



FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord

Christmas 2016

*Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you and your family
from the FPC Staff*



The Nativity

by Jerald Schroeder

When it comes to storytelling power, few narratives can rival the birth of Jesus. Every year, in churches and homes of the world's Christians manger scenes depict the story of the Nativity: how the Baby Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary in a Bethlehem stable. How a miraculous star shining brightly over the humble scene announced the birth of the son of God to shepherds and the wise men who came bearing gifts. As we approach the time that we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ let us remember:

In the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12

Please don't miss the opportunity to see all the different nativities on display throughout the sanctuary, on the window sills, on loan from an anonymous church member. These sets have come from various locations all over the globe. From Egypt and Africa to Germany and China, each of these with their own unique styling and unbelievable craftsmanship. Take a few minutes today to stop and enjoy these beautiful works, while we have use of them.

A very special "Thank You" to the member who has given us all a special blessing by sharing part of her collection with us.



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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Melanie Gillum - Administrative Assistant	Ext. 10	melanie@firstprotestant.com

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

October 2016



Robert and Cristabell West
1220 Fox Glen Rd, New Braunfels

Robert has a German background and Cristabell is from Guatemala. He grew up in the Lutheran faith, she, the Catholic but God brought them together in a Baptist singles' class. Cristabell teaches sewing classes at the Salvation Army and she and Robert love FPC, especially the music!



Naoma Huckaby

1360 W. County Line, Apt. #5104, New Braunfels

Naoma was born in Montana and her father was a sugar beet farmer, but died when she was only 10 years old. Her mother was a school teacher. She married and had three boys, but lost her husband and one of the boys early. She had a colorful career in her life as a nurse and other various job positions. She is retired from the VA hospital



Jose and Sylvia Leal
506 Walnut Heights Blvd., New Braunfels

Jose and Sylvia are both from California, but love Texas! They are both from large families. Jose is a cement contractor and Sylvia works for St. Jude's Ranch. They have been married for 28 years and were blessed with four children when God gave them the opportunity to adopt four more giving them eight beautiful children.



Logan and Lerrin Dietel

26631 Forest Link, New Braunfels

Logan comes from the Fredericksburg area where he grew up in the Catholic faith. They have been married ten years and have three boys. Logan is a partner with a financial planning firm. Lerrin grew up locally with an early connection to FPC. She graduated from UT, where she played soccer. Today is a pharmaceutical rep for Women's Health.

Buzz and Sharon Kenney

3524 William Scarbrough, Schertz

Buzz and Sharon live in Schertz, but are from Massachusetts. They are about to celebrate their 50th anniversary by taking an Alaskan cruise. They have one child and two grandchildren. Buzz retired from the Air Force after over 21 years of service. Sharon's heritage is American and Chinese. She has worked as a secretary and housewife. They were both raised in the Northern Baptist faith and came to FPC after hearing the radio broadcasts.





*John and Grace Turner
1697 Marigold Dr., New Braunfels
John was born in Austin, but spent most of his life in New Braunfels and has a career in electronics. Grace grew up in San Antonio and works as a hair stylist out of her home. They have been married 26 years and have four daughters.*



*June Festavan
2744 Diamond Trail, New Braunfels
June is married to a retired Federal Express airline pilot and they have three children, but have lost one son. She was raised in Overland, LA on a plantation and comes from a family of ten with a Methodist background. She has had a career in nursing, labor and delivery. She loves Texas and has no plans of ever leaving!*

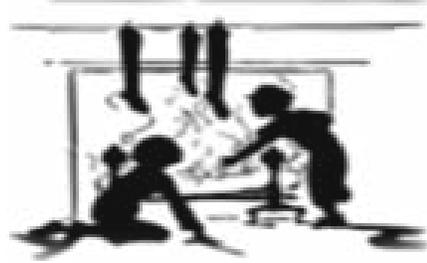


*Mike and Linda Werkman
126 Bandit Bay View, New Braunfels
Raised in Oklahoma, Mike graduated from the University of Oklahoma, then returned to get his MBA in computer programming, but retired early to care for his parents. Linda was a flight attendant for Eastern Airlines and a nurse. She comes from an English and American background. They have two children.*



The Stocking

by Sue Saur



It is just a simple little green stocking, no more than five inches long, with a large "B" appliqued to the front. And while the other stockings will remain in the Christmas box until early December, this one hangs by the woodstove from the same square nail within handy reach of a toddler, all year long.

He's five now, but when he was barely two, our grandson came to understand the wonder of the Christmas stocking. Not that it ever held more than a candy cane or a small trinket; still he was aware of the potential. So, three years ago, on that January morning as I packed up decorations, he, cozy in his footed dinosaur pajamas, quietly unpacked just his stocking, and toddled it back to its spot on the wall, repeatedly...

There it remains.

He is mine every Thursday and Friday while his parents work. And every Thursday and Friday he will go to his stocking to find a treat. Maybe a sticker, maybe a small car...and should I forget to fill it, he is very accommodating. "I will hide my eyes so you can put something in it," he says, "I hope it is a toy!"

He is subtle like that.

And so it goes. Each time he comes to be with me, he knows to search that green sock by the woodstove. It has become a silly, special little tradition just between us that delights me. I hope one day when he becomes "too old" for his stocking that he, too, will remember it fondly.

It seems each time I come to God, I have a stocking to fill. As I meet Him in prayer, I say, "I hope it is...health for our aging parents, protection for our children, and our precious grandson. Comfort for a grieving friend; hope for our nation. Lord, I pray You will strengthen our church; raise us up as a part of "the universal Christian church," to respond to the suffering right in front of us and across the ocean. Spur us to love those who are hard to love in real, tangible ways. Ways that will point them undeniably to You.

Draw me closer to you, Lord, I pray. I want to know you better. Let me sit for a while today in your lap, warmed by the glowing woodstove, and enjoy Your presence. I will be thankful for all the gifts you have already placed in my "stocking," confident that tomorrow I can bring it back to be filled again.

And You will delight in it.

Mr. Suspenderman invites you to...



Fables, Fairy Tales, and The Bible

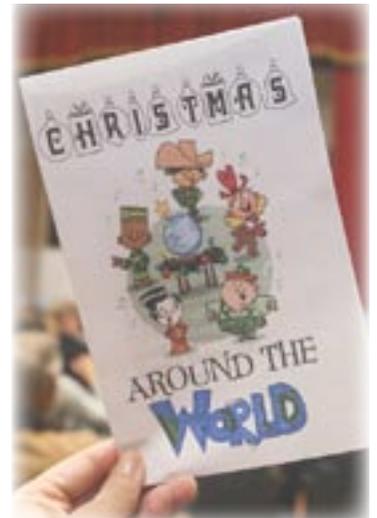
BY PASTOR DARIN

I was listening to a speaker who said something profound. He said, when you tell stories to children, most start with "Once upon a time..." Adults know that this is a myth. It is make-believe and fiction. We understand that even if it is a fable with a meaning, it is still a made-up story. When we say "A long time ago..." we usually understand that it is a true story that actually happened, but not recently. Our issue in modern times is that the lines for the difference between these has blurred so much that most kids do not understand the difference. We have cartoon birds that run into a painting, and cartoons that tell of a man in a den of lions. We have Veggie's telling of a cucumber killing a giant pickle. Parents read a book of bulls who do not want to fight, and stories of three boys in a furnace. We have kids who hear of a fat old man with a red suit who is watching our behavior, rewarding us when we are good and giving a lump of coal when we are not. One who knows when we are sleeping or awake. He has a little worker who sits on a shelf watching every move... Then those same kids come to church and hear of a Savior who knows our every thought, who wants to live in their hearts, with forever rewards if they obey, and punishment if they don't. So the question comes down to being honest with our kids so they know "Truth". How much do we share fantasy, and how much honesty can they handle? Quite a dilemma. And this is only one of so many places parents must help their children navigate to live within such a secular world, but not to be conformed to it. This is why we do what we do in Children's Church, and all the children's ministries. In kids church, we teach the Bible, showing it's truth with history, science, and object lessons. All we do is always scripture based, telling of "Long ago". Even our Christmas Play was about explaining the symbology of many of the ornaments as ways to point to Jesus as Savior. But where do we draw the lines for cultural things?

This January, we are starting a parenting fellowship to discuss this and many other topics about being a Christian parent. We will discuss God's idea of parents, his requirement for a parent, and how we as the church are to support each other in parenting our kids. We will be meeting Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM for about thirty minutes of Bible study, and then discussion and fellowship over whatever snacks people bring. While the parents are doing their study, the kids will be in the next room playing and fellowshiping as well. I am hoping that all the families with elementary-school-aged children will come be a part of this, as we learn to help each other doing the parent thing like God said to "long, long ago"...



Big Top Kids cont...Christmas Pageant 2016



Women's Ministries

by Alice Boettger

*Women's Ministries Celebrating
125th Anniversary
1891-2016*

*First Protestant Church
Family Christmas Party*

*Sponsored by
Women's Ministries
Women with a Mission
Flying Fingers*

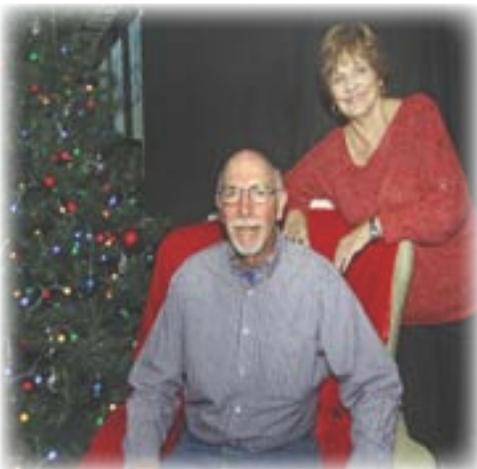


Christmas Carols around the Piano



Special Guest Guitarist "Monte Good"





A Very Merry Christmas from all the ladies in Women's Ministries and a Blessed New Year! Start your new year off right. Come be a part of this wonderful group of ladies who possess a servant's heart and a love for people. Contact Alice Boettger for meeting times and places, amboettger@gvtc.com



Women's Ministries
Potato Soup Annual Fund Raiser 2016
124 Pints of Potato Soup made with pure Love!
Heidi, Mary, Robin, Laurel, Jennifer, Sharon, Charlene, Gay, Shirley and Alice.

Christmas Schedule:
Christmas Eve Services
December 24th

Traditional	3:30 pm	Sanctuary
Traditional	5:30 pm	Sanctuary
Contemporary	7:30 pm	Schumann Hall

**No 11:00 pm service*

Unified Christmas Day Service at
10:30 am in the Sanctuary.



New Year's Day Services
10:30 Traditional Service - Sanctuary
10:30 Contemporary Service - Schumann Hall

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

by Joanna Hermans Lewis

The First Protestant Sanctuary Choir is alive and well!

Since we started the Fall season, our schedule has been packed with some very different selections, courtesy of Dr. Joey Martin's fertile brain. He is always coming up with new pieces for us - the harder, the better.

We have lost a couple of members to retirement, but gained new ones, so we are still at full strength. Most of our scholarship students are still with us and as the need arises, Dr. Martin brings in extras.

Our Choir Director has introduced an ensemble group composed of choir members - it started as a "quartet" but blossomed to over 12. The more the louder!

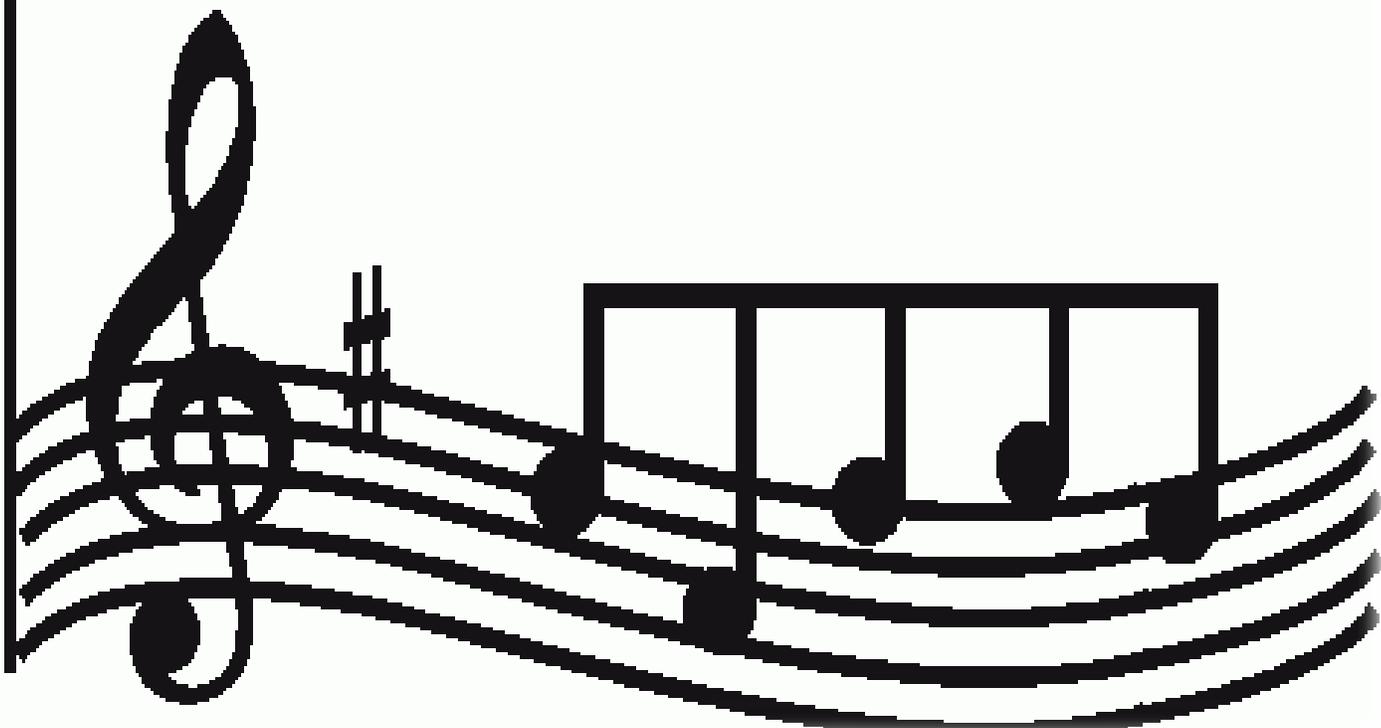
We have enjoyed services starting at 9:00 a.m. with the second beginning at the usual 10:30 a.m. - no more early calls! Several months ago, the Choir began singing at both services the first Sunday of the month and will continue doing so through December.

Our Christmas gift of Lessons and Carols, "Holy Night", will be presented December 18, 2016, at both services. Brand new material - you won't want to miss it!

Also new this year are the Christmas Eve service times for the Sanctuary Choir - the first at 3:30 p.m. and the second at 5:30. The Contemporary Service remains at 7:30 p.m.

We hope you are enjoying the music - we love offering it!

Merry Christmas!





Role-model or Re-model

by Pastor Chris Savage

I have been involved in ministry for several years and now God has led me here to First Protestant Church to be the Pastor of youth. God has laid a passion in my heart to minister to youth and to work alongside parents to help develop their child's spiritual journey. I have been cultivating this passion by reading books and articles, attending conferences, studying youth activity, and talking with people that are investing in my life to learn how to be a great pastor, and not just a good one. I do not think I have arrived at learning all I can, like everyone else. It is a journey to get from here to there. My desire is to be a great pastor and so far, there have been some successes and some mistakes. As mistakes are made, I hope to learn and try to repeat that mistake. Some of my mistakes were due to living too close to our worldly culture. So my objective is to partner with you, more than I have in the past, to give you tools that will help to equip you to lead your children in a Biblical worldview.

Our American culture has changed over the decades and even the last ten years. When I was in high school, (about 9 years ago), schools and churches worked well together. Sports' practices were not scheduled on Wednesday or Sunday nights, so as not to interfere with church ministry. Many of our parents today know all too well that this is not the case anymore. We have sports and other events that have taken these days away from ministry time. So as parents, how can you be a Christian role model in an ever-changing culture for your kids?

I think the best place is to look at what scripture has to say about being a Christian. From our Focus weekend, we can use this analogy: God is like the sun and his children are the moon, who reflects the sun. When we have come to our senses (Luke 15) we realize the need for God and our response is to live and be reflections of Him. All that He is, we are to be too. You might be asking, I am a Christian, but how do I reflect God? Here is the answer: you have to be in the Word. Don't just read it, but allow it to transform you. As our relationship grows closer to God, we become more like the role model Jesus intended us to be here on earth, as well as for our kids. There are a lot of good things we can be involved in, but are we saying 'yes' to many of those good things that squeeze our time in having a relationship with God? It is okay to say 'no' to good things. We have to be careful not to load our day too full of those 'good things', because it's easy to not make reading or talking with God a priority.

I like to listen more than speak in conversations, because that is how I know where people are, where they are going and how they feel. After listening over the years, I can tell that parenting is hard. There are a lot of decisions that you have to make; some things you say 'yes' to and other things you say 'no' to. As each season of your child's life unfolds, you have new decisions to make. And in some cases, new ones that you thought you would never come across. As I said earlier, our culture is changing and sometimes saying 'no' to one thing, means saying 'yes' to something else.

As you wrestle with these decisions, be aware that your children are watching you walk through these processes of making the 'yes's and no's'. Kids learn from the model you present to them by your actions and words. By watching you, they start to take on some of your characteristics. The scary reflection question for you as parents is: Are the decisions I make always reflecting God? As Christians, we have a responsibility to reflect the Son, but if you are a parent you also have another responsibility: your children (Proverbs 22:6). Parents are called to train up their children to be able to sustain their own lives. Not just to live on their own, but to help them understand that God should be flowing through every aspect of their life. The best way to any relationship is communication. Adults are not perfect, but we know if your going to be in any sort of relationship, then we need to learn to communicate. I wish my mom and dad had talked to me more about how they wrestled with some decisions and how they got to their final decisions. As you try to make the best decisions for your children, I want to help you by trying to give you a different perspective. We are not perfect and we will make more mistakes because we often need to work on a certain area of our lives. I want you to be the best disciple role model your children will mimic, in order to further God's kingdom, and I'm striving to be the best role model as well.

The awesome thing about the Christian life is that our Lord is a gracious God. He sent his Son for each of us on this earth and wants everyone to come home with him. When we recognize our sinful state and choose Jesus, we are reborn. Not a physical rebirth, but a spiritual rebirth into the Holy Spirit. If you have had your rebirth into the Spirit and have since allowed worldly living to be a bigger part of your life, God will forgive you if you ask for forgiveness. God will continue to remodel areas of your life to be a greater reflection of Jesus if you allow Him. I continue to place myself at the foot of the cross and want to encourage you to continue to look for spiritual wisdom in all areas of your life.

So, are you a Godly role model reflecting the image of God? I think most of us would say we still need a little bit more re-modeling. We are not perfect and due to our sinful nature, we will make mistakes. These are great moments to learn from so we can do better next time. It's important to share your faith, failures, and successes with your children so they make good decisions and don't fall into the same hard situations. I know this is a hard thing to do. No one wants to confess their failures, but when we do are no longer trapped by those secrets. The great thing about our life is that it's a journey, so it doesn't matter where you are at this point, we can start today by being disciples. By starting today, you can read your Bible with your kids and have discussions about what you read and how it applies to your life. Wherever you're at, make today the day that you say 'yes' to God and share your life with your kids.

As your youth pastor, I would love to partner with you more to help disciple your child. I am just a part of their journey for a season, but you're a part of their journey for life. You have more influence and time to coach your children to be great disciples, than I do. So what do you say: "Yes, I will allow God to work in my life to re-model me and make me more like Christ", or "No thanks"? My prayers for our youth are that they would trust in God and live out their faith in every area of their life. God wants to heal wounds and mend relationships in order to draw the lost to Himself.

Your children are great and I love spending time with them and discipling them. I encourage them to live out their faith at school because it is their mission field. I hope you are encouraging them as well.

May God continue to transform us into his image, so we can reach all people for Jesus.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to disciple alongside you with your children and to watch them grow, over time, into the image of God.

Merge Youth in Pictures





Security

- IT'S A BATTLE (TO BEAR AVOID)
- IT'S A GIFT (FROM + OF GOD)
- IT COMES WITH GUIDELINES

(PARENTS + APPROVE IT THEM)

- DISCIPLINE
- OBEDIENCE
- LIFESTYLE
- COMMUNITY

Oct
Oct. 2

Overview of The Training-for-LIFE Experience™ Principles

- Weight train, intensely, for no more than 45 minutes, three times per week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Perform 30 minutes of aerobic exercise, first thing in the morning on an empty stomach, three times per week: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Take Sunday off—it's your free day.
- Alternate training the major muscles of the upper and lower body. For example, the first week: train upper body on Monday, lower body on Wednesday, and upper body on Friday. The second week, train lower body on Monday, upper body on Wednesday, and lower body on Friday. (See chart on the previous page.)
- Perform two exercises for each major muscle group of the upper body, which includes: chest, shoulders, back, triceps, and biceps; and for the lower body: quadriceps, hamstrings, and calves. Train the abdominal muscles after lower body.
- Select one exercise for each muscle group and conduct five sets, starting with a set of 12 reps, then increasing the weight and doing 10 reps, adding more weight and doing eight reps, adding more weight for six reps. Then reduce the weight, do 12 more reps, and immediately go to another set of 12 reps of another exercise for that muscle



Lay Ministry

by Jill Rodriguez



FPC Lay Ministry has been busy readying our Christmas bags for our home bound and nursing home members. Many thanks to Women's Ministry for their help in this project. Also, a huge thank you to Naoma Huckaby and Frances Borgfeld for helping stuff, organize and tag our bags for this year. These little bags will bring great joy to our members who are no longer able to be active in our programs here at FPC.



FPC currently has approximately 60 members on our Lay Ministry list. It is our goal that each of those members receive a monthly visit from us to offer company, scripture, prayer and communion. Please contact Jill Rodriguez, jill@firstprotestant.com or 830-609-7729 X13, if you are interested in doing visitation. Materials are provided and no experience is necessary. By visiting, you will be a blessing and you also will be blessed!



Beginning 2017
FPC CHURCH COUNCIL AND BOARDS
JANUARY 1, 2017 – DECEMBER 31, 2017

Council Executive Committee

President	Eric Goelzer
Vice President	Lee Graham
Secretary	Florence Borchers
Treasurer	Jeff Albrecht

Council Members At Large

Brian Coulombe	Sandra Schriewer
Ron Hamel	Kaia Schroeder
Mike Jaroszewski	Carol Hafer
	Carol Burr

Nominating Committee

Herman Borchers	Carroll Lindeman
Carol Burr	Betty Kyle
Gordon Schroeder	Charles Saur

Board of Christian Education

Cathy Fischer	Lori Skrzycki
Jesi Harlow	Chestney Tompkins
Renee Goelzer	Janet Wittler

Board of Contagious Christians

Jon Duckworth	Trent Tompkins
Renee Huckaby	Eric Marshall
Gene Challenner	Paula Molz

Board of Finance

Sarah Cernosek	Barry Polston
Scott Haag	Jeff Albrecht
Keith Buck	Alice Cross

Board of Music & Fine Arts

Vicki Hamel	Jennifer Graham
Linda Dietert	Bob Peterman
Sharon Weidemann	Suzanne Markgraf

Board of Missions

Nathan Cernosek	David Smith
Melissa Williams	Shawn Wimberley
Denise Martin	Caressa Vajdos

Board of Pastoral Care

Elizabeth Marshall	Gay Wimberley
Marlene Moore	Naoma Huckaby
Mike Molz	

Board of Hospitality

Lizanne Wynne	Laurel Evans
Lucille Koehler	Audrey Stratemann
Carole Herr	Bonnie Engler

Salvation Army Representatives

Gene Challenner
Gordon Schroeder

FIRST PROTESTANT
CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS

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

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