



FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord

Check out the newsletter in full color on our website, www.firstprotestant.com *Late Spring 2016*

National Teacher Appreciation Day/Week at First Protestant School

National Teacher Appreciation Day, also known as National Teacher Day, is observed on the Tuesday of the first full week in May. This day is part of Teacher Appreciation week, which is the first full week in May of each year.

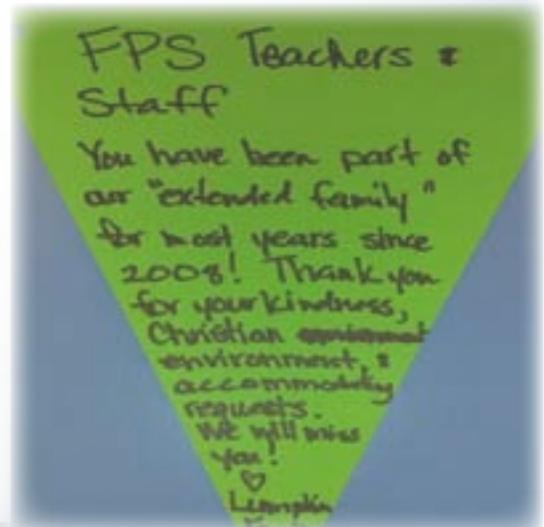
The National Education Association describes National Teacher Day "as a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives"



The teachers of FPS play a critical role in educating and shaping our children: the future leaders of our community. They are kind, patient, hardworking, dedicated and understanding professionals that mold our children's lives in a positive direction. We entrust our children with the teachers, and they affect their lives on a daily basis. con't...Page 15



It takes a big
heart
to help shape
little
minds.





FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS

172 West Coll Street
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
Church Office (830) 609-7729
First Protestant School (830) 606-4110

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First Protestant Church Staff Directory Church Office Phone (830) 609-7729

**Please note that some of our email address have changed.
The Church Staff can be reached by email using the addresses below.**

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Church Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9-12 & 1-4, Friday 9-12 & 1-3
Where Everybody is Somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord

Please enjoy your newsletter in full color online at firstprotestant.com.



Our Newest Members...



Ruth Chambers... lives here and in Dallas. Her elderly mother still lives in Dallas and her children live in San Antonio, so New Braunfels is a nice in-between place. Ruth came to Slumber Falls as a young person and loves the church. She does some political work in Dallas.

David and Kim Griffith... David is a retired electrician, and retired from Corning and CMI steel mill. He does maintenance work at Oak Tree Nursing Home. Kim is working on her Doctorate degree in nursing and is employed at TLU. She and David have a son living in Midland with three grandsons, another son living in Ferris, TX and a daughter, who recently graduated and is looking for a job.



Darin Roberts... moved his family to New Braunfels in June to become the Director of Children's Ministry for FPC. He and Angie have 2 children who attend Canyon School. Their daughter Christie, will graduate in May. Angie hopes to return to school and finish her degree in social work.



WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!

Judd Sanders... loves to cook, has coached children's sports and works in San Antonio for IT Spurs Sports and Entertainment. His wife, Jennifer, is a student working on her degree from Howard Payne. They have 2 children, who are attending Comal ISD schools.

Cindy and Jimmy Jackson... live in Marion. Debbie Lowe invited them to come to FPC. Cindy is a physical therapist for ECI for Comal County. Jimmy works for CPS Energy (Compliance). They love the Contemporary service because their children enjoy coming to it so much. They have 3 children and love all kinds of sports.



The Lesson of the Pavers

By Sue Saur



We have been renovating the Saur farmhouse since we purchased it from my in-laws over 15 years ago. We have plastered and stained, painted and tiled this abode into one that would sufficiently serve our blended family. And for all these many years, it has; albeit, several worthy projects still wait to rise to the top of “the list”. Now, with the kids all grown up, and with our spare time (and money) no longer tied to the extra-curricular activities of 5 teenagers, it was time again to turn our attention to those lingering tasks.

While renovated bathrooms still top the list, several upcoming events prevented the start of such an in depth project. That allowed the patio redo to rise to the top. Over the years the pavers had shifted, so we planned to re-level it, and then expand the patio to twice its original size. Demolition and foundation prep went about as we expected, held up a few days by rain, but overall, just like the guy in the YouTube video had explained. It was finally time to lay the new pavers. One by one, they went in, each one increasing our confidence for the next. In fact, we are already joking about marketing the sand leveling contraption my husband, Charles, had rigged up.

But as quickly as it began, the honeymoon was over. Suddenly, every paver was a problem. We lifted and reset the 40 lb. slabs over and over again, gingerly releveling the sand, flicking out any wayward twig or pebble, only to be met with a still-wobbling brick. The sun beat down on our aching backs. Our confidence plummeted along with our mood.

We cried out, “Why is this so hard?! What is wrong with these pavers?! God, please give us a break!”

He was quick to answer.

Difficult pavers reveal more about your character, and your need for me, than do the easy ones.

I hung my head. It was true. We were so confident, patting ourselves on the back, victorious when the pavers went down easily. We didn’t think to thank God for the easy pavers, we rather, expected them. We saw these easy pavers as a testament to our skill and preparation. Not God’s grace. We only needed God to step in to fix the pavers we couldn’t seat. Once we ran out of our skill and strength, in our exasperation, and only then, we called out for God’s intervention. Hmmm. (Convicted.)

How quick I am to be irritated by the inconvenience of a difficult paver. It squelches my peace; it reveals my pride. I don’t like to struggle. But if I am honest, it is in my struggle where I am best positioned to reflect; where I learn humility, grace, and eventually, when I quit kicking, the art of being still. It is then I am fully aware of His comforting hold on my life.

He invites us to call on Him for help, for relief—and, yes, for miracles, when we face the difficult pavers in this life. While I can’t say I welcome difficult pavers; in hindsight, I can see that what I want Him to just take away, He will use, if I’m willing, to grow me, and draw me closer to Him.

I want to know you better, Lord. I want to love you better. Help me be truly thankful, not expectant of the easy pavers you provide each day. And when the difficult pavers come, I pray you will calm my spirit and turn my eyes towards You. Still my struggling. Remind me again how much You love me, hold me close, and teach me. Amen

Perspective

by Don Burquest

The list of those, my friends,
who've gone before, grows longer every single day.
Within each morning's small-town news,
arrayed along the Obits page,
I find a name I know.

Or so it seems.

It's as the well-worn saw recounts:

I fail to see my own name,
so I clamber from my bed.

But why?

It is in fact, as each one knows,
no more than just a brief reprieve,
postponement merely, delay but temporary.
Rained out, but hold on to your ticket stub,
it's good for re-admission, free, tomorrow.

Shakespeare called this earthly life

A tale told by an idiot,

Full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing.

I humbly beg to disagree.

All-time Poet Laureate he may be indeed,
but even poets sometimes

tell us things that are not true.

Still, if there is an idiot who is telling my own tale,

I have no one but myself to blame.

Our Savior Jesus put it this way:

I came to give you life,

life abundant far beyond your wildest dreams.

So now that is the way I wish to live:

boldly, on my tiptoes,

expecting awesome beauty and adventure
just around each dimly lighted hidden bend,
savoring the abundant gift of yet another day
to live on God's green earth,

and maybe by His grace to help some others
find their lives have grown abundant too.

Then on that day in which it's found

it's my name that is listed in bold type,
with elegiac commentary glowing just beneath,

my faults ignored by these, my friends,
who wrote it, recollecting nothing but the good
for public reading and consumption,

I may be sad I've had to leave
this world so rich in glory,

and you.

Temporarily.

But I with Jesus will return
on yet another day of essence most profound,
and I will see you then again, on the new earth,
promised, though difficult I find it to believe,
to be even better than this one.

Winner of the Books of the Bible
Race against Mr. Suspenderman...
Kiana Wood



Vision and Drive

I am coming up on the end of my first year at First Protestant, and I absolutely love it! We have had great services where kids gave their hearts to Jesus. We have had amazing discussions of what it means to be a Christian, and what the Bible says the Church is to be, in Sunday School. We have run crazy contest, where kids learned that kids' church can be fun. And we did a Books of the Bible contest where more than half of our kids learned to say all sixty-six books, with one girl saying them all in fifteen seconds. I got to swim in slime for that one.

We are now getting ready for vacation Bible school. We will be having a "Savior Safari," teaching the kids about world missions. It is going to be great.

In the scriptures, God shapes and changes people by showing them visions, and by speaking to them. Joseph with his dream. Isaiah with his visions. Paul, on the road to Damascus and so many more. These experiences shaped who they were, and what they did. They were driven to live, to speak, to preach, in ways not quite considered normal by the mainstream of the culture.

People have asked why I do kids ministry the way I do, why I am "Suspenderman," or why I don't ever want to do any other ministry. Why do I do crazy stunts, slimy games and undignified antics? After a discussion with one of our pastors, I decided to explain it here. Here are the things that drive me. I remember a little boy of about 7 who showed up at a children's church in Albuquerque who would kick you if you got too close, and would not talk to anyone. His dad, looking unkempt and hungover, would pull up in a pickup, wait for the kid to jump out of the bed, and drive off. Then after church, he would drive up, grab the kid by his belt, and toss him back into the bed before driving off. After a year, the boy came in, hugged each worker and introduced himself, before telling us he was moving away. His last words to us were "Thanks for loving me." This drives me to always reach out to those who don't fit the "church" mold.

Vision and Drive, con't....

I had the memory of fifteen Mexican children, from three different families, all living in a single wide trailer in a bull pen at a dairy with no power. They would be waiting for a church bus at 7 a.m., regardless of the weather, for a 10:30 church service. It drives me to make every service meaningful and impacting, teaching the whole, living, unfailing word of God that they could rely on to change their lives.

At my very first church, I had two very small children, usually happy and playful, get on the bus and hide under the seats. The little girl had been awakened by bullets coming through the sheetrock right over her face.... shot into the house by drug dealers who did not like the mom's new boyfriend.

These kids were running to the church as a refuge of safety. This has driven me to write my own sermons, not relying on a curriculum, but making sure, what I am teaching is written for these specific kids to meet today's specific needs in their lives, led by the holy spirit. That day, the curriculum lesson was a cute little thing about Jesus walking on the beach.

I had a friend in high school, David, who for weeks kept pestering me with questions about God. I was too busy with my first girlfriend, working my first job, and being a worker in the kids church, to actually pay attention to what he was asking. One day, he quit asking. That was the day he took his own life. This drives me to make every moment with a child important, to give them a foundation for life that will never fail. It also is why I never want to miss a Sunday or Wednesday, or a birthday home visit.

I am driven to never miss a chance to pray with a child, after seeing that a child with diabetes refused to take his meds because he said he was healed after we prayed. After hours of adamantly refusing, the parents took the child to the hospital, and found he was healed.

For me, Big Top Kids' Church is a church. A training ground for future life savers and world changers. It is a spiritual hospital for hurting and wounded children, and a place to prepare them for the works God has set before them. A place to support parents, assisting them in the spiritual upbringing of strong men and women for Jesus. All these experiences, plus many, many more, drive what I do.

What visions and experiences drive you? Does any of this drive you to be active in nursery? In Kids Church? To minister to that neighbor? To talk to your waitress or cashier about God's Love?



Women's Ministries

by Alice Boettger

Women's Ministries
Ladies Spring Retreat and
Luncheon 2016



Host Alice Boettger,
Speaker - Paula Key
Soloist - Makisha Keith,
Entertainment - Sylvia Van de Loo



Alice Boettger and Edie Burquest with Closing Prayer, Lizanne Wynne - Opening Prayer, Makisha Keith - Soloist, Melanie Beauchamp - Pledge of Allegiance and "America the Beautiful," Paula Key - Speaker, Sylvia Van de Loo - entertainment

Women's Ministries Easter Flower Team for Sunday Morning 2016



Alice Boettger, Laurel Evans, Tina Lindeman, Jennifer Graham, Charlene Nolte, Mary Wendland, Shirley Norton
Not included in picture are Gladys Bartling, Edie Burquest and Gay Wimberley.



Hospitality Committee

by Mae Kraft

We Need Your Help!

Funeral Receptions



Did you know that one of the nicest things we do for our church members is to provide a reception after a funeral?

We pride ourselves in working hard to do a good job for the families. Doing this for our members, allows them to not have to worry about seating or food, when there are so many other things to take care of at this time.

We have five teams, of about 25 ladies on each team, that do this. They rotate, so no team has to do it back to back. If it is a very large reception, we sometimes need to ask two teams to do the reception. We ask the ladies to provide a dozen sandwiches, a cake, chips, or pickles. If possible, helping in the kitchen for just an hour or two, makes a difference and is very helpful and appreciated. We average 12 receptions per year. Fortunately, we live in a time where we can go to a bakery or store to get chicken salad or ham salad already made for sandwiches, pick up a bag of chips or jar of pickles.

We are continuously losing members on our teams due to aging, health issues, etc., so we are asking for your help.

We would like to invite any of the ladies in the congregation to join a team. Just give Mae Kraft a call at 608-0971 and let her know you are interested in serving the church in this way.



Funerals are changing and we are seeing many more private burials with a memorial service following at the church, which means more will attend the reception.

Please pray about this and give us a call. It is a great way to get to know other ladies in the church and minister to those going through very difficult times.

Lay Ministry

By Jill Rodriguez



FPC Lay
Ministry
needs
YOU!

First Protestant Church currently has approximately 60 members either homebound or residing in various skilled nursing facilities. The goal of our FPC Lay Ministry team is for each of these members to receive, at minimum, one visit per month. At this time there are approximately 25 members who need a Lay Minister assigned to them. That all being said.....

FPC NEEDS YOU!

A Lay Minister is defined as a person who is not an ordained minister but performs similar functions. These functions can include administering communion, scripture reading and prayer. As Christians, we are all called to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ here on earth. Lay Ministry is a beautiful way to share God's love with others. No experience is necessary; materials and training are provided.

Please be in prayerful consideration of becoming a FPC Lay Minister. YOU are desperately needed to visit our members who can no longer attend church services and/or functions. You will be blessed immensely by these people you visit.

Please contact Jill Rodriguez, Director of Lay Ministry, for more information: jill@firstprotestant.com or 512-665-3762.





Merge Youth Ministry at First Protestant Church has been growing in spiritual depth as we meet and discuss life as a Christian in a broken world. I am privileged to be part of these students' lives as we journey together to be better disciples. A big part of this growth comes from my volunteer staff. They put in many hours throughout the year to love the youth and to help them in their spiritual journey. I want to thank Charlie and Shawn Wimberley, Janet Wittler, Eric Marshall, Janessa Savage, Eric and Renee Goelzer, and Oscar Hernandez in their dedication to these youth.

I encourage those that are interested in being more involved in church to think about being a youth leader and would love to answer any questions.

Sunday school is a time for our students to really engage in studying scripture. We finished up our discipleship lessons, then this same discipleship lesson was facilitated for our Lenten Discipleship Series. The youth and I are now learning How To Deepen Our Relationship With God through ten truths from scripture. Within these 10 weeks, we also talked about how to share the Gospel in a clear way to other people.

Youth Group is a great time to have fun, fellowship, and learn about topics, ideas, and things that are happening in the world. At the beginning of the year, the youth learned about using social media and how the world is bombarded with it. The youth learned that being a Christian isn't just how we act around people or by ourselves, but what we also do on social media. It is easy to be okay with certain things on social media because the world has said it's okay. In many ways, when the world says it's okay, Jesus doesn't. We must live by the standards of Jesus and not by the world. Learning that the Christian life is different than the world is important even when we engage in social media. The youth were also involved in facilitating the Lenten Discipleship Series. This is great material for what we as Christians are to be doing every day in this world. After the Lenten Discipleship Series, I prayerfully considered our next topic, and I chose to look at what it means to be a church participant vs. a church attender. The three things we are measuring are: does it produce fruit, maturity, and growth. As the pastor of youth, I want my youth to get as much practice and knowledge before they leave the youth group and my hope is that they will start practicing being a church participant vs. a church attender. Statistics show that at least half of youth will graduate high school and eventually leave the faith. My desire for my youth is that they fall in love with Jesus and know the struggles of this world are worth it.

One of our small groups in the ministry called Intersect, was started to encourage those students who wanted to be leaders in the ministry and wanted to take their faith to the next level. After prayerful consideration, the direction of this group has transformed into an open group to all high school students, meeting outside our regular Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. This group is for those youth who want to talk on a deeper level about topics and their faith. Please be in prayer for this group of high school students as we meet once a month.

Every year we have our Focus retreat, which is a great time to bond together with other youth and learn about God. I want to again thank the host homes that allowed us to use their homes for lessons, sleeping, and hanging out. This year's theme was Duck Commander, based off the TV show Duck Dynasty. The students had a great time with their activity on Saturday afternoon and deep discussion about their faith during the lessons. This weekend couldn't have happened without our leaders as well. Thank you to Janet Wittler, Kim Demore, Renee Goelzer, Janessa Savage, Eric Goelzer, and Riley Goelzer. Thank you for your prayers during this great weekend of spiritual growth.

As the pastor of youth, I not only want to focus inward, but also bring awareness to social justice issues in the world. The youth partnered with World Vision to bring awareness to global hunger. We had a 30-hour lock-in fast. The students did very well during the 30-hour fast. This helped them understand the struggles for the simplest things such as food and water. During the fast, we did a service project around the church, cleaning up the leaves in the parking lot and shoveling the stones back into the playground area. At the end of the fast, we feasted and celebrated. We raised \$415.75, which will feed 11 people for a whole month.

The youth mission team has been underway raising money for our mission trip to Powderhorn, Colorado. We will be working with Sky Ranch to continue our goal of maturing, building, and strengthening our faith during this trip. We have had many fundraisers thus far and the latest was our Super Bowl Sub Sale. Each student must raise \$600 for this trip and we want to thank you for your support in these fundraisers. Our next, and final fundraiser, will be our Stock Sale with a twist. For the month of May, each student will have to sell six stocks. The twist is that they will also have six envelopes, with each one numbered from \$5 to \$30 (in increments of 5). Each student needs to find people (church family, friends, neighbors) and fill each envelope with the denomination on the envelope. Thank you again for your generous support in the spiritual lives of our youth.

Part of being the youth pastor at First Protestant Church, is working with the Children's Pastor Darin Roberts. With our ministries, one thing we recently have worked on is Palm Sunday. The youth assisted in helping with rotations and games at the Palm Workshop. The youth also brought candy, and stuffed just over 1000 Easter eggs for the hunt on Resurrection Sunday.

As the Pastor of Youth Ministries, my desire is for our youth to have a deep love for Jesus Christ. It is hard for youth to figure out what it means to be a Christian in a broken world and it's my privilege to walk along side youth and guide them in the way they should be walking. Thank you to those who support this ministry through donations, tithes, and prayers, as the youth are the church of today. It is our job as a church family to support one another as we navigate through this world. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the youth at First Protestant Church.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Chris Savage
Director of Youth Ministries
Work: 830-609-7729 x22
E-Mail: Chris@firstprotestant.com



2016 Scholarship Recipients

First Protestant Church is pleased to once again, announce the recipients of the scholarships that are awarded on an annual basis through **The Reno O. Schumann Education Trust** and **The Herbert R. and Kathleen Schneider Scholarship**.

The Reno O. Schumann Educational Trust, established in 1975, awards scholarships to active members of First Protestant Church who pursue their education above the rank of high school. This year's recipients are:



Bonnie Sacco
New Braunfels High School



Paige Wittler
New Braunfels High School

The Herbert R. and Kathleen Schneider Scholarship was established in 1989. It awards scholarships to students planning to attend a vocational, trade or business school. This year's recipients are:



Rebecca Anthony
Smithson Valley H.S.



Grace Ariel Crouch
Smithson Valley H.S.



Ashley Foster
Canyon Lake H.S.



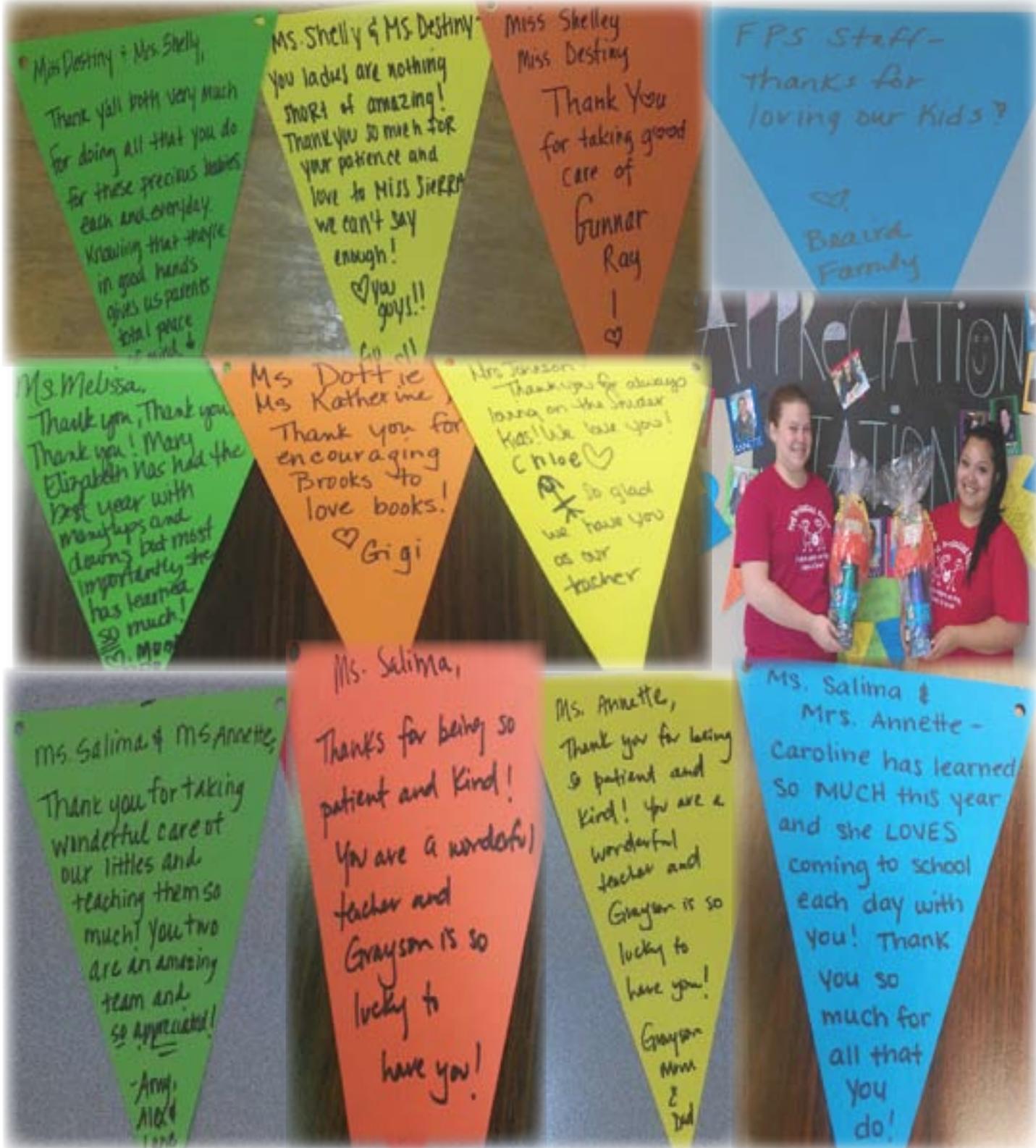
Madison Leavitt
New Braunfels H.S.

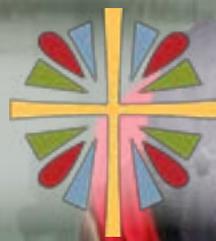
****Not pictured: Mickey Don Byers, Canyon Lake H.S. and Caleb Wright, Canyon Lake H.S.**

Congratulations to all of the 2016 recipients and a special thank you to the dedicated members of First Protestant Church who make these scholarships available.

con't ...National Teacher Appreciation

FPS houses 173 students on a daily basis with 27 staff members including teachers and support staff. To say "Thank You" to the teachers and staff of FPS, the FPS parents, Mrs. Debbie Caraway, FPS Assistant Director, Mrs. Patricia Menchaca, FPS Office Manager, and FPS came together and awarded all of the teachers and staff with tokens of appreciation throughout the week. The gifts of appreciation included bagels for breakfast, jars of candy, lemonade drinks, popcorn treats, lip balm, and a delicious lunch that was delivered to the entire staff on Teacher Appreciation Day. And though we know that we can't thank our teachers enough, we hope that these tokens of appreciation truly express our appreciation for them choosing to be the educators in our lives as well as our children. THANK YOU!





FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS

15th Annual Celebration & Picnic

**Sunday, May 22nd,
after church to whenever**

**Riverfront Home of Rob Miller
544 Granada - Across IH 35 from
NB Marketplace**

**THE ENTIRE FAMILY OF FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH IS INVITED TO A MEAL
OF CHICKEN, SAUSAGE, HOT DOGS, PASTA SALAD & BEANS, PREPARED
BY CHARLES SAUR & HIS TEAM.**

BRING YOUR COLD DRINKS, A DESSERT TO SHARE, LAWN CHAIRS, OUTDOOR GAMES & FRIENDS.

A \$5/ea or \$15/family donation is requested.

**There will be a special celebration to declare your faith in Christ through
open immersion baptism. No reservation is required, but please contact
Rev. Phil Brown, 609-7729 x 20, if you are interested in being baptized.**

First Protestant Church
172 West Coll Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130

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