



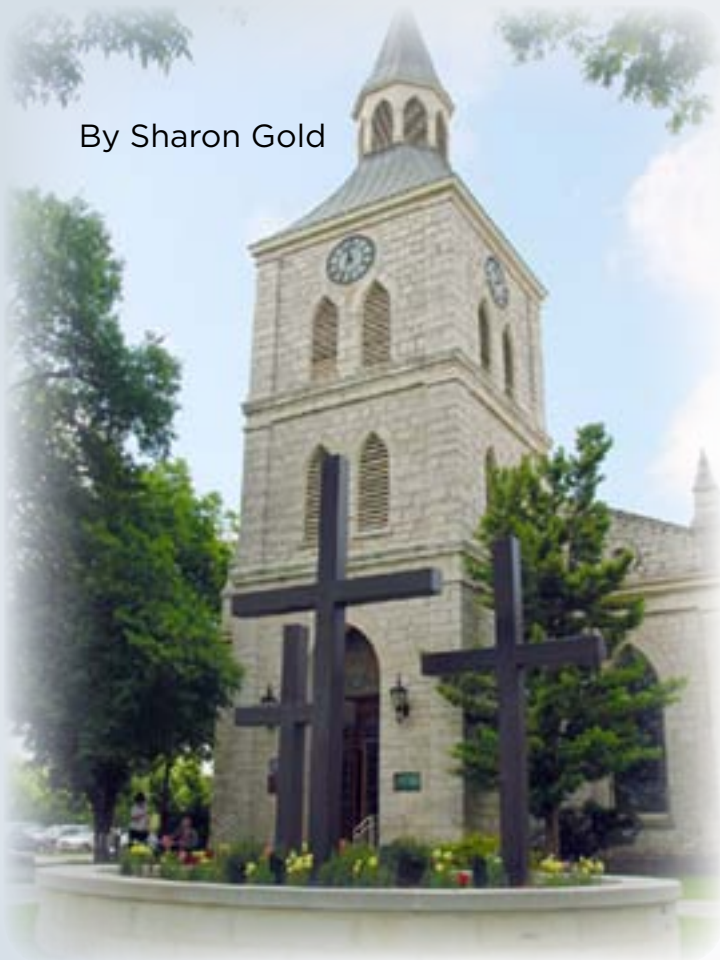
FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord

Nov/Dec 2011

The Growth of First Protestant Church

By Sharon Gold



It has been 22 years since Daryl Higgins walked into First Protestant Church, the oldest church in New Braunfels. Reverend Higgins was called to First Protestant to serve as its Senior Minister and leader. Over the years, his leadership has become very prominent. Parishioners have seen much change in First Protestant Church and have developed much respect and love for Reverend Daryl. It seems appropriate to write an article about Reverend Daryl and the changes that have taken place during his tenure at First Protestant Church as many of the newer members are not aware of how the Church has grown and developed under his leadership.

Daryl Higgins graduated from Ashland University Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity Degree in 1974. He was called to California and served churches in both Southern and Northern parts of the state. Daryl married Ardie Kendig in August 1978. Ardie, a “preacher’s kid”, graduated from the Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio and holds two Masters degrees – one in Christian Education and one in Divinity – and she, too, is an ordained minister. (continued on page 3)





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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Church Office Hours:
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Where Everybody is Somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord
firstprotestant.com



The Growth of First Protestant Church

(continued from page 1)

Reverend Daryl moved to New Braunfels from California in 1989 and Ardie followed shortly thereafter. When he came here, Daryl was told that there was an effort in the mid-1980s to enlarge the Church but the effort had failed. He knew that he would need to cast the vision for the First Protestant Church to raise itself in spiritual leadership within the community. Daryl also knew that he and the parishioners would need to come together as a team to make First Protestant the leading Church of New Braunfels as it is today.

First, let me comment on the history of the Church campus. The property at the corner of Seguin and Coll has belonged to First Protestant Church since 1845, when the first Germans settled in New Braunfels. First known as the German Protestant Church, First Protestant has much history associated with its many years. You can read the moving history of the church in the book "A Journey in Faith" by Rosemarie Leissner Gregory and Myra Lee Adams Goff. This book is beautifully written and it depicts how First Protestant Church has served the people of this area. You can purchase a copy of "A Journey in Faith" from the Church office. The book ends in 1995. This article will give some details of how the Church has changed since that time.

When Reverend Daryl came to New Braunfels, the area around the Church was quite different. The Parsonage, in which Gene Mornhinweg was born, was still standing and was very old. The Mornhinweg Center was a building belonging to Texas Commerce Bank, now Chase Bank. There were even goats grazing on part of the property which, at the time, belonged to Dr. Stratemann. Today, the grazing field is the parking lot for the Mornhinweg Center. The Dietert Auto Parts Supply, owned by Jeanette and Darvin Dietert, was across the street at the corner of Seguin and Coll. This property was purchased by the Church and is now the Church parking lot. When it became available in the late 1990s, the building at the corner of Coll and Castell was purchased and became the Outreach Center. Today, First Protestant Church owns all of the property on both sides of Coll Street between Seguin and Castell and the property facing Castell Street from Coll to the parking lot beyond the Mornhinweg Center except for the Faust Hotel parking lot.

In 1993, it was decided that the Church would expand to include a Family Life Center, a courtyard, and the offices as we see them today. Evelyne and Reno Schumann lead the campaign with a very large donation and thus the Family Life Center is named the "Reno and Evelyne Schumann Hall". Preparing the land to build the Family Life Center required the removal of a number of very old and large Pecan trees. Russell Lackey, a member of the church and a craftsman par excellence, used some of the wood from the Pecan trees to craft a large and beautifully polished wooden cross. This cross hangs on the wall in the hallway that leads from the front entrance to Schuman Hall.

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The Growth of First Protestant Church

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Earlier I mentioned that Gene Mornhinweg was born in the Parsonage. His father was Reverend Gottlob Mornhinweg who came to New Braunfels in 1899 to begin serving the German Protestant Church. He served the church until 1947. Throughout Gene's life, he had very close ties to First Protestant Church. About the same time that the Family Life Center was becoming a reality, Gene gave his entire estate to First Protestant. In 1997-1998, he cashed in all of his bonds to buy the land that was needed for the Church to grow and the bank building that today we call the Mornhinweg Center.

Reverend Daryl had a dream and the vision for a "Walk of Faith" on the Church campus. He shared his dream with Gene Mornhinweg and the "Walk of Faith" became a reality with Gene as his manager. Today, the "Walk of Faith" leads from the Heritage Wall at the Coll Street entrance to the statue of the Good Shepherd in front of the entrance to the Family Life Center. The red marble pavers in the crosses are engraved with verses from the Old

and New Testaments and tell the story of the creation of the world, the Ten Commandments, and the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. The "Walk of Faith" continues as the "Good Shepherd Walk" from the statue of the Good Shepherd through the courtyard to the Good Shepherd stained glass window in the connecting hall between the Family Life Center and the Narthex of the Sanctuary.

The third section of the "Walk of Faith" - "The Living Cross" - leads from Seguin Street to the front entrance of the Schumann Family Life Center. It ends with a large marble slab engraved with the "Lord's Prayer" that is dedicated to Evelyne Schumann. The final section of the "Walk of Faith" leads from Seguin Street to the main entrance of the Church Sanctuary. This section contains large marble slabs engraved with the Parables and ends with the 100th Psalm as a memorial from Gene to his parents - Pastor Gottlob Mornhinweg and Ella Springer Mornhinweg.

The "Walk of Faith" is a special place at the Church. Trinitarian Fountains representing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are located in the courtyard at the end of the Good Shepherd section of the Walk in front of the Good Shepherd stained glass window. Also in the courtyard are two Memorial Planters, which contain plants depicted in the Bible, and a Reflecting Pool representing the "still waters" of the 23rd Psalm. Throughout the "Walk of Faith", there are pavers with memorials and tributes to friends of the church and to dedicated members

who have had much to do with the development of First Protestant. Members wishing to add memorials to the “Walk of Faith” should contact Jerald Schroeder at the Church Office. Recently, memorial and tributary benches have been added to the “Walk of Faith”. Until his death in 2010, at the age 99; Gene Mornhinweg maintained an office in the church where he translated many of the old German church documents into English and managed the growth and development of the “Walk of Faith”. So important to Gene was the “Walk of Faith” that he asked that his final journey from the Church to the cemetery include a trip across the “Walk of Faith”.

On each side of the section of the “Walk of Faith” containing the Parables and leading to the Sanctuary are significant memorials. There are three very large crosses on the right side of the walk that represent the Calvary Crosses of the Crucifixion. An open Bell Tower is on the left side of the Walk. This Tower houses two bells that were a gift to the German Protestant Church from Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels. These bells were poured in Braunfels, Germany in 1834 and came to America on the ship with the German immigrants. Prince Carl entrusted the two bells to Elisabeth and Carl Schaefer to deliver the bells to the German Protestant Church in Nue-Braunfels. In 1846, when the original German Protestant Church was built, these bells were hung in the wooden steeple of the church. In 1894, the bells from Prince Carl were replaced in the bell tower of the new limestone church by three very large bells, which to this day toll every hour and call parishioners to church each Sunday. In 2005, the Prince Carl bells were removed from storage and mounted in the open bell tower that was built especially for them. Today, they are electrically controlled and they ring on special occasions.

Reverend Daryl showed his leadership within the Church and beyond when he gathered ministers together from the United Church of Christ (UCC) to establish the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches. The Evangelical Association was incorporated in Texas and its first two meetings were held in New Braunfels at First Protestant Church. Reverend Daryl was elected to serve as its first President. Today, the Evangelical Association has grown to have a membership of more than 200 ministers representing 76 churches. Reverend Daryl continues to serve as an officer in the Evangelical Association and Reverend Ardie serves as a Board Member. Gene Mornhinweg was one of a very few lay persons to ever serve on the Association Board, a position he held until 2007 when his health had deteriorated so that he could no longer travel to meetings.



(continued on page 15)

Continued Growth of First Protestant Church

Who is Rev. Chuck Huckaby?

Rev. Chuck has served as minister in churches in West Virginia and Philadelphia, citing his home church as Summit Point Baptist Church in West Virginia. He is an experienced minister, teacher, and mentor with varied highlights in his career. Following his undergraduate degree from Shepherd College in West Virginia, he received his Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and is currently awaiting approval of his doctoral topic from the London School of Theology (distance program).

With extensive experience in jail and prison ministry, including both adult and juvenile outreach, Rev. Chuck was instrumental as founder of the Lawrence County, TN Celebrate Recovery Program, a twelve-step addiction recovery program based on eight principles from the Beatitudes. Additionally, he has provided monthly columns for Chuck Colson's WorldViewChurch.org and has served as a monthly speaker on The Matt Freidman Show's "Pastor's Circle" American Family Radio Network.

An avid writer, Rev. Chuck enjoys newsletter publishing, website development, and blogging, and has authored numerous reviews and articles for Christian online and print publications.

In January 2012, we will welcome Rev. Chuck Huckaby, as he leaves Tennessee to make his new home here at First Protestant Church in New Braunfels. In addition to preaching, he will be responsible for our Pastoral Care/Lay Ministry program (including small group Bible studies & other assignments).

We will all want to get to know and welcome Rev. Chuck and his wife, Renee, to our church family.

Welcome, Rev. Chuck Huckaby!

Ministry



Rev. Chuck
Huckaby



Reverends
Daryl, Chuck, & Phil

Learning About Our Lord

By Jill Rodriguez

We continue to learn about and love the Lord in Kids' Connection. FPC has some of the greatest Kindergarten through 5th graders around. We just finished our Discipletown Unit, "How to Explain Your Faith" and are eager to get started on the next unit, "How to Discover Gifts & Talents." This will be an exciting time for our children as they discover the gifts and talents that God has given each of them.

On September 30 we boarded both FPC vans and traveled to Gattiland in San Antonio for a night of pizza and fun. Twenty four children attended this outing and had a fabulous time. Those participating were: Elijah, Katy & Phillip Brown, Jenna Buck and her friend Jenna Korpi, Ben Coulombe, Brett Goelzer and his friend Charlie Warwick, Caitlyn & Ryan Hernandez, Haley & Zach Hoffman, Cooper & Emma Kirchhoff, Erica Marshall, Colin Ott, Marisa Rodriguez, Carter & Henry Roels, Emma Schuetz and her friend Brittney Ethridge, Lincoln Schuetz, Chloe Ullrich and Gabrielle Villanueva. Many thanks to Raul Rodriguez and Meiling Hernandez for going along as chaperones!

We had our annual FPC Bible presentations on October 2. Children receiving Bibles were: Tate Davis, Tomlin Fischer, Caitlyn & Ryan Hernandez, Cooper Kirchhoff, Walker Lindemann, Reid Robison, Dylan Skarovsky, Megan Skarovsky, Chloe Ullrich, and Gabriella Villanueva.

The kids of FPC teamed up with Pat Krause to provide Halloween goodie bags for the soldiers at BAMC. Candy was placed in 1,000 bags by our children. They had a fun time doing this for America's soldiers. Surprisingly, they ate very little of the candy along the way, only the piece they were given after their hard work.



Kids' Connection

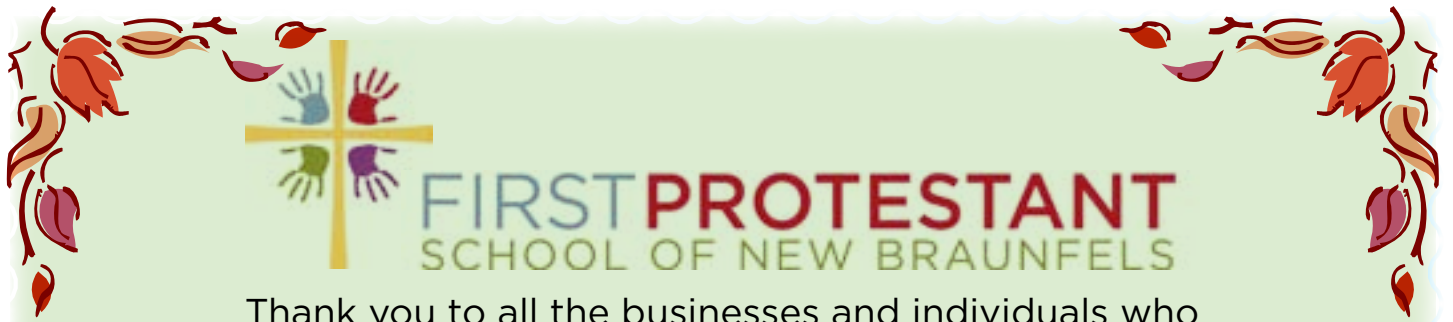
On October 16 we began our rehearsals for the FPC Kids annual Christmas pageant. This year's pageant was entitled Chris-myth Busters: Discovering the Truth About Christmas. We have rehearsed each Sunday afternoon from 4:00-5:30pm with eighteen children participating. Rehearsals have gone very well. The performance on December 4 at 9:15am in Hrechko Auditorium was surely blessed by these children as a wonderful, Christ-filled way to kick off the Christmas season.

I want to thank Polly and Noel Smith for being the "judges" for our speaking part auditions. Noel has also played the part of Mrs. Edwards in our show. And many thanks to my right hand, my left hand and everything in between, Cindy Pustka, for all that she does every year to help put on this pageant, and to Skyler Pustka as our dance choreographer. The Kids' Connection Christmas pageant is a blessing to all!

Upcoming events for FPC Children's Ministry will be:

Dec. 11 Advent Workshop
Dec. 17 Outing to the Magik Children's Theatre

May the Lord bless you during the upcoming holiday season!



Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who contributed to our Children's Festival:

A New U Salon
Abbey Batey
Ammo Advertising
Ben E. Keith
Beth Smith
Beyond Cakes
Blue Sky Propane
Bluebonnet Motors
Bond Berkner
Bradfield Properties
Brianna Foerster
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Connie Eckert
Courtney Bird
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Cynthia Riffe - RifKi Creations
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Misty Lawrence
Monster Technologies
Montana Mike's
Myron's
Natural Bridge Caverns
NB Nails
NB Smokehouse
Nettie's Crafts
Nicole Babula
Nicole Hartwick
Paradise Fun Center
Pat Krause
Pit Stop & Fischers
Plumeyer Photography



Pookie Jane's Boutique	The Parents of the Butterflies
Rachel Stein	
Raeann Hackfeld	The Parents of the Dolphins
Rev. Daryl Higgins	
River City Range	The Parents of the Giraffes
Robin's Nest Designs	
Rowena Hackfeld	The Parents of the Ladybugs
Roy's Rentals & Campground	
Scentsy	The Parents of the Lions
Sheenae Hernandez-Garcia	
SIG Live Oak Insurance	The Parents of the Little Angels
Stanley & Susan Bird	
Stephanie Berkner	The Parents of the Little Piggies
Stretch & Grow	
Sunrise Mosaics	The Parents of the Little Stars
Supplize	
Sylvia Luna	The Parents of the Lucky Ducks
Tan 2000	
Teresa Gomez at Felger & Friends	The Parents of the Monkeys
The Abernathy Family	
The Children's Museum	The Parents of the Penguins
The Grain Bin Cafe & Store	
The Jumpy Place	The Parents of the Polar Bears
The Wash Tub	
Thirty-One	The Parents of the Zebras
Tidings of Love - Jane Roy	
Tyson	
UPS Store	

Praying for Our Kids

Moms in Touch International

By Renee Goelzer

I want let you know about an opportunity to pray regularly for your kids. It's called Moms in Touch International and we meet weekly to pray for our children, their school, administrators and teachers. Whether you have children in elementary, middle, high school or college, you can find a local Moms in Touch prayer group meeting to pray specifically for that school.

The two groups meeting at the Mornhinweg Center pray for:
New Braunfels High School -- Thursdays, noon to 1 pm
College and Career - Tuesdays, 6 to 7 pm

It has really been a blessing for me to meet with other moms to pray for our children and the administration at NBHS. I started praying specifically for our son Riley and NBHS when he was a freshman. Now that he is a junior, I feel the need to pray with other moms even more. Please consider spending just one hour a week in prayer for your child and the school he or she attends. You will be amazed at how your prayers will be answered (maybe not always the way you expected!) and how you will connect with other moms.

Feel free to contact me (renee.goelzer@sbcglobal.net or 830-481-4004) if you have any questions or need help finding a prayer group for a specific school. You can also find more information at www.momsintouch.org.

Please join us to pray for your children!



Moms in Touch International is:

Two or more moms who meet regularly to pray for their children, their schools, their teachers and administrators.

Mothers, grandmothers or anyone who is willing to pray for a specific child and school.

Moms who believe that prayer makes a difference.

A nonprofit, donation-supported ministry in 130-plus countries.

Lessons & Carols

By Sharon Gold

Worship



At both the 8:00 and 10:30 am services on Sunday, December 11, the Sanctuary Choir will present "Gloria Deo: A Service of Lessons and Carols" by Benjamin Harland. The choir will be accompanied by a String Quartet together with a Flute and an Oboe. From the opening procession of the Choir through the closing recession, the music and scripture readings will fill the Church with the blessings of the birth of Christ.

The idea for a service of Lessons and Carols originated in 1880 when the Archbishop of Canterbury put together a service for Christmas Eve. The traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College in Cambridge, England. The King's College service has become the accepted model and has been adopted again and again by other churches around the world. The carols are often changed and new carols introduced, but the lessons and prayers remain virtually unchanged.

The main theme of the Service of Lessons and Carols is "the loving purposes of God" presented through the scripture readings and carols. These readings provide both the structural pattern and the strength of the service. The Lessons and Carols weave rich carol arrangements with scripture lessons for a moving Christmas worship experience.

Benjamin Harlan is an internationally known arranger and composer of choral, keyboard and handbell music. He is also known for his hymn arrangements for organ, choir, and congregation. Dr. Harlan has served as the Dean of the School of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Today, he is the Professor of Church Music at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mary Kay Beall has written the History, Order of Service and Prayers for "Gloria Deo: A Service of Lessons and Carols". She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree and a Master's Degree in Theological Studies, is an ordained Baptist minister, and has written many original choral compositions.

The Lessons and Carols Service at First Protestant is a new tradition that sets the mood for the Advent and Christmas season. It is also a wonderful time to share with family from out-of-town as well as cherished friends. What a wonderful gift! We encourage you to extend a special invitation to your friends and family to share the message of Christmas in song as the Sanctuary Choir presents the "Gloria Deo: A Service of Lessons and Carols."

Is it Soup Yet?

By Gay Wimberley

That was the most asked question on a recent Saturday morning in November when several members of the Women's Fellowship gathered in the church kitchen to cook more than 100 pints of old fashioned potato soup. This has been a tradition of the fellowship for a number of years, first being served with sandwiches at the Christmas in July Bazaar held in the Bormann Room.

Some of the ladies peel, dice and cook 10 pounds of potatoes, while others chop onions, celery, parsley and carrots, and others donate butter, cream, milk and spices. All the ingredients are combined and gently cooked to create an authentic German-style potato soup. Then the soup is packaged in pint containers and sold. Usually the soup is frozen and can be thawed and thinned down with milk, adding bacon bits, cheese or the topping of your choice when served at a later date.

Proceeds from the sale of the soup go to several different missions of the Fellowship, including Salvation Army, St. Jude's Ranch for Children, aide to women of the church who are experiencing personal difficulties, scholarships to women's leadership programs, and last year to fund purchase of a public address system for a church in Nigeria.

Plans are in the works to possibly have another soup sale in February the week before the Super Bowl. This is the ultimate accompaniment to the Super Bowl Subs sold by our youth.



The Growth of First Protestant Church

(continued from page 5)

Beyond his love of God and his church family, Reverend Daryl is a great lover of spectator sports, reading, traveling, sports cars, and eating good food - especially spaghetti or hot dogs when the Sunday after church luncheon serves spaghetti or has hot dogs for the children. Besides ministering to First Protestant, Daryl and Ardie are great people with whom many have found meaningful friendships over the years. They have lead groups from the church and community on many worldwide trips. One of their trips was a mission and education trip to Zimbabwe. While in Zimbabwe, Daryl and Ardie met Dr. Fred Gomendo, who later twice visited New Braunfels. Both times, he addressed the congregation at First Protestant. This past year, they lead a group of parishioners and community members to Europe to see the 2010 Passion Play in Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany.

Over the past 22 years, Reverend Daryl has led the way for the development of the ministerial and lay staff at First Protestant Church. He brought Phil Brown to New Braunfels from Ohio in 2005. Reverend Phil serves the church as the Associate Minister of Youth and Children. He does an outstanding job of leading our young people and serving as the lead minister for the First Protestant Contemporary Service, The River. In January 2012, we will add a third minister, Chuck Huckaby from Tennessee. We will all want to get to know and welcome Reverend Chuck and his wife, Renee, to our church family.

(“Meet” Rev. Chuck immediately following this article on page 6.)

Reverends Daryl, Phil, and Chuck look forward to many years of service to the First Protestant Church family and the people of New Braunfels.

Please see the follow up to this story with an introduction to our new minister, Rev. Chuck Huckaby, on page 6!



Help beautify our sanctuary during the Christmas season!



I would like to order _____ poinsettias at \$10 each

_____ in honor of: -or- _____ in memory of:

Honoree _____

Given by _____

*Please return this form to the church office with your payment.
Poinsettias may be picked up after the last Christmas Eve service.*

Christmas Season at First Protestant Church

Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 4, 9:15am - Seele Hall

Lessons & Carols Worship
Sunday, December 11, 8:00 & 10:30am - Sanctuary

Youth Dinner, Play & Silent Auction
Sunday, December 11, 6pm - Schumann Hall

Christmas Eve Worship Services - Saturday, December 24
5:30pm - traditional worship in the Sanctuary
7:30pm - contemporary worship in Schumann Hall
11:00pm - traditional worship in the Sanctuary

Christmas Traditional Worship Service - Sunday, December 25
10:30am - Sanctuary
One worship service only on this day.

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

First Protestant Church
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New Braunfels, TX 78130

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