



FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

Seeking God, Sharing His Love, Serving Others

Summer 2022



SCAN TO REGISTER



DATES: AUGUST 1-5

TIME: 4-7 PM

AGES: 3 TO 12 YEARS OLD



IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFO OR WISH TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT NOEL KOENIG AT NOEL@FIRSTPROTESTANT.COM



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.

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Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9-12 & 1-4, Friday 9-12 & 1-3

Seeking God, Sharing His Love, Serving Others

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

“Summer’s Here and the Living is Easy”...said no farmer, ever...

by Sue Saur



It's only June, but the highs have burned into the triple digits for weeks now. The cats have been napping on the porch under the ceiling fan for hours, moving only to get an occasional drink of water. I am banking they will resume hunting after the sun sets; we need them on the clock to keep the field mice in check. The chickens and the sheep have found some shade; the blessing of a breeze, the only real movement at this time of day, makes the heat a bit more tolerable.

The Saur Farm has been in continuous operation since 1864 and has seen its share of ups and downs. Farming inherently comes with risks. Some years the rain has been plentiful, and the harvest is profitable. Other years, the rain can be too plentiful, leaving the ground too wet to get the machinery in for harvest, and the crop rots in the field. This year, the field corn stands tall, but the lack of water means those ears won't make. My farmer, along with other local farmers shake their heads and talk about cutting and baling it all; knowing a rain now can't save it.

Jesus used storytelling to teach his followers. He spoke of things familiar to the people around him, things like their history, their traditions, their culture, their work. He spoke of the farmer planting his seed. The parable is recorded in three of the four Gospels; no doubt you know the story well. The farmer scatters his seed in several different types of soil: a pathway, on rocky ground, among weeds, and in good soil.

Jesus elaborated on how each location yielded different results. He ended his teaching with this remark, "Anyone with ears should listen and understand."

I am fairly confident that all of the disciples did indeed have ears; later, however, after the crowd had departed, they asked him to explain the parable he taught that day. He obliged, but not without first gently chiding them, "if you don't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand the others?" I am sure they were leaning in at that point, and a hush had come over the room. Notes were being taken.

Jesus began by saying the seed represented God's Word. The farmer is the one who is carrying His Word to others. The farmer doesn't change. The seeds don't change. What changes is the soil. The soil represents how people receive God's Word. We can be hardened—and the seed doesn't affect us at all. We can be shallow. We may nod and listen, but distractions soon overshadow what we heard. We may even retain the message for a while—until the world beckons us back with messages of its own.

According to Mark 4:20, the fourth soil—Jesus called it **the good soil**—represents the people who—

1. Hear the word.
2. Accept the word-- and
3. Produce a crop.

Hearing the Word is the crucial starting point. (They didn't have Bibles back then, but reading your Bible is definitely included in the "hearing.")

But we can't stop with the hearing of the Word. Jesus says the next step is "accepting" it. To me, that means reflecting on it, wrestling with it, praying about it. The word "accepting" implies comparing God's truth to what I think is true. "Accepting" sounds like I wasn't accepting-- at least not initially. "Accepting" means I decide to agree with what God says INSTEAD of what I think—instead even of "how I was raised," instead of what "my community or social media" or—well, anyone else says is true.

Yet, though I hear the Word, and I accept the Word, I must still "produce a crop" to be what Jesus calls "good soil." I must do something with the new understanding I have. Incrementally, my life should look different. As more of God is absorbed in me, more of God should reflect out of me. All three pieces should be evident in my life and yours. We should be regularly reading our Bibles and have people in our lives—usually people who are further in their walk than we are—to help us better understand what we are reading. We can call true what God calls truth, even when we are confused —and pray for clarity.

And we can produce a crop. Crops aren't invisible. Jesus said they would produce "some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown." Good soil produces bountiful crops! Abundant crops! (Jesus was never about doing the bare minimum, now was he?!) That means people around us can see the changes growing in us. Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, referred to these as the Fruits of the Spirit, the mark of Christian character and maturity: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And people can see the changes growing out of us—in our acts of service.

These are the slow, easy days of summer. This is the season of less on the calendar, and more time on our hands—unless you are a farmer! Even so, I encourage you to grab a sweet tea, a fan, and your Bible, and "sit a spell" with your God. Give Him an offering of your time and your attention, and He promises to grow a crop in you that will change your life, inside and out—abundantly.

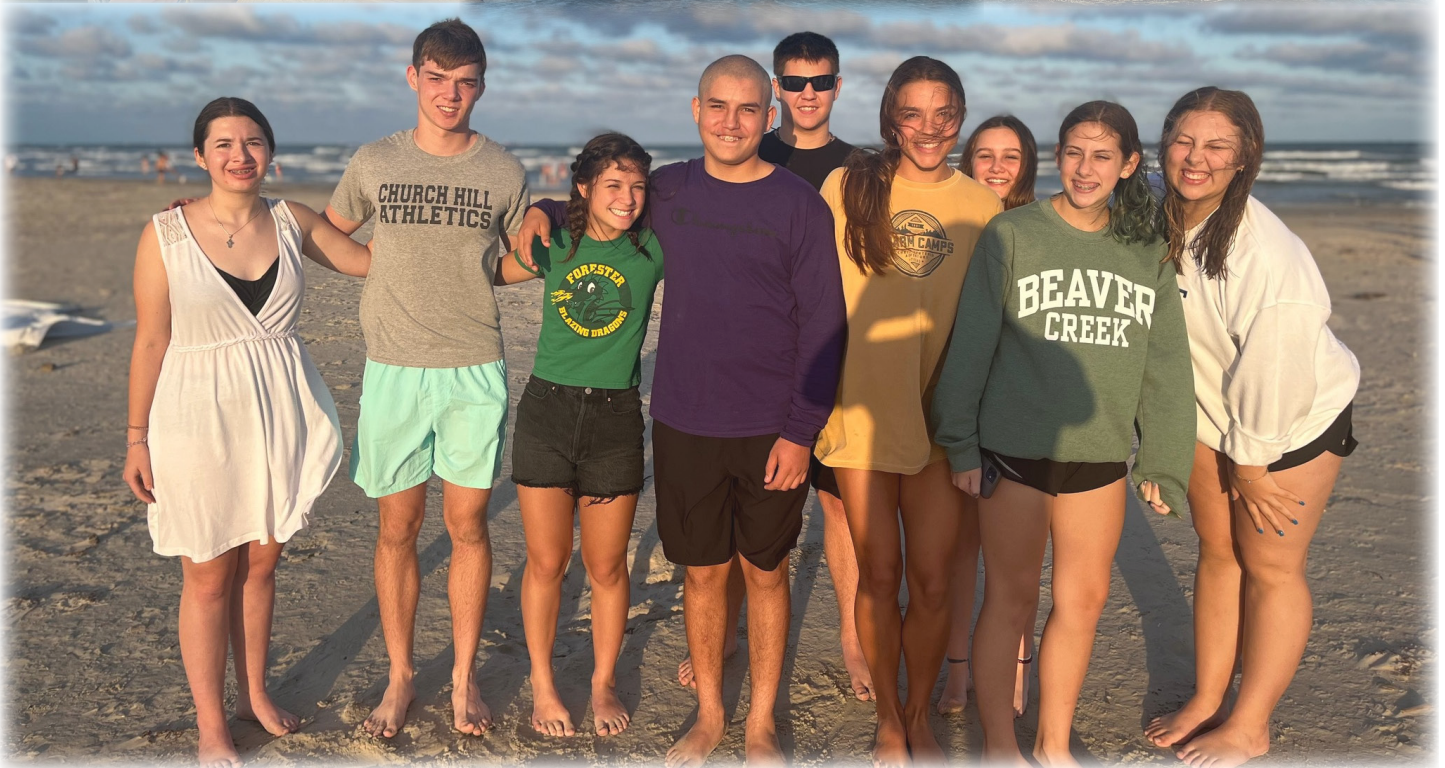
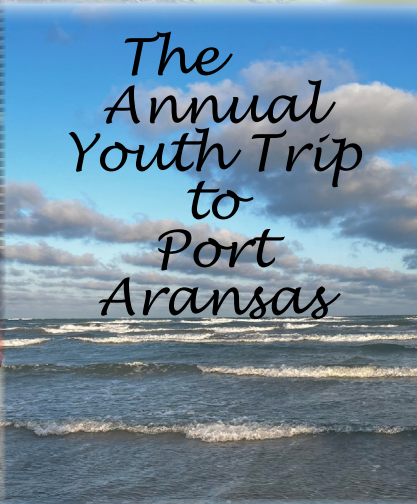
Lord, we want to know You better. We want to love You better. We want to serve You better. Lead us. Grow us. Change us. In Your Son's precious name, we pray. Amen.







Mission





OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, HAS BEEN BUSY TOO!

The Diaper/Wipes Drive for SJRC. We partnered with First Protestant School and collected the diapers and wipes below. A sweet "Thank You" from the kids at SJRC.





FPC FLYING FINGERS

With a Mission of Their Own - Sending Love to Our Seniors

More beautiful quilts delivered!





Women's Ministries

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



Women's Ministries had a wonderful Spring. Many thanks to all who participated and supported. Following is a summary of Women's Ministries Activities during March - May 2022.

March

- First Protestant School Tour, March 14th. We had a great tour, led by FPS Director Debbie Caraway, who also graciously hosted a reception for us. Thanks, Debbie! We met and talked with teachers, and observed kids learning and playing in their classrooms.
- Cookies and Goodies for our homebound members. Women's Ministries Members helped our wonderful Director of Lay Ministries Janice Borgfeld stuff bags and deliver them to homebound church members.

April

- Tour of St. Joseph's Chapel and Cemetery, and Comal Pecan Farm, April 11th. We met in the First Protestant Church parking lot and traveled to St. Joseph's Chapel, an historic Catholic chapel, in the ghost town of Comal, about 7 miles west of downtown New Braunfels. St. Joseph's Chapel was constructed in 1905 and renovated in 2010, and it is the only structure still in use in this vanished community.

- At St. Joseph's, we had an uplifting prayer and worship service giving thanks to God for His love. And, we wore vintage hats provided by Cristabell West! in the foyer. These beautiful gifts are such a wonderful way to help!



- We also toured St. Joseph's Cemetery near the church and finally moved to the Comal Pecan Farm where owner Mark Friesenhahn, spoke to us about how the pecan farm works, then graciously gave us a tour of his beautiful historic home that has been faithfully and meticulously restored as a late 19th Century farm house. We also then toured the Pecan Farm store - with lots of delicious pecans and pecan goodies and gifts.



- Lillies for Easter. Thanks to all who helped decorate the church door and foyer for Easter. I especially would like to thank Lois Harlow, Charlene Johnston, and Sally Voges for decorating the front of the church with beautiful Easter Lilies for Easter Day! A special thanks also to Cristabell West for the beautiful Easter Cross she made and placed in the foyer. These beautiful gifts are such a wonderful way to help people remember God's glory and love for us on the most Holy Day of the church year! Thank you, Ladies!



May

- Annual Potluck Picnic, May 9th. -- We held our annual potluck picnic at Celeste Salge's lake house, in a beautiful location on the Guadalupe River. We had a wonderful time of great fellowship, and plenty of really, really delicious food.
- Contributions to Ministries. Women's Ministries voted to provide \$500 to each of the following ministries serving the New Braunfels area:
 - o SOS Food Bank;
 - o St. Jude's Ranch for Children;
 - o Salvation Army;
 - o NB Christian Ministries (incl Kids Club and Volunteers in Ministries)

Save the Date ... Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events!

- September Super Salad Potluck Luncheon, at Charlene & Jackie Nolte's Creek Bottom Farm, Monday, September 12th, 10am. More info to be provided.
- You Are Conference, September 30-October 1st. Intergenerational, Interdenominational Women's Conference. Come Together. Worship God. Be Free. Tickets go on sale mid-July. More information is available at: youareconference.com



Many Hands Make **LIGHT Work**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

For many years, the ladies of First Protestant Church have provided desserts, tea, coffee and at one time, even more, for receptions following funerals for members of our congregation. This is a ministry that means so much to those who are saying goodbye to a loved one...one less thing they have to worry about. But there are some ladies who have been furnishing everything from sandwiches to desserts over the years and are no longer living at home where they can prepare something or driving where they could even pick something up from a local store or bakery. We have several groups of ladies that rotate for these services, usually giving each group responsibility for around 2 services a year. We need others to sign up to replace the irreplaceable ladies who have furnished these receptions for well over 30 years. If you like to bake or are able to just go by your closest HEB and drop it by the church, **WE NEED YOU!** This is something our ladies began out of love for these families and we want it to continue to be, just a little something we can do to ease a difficult time for our church family. If you would like to be added to a group or check to see if you are already on one, just give Melanie a call at the church office, 830-609-7729 X110 or email melanie@firstprotestant.com.

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