

THE STEEPLE TIMES

Monthly News from FPC Tyler • Volume 11, Issue 9: October 2019



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

by the Rev. Dr. Stuart Baskin

In the early months of 2019, I wrote several *Steeple Times* columns about stories from our church's history. This month I need to deviate from that pattern simply to say thank you for allowing me to enjoy a much-needed sabbatical.

I consider myself fortunate to be a pastor. I am even more fortunate to be *your* pastor. Of all the occupations I might have taken, none is as rewarding as this one. But the work of a pastor can wear a person out. I consider myself to be "on call" virtually 24 hours a day. Of course, it is rare that I receive a phone call late at night to answer an emergency, but it happens. It is good to be able to step away from time to time in order to regenerate.

Don't get me wrong. I didn't need a break from you, but from the daily pressures of the work.

When we marked my 10th anniversary of service as your pastor a few years ago, I was asked if there was a gift I would like. I immediately said that I would like a sabbatical. The request was quickly granted, but it took some time to organize. It was not until this year that we were able to work out the details.

While I was away, I thought of you often. You were never far from my thoughts. That was reinforced by the notes many of you wrote to include in a packet when

I left. And there were times that I wished you could have been with me to see and experience what I was seeing and doing.

I wish you could have been with me in Scotland when I ran the marathon there in May. It was a wonderful experience, and one that I look forward to repeating.

I wish you could have been with me in Marfa and Fort Davis, where Amy and I sat under the dark West Texas skies and marveled at the thousands of stars. It was simply glorious.

I wish you could have been with us as we laid Amy's father finally to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington. It was awe-inspiring.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank a few people by name. I am grateful to Pamela Leach and Jenni Marshall for accepting the responsibility together of being heads of staff. They performed magnificently. I am grateful to Britt Brookshire and Steve Hillis who initially got the ball rolling at my 10th anniversary celebration. I am grateful to the Sabbatical Committee for working with me to put together the financial means to make it all possible: Robyn Files, Chris Bunt, Kimberly Ashley, Mary Fischer, and Brian Head. Last but by no means least, I am grateful to the whole staff for picking up the thousand and one little tasks that it takes to make our church run week in and week out.

in this issue | HIGHLIGHTS & FEATURES

Cookbook Tasting Party | pg 3

Join us for a cocktail party featuring recipes from FPC's upcoming cookbook.

Kick-off Covered Dish Lunch | pg 3

Join us for the *First Covered Dish Luncheon of the Next 150 Years* hosted by the Stewardship Committee.

Hello from Kristin Hoyer | pg 6

Kristin joins FPC as interim director of children's ministries.



First Presbyterian Church
Tyler, Texas

First Presbyterian Church of Tyler, Texas
230 West Rusk Street, Tyler, Texas 75701-1696
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CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: Special Friends Annual Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 11 | 1 pm | Fellowship Hall

Look for details about this event in the near future. For further information, contact Bettie Clancy (903-521-1383) or Florrie Wallace (903-780-0268).



FPC's NEWEST MEMBERS

FPC welcomes its newest members,
Fred and Barb Kalsbeek.

PRAYERFULLY SPEAKING from the FPC Prayer Team

In *These Days* devotional magazine, writer Jon Brown says: "In response to his disciples' request to teach them to pray, Jesus describes prayer as active, energetic, and hopeful....Jesus highlights curiosity and tenacity." Brown then goes on, "My friend's grandfather used to say 'When you pray for potatoes, you'd better have a hoe in your hand.' In other words, prayer is an action. The likelihood of answered prayer increases when we are actively expectant, perhaps because we are more receptive to the possibilities God provides."

Ever-hearing God, hear us as we pray with tenacity and active expectancy!

(If you would like to submit a prayer request, please fill out the form found in the church pew and drop it in the collection plate or into a prayer request box found in the Chapel, Sanctuary, and church office.)

FPC's COOKBOOK COMMITTEE

This summer, the cookbook committee met (*below and right*) to sample sips, sweets and savory food that will be featured in the 150 year anniversary cookbook, *A Taste of Heaven*.



save the date | NOVEMBER 2019

Stewardship Dedication Sunday |
November 10
Dedicate your pledge for 2020.

PW Thank Offering | November 18
Join PW for worship service of thanksgiving followed by high tea.

Choral Evensong for Christ the King |
November 24

MONTHLY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

150 Year Anniversary Celebration Kickoff

Sunday, October 13 | 12 pm | Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendars as the Stewardship Committee hosts the *First Covered Dish Luncheon of the Next 150 Years!* Plan to bring your appetite and a favorite dish to share. Look for special entertainment from our youth. Join the fun and share a delicious meal immediately following the 11 a.m. service. **To RSVP or for more information, visit fpctyler.com/events/stewardshipluncheon.** Questions? Contact the church office at 903-597-6317.

Chancel Choir To Participate in Festival of Church Music

Sunday, October 13 | 7 pm | Meyerson Symphony Center | Dallas
Eric Nelson, artistic director of the Atlanta Master Chorale, will conduct a 400-voice choir comprised of singers representing dozens of churches in singing the inspiring and timeless music of the Church. For more tickets, visit churchmusicinstitute.org.

Fine Arts @ FPC: Music Dedication Sunday

Sunday, October 20 | 11 am | Sanctuary

Join us for Music Dedication Sunday during our 11 a.m. service in the Sanctuary. Visit fpctyler.com/events/musicdedication.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 20 | 10:30 am | Sanctuary

The Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Visit fpctyler.com/events/annualmeeting.

Fine Arts @ FPC: The Bach Dynasty

Monday, October 21 | 7 pm | Sanctuary | Free Admission

Belgian early music vocal ensemble Vox Luminis performs over 60 concerts a year, appearing on stages in Belgium, across Europe and around the world. Since its inception, the ensemble has been defined by its unique sound, appealing as much through the personality of each timbre as it does through the color and the uniformity of the voices. Visit fpctyler.com/events/voxluminis.

Pizza & Presbyterians

Tuesday, October 22 | 5:30 pm | Anderson Room | F 101-102

FPC's Mission Committee will have a gathering for Charles and Melissa Johnson, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Zambia, and all are invited to attend. Join us for pizza and an update from the Johnsons. Visit fpctyler.com/events/johnsonsupdate.

“A Taste of Heaven” Party of the Year

Saturday, October 26 | 4:30 pm | Lynn Heines' Residence | 612 Tremont Place | Tyler | \$10 per person

Join us for a cocktail party featuring appetizers and beverages from *A Taste of Heaven*, FPC's upcoming cookbook celebrating the church's 150th anniversary (see below). Proceeds from the event will go toward the printing of the cookbook and the profits will be donated to Potter House for needed repairs and renovations. **RSVP to Lynn Heines (903-597-3074)**. Visit fpctyler.com/events/cocktailsandcookbooks.

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 27 | 8:30 & 11 am services | Chapel & Sanctuary

All are welcome as we celebrate the Presbyterian Reformed heritage at both worship services. Read more at fpctyler.com/events/reformationsunday.



IT'S THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF COVERED DISH

Sun., Oct. 13 • 12 p.m.

Bring your favorite dish



THE MISSION STORE

Your mission HQ at FPC • Match your talent with our community's needs

PATH (People Attempting To Help)

Throughout October, PATH is collecting winter coats for children and teens and 1 lb. packages of rice and beans. Donations can be dropped off in the PATH crates located in the foyer of Fellowship Hall and near the elevator in the main building. Monetary donations are also accepted. For more information, visit pathhelps.org.

Achieving Dreams Gala at FPC

Thursday, October 3 | 6 pm | Fellowship Hall

Achieving Dreams is a non-profit day program committed to providing opportunities and support to adults with special needs. The 6th annual Circle of Caring, "Rock the Night Away" will be an evening of live entertainment and dinner. Tickets are \$30. Contact Bettie Clancy (903-521-1383) if you would like to attend, make a contribution, or learn more about this wonderful organization.

Seeking Host Families for Vox Luminis on October 21

This month we welcome the Belgian early music vocal ensemble Vox Luminis and in preparation for their visit FPC is arranging homestay for the evening of Monday, October 21 for 13 adults. Those able to host on that date should contact Weston Jennings at wjennings@fpctyler.com. It promises to be an amazing concert and experience with these talented musicians.

Analysis of Revenues & Expenses

August 2019 Summary

	MTD ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
REVENUES	\$56,147	\$108,415	\$127,236
EXPENSES	\$88,704	\$169,519	\$182,644
NET TOTAL	(\$32,557)	(\$61,104)	(\$55,408)

Planned Giving

Have you remembered the church and other charities in your will? If you need help, contact Nanci Pollard (npollard@fpctyler.com/903-597-6317) to request information, or visit the Texas Presbyterian Foundation at tpf.org. Assistance is confidential and free of charge.

Knit Wits—Yarn Lovers Unite for Ministry

Monday, October 7 | 1:30 pm | The Hill Room

Calling all knitters, crocheters and other yarn lovers...we have a place for you with the Knit Wits! Visit fpctyler.com/events/knitwits.

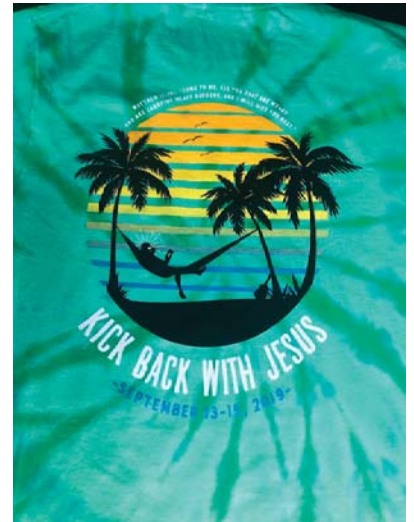
The Peace and Global Witness Offering

Sunday, October 6 | 8:30 & 11 am services

The Peace and Global Witness Offering is one of several special offerings designated by PC(USA) in which FPC-Tyler participates. A portion of this special offering is designated for local use.

Youth Group TShirt Fundraiser

As part of our 150 Year Anniversary Kick-off Celebration, on Sunday, October 13, the youth will be holding a fundraiser with these t-shirts for sale for \$20 each. Get your t-shirt while you're at FPC's covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall! All proceeds will benefit our upcoming youth camps, conferences, and travel. Questions? Contact Jenni Marshall (803-924-0576/jmarshall@fpctyler.com).



Stay in the Know



Stay in the know about news and events by connecting with FPC online.

Subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter, and you'll receive stories, event reminders, and mission updates. You'll even get a sneak peek into what the sermon topic is for Sunday's pulpit. Follow the QR code above or find the e-newsletter sign-up link on the website at fpctyler.com.

Stay in touch with us on social media, too:

f /fpctyler

🐦 @fpctyler

📺 @fpctyler

Student Ministries Events

Youth Group

Wednesdays evenings | 6 pm | visit our webpage for locations
So many things happening for the FPC Youth Group this month! Our Wednesday evening gatherings continue, but we do have a few tweaks to our schedule some weeks. Please note the time and location changes for some of our gatherings! Visit fpctyler.com/events/youthgroup.

Confirmation - Confirmands & Mentors

Sunday, October 6 & 20 | 12:30 pm | The Well

Our *Big God, Big Questions* journey continues as we explore our faith for life in the real world. Confirmands and mentors...plan to meet for lunch and discussion. A few special guests will also join us and share their faith journeys and life as church members. Contact Jenni at (803-924-0576/jmarshall@fpctyler.com) with questions.

150 Year Celebration Kickoff Luncheon

Sunday, October 13 | 12 pm | Fellowship Hall

As part of the Stewardship season kick-off luncheon, the FPC Youth will be presenting the drama "FPC and How We Got Here," written by our own resident theatre teacher, Beth Shepperd. We've been rehearsing since our first meeting in September, and we can't wait to share this play that will remind us, inspire us, and entertain us! Contact Jenni (803-924-0576/jmarshall@fpctyler.com).

Youth Group - Halloween Party

Wednesday, October 30 | 6 pm | Gabriel Residence | 215 West First Street | Tyler

Attention middle and high school youth...make plans to attend our annual Halloween Party. Wear a costume and bring your favorite snack to share (girls bring a snack and guys bring a 2-liter bottle of soda). For grades 6-12. Visit fpctyler.com/events/youthgroup.

East Texas Youth Conference

FPC Tyler youth joined with youth from around the region for the East Texas Youth Conference, September 13-15, at Camp Gilmont. We had an amazing time exploring what it means to find rest and peace in our "Kick Back with Jesus." We're also grateful for our keynote speakers, Rev. Kyle Brown and Rev. Sarah Renfro of Geist Christian Church in Fishers, IN, who brought their passion for youth ministry, spiritual formation, and personal care and growth to this event.



FPC'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



FPC will be celebrating its
sesquicentennial on
April 5, 2020.

Plans are underway for a
church-wide celebration.

During the next several months,
we will be sharing information
on how you can help.

Visit

fpctyler.com/events/sesquicentennial
to learn more.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS & EVENTS

Hello From Your Interim Director of Children's Ministries

Hello everyone! This is Kristin Hoyer, taking over as the Interim Director of Children's Ministries for Phyllis Kidwell. She will be greatly missed in this position, but rumor has it that she will still be making regular appearances at FPC Tyler. I have been at this church for five years, and a member for around four of them. The wonderful children's programming at FPC Tyler is what drew me in, and I have made some of my closest friends in Tyler through meeting other parents in the programs. I have a background in education, having taught elementary and middle school in the past. I will do my best to keep the programs running smoothly for our children and families. If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: 786-329-9431 or khoyer@fpctyler.com.

Welcome Back!

We welcome all the children of FPC Tyler back to our regularly scheduled Sunday School classes. Rally Day was a hit, with piles of delicious food, fun crafts, and Phyllis Kidwell's incredible coffee punch! We are looking forward to seeing the children in their classes and during children's church. If anyone is interested in helping with either program, we still have a few spots waiting for you! Contact Kristin Hoyer (786-329-9431/khoyer@fpctyler.com) and let us know. We are excited for the year ahead!

It's that time of year

It's never too early to begin thinking about our Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 5-5:45 p.m., beginning November 20. The Pageant will be presented Sunday, December 15 during the 11 a.m. service. Please let us know if your child will be involved this year, and think about what role they would like to play. We will have our older youth narrate, while our little ones present the glorious story of Christ's birth to the congregation. Contact Kristin Hoyer for more info (786-329-9431/khoyer@fpctyler.com).

FAREWELL TO PHYLLIS & RALLY DAY PICTURES by Pete Houting



SUNDAY SCHOOL / SMALL GROUP LISTING

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:45 AM

FAITH BUILDERS | *Lecture & discussion*
M 202 | *The book of Matthew* |
Contact: Bob Schmoker (903) 714-5746

THE FORUM | *Lecture & discussion*
M 205 | *Salvation* | Contact: Chris Bunt
(903) 531-3535

THE 209ERS | *Young Adults*
M 209 | *Red Letter Christianity* | Contact: Drew Starnes (713) 540-0962

WESTMINSTER | *Study & discussion*
M 207 | *The Lectionary* | Contact: David Palady (davidpalady@gmail.com)

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

MEN | *Lectionary*
Tuesdays | 6:30 am | Premier Flexipac |
Contact: Skip Womack (903) 520-1300
or Bob Schmoker (903) 714-5746

WOMEN | *Book &/or DVD & discussion*
Thursdays | 9:30 am | Conference Room | *Life Lessons from 1 and 2 Peter* |
Contact: Jan Carpenter (903) 566-8533

WORSHIP WITH US



FPC's Regular Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Service
(Chapel)

9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
(The Hill Room)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
(campuswide)

11:00 a.m. Service
(Sanctuary)



OCTOBER



CALENDER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 Youth Group. 6 pm, The Well.
- 6 World Communion Sunday/Communion Sunday. 8:30 & 11am, Chapel & Sanctuary.
- 7 Knit Wits. 1:30 pm, Hill Room.
- 8 Presbyterian Women Tuesday Circle. 10 am, F 101-102.
- 9 Youth Group. 6 pm, The Well.
- 13 Presbyterian Women Sunday Circle. 9:30 am, M 204.
- 13 150 Year Anniversary Celebration Kickoff. 12 pm, Fellowship Hall.
- 13 Festival of Church Music. 7 pm, Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas.
- 15 *Steeple Times* Submission Deadline.
- 16 Youth Group. 6 pm, iJump.
- 20 *Fine Arts @ FPC*: Music Dedication Sunday. 11 am, Sanctuary.
- 20 Annual Meeting and Luncheon. 10:30 am, Sanctuary.
- 21 *Fine Arts @ FPC*: The Bach Dynasty. 7 pm, Sanctuary.
- 22 Mission Committee Reception for the Johnsons. 5:30 pm, Anderson Room.
- 23 Youth Group. 6 pm, Sweet Gourmet & Five Guys.
- 27 Reformation Sunday. 8:30 & 11 am, Chapel & Sanctuary.
- 30 Youth Group Halloween Party. 6 pm, Gabriel residence.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Budget & Finance. October 10 @ 12 pm — Conference Room | A 110**
- Building & Grounds. October 14 @ 5:30 pm — Conference Room | A 110**
- Diaconate. October 16 @ 5 pm — Conference Room | A 110**
- Mission. October 14 @ 5:30 pm — Library | A 111**
- Session. October 15 @ 7 pm — M 207**
- Stewardship. October 7 @ 6 pm — Conference Room | A 110**
- Sesquicentennial. October 10 @ 4 pm — Conference Room | A 110**
- Trustees. October 22 @ 12 pm — Conference Room | A 110**

A special “thank you” to Azalea Academy For Exceptional Adults for assembling our weekly worship bulletin and to Marshall Ewing and his amazing crew for assembling our “Steeple Times” monthly newsletter.

Steeple Times is a publication of First Presbyterian Church, 230 W. Rusk St., Tyler, TX 75701. Acting editor: Stuart Baskin. FPC reserves the right to edit and/or exclude all submissions. Submit content to Dana Durman by the 15th of the month prior to publication: ddurman@fpctyler.com, fax (903) 597-6326, or mail. An archive of the *Steeple Times* can be found online at fpctyler.com/archive.



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Tyler, Texas

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Angela Gray, *Interim Executive Assistant* | agray@fpctyler.com
Jessie Caldwell, *Sexton*
Charles & Melissa Johnson, *PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Zambia*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office hours are:
Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m., except holidays.
The office is closed on Fridays.
Contact the office at 903-597-6317, or email church@fpctyler.com.

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

In case of an emergency, such as a death or sudden hospitalization, your pastors can be reached by calling the church office (903-597-6317). After hours, please follow the directions for emergency pastoral care, and the message will be delivered to the pastoral staff.

WE ARE

First Presbyterian Church of Tyler is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Grace Presbytery, and is steward of Potter House, a temporary housing ministry for families seeking medical care in Tyler. For a full listing of all ministry affiliations, please visit fpctyler.com/mission.