



Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord Spring 2021

20th Annual FPC Picnic and River Baptisms





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 extensions have changed.

The Church Staff can be reached by email using the addresses below.

Dr. D.M "Woody" Woodward- Interim Senior Minister	Ext. 116	woody@firstprotestant.com
Tyler Reed - Director of Youth and Children's Ministries	Ext. 114	tyler@firstprotestant.com
Noel Koenig - Children's Associate		noel@firstprotestant.com
Christian de la Cruz - Choir and Handbell Director	(c) 956-821-5391	Cdelac4@neisd.net
Joey M. Martin - Director of Music/Organist/Pianist	(c) 512-787-2269	JoeyMartin512@gmail.com
Janice Borgfeld - Director of Lay Ministries	Ext.	janice@firstprotestant.com
Debbie Caraway - FPS Director	830-606-4110	debbie@firstprotestant.com
Doreen Schaeffer - Business Manager	Ext. 121	doreen@firstprotestant.com
Jerald Schroeder - Director of Operations	Ext. 119	jerald@firstprotestant.com
Melanie Gillum - Administrative Assistant	Ext. 110	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.

This Year's Picnic Included a FPC Youth Alumnae Reunion



Then and Now



SCHOLARSHIP

2021 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**.

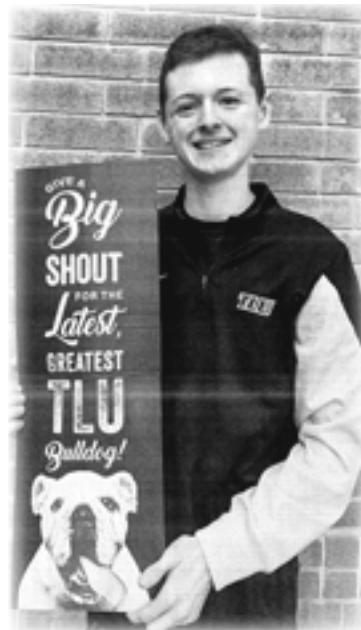
The Reno O. Schumann Educational Trust, established in 1975, awards scholarships to active members of First Protestant Church who pursue their education above the rank of high school. This year's recipients



Katherine "Katy" Brown
New Braunfels High School



Jenna Buck
New Braunfels High School



Benjamin "Ben" Coulombe
Canyon High School



Sydney "Syd" Oberg
New Braunfels High School



Mereah "Rose" Howard
Canyon High School

SCHOLARSHIP

2021 RECIPIENTS

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:



Cristina Casteneda-Dominguez
New Braunfels High School



Daniel Saucedo, Jr.
New Braunfels High School



Ayrassett Holler
New Braunfels High School



Angelena Martinez
New Braunfels High School



Connor Warren
New Braunfels High School



Damien Sosa
New Braunfels High School

Congratulations to all of the 2021 recipients and a special thank you to the dedicated members of First Protestant Church who make these scholarships available.

Reaching New Heights

by Jerald Schroeder

The maintenance department of FPC has recently acquired a scissor lift to help with tasks normally performed from atop a ladder. As you can see from the photos, the acquisition of a scissor lift makes precarious tasks easier and safer. For many years I have perched myself on a 40' ladder to perform routine maintenance tasks and this piece of equipment provides both physical safety and mental comfort during those tasks.

Having been in the market for several years I became aware that The Brauntex Performing Arts Center recently purchased a new scissor lift to meet their growing needs. I inquired of their plans for their used model and asked if it was for sale. After a few discussions, a very generous offer was extended, and I accepted without hesitation. I was aware of the value of similar equipment and their offer was one we could not pass up.

I would like to thank the Brauntex, along with Dennis Peak and Carl Nowotny for their support and generosity among non-profit agencies.



When Can We Start the Pastor Search?

from the desk of Dr. Woody Woodward

It is natural that people get anxious to move on with the pastor search. As our Council discussed at our recent retreat, when people ask when we can start, our answer is, "We have unfinished business." Let me (Pastor Woodward) clarify what that unfinished business is. When the Council first interviewed me in June 2020, I told them that my task is to get First Protestant ready for dating. When someone is in the dating market, they need to try a new haircut, wardrobe, and lose forty pounds. Our first interim pastor, Don Turner, likened the process to preparing a home for sale. If you fix what is broken and paint what is shabby, you will expand the pool of buyers and get a better price. First Protestant needs to become more attractive. What does that look like? In other words, what are the areas where we need improvement?

First, we still suffer from internal strife. What pastor in his right mind would like to come into a church with such chaos? The answer is, "A pastor who is naive or desperate or both." We must continue to work on reconciliation and forgiveness issues. This takes time.

Second, we say that we are a church that is committed to the Lordship of Christ and the authority of Scriptures, but few people are committed to learning the Scriptures either personally or in Adult Bible study or small groups. Recently our Transition Team learned from Tyler Reed that many young couples who church shop are looking, not just for a church WITH small groups, but for a church OF small groups. We have few adult Sunday school classes and fewer small groups.

Third, we say in our values statement that we value making disciples. This is the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. But who is being discipled? And how do we disciple around here? It isn't happening. We need to work on a process.

Fourth, we still have some folks who are holding out for the prospect that Jason Epps will become our pastor. They do not realize that if he became a candidate now, he would be even more divisive now than before. Then Council President Brian Coulombe announced in last December's annual meeting that Jason Epps will never be considered as a candidate at FPC.

Fifth, our church doesn't know what it is and what it wants to be. One of the jobs of the Transition Team is to clarify our mission, vision, and values so that we can know what kind of pastor we are looking for and so that applicants can better know what kind of church we are and aspire to be.

Sixth, we suffer from a lack of trust. Many do not trust the Council. I'm sure there are people who do not trust me. Building trust and morale takes time. I feel as though we are turning a corner. As we regather from COVID lockdown to worship and socialize (such as the Annual Church Picnic), we are feeling better about our church and its leadership.

Seventh, Don Turner's report indicated that attendance has flatlined and that FPC is on the downside of the lifecycle. Our church needs to make some progress to be attractive to prospective candidates.

Eighth, we need a strategic plan. Both the Vanderbloemen Pastoral Transition report and the Don Turner assessment noted this. This is one of the jobs of the Transition Team in Stage 3 of the Interim Pastor Ministries process.

Ninth, we need to get agreement on the type of pastor we want. Many of the questions on the upcoming Church Health survey will help determine what the church needs and wants in a new pastor. You can have your "say" in this upcoming survey.

In sum, we have unfinished business. Please pray for our Transition Team of Rodney Fischer, Carol Burr, Monte Good, Tyler Reed, Celeste Salge, Sue Saur, Sally Voges, J. W. Brewer, Lynn Herr, and Colonel Rob Miller.

Women's Ministries

From the Desk - of Daphne Spritzer
President Women's Ministries



Women's Ministries Update:

President Gay Wimberley: As you all know, our good friend, mentor, encourager, strong leader and Women's Ministries two time President Gay Wimberley passed away in late February. We were heartbroken. Gay's passing leaves a big hole in our hearts and in the life of the church! Women's Ministries donated and helped with the reception after her funeral service March 6th. Over 36 Women's Ministries ladies provided food for the reception. Thank you all for your support and prayers for Gay and her family. Charlene Nolte and Jennifer Graham visited Gay earlier in the week before she passed. In her final act of service as Women's Ministries President, Gay was able to present the Women's Ministries 2020 Woman of the Year Award to Jennifer Graham. They were lifelong friends and Gay appreciated all of Jennifer's time and help serving on the board.

March Meeting: Sharon Weidemann from FPC's Flying Fingers ministry, showed us examples of their work and gave a history of the ministry at FPC. Flying Fingers was founded by Mae Kraft over 30 years ago and was created to support the widows of the church. They started out making quilts. They also make Christian Ornaments for Christmas Trees, stocking caps, receiving blankets, cot covers for FPC School and many other things. They donate items to Hope Hospice, St. Jude's Ranch, Salvation Army, Family Promise, and anyone else in need. They also send stocking caps to Guatemala. Flying Fingers meets every Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:00 in the FPC office building upstairs. [Special Note: Flying Fingers also made a special, beautiful quilt for Gay Wimberley and graciously included Women's Ministries in the presentation to the family.] Thanks Sharon!

Flowers for Easter: Women's Ministries provided Easter Lilies for the front of the church on Easter. Thanks to Jerald for keeping them fresh.

Calling All Women of the Church! We have recently updated our email and address list to include all women of FPC. We forwarded an initial email on April 10th to every woman on the list.

This outreach will evolve into an e-newsletter format and be sent out via email monthly within the week after the monthly Women's Ministries meeting. In addition, we will provide updates in between the meetings and over the summer as appropriate and as we find out changes, etc. The initial purpose is to reach women who cannot attend Women's Ministries meetings in person for whatever reason.



Our ultimate goal is to provide a forum to share information across all women's groups of FPC about what all women's groups are doing, including women's bible studies, crafts, prayer groups, and those we don't even know about or haven't been formed yet. We will be reaching out to group leaders to see how that might best work.

We want to bust open communications among women, increase transparency, reach all women, and keep everyone equally informed. We are women of the church. We are sisters in Christ. We are connected. We want to feel like we're connected and a vital part of the church. We think sharing information online and via email and text might help that. Who knows, groups might get new members. New ministries might sprout. All sorts of good things can happen when women know what's going on and how to plug in.

We need your help! If you are a woman member of First Protestant Church and did NOT receive an email from Daphne Spraitzar on April 10th, please let me know by sending your email and cell phone info to me at: **ddspraitzar@gmail.com** or 703-407-0137. We will not send your info to anybody unless you specifically ask us to do so.

Thanks very much!
Daphne Spraitzar
President, Women's Ministries



Easter Lillies provided by Women's Ministries on Easter Sunday, has become an annual tradition.

Flying Fingers

Our ladies have been very busy! Our Flying Fingers have chosen a ministry project to be sure our church family that can't be with us in person, know that they are never forgotten. The two quilts below were given to Rob Miller and Thora Williams. Gay Wimberley, Wayne Rahe, Herb Eberhard, Gladys Bartling and others have also been blessed with these handmade quilts. If you'd like to be a part of this group in blessing others, experience is great but not necessary. If you can cut or iron, knit, sew, crochet or quilt, we'd love for you to become part of this team. If you've ever wanted to learn, we'd love to be the ones to teach you. God put this project on our hearts and we need as many women as we can get to make it happen. If you're interested, contact Sharon Weidemann or call the church office at 830-609-7729 X110.

We get together on Wednesday mornings at 9:00am in the craft room in the church office to work and laugh and share time together. No need to call, just show up!



Week of the Young Child At FPS

by Karley Crawford

First Protestant School Assistant Director

First Protestant School celebrated the Week of the Young Child from April 12th-16th. FPS planned fun curriculum-based activities for each day of the week! Monday was music day, where each class made their own instruments to take home. Tuesday was art day, where they got as messy as possible and got creative making art out of different objects. Wednesday was sport day, everyone wore their favorite sports shirt (parents too!) and played all different types of sports. Thursday was science day, they made fizzy “frog eggs” for the children to hatch plus more! Friday Kona Ice came out and everyone got a snow cone! Friday Mrs. Noel Koenig also led them in prayer over the rocks each child painted during the week and they placed them in the FPS “rock garden” that is placed at the front of the school. This week was a joyous celebration where we recognize our responsibility we have in providing positive early childhood experiences for each and every child.



Week of the Young Child At FPS continued...



Beautiful are the Feet of Those Who Bring the Good News of Jesus

The Missions Outreach team continues to be committed to both ongoing communication with, and financial support to our mission partners. This has allowed the missionaries to stay the course and focus on providing the much-needed supplies, food, and ministry support during a very turbulent year. Despite a pandemic, here's a sampling of how FPC has been able to support our mission partners:

Jerusalem missions (New Braunfels):

- S.O.S (Spirit of Sharing) continues to collect and distribute food—you can help by bringing a bag of canned and dry goods to church this Sunday.
- Family Promise has been providing meals and support to homeless families
- Salvation Army has been delivering boxed meals during the pandemic. You can help by creating a team to make a meal for 50 and deliver to the Salvation Army headquarters.
- St. Jude's continued to provide a safe haven to young parents in difficult situations, albeit in a new location. They are not taking volunteers at this time, but you can still donate baby clothes and supplies.
- At home, Pastor Tyler, was diligent to keep our youth group connected and growing in Christ, while coordinating the Colorado teambuilding trip! You can help by praying for our youth and their leaders.

Judea & Samaria (Across Americas):

- The Shaneyfelts and Starwalts, members of Wycliffe ministries, continued to train and support the next generation of Bible translators and leaders, albeit new restrictions required they make adjustments in their modes of communication. You can pray for their work.
- The Mision de Candelilla teams were unable to go to the small villages of the Mexican Chihuahuan desert last Spring, but they were still able to provide the needed medical supplies. Thankfully, they were able to send teams again this past Fall. You can participate in a trip this year or pray for those who do go.

Ends of the Earth (Overseas):

- Our own Mayce and Mathias supported students in the YWAM program in Australia despite a nationwide shutdown,
- The Kelsos conducted a mission revival with other international missionaries in Florida, in the midst of an approaching hurricane!

Thank you for your commitment to our mission partners. Please continue to pray for them—and keep watch! Great things are happening through FPC!



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:15

Confirmation Class of 2021



The 2021 Confirmation Class graduated this May, but not before an adventurous (and wet) weekend trip to Camp Eagle. Despite winter storms, pandemics, the general chaotic business that school, sports, plus other extracurricular activities provide, capped off with a truly torrential downpour, this group of students committed themselves to meeting throughout the year to study what it really means to be a Christian in their Confirmation Class. They learned about the nature of God, how we are saved, what a disciple is, a little bit of church history, and so much more. In addition to their lessons, they also committed to study scripture throughout the week and to pray for one another. The year was capped off with a weekend retreat at Camp Eagle where despite a constant downpour, with hikes and Bible studies in the rain, they reviewed what they had learned throughout the year. And they maybe got in a little bit of fishing and fun as well! I'm so proud of their commitment to both their curriculum and to one another as a group. Next time you see one of them make sure to welcome them as First Protestant Church's newest members!



A Father's Blessing

by Sue Saur

A recent study concluded that kids would rather find out how to do something by Googling it, than by asking their dad.

94%.

When asked why, the most common response was, "I don't want to bother him."

A group decided to put that conclusion to the test. They invited some boys to individually "research" how to tie a tie, fry an egg, and shave, among other manly tasks, and then recorded them as they attempted those tasks with just the instructions they found on YouTube.

Then each father was brought into the room. The boy was told to ask his dad how to complete the task. Each seemed sheepish at first but complied. After learning the task again with their fathers as teachers, the boys were asked to evaluate which method—YouTube video or Dad-- was more successful and enjoyable.

Overwhelmingly, they responded, "with Dad." It was clear Dad felt the same way.

It was clear Dad did not feel bothered. And yet, the disconnect was real.

As you may know, we live on a small farm. The Saur farm has been in our family since 1864. My father-in-law farmed this land, his father before him—and so on, and so on--and my husband still farms it today. Each learned at his father's knee, the value of hard work and pride in a job well done; they learned to operate machinery and tend animals; they learned to enjoy the beauty of the open land and the smell of rain. But they also learned a lot about their father, and what he valued.

He values his children.

Above all, your father values you, dear child. Even when he seems too busy, or too tired, or stressed— you are his delight.

As Father's Day approaches, I encourage those of you who are fathers to take some time to reflect. What do you want your children to say they learned at *your* knee?

A good work ethic, surely. How to stop a line drive, maybe. The best oil mix for each engine, the proper wrist action for skipping rocks, the correct wood to use when you barbecue, and certainly how to tie that tie.

What about how you value your faith?

Solomon listened as his father spoke these words from his deathbed: (1 Kings 2:2b-3) "Take courage and be a man. Observe the requirements of the Lord your God and follow all His ways. Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go." King David-Dad to Solomon- went on to say that if he did, then God would keep His promise to David—that someone in David's line would always sit on the throne of Israel.

Solomon's first order of business as king was to gather up all his advisors, all the leaders of Israel, the army generals—all the men in positions of authority in Israel—and lead them in worship. Before the day was over he had sacrificed 1000 burnt offerings at the altar.

God appeared to him that night. He told Solomon He would give him whatever he asked for. King Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead his people well.

Because he asked for wisdom, God told Solomon he would indeed receive it, plus, for his unselfish request, he would also have "wealth, riches and fame such as no other king has had before you or will ever have in the future."

He was touted as the wisest man who ever lived, and it sounds like he was the wealthiest and most famous, too. And as his father before him, he had some advice for his sons. *cont...*

A Father's Blessing cont...

He wrote it down in the book of Proverbs—a collection of wise quips—and common-sense instruction. Proverbs 1:2 says, “Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise.” In fact, the whole first chapter is appealing to his children and the children of Israel to acquire wisdom and be successful; or be foolish and lose the land given to them by God.

Seems wise enough. So then, what if I told you that Solomon was the last king of the nation of Israel? Though he started strong, at some point along the way, Solomon chose not to heed his own advice. After his death, God divided the nation into two kingdoms, just as He had promised David. With few exceptions, these kingdoms were led by wicked kings, and it wasn't long before the people themselves were wicked, too, their religion diluted by the influence of the surrounding cultures, with only a small, lost remnant remaining as the Old Testament comes to a close.

by Sue Saur

We know that God was in control throughout the centuries depicted in the Old Testament. He was using His people to teach others about Him, and He continued to love them, even as they turned their backs on Him.

Still, the application can be made: the legacy Solomon left his sons was not the one he hoped for them, when he penned the Proverbs.

It was the one they saw him live.

Dear fathers, your children are watching. Don't just tell them, but show them what you value by the way you live your life; by the way you love your wife. By the way you carry out your affairs. By the way you love the one you call your God. You will surely bless them beyond measure. Happy Father's Day!



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