



# FIRST PRESS

Help & Healing for  
Ourselves & Others  
*(Pastor's article, pages 2-3)*

## OCTOBER 2023

## Join the Center Conversation:

**New Podcast  
Encouraging  
Theological  
Education &  
Biblical  
Foundation**

**(See the article  
pages 12-13)**

**Fall Studies and Groups  
have Resumed.**  
**(See pictures pages 10-11)**

**Welcome New  
Covenant Partners!**  
**(See page 8)**

**Deacon's Article:  
Not By Accident**  
**(See page 9)**



## Pastor's Article

BY REV. DR. BOB FULLER



Many of you know by now that back in the May, my father, Bobby Fuller, was diagnosed with a form of lung cancer called Mesothelioma. Over the last few months, he has been in treatment under the watchful eye of doctors and family in Columbia, South Carolina.

First of all, I want to thank you for the prayers of so many of you—especially the Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast Bible Study. You have encouraged him, and me, with your steadfast faith and hope.

Second, I want share a devotion he wrote several years ago. Over the years Dad has written hundreds of short devotionals for his church newsletter. Writing them has been both a personal discipline for him and a blessing to many others. At the request of both friends and family, he collected many of these devotionals and has given me permission to share them with you.

I came across this one, titled "WHOSE HEALING? WHOSE CHOICE?," as I was praying for his healing this morning. At the same time, I was thinking about our Love SATX service and ministry day (September 30). Love SATX is a day for us to join with our mission partners around the city to express our love for the city.

The following piece is a great reminder that we must pray for and serve our neighbors even as we pray for our own healing and serve one another.

# Whose Healing? Whose Choice?

*"Jesus saw the man knowing that he had been lying there for many years and He asked him, Do you want to be healed?" John 5:6 (See John 5:1-7)*

As I sat in my office earlier this week, Jesus' question to the lame man beside the pool of Bethesda came to my mind. Thinking about that question and that verse seemed particularly poignant to me. The reason, I believe, was because of the two events between which my time of reflection was sandwiched.

In the morning I had gone to the doctor's office for some outpatient surgery. At lunchtime I was scheduled to attend a meeting of the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

I had a basal cell skin cancer. I wanted it removed. I made the arrangements and presented myself for the operation, which was successfully completed. In about an hour's time, I was "healed." It was simply a matter of choice.

At the same time, I knew that at my board meeting I would hear again reports of literally dozens of cases of persons in serious need of healing from the ravages of all kinds of sicknesses of body and spirit. Men, women, children, and families right here in my community – neighbors of sorts—for whom the outcome of the question "do you want to be healed" would be wholly outside their control.

In the early days following the establishment of the Salvation Army by General William Booth, it was customary for the General to meet with his staff early every morning for prayer and to "arrange the day." Times were tough for the fledging new ministry. Times were even tougher for the destitute and downtrodden Londoners whom it sought to serve. One nasty, bleak winter morning General Booth reported to his staffers that on the way there, he had encountered a small group of bedraggled, freezing, hungry men huddled together under a bridge beside the roadway. Booth's son, one of the staffers, responded: "Yes father, you told us about them yesterday morning." The General's reply: "Then why are they still there?"

In most instances where the question is my own, I have some real choice in both answering and affecting the outcome. But, how many more are there who endure the suffering, in need of the healing, unnoticed by anyone? What response might I have for and on behalf of those others to whom the question might be asked but have no real choice in affecting

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the answer? Jesus tells me about these in Matthew 25: 35-40, the hungry, the lonely, the sick, the "least of these."

Then He asks me a second question: "Do you want them to be healed?"

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Dad's words challenge me to remember that we must pray for and serve those who don't even know that Jesus sees them or that God cares. What can we do for our neighbors who don't know that the Lord would hear their prayers? How can we help them get the help and healing that they can't get for themselves— even as we pray for our own healing and the healing of those we love.

I look forward to sharing more of these pieces in the future.

Grace and peace,



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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**

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(210-271-2728/[hankc@fpcsat.org](mailto:hankc@fpcsat.org))



# Save the Date

**FALL MINISTRY GUIDE** - Visit [fpcsanantonio.org/ministry-guide](http://fpcsanantonio.org/ministry-guide) to view or download the current Ministry Guide for a weekly schedule and events where you can get connected at FPC.

## SUNDAY, OCT. 1 - NOV. 12

### PICK UP SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

Time: Sunday Mornings  
Contact: [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org)

Pack a shoe box or pick up supplies for our children to pack a box for you. Boxes are due back by Sunday, Nov. 12. Info and instructions at [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box).

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

### LOVE SATX SERVE DAY

Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
Contact: Lindsay Selli, 210-271-2758  
[lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org)

Debra Sirakos, [dsirakos@gmail.com](mailto:dsirakos@gmail.com)

Description: Come and join in the fun at Young Life Club. Participate alongside Young Life leaders in games, singing, and a message with students from Healy Murphy and St. Philips around the dinner table. Please register online at [fpcsanantonio.org/lovesatx](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lovesatx) or at the table in Mauze Lobby on Sundays. Please also download, complete, and return one release form per participant to Lindsay Selli.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

### KEYS OLDER ADULT MINISTRY WELCOMES MAYOR

Time: 11:00 AM (Lunch at 12:00 PM)  
Location: Westminster Hall

Description: KEYS is excited to announce they will be welcoming San Antonio Mayor, Ron Nirenberg as their Friday speaker. To RSVP please email [keys@fpcsat.org](mailto:keys@fpcsat.org) or call the church front desk at 210-226-0215. Lunch reservations are \$13.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

### NAMIWALKS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Time: 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM  
Location: San Antonio Zoo  
To Register: [namiwalks.org/sanantonio](http://namiwalks.org/sanantonio)  
Contact: NAMI of Greater San Antonio, 210-734-3349, [admin@nami-sat.org](mailto:admin@nami-sat.org)

Description: Join FOLKS (at FPC) UNITE NOW on Team F.U.N. to show your support as advocates for mental health. Gates open at 6:00 AM and walk begins at 7:00 AM. Register to walk or donate to National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) online at [namiwalks.org/sanantonio](http://namiwalks.org/sanantonio). Registration and parking are free, and it will be FUN!

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

### FCA SUPPORT LUNCHEON

Time: After the 11:00 AM Services  
Location: Geneva Room  
Contact: Ashlee Smith, [ashleesmith@fca.org](mailto:ashleesmith@fca.org)

Description: Lunch & learn more about our local mission's partner, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Hear about how the ministry of FCA is reaching the college campuses of UIW and Trinity and how FPC has become a church home for students. RSVP to Ashlee Smith for a food count.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

### LITERATURE CIRCLE

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

Description: Martha Smith will review "The Ride of Her Life," by Elizabeth Letts. Open to men and women - bring a friend to hear a great story. Visit [fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle).



## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

### WOMEN OF THE CHURCH FALL LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Time: 6:00 PM  
 Location: Home of Brooke Peacock,  
 520 Elizabeth Road, 78209  
 Contact: Jill Peavy, 210-667-0525  
[jill.peavy@gmail.com](mailto:jill.peavy@gmail.com)

Description: Come and enjoy this fall gathering with refreshments and fellowship at the beautiful home of Brooke Peacock. All women are welcome. Sign up tables will be available on Sundays in October prior to the event. There is no cost to attend! Bring a friend! RSVP online at [fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp).

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

### PRACTICAL PRAYER TRAINING WITH ONE

Times: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
 Location: Room 224  
 To Register: Lisa Snow, [lisas@fpcsat.org](mailto:lisas@fpcsat.org)  
 Questions: Pamela Young, 210-896-0455,  
[pyoung141@gmail.com](mailto:pyoung141@gmail.com)

Description: 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, OCTOBER 13 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FALL RETREAT

Time: Leave on Friday at 6:30 PM  
 Return on Sunday at 1:30 PM  
 Location: LoneHollow Ranch  
 Contact: Kyle Bowden, [kyleb@fpcsat.org](mailto:kyleb@fpcsat.org)  
 Kerri Napoli, [kerrin@fpcsat.org](mailto:kerrin@fpcsat.org)  
 Preston Miller, [prestonm@fpcsat.org](mailto:prestonm@fpcsat.org)

Description: All students and their friends in grades 6-8 are invited to join us for a fun weekend for our annual Fall Retreat with Wyldlife! Register online at [fpcsanantonio.org/youth](http://fpcsanantonio.org/youth). Registration is \$160 (scholarships available.)

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

### PRISON MINISTRY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Time: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
 Location: Room 302  
 Contact: William Etheredge, 210-410-3497  
[wmethrdg@yahoo.com](mailto:wmethrdg@yahoo.com)

Description: Chaplain David Busby will be leading a Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) volunteer training class. Attendees will learn about opportunities to serve and become approved TDCJ volunteers. Contact William Etheredge to register or for any questions. Please use the church entrance on Avenue E and arrive before 8:00 AM so we can start on time. Coffee and pastries will be available.

### YOUNG ADULTS COMMUNITY SOCIAL DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Time: Movie from 7:30 PM - 10:05 PM  
 Location: Stars & Stripes Drive-In, New Braunfels  
 Contact: Carrie Everson, [carrie@fpcsat.org](mailto:carrie@fpcsat.org)

Description: Our first October young adult social will be a drive in movie in New Braunfels! All are welcome, ages 18-35ish, to see "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour." See you there! Text YAC to 210-981-3339 to join the YAC texting group.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Time: 11:00 AM Traditional & Modern Services  
 Location: Sanctuary and Westminster Hall  
 Contact: Rebecca Sweet, [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org)

Description: Kids will be leading the service as readers, ushers, greeters, and more! Rehearsal Saturday, October 21.

### CHILDREN'S BIBLE WORKSHOP

Time: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM  
 Location: Room 108 (2-year-old's Parents Only)  
 Geneva Room (3rd Grade Parents & Kids)  
 Contact: Rebecca Sweet, [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org)

Description: Parents will be learning during the Bible workshop about how to open the Bible to their children and teach them about a relationship with Jesus. This very special Sunday, the 2 year old's will receive their Bibles in the workshop and the 3rd graders will receive their Bibles in the Sanctuary during the 11:00 AM Traditional service.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22****WOMEN'S FAITH GATHERING**

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
 Location: Home of Catherine Whitsett  
 Contact: Marti Seal, 210-360-9796

Description: All generations of women are invited to attend to this casual evening at the home of Catherine Whitsett, 203 Haskin Dr 78209. Speakers Laurel Brockschmidt and Karen McCulloch will share their faith stories—why they love Jesus and the impact he has made in their lives! Invite a friend.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23****YOUNG ADULTS COMMUNITY SOCIAL HAPPY HOUR**

Time: TBD  
 Location: Bombay Bicycle Club  
 Contact: Carrie Everson, [carrie@fpcsat.org](mailto:carrie@fpcsat.org)

Description: Our second October young adult social will be happy hour at the Bombay Bicycle Club! All are welcome, ages 18-35ish. See you there! Text YAC to 210-981-3339 to join the YAC texting group.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27****HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT**

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
 Location: Student Center  
 Contact: Kyle Bowden, [kyleb@fpcsat.org](mailto:kyleb@fpcsat.org)  
 Kerri Napoli, [kerrin@fpcsat.org](mailto:kerrin@fpcsat.org)  
 Preston Miller, [prestonm@fpcsat.org](mailto:prestonm@fpcsat.org)

Description: All high school students and their friends are invited to join us for a fun night with a movie, snacks, fellowship, and more.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29****CHILDREN'S NOAH'S ARK COSTUME PARADE**

Time: 9:30 AM  
 Location: Throughout Classroom Hallways  
 Ages: Preschool thru 5th Grade  
 Contact: Rebecca Sweet, [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org)

Description: The children will be visiting the adult Sunday school classes to bless them. In return, the Sunday school classes may choose to bless them back with candy, stickers, or small prizes! So kids, put on your Noah's Ark costume and join the fun! Please, no scary costumes

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29****THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS SIGN-UP**

Additional Dates: November 5, November 10  
 Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
 Location: Mauze Lobby  
 Contact: Kim Smith, 210-771-4214,  
[kimdcsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:kimdcsmith@yahoo.com)

Description: Adopt a family through the Women of the Church Gift of Christmas program. For anyone wanting more information or considering adopting a family, see [pages 17-19](#), or the table in Mauze Lobby Sundays, Oct. 22 - Nov. 5. All assignments will be made by November 19.

**COMMUNITY REFORMATION SERVICE**

Time & Location: TBD

Description: Save the date for an evening worship service joining with other city churches to celebrate and commemorating the Reformation movement started by Martin Luther in the 16th century.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 30****WOMEN OF THE CHURCH FALL LEGACY LUNCHEON**

Time: 11:30 AM  
 Location: Westminster Hall  
 Contact: Susan DeKoch, 210-508-7127  
[susandekoch@gmail.com](mailto:susandekoch@gmail.com)

Description: All are invited to hear "The Legacy of the H. E. Butt Foundation" with Deborah and David Rogers. Reservations are \$25 and must be made by October 20 either online, at [fpcsanantonio.org/woc-lunch](http://fpcsanantonio.org/woc-lunch), or at sign up tables available on Sundays in October prior to the event. Email [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org) for childcare.

**TRAIN TO RUN THE ALAMO WITH FPC TEAM**

Dates: Training: Monday, October 30, 2023 – Thursday, February 29, 2024  
 Race Day: Sunday, March 3, 2024  
 Contact: Gordon Smith, [gordons@servicetitlesa.com](mailto:gordons@servicetitlesa.com)

Description: Run to raise money for clean water projects around the world through World Vision. Join FPC's Team for the Run the Alamo Marathon (run only) or Half Marathon (may be walked.) Training plans, on your own, take you from "couch" to race. Each Saturday morning there is an optional group run with other teams. To find out more, register, or donate, go to [bit.ly/fpc-run-team](http://bit.ly/fpc-run-team).

## NOVEMBER UPCOMING DATES

- Nov. 9 - Young Adults Second Thursday at the McNay
- Nov. 12 - Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes Due  
- Children's Ministry Shoe Box Packing Party
- Nov. 16 - Prayer Training with ONE  
- Concert in Westminster Hall with Son of Cloud
- Nov. 19 - Stewardship Commitment Sunday



## DECEMBER UPCOMING DATES

- Dec. 2 - Youth Christmas Party
- Dec. 3 - Alternative Gift Market Begins  
- Advent Festival
- Dec. 4 - Callan & Friends Christmas Party
- Dec. 7 - First Midday Noels Concert
- Dec. 8 - KEYS Christmas Party
- Dec. 10 - Children's Christmas Pageant
- Dec. 14 - Second Midday Noels Concert
- Dec. 21 - Third Midday Noels Concert
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

## 2024 UPCOMING DATES

- Feb. 9-11- High School Youth Retreat
- Mar. 3 - Run the Alamo Marathon & Half Marathon
- Mar. 22-23 - "A Praying Life" Churchwide Seminar

# Love SATX

## GOD'S MISSION. OUR CITY.

Our first Love SATX Serve Day with Christian Assistant Ministry for their 2nd annual Houseless Birthday Celebration. FPC hosted a booth with yard games, prizes, and a special craft to bring dignity and hope to our neighbors.

We are looking forward to celebrating our September 30 & October 4 Serve Days in the November issue of First Press! You can still participate in the October 4 Serve Day with Young Life East San Antonio. Go to [fpcsanantonio.org/lovesatx](https://fpcsanantonio.org/lovesatx) to sign up to have dinner with the Club kids.





# New Covenant Partners!



Ali and Austin Amaro



Ann Biggs



Ashley and Aaron Cox



Chris Contreras



Hannah and Turner Goudge



Kimberly Martin



Heidi and John McDonald



Dina and Lott McIlhenny



September Officers' Dinner welcoming our newest Covenant Partners! Photo by Rev. Becky Prichard



# Young Adult Communities

## OCTOBER



### EVENT CALENDAR →

OCTOBER 2023

↘ **4<sup>TH</sup> WED** **LOVE SATX SERVE DAY**  
AT YOUNG LIFE SA EAST

↘ **14<sup>TH</sup> SAT** **DRIVE-IN MOVIE**  
IN NEW BRAUNFELS

↘ **16<sup>TH</sup> MON** **FPC LEAD GATHERING**  
(DINNER ++)

↘ **23<sup>RD</sup> MON** **HAPPY HOUR**  
AT BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB

↘ **29<sup>TH</sup> SUN** **COMMUNITY REFORMATION SERVICE**  
(EVENING WORSHIP, LOC. TBD)



[FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/YAC](https://www.fpcsanantonio.org/yac)

## Not By Accident

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**By Robin Hudnall,  
Deacon**

Two years ago when I began my deacon duties, I wasn't sure how God would use me in this new role. It didn't take long to find out! My first assignment was to reach out to people in hospitals in the Medical Center. When I received the care and concern notification, I had been assigned to Staci at Methodist Hospital. **I knew her!** I met her in 2020 when she helped me with interior design during the remodeling of our home. A single mother, she had been blindsided with a diagnosis of breast cancer. Since I too had an experience with breast cancer, I knew this was no accident. God had me right where He needed me to serve!

I have walked through this valley with Staci for the last two years. There have been many ups and downs. This Spring her breast cancer spread to her brain. In May she had surgery to remove the lesions. Members of my Bible study group have served as her faithful Prayer Warriors. Holly Youngquist and I took her to lunch and had a very meaningful conversation with her about her faith before the brain surgery. We gave her a Bible and a devotional so that God's word can comfort her when she is fearful.

Here is the message I received from her after her brain surgery: "God is Good! I am up, walking, talking and even drawing! Last night was hell, but I can see the light. I'm going to make it! Thank you for everything!" It is HUGE, with all she has been through and is still going through, that she can say God is Good!! She has come a long way in her faith journey in the last two years! And I have grown to see that God's connections with others are not by accident.

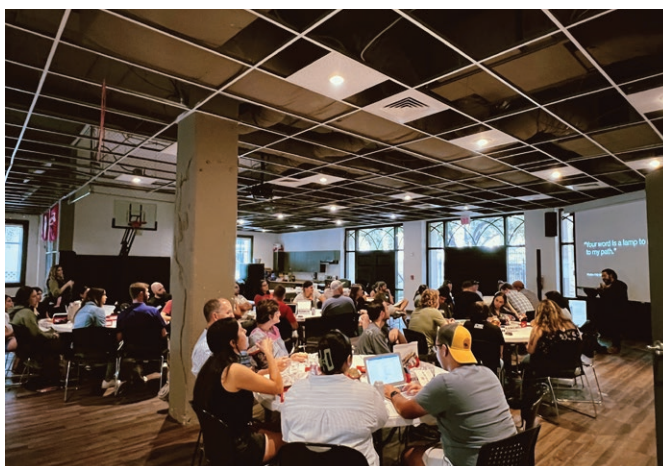
To God be the glory!!!



# FPC Fall Studies and Groups Have Begun!









# Center Conversations

## A Podcast Inspiring Christians for Theological Education & Biblical Formation

**By Pastor Mitchell**

JT English asks a prophetic question in his classic book, *Deep Discipleship*: Do you believe your church could disciple and develop your next senior pastor from within your congregation?

The extent of implications amplifies the question's intensity. On the one hand, pastoral ministry specifically, and church leadership generally, has historically been the job of the local or regional church. Consider Paul disciplining and developing Timothy who was tasked to train churches to develop their own leaders. Or the catechumenate serving as the mechanism for training Christians before baptism and molding people called to lead the Church during the first few hundred years of the Church. Local and regional churches were responsible for theological education and biblical formation up until the reformation, until 1563 (relatively recent history) when the Church moved from regional monasteries or urban cathedrals to seminaries ("seed bed") for ecclesiastical training.

On the other hand, English's question rightly awakens Christians to the present decline of seminaries. In 2022, The Association for Theological Schools reported 57% of their institutions declined in enrollment, the most alarming signal being continued drop of Masters of Divinity students. Not only has the Church recently outsourced our theological education and much of our Biblical formation, but our pipeline for future leaders is drying up because Christians are not signing up for

seminary education as they have in the past.

The Church must reclaim our call to disciple and develop our present and future leaders, including pastoral leadership. The opportunity to become innovative in theological education and Biblical formation is to reclaim God's design for the Church to be the primary mechanism to develop and deploy our leaders. We must celebrate our seminary heritage, collaborating with reformed seminaries in the present, while moving forward into a future prioritizing world class theological training and Biblical formation from our church, for our church, city, and South Texas region.



**CENTER CONVERSATIONS**

with Pastor Izzy & Pastor Mitchell





Center Conversations is a podcast celebrating innovative theological education and Biblical formation in the Church, commending God's design for the Church to develop and deploy current and future leaders by inspiring Christians to consider local and regional opportunities to cultivate contextualized leadership. Center Conversations seeks to help the Church open up to reclaiming our responsibility to play a key role in the present development of leaders in the church, for the church, that the mission of God may go forward through the Church in San Antonio and the South Texas region.





## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Oct. 2023

Circle Meetings  
Information & Chairs

(Circles meet September through May, except for Circles 18 & 20, who provide service all year) \*Bible Study Circles Studying "Digging Deeper: A Study of Corinthians"

\*Circle 1/12 Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240) • Grace Labatt, Moderator  
OCTOBER 16, 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  
OCTOBER 18, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228

\*Circle 6 Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483) • Members of Circle, Moderators  
OCTOBER 17, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room

\*Circle 7 Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549)  
OCTOBER 17, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, FPC  
Janet Pritchett hosts with dessert

Circle 8 Susan DeKoch, Chair (210-844-5549) • Members of Circle, Moderators  
Circle for mothers of young children  
OCTOBER 1, Kick-Off Meeting, 5:00 pm  
Home of Susan DeKoch, 207 Hillview Dr, 78029



\*Circle 9 Grace Clouse, Co-Chair (734-718-7057)  
Janice Wilson, Co-Chair (210-260-4157)  
OCTOBER 17, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am, Breakfast Room

\*Circle 11 Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766) • Members of Circle, Moderators  
OCTOBER 23, Fourth Monday, 12:30 pm,  
Home of Linda Ruhmann 127 W. Elmview Pl.

Circle 13 Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057)  
LITERATURE CIRCLE  
OCTOBER 10, Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, McCullough Room

Circle 14 Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589) • Suzie Simpson, Moderator  
Studying *Ten Women of the Bible, One by One They Changed the World*  
OCTOBER 16, Third Monday, 12:00 pm, St. Andrews Room (with meal)



Circle 18 Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)  
Pat Brodeen, Email Contact for members ([pat@brodeen.com](mailto:pat@brodeen.com) 210-383-3083)  
CIRCLE OF CONCERN  
Members set up, serve, and clean up for memorial receptions  
(Small home baked cookies are always appreciated for receptions)

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 Oct. 2023

October greetings to you! The Women of the Church (WOC) year is off to a great start.

The WOC Council, which includes officers, committee members, Circle Chairs and Moderators, gathered for the August kick-off meeting to learn about the many projects and events planned for the months ahead. Below is a photo of the wonderful group of women serving on the 2023-2024 Council. This leadership board meets the first Monday of each month and we always enjoy welcoming new friends. If you are interested in becoming more involved with WOC, please be sure to contact me or Nancy Scheifele, President-Elect at [bbnn.scheifele@gmail.com](mailto:bbnn.scheifele@gmail.com).

The WOC Circles met in September to start the year and begin the study of the fall sermon series by "Digging Deeper" into 1st Corinthians. As a reminder, Circles are groups of women who meet monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Be sure to check out the adjacent page for a schedule of the October meeting dates and times. Study books are available and it is never too late to join a Circle. If you would like more information, contact one of the Chairs listed or Pat Brodeen, VP for Circles at [pbrodeen2@gmail.com](mailto:pbrodeen2@gmail.com) to assist you in finding the Circle that is right for you.

The month of October is a busy one for the Women of The Church as we join together for some fun events:

The **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** committee is looking forward to the **October 4th Fall Appreciation Luncheon** which honors all church employees. Virginia Beeler, Mary Wilde and Pat Johnson have a delicious bbq menu and festive decor planned. Our church is supported by a talented and dedicated staff and WOC so enjoys hosting this lunch to express our appreciation.

The **Ladies Night Out** committee is preparing for a fall celebration on **Tuesday, October 10**, from **6:00- 8:00 PM** at the home of **Brooke Peacock**. Women of all ages are invited to this casual gathering to enjoy good food and conversation. Jill Peavy and her committee are finalizing the details. Registration is available online at [fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp](https://fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp) and information will be available in the Mauze Lobby on upcoming Sundays. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

The **WOC Fall Legacy Luncheon** is on **Monday, October 30 in Westminster Hall**. The doors open at 11:00 AM and the luncheon begins promptly at **11:30 AM**. We are excited to hear from our own





**Deborah and David Rogers** as they share about their work with the H. E. Butt Foundation and the family legacy they continue. Please join us for a tasty lunch, inspirational message and time of fellowship. Reservations are necessary and your \$25 ticket can be purchased online at [fpcsanantonio.org/woc-lunch](https://fpcsanantonio.org/woc-lunch), in the Mauze lobby on Sundays in October, or by contacting Susan DeKoch at [susandekoch@gmail.com](mailto:susandekoch@gmail.com). Scholarships are also available. You won't want to miss!

The **"Gift of Christmas"** committee of Kim Smith, Lellen Lane, Susie Patterson and Liz Medley are already working with the House of Neighborly Service to connect church members with those in our community needing assistance during the Christmas season. This ministry is an opportunity for families, friends, Sunday school classes, Circles, and Bible

study groups to get together to care for and share God's love with others at Christmas time. Be on the lookout for additional adoption information coming soon!

What wonderful activities! Thank you for everyone who is planning and organizing. I look forward to seeing you then...

Rejoice in The Lord Always, And Again I say Rejoice!

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

*Shelley Bass*

President, Women of the Church  
[Bass.shelley6@gmail.com](mailto:Bass.shelley6@gmail.com)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

# LADIES' NIGHT OUT

OCTOBER 10TH  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Home of Brooke Peacock  
520 Elizabeth Rd.

Open to ALL women of FPC!  
Sign up online at  
[fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp](https://fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp)  
or in Mauze Lobby on Sundays.  
Bring an appetizer or bottle of wine  
to share and join us for fun & fellowship!

Questions?  
Contact Jill Peavy  
210-667-0525



Women of the Church

# Fall Legacy Luncheon

Monday, October 30, 2023  
11:30 AM ~ Doors Open at 11:00 AM  
Westminster Hall

Featuring  
**Deborah & David Rogers and**

**"The Legacy of the**  **H.E. BUTT  
FOUNDATION"**

Tickets: \$25 with reservation required  
Online at [fpcsanantonio.org/woc-lunch](https://fpcsanantonio.org/woc-lunch) or

Contact Susan DeKoch, 210-508-7127  
[susandekoch@gmail.com](mailto:susandekoch@gmail.com)

Scholarships Available

Childcare available by emailing [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org)





# THE *Gift* OF Christmas




## SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

The "Gift of Christmas" is an opportunity for individuals or groups in our church to share Christ's love with others by giving clothing, gifts and/or gift cards, and food to families in our community who are in need. Each family is referred to us by the House of Neighborly Service (HNS). Some families are large, with many children, while others are small with just one or two children. All are very appreciative of the gifts and the givers.

HNS is a non-profit, multi-service neighborhood center founded in 1917 by Presbyterian missionaries. The center provides a wide range of social, educational, and health-related programs for families in need on San Antonio's west side. FPC and Women Of The Church (WOC) have actively supported HNS and its families through this mission of "Gift of Christmas" program for many years.

We encourage WOC circles, Sunday school classes, small groups, various church organizations, families and individuals to share in this effort and include one of these families in your Christmas giving. After receiving your completed family request form, we will match you with a family and provide all of the family information. We will make every effort to match family sizes with your request. If you are unable to adopt a family but still wish to participate, cash donations and gift cards are appreciated and will be used for a larger family or a family that we are not able to match with a FPC covenant partner or group. Donations will also be used to purchase Bibles and devotional for each family. Your caring outreach and expression of Christian love will make an enormous difference for these brothers and sisters in Christ this Christmas season.

Gift of Christmas Family Request Forms and Guidelines will be available online at [fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving](http://fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving) or at the "GOC" table in the Mauze Lobby every Sunday morning beginning October 22 through November 5, or can be requested from the below listed committee members. Please return the completed form no later than November 6.



**Lellen Lane**  
(210) 860-1395  
lellenlane@aol.com

**Susie Patterson**  
(210) 215-4459  
susiepatterson@mac.com


**Liz Medley**  
(210) 355-1776  
medley.liz@att.net

**Kim Smith**  
(210) 771-4214  
kimdcsmith@yahoo.com



**The Gift of Christmas is a mission project  
coordinated by the Women of the Church at  
First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, Texas**

***"This service that you perform is not only  
supplying the needs of God's people but  
is also overflowing in many expressions of  
thanks to God."*** - 2 Corinthians 9:12






# THE Gift OF Christmas


## GUIDELINES 2023

As forms are received, families will be assigned. Each family is screened and referred by the House of Neighborly Service.



A form will be sent to you that includes family member names, ages, clothing sizes, and gift requests. Contact information will also be provided so that you can communicate with the family regarding specific needs, delivery information, etc.

Please call your family to introduce yourself and determine if there are any special needs and to set up a time and place for delivery of the gifts. It is a good idea to contact the family just before you plan to arrive, as well as a reminder. Delivery of gifts on or before December 22 is requested.



Include a wrapped gift with a name-tag for each family member listed on the form. You may want to consider providing a Walmart or Target gift card for older children as they often have something very specific in mind. There is no obligation or expectation that you honor every request on the family information sheet. The requests are guidelines from which to

choose items for each family member at your discretion. The real gift is your outreach to a family in Christ's love and grace.

The gift of a Bible is always meaningful, and both English or Spanish Bibles will be available for pick up in the Mauze lobby at the GOC table. We also have a devotional and a copy of "The Crippled Lamb," a Christmas story by Max Lucado, for each family.

Limited funds are available from WOC and FPC to help with purchases. Please let one of the committee members listed below know if you need access to these funds.


When you deliver the gifts to the family, we recommend that at least two people from your group go together. Please allow time to visit with the family, and possibly sing a Christmas carol and/or join in a prayer. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide. If requests from families are received during your visit, direct that person to HNS. Thank you for opening your hearts to these families during this joyous season of our Savior's birth.

**Lellen Lane**  
(210) 860-1395  
lellenlane@aol.com

**Liz Medley**  
(210) 355-1776  
medley.liz@att.net

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(210) 215-4459  
susiepatterson@mac.com

**Kim Smith**  
(210) 771-4214  
kimdcsmith@yahoo.com



***"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."***

**- 2 Corinthians 9:12**







# THE Gift OF Christmas

## FAMILY REQUEST FORM

At Christmas, many families in San Antonio struggle to provide essential needs for their children and, as a result, are unable to provide "extras." Please consider one of these families in your Christmas giving this year. Most families range in size from two to eight. We will do our very best to match you with the size family you request.

Group/Individual requesting family:

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Specify size of family you are willing to "adopt": \_\_\_\_\_

Can you take a Spanish-speaking family? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
(English and Spanish Bibles are available to include with your gifts.)

**Please return this form to the "Gift of Christmas" mailbox in the church workroom, or email/mail to a committee member listed below. You are welcome to contact the committee with any questions. Forms must be received no later than November 6.**

As requests are received, you will be matched with a family and notified of their information by November 13.

**Lellen Lane**  
(210) 860-1395  
268 Geneseo Road  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
lellenlane@aol.com

**Liz Medley**  
(210) 355-1776  
207 Cross Ln  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
medley.liz@att.net

**Susie Patterson**  
(210) 215-4459  
susiepatterson@mac.com

**Kim Smith**  
(210) 771-4214  
kimdcsmith@yahoo.com

***"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."*** - 2 Corinthians 9:12





# KEYS

KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

## Older Adult Ministry

[fpcsanantonio.org/keys](http://fpcsanantonio.org/keys)



The Cox Family Singers started off our new year with excitement. It is always a delight to have them share their God given talent with us. Birthday lunches over the summer were well attended and September was no different. Milano's served us a delicious menu with great choices. It is always great to see everyone enjoying time with each other. Darlene Koons as Sniggles the clown was a joy. If you missed this, you can find the video on the Older Adults Ministry webpage at [fpcsanantonio.org/keys](http://fpcsanantonio.org/keys). Jeff Carawan, Director of Property Management at FPC, informed us of what is being done to keep us safe.

We are looking forward to having Mayor Ron Nirenberg with us on October 6. Dr. Kevin Bieniek, from Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's & Neurodegenerative Diseases, will join us on October 13. Our Birthday Lunch on October 20 will include a meal at Casa Rio and a River Cruise. October 29, Emily Baucum, longtime San Antonio TV news anchor and journalist with News 4 San Antonio and Fox 29, will share with us her new focus of telling the story of the Alamo City through a historical lens. KEYS events on site at FPC begin at 11:00 AM and lunch is served at noon. Cost for lunch is \$13. Birthday lunches begin at 11:30 AM at the restaurant, a shuttle from FPC is available at 10:45 AM.

- Rev. Dr. Joe Moore





## October:

**6** - Mayor Ron Nirenberg

**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

## November:

**3** - Alaska Mission Report

**10** - Veterans Day with Cheryle Reise-Jewell. We met Cheryle as a San Antonio Ambassador last year. She is also active in Veteran affairs.

**20** - Birthday Lunch Thanksgiving

**24** - No KEYS - Happy Thanksgiving



## 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 [keys@fpcsat.org](mailto:keys@fpcsat.org).

### Friday Fitness

Friday Fitness will continue this Summer via Zoom. Join Jacqueline Crow at 9:30 AM. Jacqui 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](mailto:joem@fpcsat.org). You will be sent a link to join the Zoom Meeting.

### Mahjong & Bridge

Mahjong & Bridge meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 1:00 PM 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](mailto: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

## OCTOBER 2023

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,

*Sandy Sturch*

- 1 Leviticus 17; Hebrews 9:15-28
- 2 Leviticus 18; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- 3 Leviticus 19; Matthew 5:17-20
- 4 Leviticus 20; Hebrews 12
- 5 Leviticus 26; 1 John 1
- 6 Numbers 6; Judges 13; Luke 1:5-55;
- 7 Numbers 8-9; Psalm 85

*Guide me O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand. Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven, Feed me till I want no more. Feed me till I want no more. Open now the crystal Fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer, Be thou still my strength and shield, Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and Shield. (Worship in Song, No. 64)*

- 8 Numbers 10-12; Hebrews 13:7; Romans 12:12; James 5:13-16
- 9 Numbers 13-14; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 20
- 10 Numbers 15; Leviticus 4:13-14, 5:14-19
- 11 Numbers 16-17; Proverbs 17:11; Hebrews 9:1-15
- 12 Numbers 20; Psalm 95; Hebrews 12:1-13
- 13 Numbers 21, 25; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- 14 Deuteronomy 1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:3-10, 10:4-6

*O God, beneath Thy guiding hand, our exiled fathers crossed the sea; And when they trod the wintry strand, with prayer and psalm they worshipped Thee. Laws, freedom, truth, and faith in God, came with those exiles over the waves; and, where their pilgrim feet have trod, the God they trusted guards their graves. And here thy name, O God of love, their children's children shall adore, till these eternal hills remove, and spring adorns the earth no more. (The Hymnbook, No. 523)*

- 15 Deuteronomy 4, 6, 8; Romans 1:18-2:29; Proverbs 3:11-12
- 16 Deuteronomy 9-11; John 14:23-24
- 17 Deuteronomy 29-30; Psalm 1
- 18 Deuteronomy 31; Psalm 14:2-3
- 19 Psalm 107, 116

- 20 Deuteronomy 32; Galatians 6:7-10
- 21 Deuteronomy 33-34; Psalm 116:15; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10

*Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known. Join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, Or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion. We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God. (Worship in Song, No. 75)*

- 22 Joshua 1; Psalm 119:89-112; Hebrews 4:12-13
- 23 Joshua 2; Matthew 1:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22; James 2:25-26
- 24 Deuteronomy 11:26-32; Joshua 3-4; Psalm 42
- 25 Joshua 5-6; Hebrews 11:30; 1 Corinthians 1:25, 3:18-23
- 26 Joshua 7; Deuteronomy 17:2-7; Acts 5:1-11
- 27 Joshua 8; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6, 8:1; 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- 28 Joshua 9; Psalm 15

*Lead on O King Eternal, the day of march has come; Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home: Through days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong, and now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song. Lead on O King Eternal, We follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where-e'er Thy face appears; Thy cross is lifted o'er us; We journey in its light; The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O God of might. (Baptist Hymnal, No. 417)*

- 29 Joshua 10-11; Psalm 56
- 30 Joshua 14, 20:1-22:34; Psalm 78:1-8
- 31 Joshua 23-24; Psalm 91; Psalm 116:15

*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).*

[www.fpcsanantonio.org](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org)





**GLOBAL EMERGING LEADERS**

**Prayer Partners**

Connect with seminary students or church planters across the globe. Learn how to support and encourage these growing leaders in prayer.

Contact: [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org)

GLOBAL missions



FPC PRAYER MINISTRY

# Praying with the Ministers

In Room 227 ten minutes prior to the Sunday services (9:20 AM and 10:50 AM)

Sign up at  
<https://bit.ly/pastors-prayer-fall23>

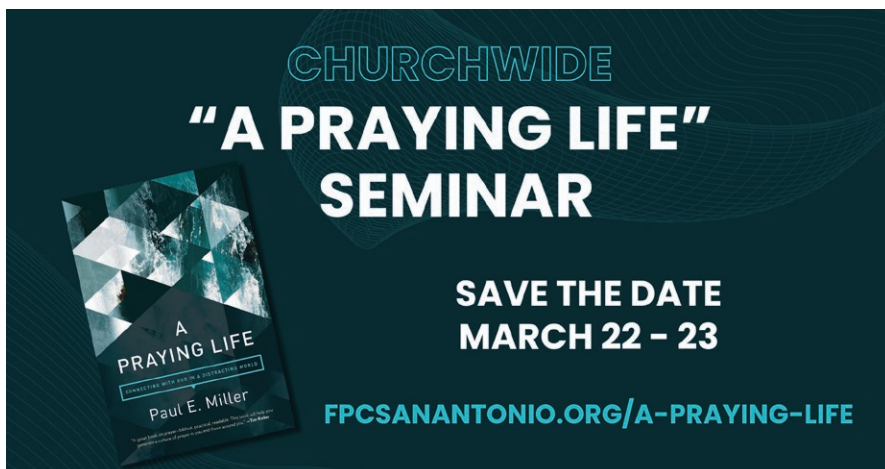


*Prayer changes everything*

# PRACTICAL PRAYER TRAINING WITH ONE

PRESENTED BY  
FPC PRAYER MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 - 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM  
EMAIL [LISAS@FPCSAT.ORG](mailto:LISAS@FPCSAT.ORG) TO REGISTER



CHURCHWIDE

# "A PRAYING LIFE" SEMINAR

SAVE THE DATE  
MARCH 22 - 23

[FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/A-PRAYING-LIFE](https://www.fpcsanantonio.org/a-praying-life)

A PRAYING LIFE  
DISCOVER THE NEW WAY IN A CHANGING WORLD  
Paul E. Miller



LOVING CHRIST.  
LOVING ONE ANOTHER.  
LOVING THE CITY.

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