

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

SEPTEMBER 2020 | Volume 20, Number 9

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (ELECTRONIC) SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020, 12:30 P.M.

After voting to add to the Session Manual of Administrative Operations a provision for the Congregation to meet electronically, the Session has called a Congregational Meeting via Zoom for Sunday, September 13 at 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of electing elders for the Class of 2023, an at-Large Trustee, and At-Large Nominating Committee members (1 year term). In addition, proposed bylaw changes unanimously approved by the Session in February, which were to have been voted on at the March 22 Congregational meeting (cancelled due to the suspension of in person gatherings) will be acted upon. The full bios of the nominees for elder and Nominating Committee and Trustee at-large appear in this issue. This issue includes a rerun of an article from the March 2020 *Penn Street Letter* concerning the Bylaws, as well as a summary of changes to the Bylaws to bring the language in line with the current *Book of Order*.

Moderator of Session, the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski consulted with the Stated Clerk of Grace Presbytery about options for holding congregational meetings when the pandemic prevents meeting in person. Both the 2004 General Assembly, through an Authoritative Interpretation of F-3.0205 in the *Book of Order*, and Robert's Rules of Order define a congregational meeting as a "deliberative assembly." In order to deliberate, members must be able to *simultaneously* hear each other during discussion of motions.

The September 13 meeting by Zoom qualifies as a deliberative assembly as it is a simultaneous gathering. Members will be able to join the meeting by computer, smartphone, iPad, or a telephone call (no computer or internet access is required, therefore.) Members of the church staff will be available in advance of the meeting to help any member new to using Zoom practice joining and participating in a Zoom meeting.

In order to receive the required Zoom link or telephone access number, you will need to register for the meeting. Members may register by emailing Patty in the church office (pobrien@fpcf.org), or calling her at 817.335.1231 ext. 223. The access link or telephone code will be sent a few days prior to the meeting. Included with the information for joining the Zoom meeting will be a copy of the Bylaws. (The link will not be made public in order to keep the meeting secure.)

Each member should register individually for the meeting, even if sharing a device for the meeting. The required quorum for the meeting is 10% of church members, per the Congregation's Bylaws. By registering in advance, we will be able to verify membership status and the quorum for the meeting. Please make every effort to participate in the meeting.

If you have questions about the virtual Congregational Meeting or the Bylaws, please contact the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (817.335.1231 ext. 229 or michaelw@fpcf.org).



First Presbyterian Church has been asked to help provide breakfast and lunch to-go sack meals for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Approximately 500 of both breakfast and lunch meals are needed each day. To supplement the deliveries we are receiving each week, a small group of volunteers will meet to prepare additional meals. The church will provide food and supplies for the supplemental meals. If you are able to volunteer without risking your health, or would like an updated description of items needed, contact Robyn Michalove (817.335.1231, ext. 266 or robynm@fpcf.org).

A photograph of a white car in a drive-thru line. Overlaid on the image is a large blue sign that reads "SAVE THE DATE!". Below the sign, text provides details for a special drive-thru event at FPC on Sunday, September 13, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The sign also mentions "STEELCITYPOPS" and "some goodies to give out".

SAVE THE DATE!

Children and Youth Families!
Save the date for a special drive-thru event at FPC on
Sunday, September 13
4:30-5:30 p.m.

We will have
STEELCITYPOPS
and some goodies to give out.
We would love to see
our families there!



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

I've often said that I consider the youth of our congregation to be of a higher caliber than most students their age. These young Presbyterians are, as I like to call them, "AP disciples" (AP stands for Advanced Placement). They are thoughtful, curious, playful, and intelligent. In this devastating pandemic, I've seen yet another side to our impressive young people. Not only are they driven to "press on" in a variety of ways, but they continue to be focused on ways they can help and lend a hand.

I remember that a couple days after we closed our church building due to Covid-19, one of our students called me to ask for a refresher course on how to make the "hope bags" we often make for handing out to people who are homeless. Postponing our summer mission trip due to Covid-19 was painful for our young people, especially our graduates, as you can imagine. Regardless of the barriers, I'm proud that our youth stubbornly refuse to be left out of mission work at our church, many of whom help regularly with our essential food ministries (i.e. making lunches and breakfasts for the night shelter, participating in Mission on the Move, etc.). Here is just one of many AP disciples I could tell you about today. Her name is Charlotte.

Charlotte is a 9th grade student who exhibits a quiet yet strong leadership in our Youth Group. She asks good questions, and she loves to volunteer with our many mission projects. A month ago, we were on a little family vacation when Charlotte reached out to me. *(On a side note, Jesus loves to interrupt us on vacation, doesn't he?! I don't know much in life, but I do know that good things happen when we listen to Jesus' interruptions!)* It was great to hear from Charlotte, and I was excited by a question she asked me. She had an idea. She wanted to make Covid-19 care packages for people at Community Crossroads or Room in the Inn (one of her favorite mission activities!) that could be handed out to our neighbors to help in this difficult time. In the care packages, she would include disposable masks, antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer. Then came the power words that make every minister smile from ear to ear: "if there is a need for this," she said, "I would be happy to organize the project!" Not only did Charlotte have a great idea, she wanted to do the work!

Well, after touching base with Charlotte about her idea, I returned to our family vacation activities. Weeks passed. Then, suddenly (notice that good things often happen suddenly in the Bible!), I received word that Charlotte had dropped off her care packages to Community Crossroads! Through a GoFundMe account which she created and advertised in her neighborhood all under her own initiative, she raised \$500 and proceeded to use the money to purchase all the supplies for her thoughtful care packages! With great love, she hand decorated all 100 of her "Stay Safe" bags before dropping them off at Community Crossroads alongside her mother. Again, notice her work ethic in that she didn't send her parents to drop off the bags - because she was all in! (By the way, while writing this to you, Charlotte tells me she plans to make another 100 bags! Wow!)



Learning "the art of not holding back" is a big part of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Seeing glimpses of this in our young people gives me hope in this strange pandemic season. Mother Teresa once observed, "It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts." On another occasion, Mother Teresa said, "A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt, and must empty ourselves. Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in his love than in your weakness."

Keep on keeping on,

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the OCTOBER issue of the Penn Street Letter are due Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 23. Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue. Please send to Pam Burkholder at pamb@fpcf.org.

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Prayer During the Pastoral Search

The Session commends the following prayer written by the Spiritual Formation Subcommittee for our use during the pastoral search. Please pray it frequently in your own personal prayer time and in committees and virtual gatherings of the church.

Holy God,

We praise and thank you for your steadfast love of our church and humbly ask your guidance and blessing as you lead us to the pastor you are calling to this place.

Nurture and guide your servant for sharing ministry among us. Prepare our hearts to receive his or her gifts.

Give us the courage to speak truthfully and compassionately, so that we might be a building up of Your church. Teach us all the way of Jesus: to walk humbly with you, seeking justice and mercy.

Joyfully, we thank you for your Holy Spirit who enlightens and enlivens the path for each of us.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Reading the Bible in 9 Months

You are invited to join an exciting Bible reading program at First Presbyterian. Now in its tenth season, the Reading the Bible in 9 Months program – which has involved over 250 members and friends – is a daily reading program that weaves together both testaments in an enlightening and enriching experience of our history as God's people.

A feature of the Reading the Bible in 9 Months program includes the opportunity for monthly Zoom check-in meetings from October – May. During these one hour Sunday afternoon gatherings (3 p.m. on the 1st Sunday of the month), participants in the program are invited to come together for support, encouragement, and to engage questions that the readings have raised. Engaging in the reading program does not require attendance at the monthly meetings; they are simply available if you would find them helpful.

To sign up for Reading the Bible in 9 Months this fall, contact Celeste in the church office (cfalter@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231 ext. 261). Reading plans will be emailed to participants in early September.

If you have any questions about the program or Bible study opportunities at FPC, contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschewski (817.335.1231 ext. 229, or michaelw@fpcfw.org).

CHANGES TO THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the March 2020 issue of The Penn Street Letter.

In 2018 the Session engaged the services of church consultant Susan Beaumont to review our governance and leadership structures at First Presbyterian. After receiving her report in the fall of 2018, the Session appointed a Task Force to evaluate her report and lead the session in a process of making decisions on her recommendations. The Task Force began its work in late 2018.

At the January 2020 meeting of the Session, the Task Force made a report with potential recommendations for Session consideration at its February Stated meeting. Their recommendations focused primarily on the size and function of the Session and expanding leadership in the committee structure of the congregation.

The Susan Beaumont Report noted that the size of the Session at First Presbyterian Church (currently 45-47 elders) is too large for strategic thinking and in-depth discussions to occur at Session meetings. In fact, our Session is one of the largest in the Presbyterian Church USA. Currently all committees of the church are chaired by Elders serving on Session, which demands a great deal of an elder's time and energy that is needed for strategic thinking outside of committee business. Elders chairing all committees limits the broader involvement and development of church members in leadership in the ministries for which they are passionate and committed. Allowing most committees to be chaired by members not serving on the Session expands involvement of members in the fuller life and governance of the church. Session members would serve as liaisons to the committees to ensure good communication with the Session.

The Session voted at its February 16 meeting to reduce the size of the Session to 23 elders. (Three classes of seven elders, and a provision that allows up to two elders under the age of 21 to serve a two-year term.) The Congregational Bylaws grant authority to the Session to increase or decrease the size of the Session.

This transition in size will occur over a three-year period, as no incumbent elder elected by the congregation may have their term altered.

The Session voted to keep the Board of Trustees at nine members. Six shall be Ruling Elders in active service on the Session and three may be Ruling Elders not in active service on the Session. (This action requires a change in the Congregational Bylaws, which will be presented at a March 22 meeting of the Congregation following the 11 a.m. service.) NOTE: Now September 13 meeting.

The Session voted to organize its leadership to allow Session committees to be chaired by active members of the congregation, at Session's invitation, except for the Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee, and the Finance Committee, which shall be chaired by Ruling Elders in active service on the Session.

The Session also voted to authorize the Task Force and the Nominating Committee to report to Session by their June 2020 meeting with a plan for populating Session committees and selecting committee chairs for 2021 and beyond.

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Changes Approved by Session for September 13 Congregational Meeting:

1. Removal of unnecessary language in Article 3.2 given the Session's ability to set the size of the Session by resolution.
2. Revision to Article 4.2 allowing for three Trustees to be Ruling Elders not in active service on the Session.
3. Addition to Article 9 allowing for electronic congregational meetings when unable to meet in person.
4. Language edits throughout the Bylaws to conform to the Book of Order references to Pastor/Head of Staff and Interim Pastor/Head of Staff. (Language of Senior Pastor and Interim Senior Pastor are not in the Book of Order.)
5. Language edits throughout the Bylaws reflecting utilization of Associate Pastor/Acting Head of Staff when the Session chooses not to engage an Interim Pastor/Head of Staff.

Nominees for Elder Class of 2023

This issue of The Penn Street Letter includes the annual publication of biographies of members nominated for the next class of Elders, as well as at-large members of the Nominating Committee and an at-large Trustee.



Terry Adams has a long history with First Presbyterian Church. His Dad, an architect, watched this church being built, and when it was completed, Charles moved his family from Hemphill Presbyterian Church to First Presbyterian.

Terry was born in 1942. He has been a continuous member of FPC with the exception of a few years when he, his wife and son, moved to Ridglea Presbyterian

Church. After his sons Scouting years (Ridglea had a Scout Troop where Jason and his Ridglea Hills friends met and participated with RPC), the family returned to FPC. With his total years at FPC, Terry is a 50 year member.

In the early years, he served as an usher, taught Sunday School (5-year olds with his wife and Kay Clinkscale), and served on several committees. I'm sure there are other things during those early days that can't be remembered. After returning to FPC, he was recruited by Mary Ruth Robinson to serve as a Greeter for the 11:00 am service, and he and Suzie have done this for a number of years. Terry has been on the Communications Committee, is currently serving on the Congregational Care Committee, and is a Sustaining Care Giver. He serves on the 76116 Care Team as well. Terry has been a Shuttle Driver for several years, and currently serves as the Coordinator of the Shuttle Ministry. He volunteers every Thursday at Community Crossroads, and volunteers each year for Homeless Connect and the Toy Store, Synod meetings at FPC, and other events where volunteers are needed. Terry is a faithful attendee of the monthly Men's Breakfasts. He is a member of the Alpha Omega Sunday School Class.

Terry and Suzie were married in 1967 at First Presbyterian by Dr. Robert Jones, and their only son, Jason, was baptized by Dr. Jones in 1972.



Audrey Ballew was born in Bellville, Illinois. The daughter of an Air Force servicemember, she lived in both Germany and various locations in the United States as a child. After attending high school in Palestine, Texas, Audrey attended University of Texas at Tyler, where she met her husband, Bryan. The two married in 2008, joined First Presbyterian Church in 2012, and have two children, Eleanor, age 7 and Lochlan, age 5. Audrey

has served on the Children's Christian Nurture Committee, Nominating Committee, as PW co-chair for the Esther Circle, and as both the Early Education Center Auxiliary President and on the advisory board. She also has volunteered with the Children's church school on Sunday mornings, Vacation Bible School, and the Formula and Diaper Ministry at Community Crossroads. Audrey enjoys baking, traveling, and yoga.



Patty Biggers was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. She married her High School sweetheart, Larry, and they recently celebrated their 50 year wedding anniversary. They have two children, Jason & Ashley, who also live in Fort Worth along with their special grandson, Carter.

Patty holds a BS in Inter-Disciplinary studies from Texas Wesleyan University. She began her career working in the life insurance field

and later moved into the health and benefits sector. In her role as Account Manager at United Healthcare and Pacificare she worked with major clients such as Lockheed Martin, Bell Helicopter, Alcon, and Star-Telegram providing employee benefits packages.

Patty and Larry joined 1st Presbyterian Church in October 2016 after the close of John Knox Presbyterian Church where they had been members for 50 years. Patty was ordained and served on the session at John Knox Presbyterian Church. She currently is on the Evangelism Committee at First Presbyterian, and has served as Co-Treasurer for Presbyterian Women as well as ESL Volunteer. She also serves on the Planning and Zoning Board for the City of Lake Worth and volunteers at her grandson's school in her free time. She loves spending time with family and friends, walking, and trips to Hawaii.



Katy Hobbs is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church. She attended Arlington Heights High School, followed by Pepperdine and TCU. She and her husband, Sam, have two children: Lowdon, 13, and Gage, 11. She has served FPC in many ways through the years, including Stephen Ministry, Presbyterian Women's Retreat, the Wellness Committee, and teaching four

year olds in the preschool. Katy teaches second grade at Fort Worth ISD. In her spare time she enjoys yoga, nia, jewelry making, and reading.



Bob Peak was born in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in Pennsylvania and Texas. After marrying Natalie, his UT college sweetheart, Bob moved to Dallas and then Memphis, Tennessee, to complete his training in oral and maxillofacial surgery. He was fortunate to land in Fort Worth in 1994 to start his practice and raise his two daughters, Megan and Abigail. Bob served on the session at

First Presbyterian Church in the early 2000's, was a member of the Mission Committee and was instrumental in starting the First HAND dental clinic. After his role on session was completed, Bob and family helped start Faith Presbyterian in Aledo. Bob has been active for many years teaching Sunday school and confirmation

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class in both churches. Last year, Bob and Natalie rejoined First Presbyterian and were joined by Megan, her husband Adam, and grandson Auden.



Bill Rhule was raised in a suburb of Kansas City and graduated from the University of Kansas in 1967. Married in October of that year, he entered the U.S. Air Force in late 1968, graduating from Undergraduate Pilot Training in late 1969. Bill and his wife Jane spent 20 years in the Air Force in Arizona, California, Indiana, Texas, Alaska, and Louisiana, including flying tours in Southeast Asia. Along the way, they had two daughters,

Cynthia Hermus and Rebecca Rhule, who are also members of FPC. Bill ended his service as Assistant Director of Training for one of the largest wings in the Air Force.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1988, he joined Mobil Oil (later merging with Exxon to become ExxonMobil) as a computer support technician at the company's Farmers Branch location. Climbing the technical ladder, Bill retired in 2013 as the Senior Wireless Technician for the Management Committee and other senior personnel at the ExxonMobil Headquarters in Los Colinas.

Everyone in Bill's immediate family lives in the local area so they spend a lot of time doing things together. They enjoy travel and have been on river and ocean cruises, both FPC trips to Scotland, and several driving trips in the U.S.

At FPC, Bill serves as an usher, a volunteer at Community Crossroads, and on the Finance Committee, as well serving with his wife at special events.



Alejandro Salazar grew up in First Presbyterian Church, becoming a member in 2018. He is the son of Michael and Leti Salazar, and currently attends Keller Central High School, where he is the swim captain, band operations manager and medical officer. At FPC, he has spent nine years in the choir and six years in the youth handbell choir. Alejandro has been an active participant in FPC youth activities,

including the Rockport and Cuba mission trips.

He is active in the community as a member of Scout Troop 264, Wreaths Across America, Kids Against Hunger, Habitat for Humanity, the Trinity Trash Bash, and Community Crossroads.

Alejandro is a musician specializing in percussion and the marching arts. He also enjoys competitive swimming.



Lauren Stark was born in Bryan, Texas, and is the daughter of Jeff and Marcella Stark. She attends Keller Central High

School, where she is active in National Honor Society and as a freshman peer mentor.

Lauren joined FPC in 2012. She is active in youth group, Bible study, the Messengers Youth Choir, youth bell choir, volunteering with Music and Arts Camps, and serves on the Youth Christian Nurture Committee.

In her spare time, Lauren enjoys theatre and "all things Mo Ranch."



Jack Walker was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, followed by the University of Mississippi School of Law. He joined First Presbyterian Church in 1991. Jack retired in March 2020 from a management career in Petroleum Exploration and Production.

Through his years at FPC, Jack has served on the Property and Youth Committees, as well as serving as an usher (chair) and a church school teacher. He is also an ordained Elder, and performed with FPC's Trinity River Dancers. Prior to First Presbyterian, Jack was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Monroe, Louisiana, where he served as chair of the Stewardship Committee, church treasurer, and as a junior high youth sponsor.

Jack and his wife, Vickie, have three children: Jay, Molly, and Emily. He enjoys travel, theater, gardening, golf, and pickleball.

Nominating Committee and Trustee At-Large



Steve Christian grew up in Fort Worth, graduated from Paschal High School and earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from T.C.U. in 1975. He has been employed as Real Property Director for Tarrant Regional Water District since 1984. Since joining First Presbyterian Church in 1978, Steve has served as a Sunday school teacher, Hemphill Presbyterian Fellowship youth

sponsor; member of the Property, Adult Christian Nurture, Mission Outreach, Nominating and Spiritual Formation Committees. He has been a Stephen Minister, and served on Hemphill Youth Subcommittee. Steve also served on several MLK Day of Service organizing committees over the years with Tarrant Churches Together. He served on the Pastor Nominating Committee for Rev. Karl Travis. He is a part of the college of elders, having been ordained and served on FPC's Session three times. Steve is currently a member of Mission Outreach Committee, Room in the Inn Ministry Steering Committee, and Circles of Christ Steering Committee, a covenant partnership between FPC and Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. He is also a longtime active

Nominees for Elder Class of 2023 (continued)

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participant and volunteer at Community Crossroads' Worship on Wednesday program. Steve serves as Board Chair for New Leaf Community Services, a nonprofit formed to develop permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless and disabled members of our Fort Worth community; as well as serving as a current member of the DRC Solutions board of directors. Steve and his wife Ann, have two adult daughters, Katie and Caroline, who were raised in the church.



Paula Hawpe has lived in Fort Worth since she was four years old. She attended John Knox Presbyterian Church from 1956-2016, where she was ordained and served on the session. She met her husband, Richard, at Texas Wesleyan University, where they both graduated. Paula taught school in the Eagle Mountain school district for thirty years. Paula taught pre-k, first, second, fourth, and fifth grades

and "loved every minute of it." Richard and Paula joined First Presbyterian Church in October of 2016. She has served as a PW Circle Chair and Bible Leader, and on the Mission Committee. Paula states, "This is such a special church and I am proud to be a member."

Her husband is a car dealer, and they have two sons, Brad and Todd, and four wonderful grandchildren. According to Paula, "I also have two of the best daughter-in-laws in the whole world."

Paula and her husband have lived in their home in Lake Country for thirty five years and enjoy the lake in their backyard everyday. She enjoys walking, decorating, crafts, reading, and of course baseball games.



Judith Kinser was born in Dallas. She attended Trinity Valley School and Emory University, where she was a member of Emory Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Judith retired as Director of Admissions at Trinity Valley School in 2019.

Judith grew up at FPC and was confirmed in 1970. Extremely active in the church, she has served as an Elder, on

the Worship and Music Committee and the Day School Board, and as a church school teacher. She sings in the Chancel Choir, has served as chair of the Presbyterian Women Martha Circle, on the Circles of Christ Steering Committee, and on the Pastor Nominating Committees for both Michael Waschevski and Karl Travis.

Judith and her husband, Kevin, have two adult children, Shea and Owen. Judith enjoys hiking, cycling, birding, reading and environmental causes.



James Miller was born in Arlington, Texas, and graduated from Arlington High School. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a biology degree and from Texas A&M School of Law with a juris doctor. James married Haylie Miller in 2011 and they have one child: Thomas, age 5. They joined FPCFW in 2015. James and Haylie are active in the All Families class, participate in Room in the Inn, and James is currently serving on the Personnel Committee. He has served as a City of Arlington Teen Court Judge and through Rotary became a Paul Harris Fellow. He has provided pro bono legal representation through Legal Aid of Northwest Texas. He enjoys fishing, college football, computers, and table-top games.



Ashley Parsons was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama. She graduated from The University of Alabama and worked as a CPA for five years. Since joining FPC Fort Worth in 1998, she has served on the Stewardship, Evangelism, Nominating, and Children's Christian Nurture committees. She was ordained an elder in 2004. She also served on the pastor nominating committee that called Josh Stewart to our congregation.

Since 2013, she has worked as a day school teacher at FPC's Early Education Center. Currently she is an active member within the Growing Families of Faith church school class, serves as a middle school youth sponsor, and regularly attends the Mary Magdalene PW circle. Outside of church, Ashley serves on the PTA and Athletic Booster Club boards at Paschal High School and McLean Middle School, and is on the Paschal Harvest Project board. She and her husband, Thomas, have three children: Harrison, Michael, and Annie.



Scot Pierce (Trustee At-Large) was born and raised in Fort Worth, where he attended Paschal High School, followed by Texas A&M and the University of Texas Law School. He is an attorney with Whitaker Chalk Swindle & Schwartz, PLLC. Scot and his wife, Joy, have two children, Caroline and Grant.

Since joining FPC in 2002, Scot has served as a Stewardship Committee chair, on the Nominating Committee, a church school teacher, and an ordained elder. He is also active in the community, serving as a board member for the Presbyterian Night Shelter, as well as past chair of their finance committee and secretary of the PNS foundation. He has also served MHMR Visions as the past president, treasurer, vice president, and board member. Both Fort Worth Magazine and 360 West have named Scot as a top attorney, and he has also been listed as one of Fort Worth Magazine's 400 Most Influential People in Fort Worth.

Scot enjoys traveling, fishing, and his children's sports.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as August 27, 2020. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Kathi and Raymond Daniel on the death of her father, Wally Sundet, on July 25 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Pete and **Jan Lacina** on the death of his father, John Lacina, on July 25 in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. Other surviving FPC members are **Caroline and Grace Lacina**.

Barbara Winkler on the death of her sister, Marilee Tinker, on July 30 in Alamo, California. Other surviving FPC family are **Mike and Tami Ramsay, Blake Ramsay, and Ryan Ramsay**.

Isabelle Hulsey on the death of her husband, Sam Hulsey, on August 6.

Family and friends of **Fiske Hanley, II**, who died on August 9. Surviving FPC family are **Tom and Diane Hanley, Fiske Hanley, IV, and Anna Grace Hanley**.

Frances Chenault and Jim Ewing on the death of their sister-in-law, Mildred Chenault Bohning, on August 14 in Baytown. Other surviving FPC family is **Isabelle Hulsey**.

Family and friends of **Ann Hungerford**, who died August 15. Surviving FPC family is **Craig and Sheila Hungerford, Elise Hungerford, Frank and Gail Stewart, David and Jennifer Willis, and Olivia Willis**.

Jonathan and Jenna Leer on the death of his uncle, Alan Nagle, on August 18 in Saint Louis. Other surviving FPC family are **Grace and Maddy Leer**.

Family and friends of **Fran Kerlin**, who died August 19. Surviving FPC family is husband, **Eliot Kerlin**.

Patty O'Brien on the death of her mother, Dorothy Braly, on August 23 in Denton.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Dorothy Kinser, Susie Kuipers, Scott Steffler, Sarah Graham, Julie Carter, Mary Jane Witt, Diane Satterlee, and Jerry Brownlee, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Joanne Sarsgard, Eliot Kerlin, Floyd Kinser, Joyce Brower, Charles Florsheim, Janelle Eklund, Sue Barham, Frank Stewart, Karl Travis, Rush Hart, Marilyn Wilson, Phyllis Propes, Emma Coley, Lisa Shiner, and Frances Blake, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Cora McCoy (mother-in-law of **Lesley McCoy**), Paula Perkins (sister of **Susie Kuipers**), Audrey Hart (great-granddaughter of **Bob and Jane Trask**), Ann Welch (sister of **Andrea Frankenfield**), Mike Bryan (son-in-law of **Mary Alice Dobesh**), Nancy Hatfield (mother of **Sarah Haddock**), Patrick Denton (nephew of **Bill and Pat Gordon**), Lynn Prater (daughter of **Harlene Satterfield**); Bill Neil (brother of **Marilyn Love**), Janet Laminack (cousin of **Julie Sphar and Vance Laminack**), John DeMore (son-in-law of **June Sprott**), Lisa Koenig (niece of **Wanda Williams**), Kathy Kline (**Maxine Kruse's** daughter), and Susan Chenault (**Frances Chenault's** daughter).

Prayers for peace in our world, for the safety of Nathan Gunter (**Russell and Vivian Norment's** nephew) who is stationed in Korea. Also for the safety of **Diego A. Saldivar**, who is serving in the US Navy; Diego is the son of Becky and Rene Saldivar. And for the safety of **Thomas Shelby**, who is serving in the US Navy, deployed in Japan. Thomas is the son of **Ellen Buck** and the grandson of **Vance and Donna Laminack**.

Prayers for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic including medical professionals and healthcare providers.

Prayers for Cindy Corell, our mission co-worker in Haiti. Prayers for peace and resolution for the people of Haiti.

Our congratulations and best wishes to...

Susie and Karl Kuipers on the birth of a granddaughter, Skye Everly Kuipers, in Pompano, Florida on July 8, 2020.

Megan and Adam Pendleton on their marriage on July 11.

Michelle and Luka Brkljacic on their marriage on July 18 in Columbus, Ohio. Michelle is the daughter of **Lea and Michael Cane**.

Rebecca and Brian Gleason on the birth of Caroline on July 24. Proud FPC family are big sister, Annalies and big brother, Ben.

Natalie and Jeff Stringer on the birth of Sara Jane on July 29. Proud FPC family are big sister Alli and grandfather **Rob Kopp**.

Megan and Trevor Conant on their marriage on August 8. Megan is the daughter of **Craig and Angie Becker**.

Conner and Sarah Humphrey on the birth of Ellen Alice on August 17. Proud big brother is Robert.

Welcome, New Member!



Robin Henson joined First Presbyterian Church by Zoom meeting on Monday. Robin is transferring from St. Timothy Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Bedford where her husband Kevin had previously served as pastor. Robin is a nurse practitioner with Cook Children's on the North Side, and Kevin is now director of development with Brite Divinity School.

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its August 16 Stated Meeting the Session:

- Was led in an opening devotion and prayer by elder Karen Steffler.
- Approved the Consent Agenda (included minutes of the July meeting and approval of Adult Church School teachers for the fall quarter).
- Heard reports from the Clerk and the Pastors.
- Received the Monthly Update from the Work Group on Reopening and acted on a motion related to the Early Education Center.
- Approved \$65,000 in mission grants from the Virginia Hulse Fund, upon recommendation of the Mission Outreach Committee.



First Presbyterian Church
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

**PERIODICALS
POSTMASTER:**

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The Penn Street Letter,
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WWW.FPCFW.ORG

FPC CLASSIFIEDS

Since we're tight on space, below is a classifieds-style breakdown of what's happening at First Presbyterian Church in the coming weeks. As always, you're invited to learn more at FPCFW.ORG.

Bible In-Depth: Acts

Beginning Sunday, September 13, join the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski for the return of the popular Bible in Depth series, via Zoom. Meeting weekly at 4:30 p.m., the fall will be a journey through the book of Acts. To register for the class, please email Celeste (cfalter@fpcfw.org) in the church office. If you do not have access to a computer or tablet for connecting via Zoom with video, you can register and participate by phone.

Spiritual Formation Offerings begin September 13

The Spiritual Formation Subcommittee is pleased to announce this upcoming offering: *Shalom*, Sundays at 11 a.m., September 13 through October 18. This course traces the theme of shalom as it was introduced in Genesis, fulfilled in Revelation, and developed through God's covenant, the law, the prophets, Jesus Christ, and the early church. It not only clarifies God's intentions for how we live with one another and in Creation, but it also reveals the gravity behind God's

persistent message to God's people – then and now. FPC member Carol Toombs will facilitate this 50-minute Zoom class. All are welcome to join. For questions or to register, contact Carol Toombs (caroltoombs@charter.net).

Zoom Youth Group is Back

On Sunday afternoons, Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12) students are invited to participate in our Zoom Youth Group. Middle School meets 2-2:45 p.m., and High School meets 3-3:45 p.m. While we look forward to the time when we can meet together in person, youth will have this wonderful opportunity to connect with each other, grow in their faith, and continue learning what it means to follow Jesus Christ. Contact Josh Stewart (Associate Pastor for Youth, josh@fpcfw.org) for the Zoom info or with any questions.

Grief Group begins September 13

First Presbyterian Church is offering a six-week Grief Support Group beginning Sunday, September 13 via Zoom, 4-5:30

p.m., led by the Rev. Dr. Dawn Hood-Patterson. This group offers a supportive and encouraging space in which to experience God's presence, comfort, and strength. Dawn is a Chaplain at Cook Children's Medical Center, and we are delighted to welcome her back. This group is free and open to members and friends of FPC and the community. To register, contact Celeste in the church office (817.335.1231 or cfalter@fpcfw.org). Before the first class meeting, you will be sent the Zoom link and class materials. If you do not have access to a computer or tablet for connecting via Zoom with video, you can register and participate by phone, and class materials can be mailed.

Book People returns September 14

Book People Book Group continues to meet this fall through Zoom. For the September 14 meeting, we will read *The Chilbury Ladies Choir* by Jennifer Ryan. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Ellen Peck (ecrowl7672@aol.com) or Barbara Reece (reecebk@aol.com).