



FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

September 2017



The Hope of Back to School By Sue Saur

The temperature dipped briefly into the high 70s after a recent summer shower, cooling the evening sufficiently to enjoy our dinner alfresco. Sufficiently enough to approach the patio table without painfully hopscotching across the molten concrete pavers. Sufficiently enough to sit in the patio chairs without spreading towels on the seats to protect our legs.

Sufficiently enough to stir a longing for fall. The official date on the calendar finally arrived! We now begin a new season as we pine for pumpkin lattes and scarves; and though we found ourselves busy filling those remaining few weeks of August with last minute summer fun and frenzy, it was all in anticipation of the calming routine of the fall-est of fall things: Back to School.

The new school year has arrived. The sales flyers teased with their bounty of school supplies. Tax free weekend always draws the masses to stock up on new shoes and socks and binders and pencils. (Sideline: Don't be tricked by the cheap ones. Those fancy pencils are gold...)

We sit around the bounty spread across the kitchen table, Sharpies in hand. Neatly we label rulers, spirals, and gym shorts, with the seriousness deserving of such an occasion, and a kind of hopeful anticipation rises up in our hearts ...

students, teachers, parents, grandparents... all of us. It is the hope that accompanies all things new; the New Year, new marriages, new gardens, new babies, and the new school year.

New notebooks, with clean paper, new pencils freshly sharpened—is there a scent more glorious?! It is the scent of new chances, new growth, new knowledge, new friendships, new courage.

We have blessed those backpacks, we pray over our children, and we send them forth. Fresh, new, and hope filled. I have a prayer for the rest of us. Most of us won't be donning plaid and heading to class in a few weeks, but we too, are offered the same hopeful anticipation.

Lamentations 3:22-23 says, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Every morning, he promises a new start, a clean slate, another chance. To live better, to love bigger, to serve more selflessly, to know Him deeper.

Lord, thank you that you don't hold grudges, or keep a record of wrongs. We are so good at that. We want to be good at the things of You. Teach us, to listen for Your voice, to study Your word, to love You by loving those You love. Amen



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.**

Rev. Daryl Higgins - Senior Minister	Ext. 16	daryl@firstprotestant.com
Rev. Phil Brown - Associate Minister	Ext. 20	phil@firstprotestant.com
Rev. Chuck Huckaby - Minister of Congregational Life	Ext. 18	chuck@firstprotestant.com
Denise Martin - Director of Children's Ministries	Ext. 26	denise@firstprotestant.com
Chris Savage - Director of Youth Ministries	Ext. 22	chris@firstprotestant.com
Jill Rodriguez - Director of Lay Ministry	Ext. 13	jill@firstprotestant.com
Dr. Joey M. Martin - Director of Music & Fine Arts	(c) 512-787-2269	joey.martin@txstate.edu
Sheenae Hernandez-Garcia - FP School Director	606-4110 Ext. 12	sheenae@firstprotestant.com
Doreen Schaeffer - Business Manager	Ext. 21	doreen@firstprotestant.com
Jerald Schroeder - Director of Operations	Ext. 19	jerald@firstprotestant.com
Mae Kraff - Volunteer Coordinator	Ext. 52	mae@firstprotestant.com
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.



David Gyure: Big Bend or Bust!

By Vicki Hamel

You know how you tend to sit in the same pew each Sunday? Well, Ron and I sit below the 3rd window on the left side, always use Don Taylor's memorial hymnal and keep track of a very interesting man who sits directly behind us.

David Gyure has been a member of our congregation for almost 7 years and a science teacher at CHS for 32 of his 37 years of teaching. If you know him, you'll know he was a no nonsense teacher. But that is not his claim to fame. This summer, David will be making his 43rd trip to Big Bend National Park.

In June 1962 he took his first group of 28 CHS science students, from 10th to 12th grades. That year, he had 6 parents help corral the kids, but after a few years of learning the ropes, he dropped the parental help down to one. The kids brought cots (no tents) and slept out under the stars, 5,000 feet above sea level for 10 days. They ate 1 meal a day at the park restaurant and the rest they made themselves. These trips were free to the children until Canyon High School got a football team. The team needed the bus so his kids paid \$50 each to rent a bus for the trip. He taught them all varieties of science during their daily hikes.

This year, he will take his entire family; 2 sons and their wives and best of all, his 2 granddaughters. He is anxious to teach them what is so important to him. If you have a chance, ask him about his trips. He has great stories to tell. Good luck David and have fun!



Meet Our Newest Members!

by Mae Kraft



Richard and Linda Brodtman

861 Mountain Laurel Dr., NB
830-629-4458

Linda grew up in San Antonio, while Richard is from New Orleans. They met in college and have one daughter and one grandchild who live in Oregon. Richard is an Optometrist at TSO.



Leroy Hardy

909 Wilderness Oaks, NB
213-359-9800

Leroy grew up in New Braunfels, moved away for 40 years and came back to us. Many of his family were members at First Protestant. Upon his return to New Braunfels, he met Patti Westbrook, who had gone to school with him. They got married and are now doing a lot of traveling. He was an administrator at University of Nevada and an entrepreneur in California. Leroy is now retired and enjoying life with his new bride.



Valin Miller

844 Encino Drive, NB
830-608-1127

Valin grew up in New Braunfels and went away to college. She married, lived in Belize and various places in Mexico. She moved back to New Braunfels to be near her Mom and sister. She is a lawyer, working at the Brazle & Pfeuffer Law Firm, in the Pfeuffer house.



Mary Ann Wells

2321 E. Common St., Apt. #2, NB

Mary Ann attended Grace Presbyterian Church Houston for many years and then moved to New Braunfels to be closer to her daughter. She lives in the Augusta Apartments on Common Street. Before retiring, Mary Ann was a nurse.

FPC Children

*by Denise Martin
Director of Children's Ministry*

First Protestant Church's annual Vacation Bible School was held on June 4th-8th each evening in Seele. Fun Maker Factory was the theme and emphasis was on God's children being uniquely created and designed for a specific purpose. Students had opportunities for crafts that allowed them to use their imaginations, games that made them giggle, screech and get wet, devotional time with caring teachers, music that made them sing HIS praises and as ALWAYS opportunities to squirt Pastor Phil with water! Many thanks to all who donated supplies, prayers and their hard work to make this event a success. This could not have happened without ALL of you!

FPC's children's ministry also held a three-day evening camp in August called Summer Sizzle which was held at Rob Miller's lake platz each evening with a sleepover Saturday night at Joe and Sara Tays' lake platz, both of which are located on Lake Dunlap. Students that participated enjoyed small group devotional time with Miss Denise, games with Pastor Chris, crafts and SPLASH time with our Merge students and of course grilled hot dogs and hamburgers from Rob Miller; grill master especial! A special boat ride and devotional time on the lake Sunday morning ended our event with Mr. Tays as our boat captain!

God has so tremendously blessed our children's ministry with new volunteers, Sunday school teachers for the fall and members of our church willing to invest their time, gifts, talents and resources to help our ministry grow. I pray that we as a church family never forget that our children are our future but more importantly, they are the church of right NOW!

All for HIS children,
Denise Martin





Summer Sizzle 2017



Open House
*Getting things started in
Sons & Daughters
and Merge Student
Ministry!*



Women's Ministries

From the Desk - of Alice Boettger - President Women's Ministries

Do we really need Women's Ministry?

There's been a bit of debate in recent years about whether or not churches should have Women's Ministries. In fact, many churches have discontinued their women's ministries.

Some say it's a financial decision and some churches simply feel it doesn't serve a purpose anymore and others say that it's outdated for the today's women?

Some say that careers and other community interest such as civic and social clubs have drawn the ladies away from church programs.

The last time I checked, God was still on the throne and If we can reach the woman, we can very often reach her entire family around the world.

I believe a healthy women's ministry is vital to a church's overall health but, then again, I'm a little old-fashioned.

What do you think?

I would love to hear from you!

Alice Boettger - www.amboettger@gvtc.com

Women's Ministries Annual Luncheon

"If Tea Cups could Talk"

They would say it is a TEA-rrific day to praise the Lord!





Flying Fingers by Mae Kraft



How exciting!! Flying Fingers started up with six of our members there. These ladies have been very busy in the past month at home making receiving blankets, tea towels, crayon aprons, etc.

The school has contacted us to make cot covers for our school children. They take a nap each day and the covers have to be replaced from time to time, as they are washed every week. There are over 100 children in the program. The Children's Director also contacted us to make tags for the backpacks for our children, so you can see we are very busy. We need people to cut covers and sew them. We'd love to have you if you can sew, knit or just enjoy a morning of good fellowship, upstairs in Mae's office. Just contact me to find out the days and times.

Yes, we will miss meeting in the Mornhinweg Center, but our new place is great. We are excited about the new school to be constructed on that location. Gene Mornhinweg would rejoice at the idea of the new school and we pray that construction will go smoothly, allowing us to open next September.



Flying Fingers cont'd...

Real Love For Our Children

On Sunday, August 27th, during the 10:30 services, both Traditional and Contemporary and at the Open House for Sons & Daughters and Merge Student Ministry, we had the Blessing of the Backpacks. One of our Flying Fingers' ladies has made 75 handmade tags for the backpacks. Aren't they beautiful? She made (3) every night for almost a month to get them all done. Denise Martin, our new "Director of Children," has been working tirelessly getting ready for the start-up in September. She is recruiting teachers and other helpers. She is excited to have the opportunity to teach our children all about the love of Jesus Christ. How very exciting! She is a very spiritual lady, talented and gifted ability to work with children and parents.

The sermons we have been hearing have been both inspirational and informative. It is hard to believe we don't have a full church to hear these wonderful sermons! What can we do to encourage others to come? With all the turmoil in the world today, we need to be encouraging family members, friends and neighbors to come to church and hear the word of God. Christians must take a stand for Jesus and be bold, yet kind in spreading the gospel.

We hope you were able to be in church on August 27th or at the Open House, to see the faces of our children, youth and "learners of all ages" as their backpacks were blessed and they received their tag.

Join Flying Fingers on Wednesday mornings in my office for fellowship and share your talents serving God to make something for someone else. We have all kinds of projects going on and feel sure we can find something you can do.

*Mae Kraft
Volunteer Coordinator*





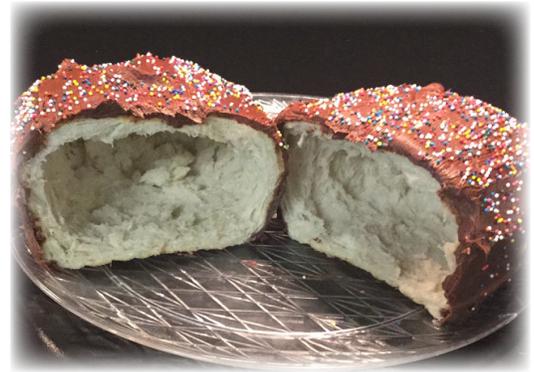
By Pastor Chris Savage



Picnic: Group of Students at the Church Picnic



Alyssa Flugrath being baptized at the annual Church Picnic.



Bread: "I Don't Need to Know That": Looks good on the outside but its empty on the inside. Part of our series this past Spring at Merge Wednesday



Hand Prints: a commitment to stay connected through the summer during Merge Wednesday



Mission Trip Team: 27 Students and 5 Leaders Traveled to Atlanta to serve their community. Thank you for your support, love, and prayer during our time away.



Confirmation Class of 2017



JAM Session: Our Devotionals for the summer is "How to Ruin Your Life." We went bowling and had a movie night at the Turner's home.

Separation

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 wry old saw relates:
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 as for rain or cold,
admission ticket good again 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 dared to put it in these words:
*I came to give you life
abundant far beyond your wildest dreams.*
So that is now the way I wish to live:
boldly, on my tiptoes,
expecting awesome beauty and adventure
just around each dimly lighted hidden bend
savoring the gracious gift of yet another day
to live on God's green earth,
and maybe by His grace to help some others
see their lives become abundant too.
Then on that day in which it's found
it's my name that is listed in bold type,
with laudatory 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.

Upcoming Bible Studies for the Fall of 2017

Sunday Mornings:

Merge Sundays, 9:00 am, Merge Youth Room, Pastor Chris, 830-609-7729 X 22 or chris@firstprotestant.com
We'll be studying, "Why Church?" dealing with issues in the church.

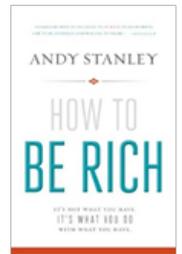
Ladies' Discipleship Community, 9:00 in Seele Hall, Marilyn Challenner, 830- 620-9980.

We will be studying various topics as well as various passages of scripture. Our emphasis is personal discipleship growth in the context of community of believers. Our format is discussion. Our authority is the Scriptures. Our passion is intimacy with Jesus and with each other. Come join us, all ages, young, or young-at-heart. We will probably begin this fall with a study on Boundaries as exhibited by Jesus Himself, and being accountable to one another for the same.

Adult Sunday School Class: Led by Sue Saur, 9:00 am, Conference Room

How to BE RICH: It's Not What You Have It's What You Do With What You Have by Andy Stanley.

"Ever stood in front of a closet full of clothes trying to find something to wear? Ever traded in a perfectly good car for another...car? Ever go shopping just to relax? If you answered yes to any of those questions, you might be rich. No, you probably don't feel rich. Rich is the other guy. Rich is having more than you currently have. But you can be rich and not feel it. And that's the problem. Andy Stanley is convinced that most of us are richer than we think. We just aren't very good at it. How to Be Rich lays out clear principles for carrying that load, making sure your wealth remains a blessing not just for you, but for your family and community for generations to come. Intrigued? Join us for this four week, video enhanced study starting Sept 10th at 9 am in the Conference Room.



The Faithful Servants Sunday School class, 9:00 am Heritage House, Lynn Herr, 210-888-5256.

We took a break this summer, but are back and continuing our study of Proverbs, with an occasional sidetrack into the "hard sayings of Jesus." We are meeting from 9:00 to 10:00 Sunday mornings in the bride's room near the choir room on the second floor. We value and encourage discussion, and welcome all adults in the church.

Tuesdays:

Tues A.M. Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. 1st Protestant Conference Room, Kaye Polston; 830-643-0175; kaye@rossmfg.com

Have you heard on the news or on social media that a new Conflict or War has broken out? Perhaps you have heard that a new weapon is about to be launched. Have you realized that YOU are in a war? Please join the Tues A.M. Women's Bible Study Group to learn about the War we are engaged in each and every day. And most importantly, come and learn what we can do to actually **Thrive in this War.**

Band of Brothers, 6:30 pm (Every 3rd Tuesday), home locations will vary, Rob Miller, 830-606-5253.

Men of every age are invited to participate in a relevant and lively discussion that centers on Christian discipleship. This monthly gathering joins fellowship with accountability so that men can keep their focus on Christ in a world that's full of distractions. Email Rob Miller at h20nut@earthlink.net for information or give him a call at 830-606-5253.

Wednesday Nights:

Pastor Daryl will begin a Wednesday night series on October 4th in the Sanctuary. The first lecture/discussion series will be held October 4th and 11th and is entitled: "**What the Church Can Learn From Harley-Davidson.**" This will be a two-part series, to be followed up with another series, that will address a current events topic to be presented from a Biblical worldview perspective. Watch for the announcement in the bulletin for the beginning date!

Women With a MIssion, 7:00 pm, church conference room, Renee Huckaby for more info, rhuckaby@gmail.com or text 931-629-6378.

When we resume this fall, September 20th, we'll be finishing up **Abundant, Faithful, True.** Come and enjoy the DVD series and discussions as we complete this study and as we decide the one we will begin next!

Upcoming Bible Studies for the Fall of 2017...continued

Wednesdays, con't...

Merge Wednesday, 6:00 pm, Merge Youth Rm, Pastor Chris, 830-609-7729 X 22 or chris@firstprotestant.com

We will begin studying Acts 1:8 and Global Focus and our part in it. We will then move onto the series, "Roasted."

Sons and Daughters: Children, Seele Hall, Denise Martin, 830-609-7729 X 26 or denise@firstprotestant.com

Thursdays:

Thursday WOW study: Sue Saur, Thursday, 7:00 pm.

Our fall study will be a Kelly Minter study on 2nd Corinthians: *All Things New*.

"Over 8 sessions, Kelly Minter will lead you through the Letter of 2 Corinthians, exploring

the anchoring truths of bearing treasures in jars of clay, meeting Christ through a pressing thorn, opening wide your heart in the midst of hurtful relationships, and what it means to embrace the lost and lonely as ministers of the new covenant. Each of us has a message to proclaim and live by: *Because of Jesus the old has gone; the new has come.*"

The Thursday WOW women meet at Sue Saur's house, 1618 Saur Ln.

Contact Sue Saur for more information at sweetandsaur@aol.com and to reserve a book.



Are You Missing The Fun? A Servant's Heart...



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