



News From First Presbyterian Church

430 S. Carancahua St. • Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 • (361) 884-4057 • firstprescc.com

January 2023 Issue

January 11, 2023

Mark Your Calendar

Christian Women's Book Club

Monday, January 16,
10:00 a.m. in the
Chapel. All women are
welcome.

Winter Term Wednesday Nights Begin

Wednesday, January 18,
6:00 p.m. Dinner
provided.

"Love Your Church" Clean Up

Saturday, January 21,
9:00 a.m. Lunch
provided.

Dinners for 8

Saturday, January 21,
6:00 p.m.

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Sunday, January 22,
4:00 p.m.



THE GLORY THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME
I HAVE GIVEN TO THEM
THAT THEY MAY BE ONE EVEN AS
WE ARE ONE.



JOHN 17:22

FPC TO HOST ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

Jesus said in John 17, "The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." Unity among Christians shows Jesus to the world. In order to promote Christian Unity, the downtown churches are once again gathering for a joint ecumenical prayer service for The Week of Christian Unity. We held the first one last January at the Corpus Christi Cathedral. Then this past November we had a joint service at First United Methodist Church just before Thanksgiving.

This year First Presbyterian is hosting the Christian Unity Prayer Service, which will take place on Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. There will be a

reception in Kleberg hall following the service.

The churches (and their pastors) participating are the Corpus Christi Cathedral (Bishop Michael Mulvey, Fr. James Stumbler, Fr. Pete Elizardo), the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (Rev. Milton Black, Rev. Philip May), First Baptist (Rev. Dr. Brian Hill), First Presbyterian (Rev. Dr. Chip Blackshear), First United Methodist (Rev. Jason Surdy), and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox (Rev. Thomas Bartz.)

These pastors have been meeting for lunch a few times a year for the past year in order to build relationships with one another and between our churches.

This is a great opportunity to invite your friends in other churches in the city to come together for a time of worship, demonstrating our unity in Christ.

NEW COVENANT PARTNERS



Twelve new covenant partners were received on Sunday, December 11. From left to right back row are Katie Hoover, Brad Hoover and their sons Robinson and Alexander. Middle row: Keith Smith, John Holmgreen, Laura Holmgreen, and Gina Robbins. Front row: Tony Reyes, Rachael Reyes, Rebecca Smith and daughter Charlotte Smith, Dan Robbins, and Dr. Chip Blackshear. Not shown: Greg and Nancy Graves.

Laura and John Holmgreen



We welcome Laura and John Holmgreen who joined on December 11.

Laura and John met on-line through E Harmony. They communicated for a while before dating before marrying in 2000. They have been married for 12 years.

Laura was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She has been with Argent Financial Group, Inc for 22 years as a Wealth Management Administrator. She has a daughter and two granddaughters.

John graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Following his service to in his country in Vietnam, he attended University of Texas Law School where he earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree.

John moved to Corpus Christi and began practice in 197 where he has been a Civil Litigation Attorney.

Laura and John bring an abundant background of church and community service to us. John was active in Stewardship, Property & Grounds and Mission outreach helping with Izzy's Food Pantry. He is active in Rotary where each has a mission and something to do for the community.

They are members of the Yacht club and enjoy a Pathfinder 22 boat. John has also worked with the Colonias Community.

Katie and Brad Hoover



Baseball personifies the Hoover Family. "We are a baseball family," says Katie Hoover. Brad, Katie, and

sons Robinson and Alexander, are involved with the Laguna Little League in Flour Bluff.

Brad coaches and is the Treasurer, and Katie handles the social media and flyers. Both sons play baseball.

Katie and Brad met in New Mexico while Brad was in the Air Force in flight operations, and she was in college. He left the Air Force in 2000, and they married in 2002.

Katie was born in Corpus Christi and graduated from Carroll High School. She graduated from Texas A & M University Corpus Christi with a degree in BBA and Marketing.

Brad was born in Dexter, New York. Brad earned a BBA in Accountancy and a Master of Accountancy degree from Texas A & M University Corpus Christi. Brad is Administrator (CEO) of Radiology Associates.

Robinson is 12 and is a 7th grader at Flour Bluff Junior High School. Alexander is 10 and is in the 5th grade at Flour Bluff Intermediate School.

Katie has been active in PTO and was president for 5 years. They have a five-year-old Labradoodle named Scout.

Rachel and Tony Reyes



We are blessed to have Rachel and Tony Reyes as new covenant partners. “We look forward to supporting the church in every way and finding how God wants us to work in the church,” said Rachel.

Tony was born in Kingsville and was a King High School graduate. He also attended Del Mar College. Tony received a spiritual calling to help the homeless. In 2000 he founded Mission 911, offering help to those who are in crisis who want to make a positive life change.

Rachel was born in Corpus Christi and graduated from Ray High School. She is a graduate of the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Management.

Rachel is Director of Health Information Management Department at Driscoll Children’s Hospital.

Rachel and Tony met while attending El Divino Salvador Presbyterian Church. They have been married for 42 years and have 2 sons and one grandson.

Rachel likes photography and acrylic and watercolor painting. Tony enjoys golf.

Dan and Gina Robbins



The focus for Gina and Dan Robins is all about Family. “Our family today is a result of the commitment Dan and I shared 42 years ago when we pledged ourselves to one another and to the family we would build,” says Gina.

They met at a Colorado car wash. She was from Greeley, and he was from Boulder. They were engaged six months before they married.

Dan earned his BA at the University of Northern Colorado in communications. Dan’s 40-year broadcast career took the family to Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, California, & Texas. Dan retired in 2018 from KIII TV as President and General Manager.

Gina studied undergraduate academia in Interior design and worked as an interior designer. She considered any outside employment secondary to the most gratifying lifetime commitment as a mother and wife.

Gina and Dan have three adult children – Megan, Dallas, and Jennifer. They are blessed with nine grandchildren, six of whom live in Corpus Christi and attend church with them.

Rebecca and Keith Smith



Rebecca and Keith met in Austin in 2005 at a Texas Grain and Feed Association meeting. She was working for a state legislator, and it was his lobby day working for a trade association. They exchanged emails in the spring and began dating in the fall. They have been married for 15 years.

Rebecca was born in San Benito and Keith is from Edna. They both attended Texas A & M University but not at the same time.

Keith graduated in 1994 with a major in Poultry Science and earned his MBA from University of Houston in Victoria. Rebecca graduated in 2006 with a degree in Agricultural Development.

Keith is Vice President of Gulf Compress, a federated cooperative providing storage and distribution solutions for cotton. Rebecca teaches U. S. History at Ray High School. She previously taught Texas History and World History.

They have one daughter, eight-year-old Charlotte, who is in the third grade at St. James Episcopal School.



Discovery Adult Class

As individuals we face challenges of everyday life seeking to lead a God-centered existence. We are never alone in this walk.

The Discovery Class will begin a new study in January, "How to Apply the Reality of Christ into Their Own Life". This will be an intense study of the book of “The Acts of the Apostles”.

Together we can grow in our understanding of the word of the Lord, and how to live each day as Jesus would have us live.

The Discovery Class meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Snacks will be provided.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesday Nights return on January 18 with dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship and classes. There will be a class on prayer and one on finances.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Each Sunday of Advent a family participated in the lighting of an Advent candle, reading of Bible verses, and closing with prayer. November 27th, the Smith Family – candle of Hope; December 4, the McMann family – candle of Peace; December 11, Robins family – candle of Joy; December 18, Loving Family – candle of Love; and, December 24, Hodges family – Christ's Candle.



Poinsettias

Kathy Wemer, Flower Committee Chairperson for Women of the Church, organized volunteers to help unpack the 50 poinsettias to adorn the Sanctuary and Narthex on December 8th.



Volunteers Pat Luckett, Ruth Irvine, Lisa Clark, Anne Lockwood, and Kathy formed an assembly line to ensure each plant was appropriately placed and moistened with ice. Thanks to Kathy and Mike Guererro for keeping the plants watered.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party

The library was filled with the sounds of songs and reading of a Christmas story for the Day School



children on Thursday, December 15th. Lisa Clark played her guitar as the children sang a variety of songs and even learned a new song.

Cupcakes and crafts were provided by the Women of the Church.

Christmas Cantata

On December 18th the Chancel Choir presented the 2022 Christmas Cantata. This was a medley arranged for the organ, piano, and choir by David Corkill. Brad Kisner

accompanied on the organ with Judith A. Mellenbruch on the piano. Arrangements included: *Do You Have Room?;* *Mary Did You Know?;* *Silent Night;* *Gesu Bambino;* *Hark! All Ye Faithful;* *Angels We Have Heard on High;* and *God Bless Us, Everyone.*



Caroling

Voices joined together to spread the joy of Christmas through caroling. Many caravanned to at-home covenant partners on Saturday afternoon, December 17th.



Children's Message



The Children's Message on December 18th provided the background of the many Chrismons on the tree. Dr. Blackshear shared the meaning of many signs and symbols of Chrismons, especially his favorite one with the snake. Chrismons are traditionally white and gold, because white is the color for purity and gold symbolizes value, worth and God's majesty and glory. Many of the symbols are found in the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The traditional Candlelight Service combined a variety of our favorite hymns intermingled with Readings from Matthew and Luke. The service



included lighting of candles while singing *Silent Night*. Following the service, a time of fellowship included a sharing of Christmas cookies in Kleberg Hall.



Christmas Morning

We came to celebrate the Lord's Day at 9:30 a.m. in Kleberg Hall. Some came in pajamas while others selected the casual look.

However, we all came to share the joy of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and breakfast of tacos provided by Arcy and Walter Scogin along with the waffle bar, prepared by the Phillips. David Henny, accompanied by pianist Tom Ford, led us in songs from the red hymnal followed by a brief message from Moses Camacho.



PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH

"...by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." - Philippians 4:6

Please pray regularly and boldly that God will:

- draw over 120 people to worship each Sunday
- double our adult, youth, and kids Sunday School classes
- move our congregation to actively serve our community
- give **you** a desire to serve in the church and with the church in our community

Please include the following in your prayers: Luis & Julie Añil, Dewitt Alsup, Matthew Alsup, Nancy Burditt, Doris Curtis, Roy Daniels, Susan Hawn, Adam Klager, Jim Klager, Marilyn Kronk, Emily Lewis, Kathy Littlefield, Hank Nuss, Elizabeth Ramon, Dale Stewart, Norris Stricker, April Vaughan, Sarah Gill, Ann Richey, Jane Slabaugh, Phillip Werner, Thomas Cameron, and Clayton Johnson..

Please try to call the church office at 884-4057#100 if you are in the hospital.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24-25a

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It really makes a difference when you're here!



JOHN ALFRED BOONE

Pipeline Company of America in June 1959, and five months later called to serve in the army for two years.

John married Jane Ann Waddell on December 22, 1959. After his discharge from the army, he was re-employed by NGPL and stationed in Bridgeport, Texas, where Laura was born in 1962.

After being transferred to Wharton, Texas, Stephen was born in 1963. Throughout his career he worked in both Texas and Illinois except for the two years he was a consulting engineer on a pipeline in Trinidad. John and Jane were transferred to Portland, Texas, in 1991, where he was the Area Consultant Engineer for five years until he retired in 1996.

In 1991 they joined the First Presbyterian Church of Corpus Christi where John served as an Elder and Trustee. After retiring, he enjoyed ranching at Bonnie view.

He was a loyal member of the Rotary Club in Morris, Illinois, and

the Portland Lions Club. He enjoyed eating out with the "Romeos", playing sports, and strumming his guitar.

John is survived by his wife, Jane; his daughter, Laura Conway (Rick); his son, Stephen

(Mary Alice); his grandchildren, Stephen Michael, Alison, and Rebecca Conway; and Andrew, Mitchell, and Kathryn Boone; his sister-in-law, Bernice Boone; and nephew, Russell Boone.

He was blessed with many relatives and friends and enjoyed talking, telling stories, and teaching the family children how to fish.

John was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Helen Goode; and brothers, Carl and Donald Boone. During the past year, Harbor Hospice nurses and the Visiting Angels care givers became dear friends.

A Memorial Service was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Corpus Christi on December 11, 2022. Memorials may made to the First Presbyterian Church Library.

John Alfred Boone, loving husband, father, and grandfather, was called home to be with his Lord on December 4, 2022, at the age of 86. He was home with his wife and children when he went to Heaven.

John graduated from Wharton High School in 1955 and Texas College of Arts and Industries in Kingsville, Texas, in 1959 with a degree in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering.

He was employed by Natural Gas

JOHN ROBERT GOODWILLIE

John Robert Goodwillie, 88, passed away on December 16, 2022. John was born in Beloit, Wisconsin to John Erwin Goodwillie and Rosella Smalldon Goodwillie.

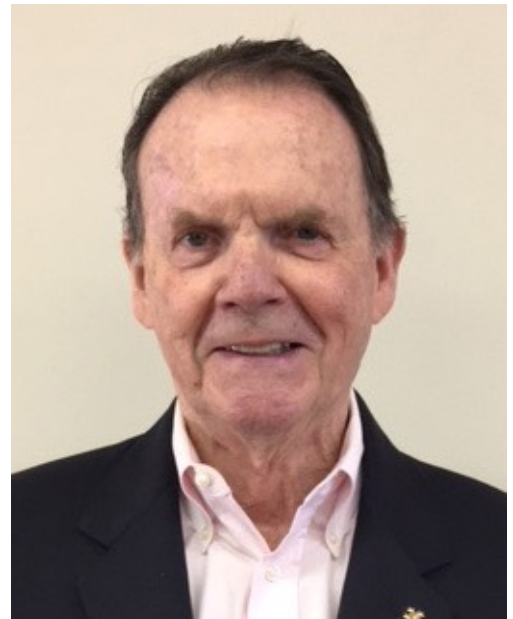
John completed his formal education at Colgate University, located in Hamilton, New York, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. John went on to become President and CEO at Andritz Sprout Bauer, Inc.

John married the former Lalla Peterson on April 12, 1958 at her church, St. Mary's Episcopal, in Crystal Lake, IL. They honeymooned in Mexico and took up residence in Long Beach, CA where he was stationed in the US Navy, serving as a Commissioned Naval Officer from

1956-1959. They had four children, Amy, Pete, Charles, and Paula.

John was a covenant partner of First Presbyterian Church Corpus Christi and served as an elder and on the Evangelism committee.

John is survived by his daughter, Amy Lipkin (Stephen), of Dallas, TX; sons, Pete, of Houston Texas, Charles, of Philadelphia, PA; son-in-law, Ira Tate, of Flemington, NJ; grandchildren, Allie Greenberger, Jack and Ian Goodwillie, all of greater Philadelphia, Chase Tate, of Flemington, NJ; and nephew, Joe Potter, of Austin TX. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lalla, and their youngest daughter, Paula, who died in 2013.



Memorial Services and burial will be held in August in Barnet, Vermont, at an Ancestral Burial Site in Barnet Center Cemetery.

JANUARY birthdays

1/1	Merrell Clark
1/9	Sarah Gill
1/13	Tom Duncan John Holmgreen
1/14	Jacob Mason
1/16	Billie Jo Sword
1/26	Vance Longlois
1/27	Bret Deardorf Jeff Loving



ECO NEWS

Mission Presbytery will vote to dismiss Community Presbyterian Church in Port Aransas to ECO at a called meeting via Zoom on January 21. Continue to keep the church and this process in your prayers.

The **ECO National Gathering**, a time of training and connecting with other church leaders, will take place January 30-February 1 at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, CA. The theme is "Dwell," and is centered on Ephesians 3:16-18. Keynote speakers will include Rick & Kay Warren and author John Mark Comer. Texas Presbytery will meet during the National Gathering.

The team from First Pres attending include Pastor Chip, Moses Camacho, Amy Smith, and Ryan Barbato.

DINNERS FOR EIGHT

By Cathy Bowlin

Start off the New Year connecting with some of the best people in Corpus Christi - your church family! Sign up for dinner that will begin on January 21st at 6 p.m.

You will be assigned to a group of eight. We already have volunteer hosts for this first dinner.

Once your group has met for the first time, you as a group, will decide on your next dinner meeting. You will decide whether to have in someone's home, go out to eat together, or have a picnic on the shore or someone's backyard.

The first dinner you will bring a side to share, and the host will provide the entrée and drinks.

We see each other every Sunday, but time is limited and not conducive to getting to know one another.

Sharing a meal together is so biblical and lightens our hearts when we commune together.

I can't wait to deepen our relationships. Those of us that attended the Hooks game had so much fun and made some good memories.

These dinners will be fun like that, and we all need some lightheartedness in these stressful times. If you are someone that does not drive after dark, don't despair. We will pick you up and deliver you back home!

BAPTISM OF ELLIE MCMANN

Jesus said to Baptize - baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and we will be with Him forever. This is the outward seal that we belong to Him.

On December 04, 2022, Ellie Moon McMann was presented for baptism. Ellie is the daughter of covenant partners Sinae and Calvin McMann.



COMMITMENT CARDS

If you have not yet filled out a Commitment Card it's not too late. Cards were mailed in November and additional cards are available in the church Narthex.

Completing a commitment card allows you to put your commitment to Christ and to your church in writing. It also helps us know your willingness to pray and serve.

It is also especially helpful to the Session to have an idea of what you expect to contribute to the work of Christ through First Presbyterian. The church is only able to operate with the generosity of those who give faithfully.

You may put your completed card in the offering plate on Sunday or return it to the church office by mail or in person.

I joyfully commit myself to the work of Jesus at First Presbyterian Church in the following ways:

Name _____

☐ **pray**
I will pray regularly for the people and ministries of First Presbyterian Church.

☐ **serve**
I will prayerfully participate in ministries of First Presbyterian, using my God-given time and abilities to serve others.

☐ **give**
I commit to joyfully giving back to God a portion of His gifts to me. I estimate that I will give to First Presbyterian Church:
 \$ _____
☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ yearly



SERVE YOUR CHURCH

This year, consider how you can serve *in* your church:

- Host fellowship after worship
- Teach youth or children's Sunday School
- Volunteer to work with the youth
- Visit homebound members
- Take meals to families in crisis
- Work in church flower beds
- Help paint & repair
- Greet on Sunday mornings
- Sing in the choir
- Serve on a committee

If you would like to serve in any of these ways, please indicate so on your connect card in worship or contact the church office.

2022 POINSETTIAS

In Memory of

Ray & Beth Barbato & Sam Ramon
from Ryan Barbato
Margaret & Hewitt B. Fox *from The Stan Fox Family*
Jack Smith *from Keith, Becca & Charlotte Smith*
John Boone *from The Klager's*
Tom Stewart- husband, father, "Papa"
from Dale Stewart and Family
The Tisovic family *from Diana Gill*
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Galloway Sr.
from Herman Galloway, Jr.
Tesoro Gregory *from Brad & Jane Kisner*
Carol & Bill Minor and Doug Harl
from The Harl Family
Dickye Hickman *from Hunter Hickman*
Robert Madalin *from Bret Madalin*
John Boone *from Rebecca Pinion*
Lt. Col. & Mrs. James M Jones, Jose Hernandez &
Dora Juarez *from Walter & Arcy Scogin*
Charlotte & Dezso Meszarus, Susan Hutton, Warren
& Sally Hutton, John & Carolyn
from The Hutton Family
George & Bobbie Derry and Carl & Amelia Henny
from David and Karen Henny
The Thompson's from Cathy Bowlin
Viola Allen & Evelyn Luckett
from Pat & Chuck Luckett

Max Cornelius & Doris Loving
from Kellye & Jeff Loving
Billye & Doug Cooke and Barby Meyer
from Kim Tucker
Harold & Martha Wemer, Frank E. Frances Hoover
from Mark & Kathy Wemer
Manuel R. Reyes and Jose Guzman, Jr.
from Tony Reyes
Pastor Chip's Grandmother Gertrude Blackshear
from Dave & Sue Blackshear

In Honor of

Chastidy Rodriquez, Cayson & Cooper Loving
from Kellye & Jeff Loving
Murray & Susan Thompson & Larry & Caren Cobb
from Keith, Becca & Charlotte Smith
Al Tisovic *from Diana Gill*
Our Church Family *from Chip & Leslie Blackshear*
Imogene Smith *from Norris & Sharon Stricker*
Sally C. Madalin and Robert E. Madalin
from Bret Madalin
The Hoover Family and Lila Sutherland
from The Hoover Family

Other

God's Glory *from The Delk's*