, beckyp@fpcsat.org

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.

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

#### **JOINFPC! FALL CLASSES**

Dates & Times: Sunday, Sept.24 | 12:15 PM - 2:00 PM Sunday, Oct. 15 | 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Contact: Sheila Figueroa, <u>sheilaf@fpcsat.org</u>

Interested in joining FPC as a Covenant Partner (member)? Save the dates now for the Fall Discover, Know, JoinFPC! Program. There are two required classes. Register for this or our other upcoming programs at <u>fpcsanantonio</u>. <u>org/register-discover-fpc</u>.

#### **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26**

#### **STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING BEGINS**

Time:	6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Location:	Room 224
Contact:	Rev. Scott Simpson, <u>scotts@fpcsat.org</u>

Stephen Ministers are members of First Pres who have been trained to care for others in times of deep personal need for as long as needed. To be part of this ministry, please contact Rev. Scott Simpson at scotts@fpcsat.org or call the church office. More information at <u>fpcsanantonio.org/stephen-ministry</u>.

#### **ONGOING**

#### WOMEN OF THE CHURCH CIRCLES

Various Dates, Times & Locations Contact: Pat Brodeen, <u>pat@brodeen.com</u> Sheila Figueroa, <u>sheilaf@fpcsat.org</u>

Circles are groups of church members and friends who meet monthly and share in Bible study, fellowship, service, and even knitting and book reviews! This year we will be "Digging Deeper" into the fall sermon series study of 1st Corinthians. Circle 8, for Mothers of Young Children, also gathers monthly for fun and fellowship - contact Susan DeKoch, <u>susandekoch@gmail.com</u>. Visit <u>fpcsanantonio.</u> <u>org/woc</u> or <u>pages 18-20</u> for more information about all Circles.

#### FPC CHILDREN'S CENTER FUNDRAISER

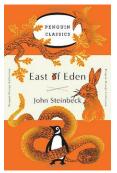
#### SATURDAY SITTING SERVICE

Dates:	Saturdays, Jul. 15 - Oct. 28
Time:	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Contact:	Laura Ortiz, <u>laurao@fpcsat.org</u>
	Children's Center Director

Our FPCC teachers are offering childcare on Saturdays through October 28. \$60 Per Child for ages 6 weeks - 10 years. We encourage parents to bring a light lunch and snack for their children. Sign up at the First Floor Children's Center Front Desk (cash preferred.) Proceeds go toward teachers attending the annual TXAEYC Conference in Round Rock this November. More information at <u>fpcsanantonio.org/</u> childrens-center.

#### LITERATURE CIRCLE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR, 2023-2024

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**



1:30 PM (Social begins at 1:00 PM) | Location: McCullough Room Time: Contact: Grace Clouse, Chair, grace.clouse42@gmail.com

FPC Literature Circle will meet the second Tuesday of each month from September - May in the McCullough Room. This upcoming year is the 50th anniversary of the Circle 13 Literature Circle at FPC! Get started on the reading list this summer and plan to join us for the reviews throughout the year.

For September we will be reviewing "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck. This book was one of the very first books reviewed by the Literature Circle back in their first year of 1973.

Bring a friend to hear a great story and be reminded of the value of books. Delayed streaming is available each month on our FPC website: fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle

#### **Curious about faith?**

# Try Alpha

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you watch an episode on a different auestion of faith - then have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome. You're invited, not matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

Date & Time: Starts 9/6 Wednesdays | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: McCullough Room FPC San Antonio, 404 N. Alamo

**Contact:** Elizabeth Crites crcrites@aol.com | 713-822-0222

Free Dinner & Childcare by Registration at fpcsanantonio.org/alpha





#### Pastor's Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller Begins September 6 & 7

Wednesday Preview | 6:30 PM | Covenant Hall Thursday Lecture | 9:30 AM | Covenant Hall Small Groups | 10:30 AM | Various Classrooms

Just before Jesus ascended to the Father, He told his followers, "... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8). When the time was right to take the gospel beyond Israel to the Gentiles, to the wider Greco-Roman world, the Lord raised up a very unlikely candidate: a zealous Pharisee named "Saul." The Lord transformed him, renamed him "Paul," and made him the greatest missionary of the early church. This fall we will study the book of Acts and follow Paul on his journeys to see how God used this one-time enemy of the church to change the world for Jesus Christ.

The Thursday lecture is also available live on the FPC app or at fpcsanantonio.org. Watch fpcsanantonio.org/ pbs for updated information along with weekly notes and discussion guides through the fall. Contact Sheila Figueroa at sheilaf@fpcsat.org with any questions. Contact Lellen Lane at <u>lellenlane@aol.com</u> for Thursday small group placement.

#### **SUNDAY STUDIES & GROUPS**

## SUN AM Adult Classes | 8:30 AM & 9:30 AM fpcsanantonio.org/adults-sundays

College Breakfast Hour | 9:30 AM Room 310 | fpcsanantonio.org/university

Youth Classes | 9:30 AM Student Center fpcsanantonio.org/youth-sundays

Children's Classes | 9:30 AM | 1st Floor fpcsanantonio.org/children

#### SUN PM Middle School Bible Study 5:00 PM | Offsite

Kyle Bowden, kyleb@fpcsat.org, Kerri Napoli, kerrin@fpcsat.org, or Preston Miller, prestonm@fpcsat.org

High School Girls Bible Study 7:00 PM | Offsite Kerri Napoli, kerrin@fpcsat.org

#### WEEKDAY STUDIES & GROUPS

TUESWomen's Bible Study (begins Sept. 12)9:30 AM | McCullough Room<br/>Catherine Miller, 210-394-2045<br/>grcjmiller@sbcglobal.net

Literature Circle (2nd Tuesdays, Sept. 12) 1:00 PM | McCullough Room fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle

Precept Bible Study: Hebrews Part 2 6:30 PM | The Broadway Condominium Conference Room | *begins Sept. 12* 4242 Broadway, 78209 Tripp Stuart, 210-685-1208 (text)

WED Children's Choir (4 yrs - 5th Grade) 5:00 PM | 1st Floor Assembly Room Kathy Jamison, kathyj@fpcsat.org fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-choir

> Music with Families (begins Sept. 6) 5:15 PM | Room 108 (8 wks - 3yrs with Parents) Rebecca Sweet, rebeccas@fpcsat.org fpcsanantonio.org/music-families

Sanctuary Handbells 5:30 PM | Room 309 | fpcsanantonio.org/music

#### Young Adult & College Gospel Community Groups

Ages 18-35 meet at least twice a month in small groups to help you grow in your faith. Contact Carrie Everson, carriee@fpcsat.org. College contact Ben Henderson, benh@fpcsat.org. Sign up at fpcsanantonio.org/gcgroups.

#### WEEKDAY STUDIES & GROUPS

WED Alpha (begins Sept. 6) 6:00 PM | McCullough Room Elizabeth Crites, crcrites@aol.com fpcsanantonio.org/alpha

> Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM | Room 302 Sheila Figueroa, sheilaf@fpcsat.org

Pastor's Bible Study: Preview (begins Sept. 6) 6:30 PM | Covenant Hall | fpcsanantonio.org/pbs Sheila Figueroa, sheilaf@fpcsat.org

Modern Worship Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM | Westminster Hall Callan Brown, callanb@fpcsat.org

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM | Room 318 | fpcsanantonio.org/music

High School Guys Bible Study 7:00 PM | Offsite Kyle Bowden, kyleb@fpcsat.org or Preston Miller, prestonm@fpcsat.org

The Well (University) 7:00 PM | Offsite | (begins Sept. 6) Ben Henderson, benh@fpcsat.org fpcsanantonio.org/university

#### THUR Men's Breakfast Bible Study

7:00 AM | Geneva Room fpcsanantonio.org/men

Pastor's Bible Study & Small Groups (begins Sept. 7) 9:30 AM Lecture | Covenant Hall 10:30 AM Small Groups | Various Classrooms Sheila Figueroa, sheilaf@fpcsat.org fpcsanantonio.org/pbs

#### **FR** Friday Singers

9:00 AM | Practices - Room 309 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM | Performances Off Site Charlotte Hains Gates, charlottehains@gmail.com

KEYS (50+) Friday Fitness 9:30 AM | Zoom fpcsanantonio.org/keys

#### KEYS (50+) Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit

11:00 AM Program & 12:00 PM Lunch (\$13) Westminster Hall (*begins Sept. 8*) 3rd Fridays - Birthday Lunch Offsite (\$15) RSVP to Front Desk, 210-226-0215 fpcsanantonio.org/keys

#### **KEYS Mahjong Players**

1:00 PM | Geneva Room | Contact for dates Nancy Black, whythere@icloud.com

## Help Continue a 5-Year Legacy of Care Groups!



Navigating through Grief and Divorce is painful and lonely. Grief Share and Divorce Care have been created with care and concern for the person walking that journey. Both are video based support groups that are led by facilitators who have a heart for healing. It has been my privilege to walk with many individuals who find themselves lost on this journey. The goal is hope and healing through the power of God's love. A workbook tracks with the videos and is designed for personal reflection and involvement. No one is forced to speak out in a meeting, however, there are group discussions that provide this opportunity. Scripture is at the heart of these programs in both the reading and the videos.

First Presbyterian Church has provided access to these resources for at least five years. We are in need of facilitators. Facilitators are given the resources and training to offer care and concern along the journey.

If God is calling you to get involved in a ministry like this please connect with Pastor Joe Moore, <u>joem@fpcsat.org</u>.

More information is available at griefshare.org and divorcecare.org.

## The Lord of the Harvest has Delivered!

## An Update & Celebration

#### Matthew 9:36-38:

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Starting in December 2022, empowered by the Holy Spirit and the resources of FPC, I have been giving God my "yes" by trying to bring the atoning power and healing light of the gospel to college students in this city! One month in, my mentor, friend, and supervisor Rev. Mitchell Moore told me that my "weaknesses would prove to be [my] greatest strength".

As time has gone on, this has become increasingly clear: I see that while I can sow and water all day every day, God never intended for me to do this alone. First and foremost, one must realize that the real growth comes not from the sower, but from the mysterious, mystical power of God. I am nothing but a conduit that God has allowed to take part in His exciting work. I must, therefore, judge my success on my obedience and my excellence, not the results.

Second of all, I realized that as a conduit, I am but one man! A vast army of faithful missionaries is needed to reach every college student in San Antonio! Thankfully, Rev. Mitchell and I have been praying earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest for more laborers, and He has graciously delivered us seven University Ministry Interns!

Please be in prayer for these young men and women who have been transformed by the gospel so much so that they can't help but share it with others! Please intercede for them for courage, continued faith, joy, protection, and fruitful ministry! Take some time to get to know them a little bit by reading these blurbs, or by stopping and giving them some warm encouragement on a Sunday morning!

Praise King Jesus,

-Ben Henderson Director of University Ministries

## **Meet the YAC/University Interns**



Name: Gabby Adair Hometown: Houston, TX Fun Fact: I lived in Kyrgyzstan Favorite Bible Verse: Romans 5:8 Favorite Bible Character: Paul



Name: Syese Jackson Hometown: San Antonio, TX Fun Fact: I flew off my bike one time in front of all of my neighbors Favorite Bible Verses: Matthew 6:33 & Daniel 3:18 Favorite Bible Characters: Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego



Name: Jordan Arce Hometown: Thousand Oaks, CA Fun Fact: A video of 8-year-old me playing softball has 5.1 million views Favorite Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:8 Favorite Bible Character: Moses



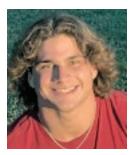
Name: Jaden Powell Hometown: Denton, TX Fun Fact: I play football for Trinity University Favorite Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:31 Favorite Bible Character: Job



Name: Angela Baltzel Hometown: Antioch, CA Fun Fact: I had open heart surgery at 9 months old Favorite Bible Verse: John 13:7 Favorite Bible Character: Iohn



Name: Noah Cunningham Hometown: Houston, TX Fun Fact: I lived in China for 13 years Favorite Bible Verses: Romans 8:35-39 Favorite Bible Character: Gideon



Name: Michael Kerr Hometown: Dallas, TX Fun Fact: I can move my ears Favorite Bible Verse: Mark 10:43 Favorite Bible Character: Jacob

#### Leader - Part of YAC LAUNCH



Name: Benson Meadows

From: San Antonio, TX

**Fun Fact:** On any given Saturday, I am either golfing, duck hunting, or watching Aggie Football.

Favorite Bible Verse: Proverbs 3: 5-6

#### How I want to grow as a leader:

As I pursue a career in medicine, I am eager to learn how I can be an effective leader as a physician. I want to identify the gifts God has equipped me with and learn how to utilize them in leadership roles. I also want to better understand the practice of servant leadership which Jesus describes in Mark 10:45. Finally, through mentorships, I hope to learn how to faithfully lead in the church and my community.

## **New Covenant Partners!**



**Caroline Clanton** 



**Betsy and Carter Foughty** 



Lucy and Josh Diepenhorst\*



Krystal and Charlie Franklin



Joe DiMola



Jan Fry



Wendell Hall



Lauren and Tom Klender www.fpcsanantonio.org



**Trace Hayles** 



Lora Mae Kruger



**Ted Kerr** 



**Margaret and Jack Maguire** 

## Joined us in August 2023



Margo and John McCaleb



**Mary Stokes** 



Bailey and Tim Yoder\*\*



**Stacy Moore** 



**Leah Plemmons** 



Jeanie Wehmeyer



**Roseann Young** 

\* Josh Diepenhorst joined and is pictured with his wife Lucy Diepenhorst who is already a Covenant Partner.

\*\* Tim Yoder will officially join in September, while Bailey Yoder joined this month.

**Remember! New Covenant Partner Gathering on Sunday, September 17.** See <u>page 4</u> for more information.



11

www.fpcsanantonio.org

## CONNECT with FPCMISSIONS



## Text **"Missions"** to 210-981-3339

to receive updates about ongoing and upcoming opportunities to connect and serve with our FPC Mission Partners.

FPC is blessed to participate in raising up the next generation of pastors and leaders through seminary and church planting partnerships, globally. While these young leaders are studying, beginning their work in ministry, and planting churches, we have the opportunity to come alongside them as a prayer partner.

You, your family, or your small group are invited to consider connecting with a student or a church planter to encourage them and prayer with and for them on a monthly basis.

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If you would like to connect with a student or church planter as a prayer partner, or would like more information, please contact Lindsay Selli.

Love SATX

## GOD'S MISSION. OUR CITY.

#### fpcsanantonio.org/lovesatx

Love and serve our city alongside our FPC Local Missions Partners!

#### Love SATX Serve Days September 23 & 30

If you would like to take part in the 2023 Love SATX Serve Days, please register online at <u>bit.ly/LoveSATX-serve23</u> or at the table in Mauze Lobby on Sundays, September 10, 17, or 24. Each project has a limited number of volunteer slots. On the registration webpage, please download, complete, and return one release form per participant to Lindsay Selli at <u>lindsays@fpcsat.org</u>.

#### Serve Day - Saturday 23

**Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM):** Join in celebrating our unsheltered neighbors by serving at CAM's 2nd annual Houseless Birthday Celebration. FPC will host a booth with yard games, prizes, and a special craft to bring dignity and hope to our neighbors. The event is a part of the Love SATX service opportunities but will be held on Saturday, September 23 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

#### Serve Day - Saturday 30

- Communities Under the Bridge (CUB): We will be packing about 200 gift bags for CUB to use as they care for our homeless and under-resourced neighbors.
- Habitat for Humanity: We will be working at a Habitat Home Build. Projects are subject to change, but include paint, trim, and shed assembly. Note: this project will begin at 7:45am and finish at 3pm. Volunteers must be 14 years of age and older.
- **KRL Breakfast:** Prepare breakfast, serve food in the Meditation Garden at FPC, and spend time in fellowship with our neighbors.
- **Mission Road:** Serve the residents at Mission Road by hosting a fall celebration party! Please note that all volunteers must complete Mission Road volunteer paperwork and a training video prior to the 30th.
- **Morningside Ministries:** Serve the residents of Morningside through a morning of playing bingo and fellowship over coffee and donuts.
- Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS): Decorate the porches of residents' homes for the fall.
- San Antonio YoungLives: Host a Fall Celebration for moms and their babies in the FPC Student Center.
- Snack Pak 4 Kids: Help Snack Pak prepare items for a bag packing event.
- And likely more!

## Were You #HereAtFPC for Kickoff Sunday?

#### By Wendy Garcia, FPC Connections Coordinator

Were you #HereAtFPC for Kick-Off Sunday? If not, read about the fun below as we kicked off the fall together, and join us this Sunday as we continue the fun and fellowship as we Worship our Savior and study His Word and desire for our lives today.

Kick-Off Sunday saw our young children exploring the Holy Land during our "Holy Land Carnival" held during the Sunday School Hour (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.). They fished in the Sea of Galilee, learned the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai, helped the two spies hide in Jericho, and experienced first-hand so many other events from the Bible, bringing these stories to life!

In the Student Center our Youth, grades 6 – 12, welcomed their new Youth Director, Kyle Bowden, while diving into their own classes for the year. Our 8th and some 9th graders began their 8-month journey to Confirmation while all of our youth and their families learned about the exciting events being planned for them by our Youth Team!

Throughout the Church, people renewed old friendships and welcomed those new to FPC by taking pictures of themselves with friends and family sharing that they were #HereatFPC! With ten new Adult Sunday School Classes, the halls were filled with the reading and discussion of scripture and how it impacts our lives today.

Kick-Off Sunday also included the start to our new 9:30 a.m. Modern Worship Service! We are so excited that we can now attend Traditional or Modern Worship Services at either 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. each Sunday!

Children, youth and adults alike enjoyed the amazing array of food provided by Chef Maurilio and his wonderful team along with our fabulous Sunday Cookie Bakers. Few missed the chance to grab a quick cup of coffee, tea or juice at our Mauzé Lobby Beverage Bar! What a great way to welcome everyone back after an adventurous summer, and greet those joining us for the first time.

The Holy Spirit was moving through FPC in very tangible ways on Kick-Off Sunday 2023. With more people present than we have seen on Kick-off Sunday since 2013, it's no surprise that people are sharing that "Here at FPC" we come together to Love Christ, Love One Another, and Love our City!

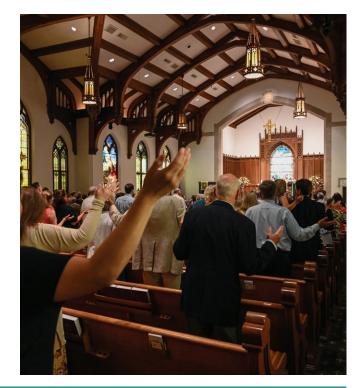












## Meet Our New Director to Youth & their Families **Kyle Bowden**



Kyle was born in San Antonio and grew up in the hill country of south Texas. He was raised in the church and there developed a deep love for the

word and learning. During the summers he would serve at local summer camps where he would first experience the joy of serving others. After high school he attended a Torchbearers Bible School for a brief time but found his true mission in the "normal workplace." Kyle worked in the property restoration industry for nearly a decade learning how to minister there. All the while he never stopped serving in a ministry context. During his time in the property restoration business he was a leader with Young Life. Through Young Life he learned the power of incarnational ministry and the value of faithful/long haul relationships. During this time he also worked part time as the youth pastor at a Presbyterian church in San Antonio.

Kyle has always lived with one foot in the "real world" and one in the ministry. He feels a strong call to chase after students and share with them the sweet relief of the gospel and the tremendous purpose God has for each of them.

You can find Kyle around the city sipping a cappuccino at a coffee shop, shooting one of his film cameras on the streets, or running through neighborhoods training for his next race.





















## Shalom from the "You Are Here, Holy Land, Kickoff Carnival!"

#### By Rebecca Sweet, Director to Children and their Families

4 year old's -4th graders had a monumental time as we navigated the Holy Land at the "You are Here, Kickoff".

We went back to the Holy Land for another adventure after studying about many of these places and Bible stories this summer.

We walked to Emmaus, fished for men at the Sea of Galilee, looked for the two spies at Jericho, sat by Mount Sinai and reviewed the Ten Commandments, and toppled the Tower at Babel among other adventures.

The volunteers' help was amazing! They managed to keep the twelve tribes out of the desert long enough to have fun!

Now that we have toured the Holy Land, we are jetting off to space as we BLAST OFF and learn the four spiritual disciplines of spending time with God, spending time with others who love God, knowing our gifts and using them, and being able to tell our story about how we are connected to Jesus!

Come and be a part of this Amazing Journey in Children's Ministry.









# WOMEN OF THE CHURCH Sept. 2023

18

FIRST PRESS





## **Circle Meetings Information & Chairs**

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

- Circle 1/12 Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240) SEPTEMBER 18, Third Monday, 11:30 am, Geneva Room (lunch optional)
- Circle 5 Kay Weber, Co-Chair (210-288-5290) Mary Fruge-Medford, Co-Chair (210-823-7054) SHAWL MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 20, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228
- Circle 6 Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483) SEPTEMBER 19, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room
- Circle 7 Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair (210-844-5549) SEPTEMBER 19, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, Home of Mary Ellen Mauze, 203 Primrose Place, salad luncheon
- Circle 8 Susan DeKoch, Chair (210-508-7127, may text) Circle for mothers of young children OCTOBER 1, Monthly Gatherings, 5:00 pm Home of Susan DeKoch, 207 Hillview Dr, 78029
- Circle 9 Grace Clouse, Co-Chair (734-718-7057) Janice Wilson, Co-Chair (210-492-0333/210-260-4157) SEPTEMBER 19, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am, Breakfast Room
- Circle 11 Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766) SEPTEMBER 25, Fourth Monday, 12:30 pm, Home of Rosemary Bolte, 775 Burr Rd, 78209
- Circle 13 Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057) LITERATURE CIRCLE SEPTEMBER 12, Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, McCullough Room
- Circle 14 Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589) SEPTEMBER 18, Third Monday, 12:00 pm, St. Andrews Room
- Circle 18 Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856) Pat Brodeen, Coordinator (pat@brodeen.com) CIRCLE OF CONCERN Small home-baked cookies always needed for receptions Volunteers to help with receptions needed
- Circle 20 Muffin Camp, Co-Chair (210-789-1808) Mary Anne Smith, Co-Chair (817-933-9124) CIRCLE OF SERVICE - volunteers to make/take meals when needed

# President's Letter Sept. 2023

Welcome to a new year for The Women of The Church! Circle Bible studies, luncheon and evening events, ministry and outreach opportunities are all being planned. I am honored and excited to serve as the 2023-2024 President and I look forward to the year ahead.

Did you know there are Women of The Church records (formerly Presbyterian Women, Woman's Auxiliary, Home Missionary Society, and Ladies Aid Society) that date back to 1874? The means WOC is celebrating 150 years! What a beautiful legacy of Bible lessons, friendships, fellowship, history, tradition, and service by the women of this church.

In preparing for this role, I am grateful to the many women who have led and been a part of this organization through its many years. Because of their dedication, WOC continues to be an active and strong ministry within the life of First Presbyterian Church. I especially want to recognize the outstanding leadership of former President Linda Delano and the officers, chairs, and members who served with her. Through their generosity and hard work, WOC was able to donate year-end funds to The Presbyterian Children's Home, Young Lives, The Christian Dental Clinic, The FPC Children's Center, The KRL, and The Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM). Thank you to Linda for her exceptional guidance and to everyone's combined efforts for this continued support to these worthy mission partners.

As we transition to a new year, we are thankful to God that He provides new energy, new ideas and new initiatives to each incoming group of WOC leaders. We are ever mindful that it is through His blessings that the history of this organization continues to grow!

During these recent summer months, committees were busy prepping and



planning for the months ahead. WOC is thankful to Rev. Becky Prichard and Jane Buchek, Moderator, for organizing this year's Circle study titled "Digging Deeper...Into 1st Corinthians". This study is written by our own Lisa and Rev. Mitchell Moore and will follow the Fall sermon series. With Sunday sermons now recorded, Circles will have access to hearing the message each week and then study the scripture lessons in-depth. On the adjoining page is the



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schedule of Circle meetings with contact names. Circles meet on a variety of days and times so if you are participating for the first time, please reach out to those Chairs listed. For additional information on Circles, please contact Pat Brodeen, VP for Circles at pat@brodeen.com or Sheila Figueroa, VP for New Members at sheilaf@fpcsat.org.

A round of applause to Catherine Whitsett for graciously sharing her artistic talents and gifting WOC with a painting of a corner of our church courtyard for the cover of the 2023-2024 directory. You will so enjoy admiring this beautiful artwork each time you reach for this helpful resource. Thank you to Catherine and to Meredith Parks, VP for Directory, and Dorothy Hecimovich for their time in carefully reviewing and updating each page of information.

Appreciation also goes to Suzanne West, Program Chair to The Presbyterian Children's Home and Services, for organizing the collection of back-toschool supplies for children currently residing at the home. Thank you to everyone who donated to help these youngsters begin their school year well-equipped. Mary Anne Smith, Chair of Circle 20 - the Circle of Service, coordinated snacks and refreshments to be available each day to Vacation Bible School volunteers. We extend our thanks to Mary Anne and to the many friends who provided the daily treats and to all volunteers who taught and led VBS activities.

The "Ladies Night Out" committee under Chair, Jill Peavy, has plans in place for the Fall evening gathering on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH** at the home of Brooke Peacock. More information will follow. The Fall Legacy Luncheon committee will soon give details on the upcoming lunch planned for **MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH.** Deborah and David Rogers are guest speakers and will be sharing on "The Legacy of The H.E. Butt Foundation." We look forward to hearing their story so be sure to mark your calendar for these two upcoming events.



Speaking of anniversary years, Circle 13-The Literature Circle is celebrating its 50th year of meeting and reading! Some special activities are planned including two local author visits. Did you know there is a member who is the keeper of the list of all the books that have been read and reviewed? It is an AMAZING list of literature and we are thankful for this group of church men and women who gather to review and discuss a variety of interesting and historical topics.

As the WOC brochure states, "if you are a woman and a member of this church, you are a member of Women of The Church". ALL women of First Presbyterian Church are welcomed and encouraged to join us for fellowship, study, service, and fun throughout this year. Please join us and be a part of the many activities planned!

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

Shelley Bass

President, Women of the Church Bass.shelley6@gmail.com



**KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT** 

We have enjoyed an awesome summer!! Birthday Lunches were well attended as we enjoyed Blanco BBQ and Chris Madrid's. We also had the opportunity to see "The Sound of Freedom" movie. What an eye-opener to what is going on around us. Looking forward to being together again on Fridays! Our committee will be meeting on September 1st to get focused on the fall calendar. Check out what we have to look forward to in the coming months.

#### September:

- 8 Cox Family Singers
- 15 Birthday Lunch at Milanos on Wurzbach
- 22 Darlene Koons as Sniggles The Clown

**29 -** Jeff Carawan FPC Property Management. FPC's Active Shooter Response

#### **October:**

6 - Mayor Ron Nirenburg

**13 -** Dr. Kevin Bieniek from Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's & Neurodegenerative Diseases

**20 -** Birthday Lunch at Casa Rio and River Cruise

**27 -** Emily Baucum, Public Relations Manager for The Alamo with more than 15 years of television news experience

## **Older Adult Ministry**

#### fpcsanantonio.org/keys

#### Weekly KEYS Meetings Fridays at 11:00 AM in Westminster Hall

The main speaker program on Fridays begins at 11:00 AM with lunch (\$13) starting at noon.

#### Monthly Birthday Lunches

Typically, on the third Friday of each month, we celebrate birthdays of that month at a local restaurant. You may meet at the restaurant at 11:30 AM, or you may take the shuttle from FPC that will leave at 10:45 AM. Off-site birthday lunches cost \$15.

#### **To RSVP for KEYS Meetings and/or Lunches:** Contact the church front desk at (210) 226-

0215 or email Marissa at marissab@fpcsat.org.

#### **Friday Fitness**

Friday Fitness will continue this Summer 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.

#### Mahjong & Bridge

Mahjong & Bridge will meet this Summer on various Fridays in the Geneva Room. If you want to join in on the games call Suzanne West at 210-525-1499 or email Nancy Black at whythere@icloud.com for more information. 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!



# FIRST CUP READINGS

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

#### 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.

Blessings and love in Christ,



- 1 2 Cor. 13; 1 Peter 4; Romans 6:18; Ephesians 6:10-18
- 2 1 Timothy 1; Romans 5:21, 7:7-8:17; Hebrews 5:11-14; James 3:1; 1 Peter 2:1-3

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when the labor increases; to added affliction He addeth His mercy, to multiplied trials, His multiplied peace. His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power has no boundary known unto men; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again! (Hymns for the Family of God, No. 112)

- 3 1 Timothy 2; Genesis 3; Proverbs 31, 11:16, 22; 14:1
- 4 1 Timothy 3; Romans 12; Hebrews 13:17
- 5 1 Timothy 4, 1:7; John 13:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:1
- 6 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2; 1 Corinthians 7:8; James 1:27; Ephesians 6:5-9; Psalm 68:4-5
- 7 1 Timothy 6:3-21; Ecclesiastes 4:4-8; Luke 12; Revelation 3:14-22
- 8 2 Timothy 1; Mark 8:34-38; Romans 1:8-17; Philippians 1:12-30; 1 Peter 4:12-19
- 9 2 Timothy 2; Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 4:1-3

A charge to keep have I, a God to glorify, another dying soul to save and fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my power engage to do my Master's will! Help me to watch and pray, and on Thyself rely, and let me ne'er my trust betray, but press to realms on high. (The Hymnbook, No. 301)

- 10 2 Timothy 3; Jeremiah 12:10-11, 23:1-4; John 10:1-16; Acts 20:25-31
- 11 2 Timothy 4; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Philippians 3:7-4:1
- 12 Titus 1; 1 Timothy 1:1-7; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Philippians 1:9-11
- 13 Titus 2; Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 11:18-21; Psalm 25; Proverbs 9:9, 22:17-21
- 14 Titus 3; Romans 13; 1 Peter 2:17
- 15 Philemon; 1 Peter 3:15-16; Luke 9:26; Matthew 6:14; Luke 17:1-4; Romans 16
- 16 1 John 1-2:14; Matthew 5:14-16; John 3:19-21, 8:12, 12:35-50

My Father is rich in houses and lands; He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands! Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold, His coffers are full. He has riches untold. I once was an outcast stranger on earth, A sinner by choice, an alien by birth! But I've been adopted; my name's written down. I'm heir to a mansion, a robe, and a crown! A child of the King! A child of the King! With Jesus, my Saviour, I'm a child of the King! (Worship in Song, No. 377)

- 17 1 John 2:15-27; John 15:1-17; Titus 2:11-14
- 18 1 John 2:28-3:24; Romans 8:1-17, 12:9-21; 1 Cor. 13
- 19 1 John 4:1-21; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2:1-3
- 20 1 John 5; Jer. 7:1-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-32; James 5:13-20
- 21 2 John; Romans 16:17-20; Colossians 1:21-23, 2:6-8; Hebrews 10:35-38
- 22 3 John; Romans 12:13; 1 Tim. 5:9-10; I Peter 4:8-10; Philemon 8-22
- 23 Jude; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3

Search me, O God, and know my heart today. Try me, O Saviour; know my thoughts, I pray. See if there be some wicked way in me; cleanse me from every sin, and set me free. I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin. Fulfill Thy Word, and make me pure within; Fill me with fire, where once I burned with shame. Grant my desire to magnify Thy name. Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine; Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine. Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride. I now surrender; Lord, in me abide. (Worship in Song, No. 297)

- 24 Leviticus 1; 1 Peter 1
- 25 Leviticus 4; Romans 3
- 26 Leviticus 5:1-6:7; Acts 5:1-11; Colossians 3:9
- 27 Leviticus 11; Acts 10:1-11:18
- 28 Lev. 13:1-45, 14:1-32; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 17:11-19
- 29 Leviticus 15; Numbers 5; John 8:1-11; Mark 5:21-34
- 30 Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:1-14

Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forebear? Me, the chief of sinners, spare? I have long withstood His grace, long provoked Him to His face; would not hearken to His calls, grieved Him by a thousand falls. Still for me the Savior stands, shows His wounds, and spreads His hands. God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps, and loves me still. (The Hymnbook, No. 273)



## IRST 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



#### September

- 10 2nd Sunday Chapel at Mission Road
- 17 YAC BBQ Kickoff (See page 4 for details)
- 18 FPC Lead Gathering ++
- 23 CAM Birthday Party as a part of Love SATX week
- 28 Trivia at Roadmap Brewing
- **30 -** Love SATX Serve Day

## October

- 14 or 15 Drive-in Movie in New Braunfels
- 15 2nd Sunday Chapel at Mission Road
- 16 FPC Lead Gathering ++
- 20 Mission Service Opportunity: Haven for Hope Family Movie Night – Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown
- 23-26 Karaoke at Backyard on Broadway
- 29 Community Reformation Service (Evening Worship, location TBD)

#### November

- 9 McNay Second Thursday
- 12 2nd Sunday Chapel at Mission Road
- 16 FPC Lead Gathering ++ (Friendsgiving & Worship Night)

Date TBD - Mission Service Opportunity: SAMM

#### December

- 4 Callan and Friends Christmas Party (Westminster Hall)
- 10 2nd Sunday Chapel at Mission Road
- **Dates & Times TBD -** Local Mission Ministry Partner Christmas Celebrations

Additional Missions: Ongoing Missions Sunday School Class at 9:30 AM until October 1. We have hopes for mission trip opportunities as well as additional Local Missions serve opportunities. See <u>pages 12-13</u> for more information on our Missions Ministry!



#### LOVING CHRIST. Loving one another. Loving the city.

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