



FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord

2019



TO
everything
THERE IS A SEASON
AND A
TIME TO EVERY
PURPOSE
UNDER
Heaven
ECCLESIASTES 3:1



A Change of Season at First Protestant Church

*Dear Beloved
First Protestant Church Family,*

Ardie and I want to thank all of you for the many wonderful heartfelt cards, letters, and gifts, that we have received as a part of our retirement celebration at the church. Words cannot express adequately the warmth and love we share with all of you. We especially want to thank you all for the generous love offering presented to us Saturday evening, February 23rd, at the banquet.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Senior Minister since 1989. Fortunately, we are not leaving New Braunfels, as it will always be our home. Even though I am no longer your pastor, our love and friendship will continue in the months and years ahead.

Blessings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Daryl & Ardie



FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS

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

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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.

In the Early Years with Revs. Daryl and Ardie...



By Sue Saur

Daryl has been investing in my family for as long as he has been a Texan. My dad picked Daryl up from the airport and introduced him to New Braunfels over 25 years ago. As Church Council President, it was Dad's responsibility to then introduce him to First Protestant Church that following Sunday—he called him Dale Higgins. Repeatedly. (He asked me to apologize for his error.)

My dad brought him here, but it was my mom who stole Daryl's heart. (It all started with her sauerkraut.) Each month at the Friends and Family Feasts, he would call to her, "Lucille, where's your sauerkraut?" and she would proudly point it out. She loved it and she loved him, too. Daryl spent many an hour by Mom's bedside during her frequent visits to the hospital, including her last. Thank you, Daryl, for loving my mom.

Elise, our eldest daughter, had her driver's license for 3 months when she was broadsided at the intersection behind the church. She said she forgot about "the whole-yielding-when-you-turn-left-thing..." (not helping the blondes here, Elise...). Charles got to church before I did, and found Elise sitting on the curb waiting with Daryl and Jerald. They weren't going to let her wait alone. Can you think of a better place for your kid to have an accident?

Daryl mentioned that he had asked her if she needed a ride. Without missing a beat, she said, "Sure, can I drive?" (again... blonde...) She didn't get to drive that day, but as part of the Annual Senior High Coast trip tradition, 2 lucky senior boys would get to take a turn driving Daryl's Corvette.

Curt, our eldest son, took full advantage of the experience. Daryl might have dozed off for a minute or two, just long enough for Curt's lead foot to catch the eye of the police officer. He got his first ticket driving his pastor's Corvette. Now there's a story for you! Korey reports that on his turn a few years later, Daryl stayed awake the entire trip. Daryl often called to leave messages for the kids. He liked to begin his message with, "Hey, kids, this is the Preacher Man calling..." Our kids always got a kick out of their messages from the Preacher Man. They knew it was more than a message. It was an investment. Thanks, Daryl, for loving my kids. Daryl, we are so glad you accepted the call to First Protestant. You reunited this congregation after a trying time, and you have led us with strength and vision ever since. And just like the shepherd, you amaze me by how well you know each of us-- as individuals. Thanks for loving each us so well. We love you too, Preacher Man. We are pretty fond of your wife, too! We wish you all the best in your retirement, and we are sure we will be seeing you around soon!

Charles and Sue (Weekley) Saur and family

by Denise Marshall
Director of Children's Ministry

It is difficult to recall a time, season or event that did not have the interest and support of both Ardie and Daryl, as it pertains to our Children's Ministry program here at First Protestant.

One program worth mentioning, is our Vacation Bible School event that typically starts the first week in June. Pastor Daryl would start drumming up interest from the pulpit for this program starting as early as May 1st! His advice about VBS was always the same..."Make sure the theme song is lively and makes the kids want to stand up and move." The past two years I have made sure to send him the theme song, prior to ordering, so that it would have the "Daryl approval." I even did it for this upcoming VBS, merely out of habit.

Ardie also has been an important part of our ministry. Before we kicked off Sunday school my first year on the job in 2017, she carved out time to meet me in Seele and blessed each classroom and the children who would be attending for the year.

Thank you Daryl and Ardie for your love and support for all of our children, big and small, here at First Protestant.

Denise Marshall





**Ode to Daryl and Ardie
upon the occasion of their retirement
by
Don Burquest**

The Higgins-Kendig pastor pair
Is moving on to venues fair.
Or so they think! But they will see:
There ain't no place like FPC!

Oh sure, you'll get your scenic views,
But what of us left in our pews?
You're gonna miss us, that's for sure,
And even more Joey's music cure.

And what of Jerald, and Chuck, and Phil?
You'll long to be around them still.
And Melanie and all the rest?
You're settling for second best....

Oh, we will miss you too, of course,
But this is parting, not divorce.
You're sure to pass this way again,
And when you do, we'll let you in.

'Cause you're part of our lives, you see.
Apart, we're still community.
So here's the deal for you today:
We'll go to lunch—might even pay!

And when we see that 'Vette in town,
Cop cars's flashing lights around,
We'll gaily wave as we pass by
And honk and say, "I know that guy!"

But till then let us simply say
New Braunfels is your place to stay.
Come see us, let us make a fuss!
You'll always be a part of us.

Women's Ministries

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



Letter of Appreciation

Pastor Daryl Higgins and Rev. Ardie Kendig,

On behalf of all the women in Women's Ministries, it is with great pleasure to extend a loving, "thank you" for the many years of dedicated service to our Lord and to the members of First Protestant Church.

It is often said, that one person can't make a difference in the world, but we all know that isn't true. We've seen the difference you have made in our lives at First Protestant. We appreciated your firm commitment to the church's mission and purpose without apologies.

Pastor Daryl and Rev. Ardie, you have brought the message of God's word alive in so many ways through your inspiring sermons, your dedication to our church and your desire to be an example of Jesus' love to others!

With our sincere appreciation for your dedicated service, we ask the Lord to grant you many happy days ahead and continued blessings. May your work remain fulfilling.

Please don't be strangers, come back home as often as you can. We will always welcome you with open arms.

Wishing you peace and all good things!

Alice Boettger, President



Christmas Tea 2018



Honoring Mae Kraft's Retirement



Women's Ministries Executive Officers for 2019

Left to Right

- Sara Tays - Member at large
- Gay Wimberley - Vice President
- Sharon Wiedemann - Member at large
- Alice Boettger - President
- Kim Recio - Treasurer
- Jennifer Graham - Secretary



Women's Ministries 2019 Installation of Officers Ceremony

Daryl and Ardie



***By Jill Rodriguez
Director of Lay Ministry***



"He's one in a million!"

"There's none other like Daryl Higgins!"

"Those will be big shoes to fill one day!"

These are the comments I heard when my family first began to attend First Protestant Church in 2004. I have often heard these clichés used and knew what they meant, but had NO idea the truth behind them in regards to Rev. Daryl C. Higgins.

My first personal experience with Daryl was when I put a prayer request card in the offering plate stating that my father had been diagnosed with cancer. Just a day or two later I received a voicemail from Daryl regarding my prayer request and my father. Now, anyone who has ever received a voicemail from Daryl knows exactly what I'm talking about when I say that he had to call back multiple times to finish what he was saying, as he always reached the maximum minutes allowed for recording the message. But his message was personal, even though he really didn't even know me, uplifting and encouraging. "He's one in a million."

In January 2010 I joined the staff at FPC as Director of Children's Ministry. That is the time I discovered there is no other "boss" like Daryl. Staff meetings and "rabbit trails", lunches, retreats, etc. all developed new meanings for me. The camaraderie Daryl encouraged was and is greatly appreciated for all who have ever worked under him. While Children's Director I learned that Daryl loves kids and kids love Daryl. He has a youthful heart and was always "goofy" enough to make the kids laugh. He attended VBS, usually there to eat dinner with the kids and to offer a prayer at the close of the evening. And speaking of dinner, we always had to make sure there was a spaghetti supper during VBS because Daryl Higgins LOVES noodles! "There's none other like Daryl Higgins."

May 2015 found my roles changing at FPC as I became Director of Lay Ministry. This is the time when I truly learned the history of Daryl and FPC. Visits to our elderly members brought many stories of when Daryl and Ardie first arrived in New Braunfels and the relationships that they immediately formed with our parishioners. To this very day, each visit I make includes "how is Daryl doing?" or "please tell Daryl and Ardie I said 'hello.'" But I also return from these visits with political messages, Dallas Cowboy and San Antonio Spurs comments. Madelyn Harris was once frustrated with "Pop" at the Spurs and was making some pretty strong comments. As she finished she said to me "and you can tell Daryl I said that!" "Those will be big shoes to fill one day" was told to me by many as well.

That time has come to bid farewell to Daryl and fill those big shoes.

Daryl and Ardie, thank you for your ministry to First Protestant Church and the people of New Braunfels. Thank you for your leadership, spiritual guidance and Biblical messages. Please know that you will always be missed and are forever in our hearts.

By Sheenae Hernandez-Garcia Director of First Protestant School

There are not enough words to describe Daryl Higgins, but as the Director of FPS and with education as my background, I naturally lean to utilizing an acronym to describe my experience and time that I have had working under the leadership of Daryl.

Determined: The quality that I admire the most about Daryl is his determination. Daryl stands behind everything he believes in and has always been loyal to the First Protestant School program. To have had Daryl behind the process of the new FPS campus has been something that has been very rewarding for the program. Daryl not only supported the project from day one, but because of his determination, he was able to lead the driving force of support from many people within this church and community to make this new school a possibility. His ability to turn possibilities into reality is a true gift and First Protestant School will forever be grateful for his support and hard work.

Admirable: How can anybody not admire Daryl? For those who have had the pleasure to be in the same room with him, you know he easily makes his presence known. His ability to capture your attention is a gift, but more importantly his experience, knowledge, and honesty are just a few of the qualities that have made me admire the person that he is. And who are we kidding, all of those Corvettes can make anyone a little bit more admirable.

Religious: As a Senior Minister, there isn't a better word to describe Daryl. I have had the pleasure to work under Daryl and witness just how passionate he is about his religion and First Protestant Church. His passion has led me to always allow and even encourage my teachers to be the stepping stones that direct our students to live, love and follow God's word. FPS is and will always be a faith led program, and will continue to live by Matthew 19:14 "Let the little children come to me...for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven."

Yappy: I know... calling the Senior Minister yappy is risky and seems unprofessional, but there are limited words that start with the letter "Y" that truly describe Daryl. With nothing but the upmost respect, Daryl is one of the "yappiest" people I have ever met. It was always known and expected by the staff, that our monthly meetings would run a little longer because Daryl would go into what we would call, some very, very, very long rabbit trails. To Daryl's defense, those rabbit trails were not just time consuming but they also gave the staff a sense of camaraderie as we all banded together to minimize the rabbit trails. Even though most of the staff won't admit this, I will miss those rabbit trails. There is nothing like a true and genuine Daryl Higgins rabbit trail.

Leader: Daryl has shown me what it is to be a leader. To have the type of impact that he has had on the entire staff, as well as the members of this church, is just amazing. I can only hope that I have had enough time working with him as my leader, to have truly learned what it takes to earn that much respect from my own staff, students and parents.

To say, "good-bye" to someone like Daryl, is impossible. He will forever be a part of the First Protestant School family and legacy. With that being said, First Protestant School would like to say THANK YOU DARYL and hope you enjoy your retirement.





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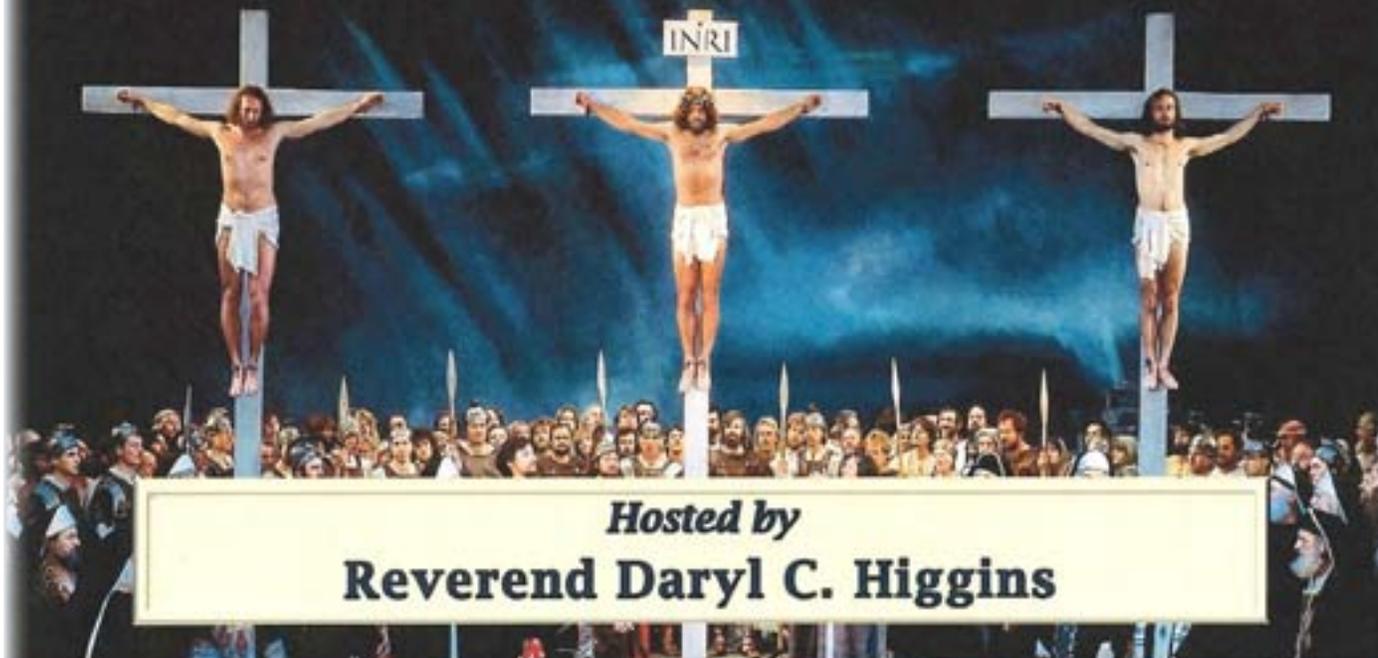
The Uproarious Conclusion to the Reverends Daryl and Ardie's Retirement Celebration Tour ...Photography by: Bob Wynne



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TO EVERY THING THERE IS A SEASON,
AND A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE UNDER THE HEAVEN

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

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