



FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord

September 2011

FPC Kicks Off 2011/2012 With.....

.....A Big Celebration,

After a long, hot summer, FPC kicked off a great season of spiritual growth with new class orientations, a wonderful BBQ lunch and a carnival for the kids.

See more about this exciting day inside on pages 8-9.

.....New Classes & Ministries,

Kick Off wasn't just for the kids! A number of new fall adult Bible Studies are being offered at FPC.

Look for more information and updates about adult opportunities inside on page 14.

.....And a New Look!

And Kick Off Sunday provided the opportunity for the unveiling of a new look for FPC!

Watch for updates to all of the FPC and FPS print and electronic in-house and outreach media materials as the weeks progress.



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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Monday - Thursday 9-12 & 1-4, Friday 9-12 & 1-3
Where Everybody is Somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord
www.firstprotestant.com

Finding God's Will in Our Prayers



By Daryl C. Higgins, Senior Minister

At First Protestant Church our Prayer Leadership Team is always looking for ways to deepen and strengthen the prayer life of our individual members, as well as the corporate prayer life of our congregation. A spiritually healthy Christian needs a steady and balanced daily “prayer diet.” For this to take place, one must be mindful of God’s will, and earnestly seek and pray for God’s will for our lives.

Sometimes I am ashamed of my own prayers. Too often I hear myself using familiar phrases that are more like mindless filler than thoughtful, intimate interaction with the Lord. One common phrase that really annoys me personally, and that I think might offend God, is “Lord, be with me.” In scripture, God has already promised not to leave me. God gave this promise to Joshua just before he led the Israelites into the Promised Land (Joshua 1:5). In the New Testament book of Hebrews we see this claim reaffirmed once again for all believers: “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). In both cases the context indicates very clearly that God’s presence has to do with giving us the power to carry out His will, not our own will. Unfortunately, this is generally what I and most of us usually have in mind in our prayers.

Devotional writer, Julie Ackerman Link, suggests that a much better prayer would be something like this: “Lord, thank You for Your indwelling Spirit who is willing and able to direct me in ways You want me to go. May I not take You where You don’t want to go. May I not enlist You to do “my” will, but humbly submit to doing Yours.”

When Christian disciples are doing the will of God, then He will be with us even without our asking. If we are not doing His will we need to ask forgiveness, change our course, and follow Him.

In this way our prayers will not be “mindless” but instead “mindful” of God’s will.

Life As Seen by Martha Lavin



In 1979, Martha and Carl Lavin moved to New Braunfels from Houston and joined First Protestant Church. Martha immediately became very active in the church. She taught Sunday School and participated in the Slumber Falls Camps. She was a long-

time member of the Sanctuary Choir and served as a vocal soloist. In 1992, Martha and Carl moved to a cottage at Eden Hill. Martha died on August 7, 2011. A Celebration of her Life was held on August 12th in the Chapel at Eden Village.

Martha and her husband of 74 years, Carl, were married in San Antonio in the Chapel at the old Eden Home before Eden Home moved to its present location in New Braunfels. Martha's father was a minister and the Superintendent of Eden Home. Her grandfather, Rev. Jonathan Irion, assisted in the wedding ceremony. Every morning, Carl and Martha had prayer and devotions following their breakfast. Carl says frequently that "Martha was a wonderful wife and partner" and he refers to her as his "Little Princess".

Patty Lavin, who is a member of the Sanctuary Choir today, says that her mother loved life. Martha's love of life can be seen in the following poem that she wrote. Patty gave this poem to Cindy Peterman a number of years ago. The poem has lived on Cindy's refrigerator. We are pleased that Cindy has shared Martha's poem with the membership of First Protestant Church through this issue of "Connection".

"Life"

Life is for giving of yourself always.
Life is for loving each one that you meet.
Life is for thanking for every good treat.
Life is for singing sweet songs on the way.
Life is for praying for others dismay.
Life is for sharing whatever life brings.
Life is for enjoying all beautiful things.
Life is for growing in goodness and grace.
Life is for rejoicing when we at last see His face.

In Memory

By Sharon Gold



Summer Was Sizzlin' at FPC!



FPC kids were sizzlin' at Summer Sizzle 2011, August 12-14. Our incoming 2nd - 5th graders spent two evenings and an afternoon at the beautiful riverfront property of Rob Miller to "Chase the Light." Our theme this year was based on John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." By the end of our time together, our chant went as follows: "We're going to follow the star, we're going to shine His light, and we're going to be who he wants us to be. We will shout his story; we can show the world that we will chase the light." We enjoyed swimming, meals, lessons, crafts and games during Summer Sizzle.

On Sunday, before heading to Mr. Miller's property, the Sizzle kids participated in FPC's Hotdog Handout. This was a perfect opportunity for them to practice "sharing the light" of Jesus Christ. I have to say that I have never been more proud of our kids than on that day. They worked hard putting the hotdogs together and handing them out to the tubers. It was absolutely precious to see them out there sharing the love.

The children participating in Summer Sizzle 2011 were Elijah, Katy and Phillip Brown, Evan Cardenas, Ben Coulombe, Chloe Gaona, Brett Goelzer, Caitlyn Hernandez, Haley and Zachary Hoffmann, Erica Marshall, Kaylee Pustka, Marisa Rodriguez, Emma and Lincoln Schuetz, Chloe Ullrich, and Charlie Warwick. Many, many thanks to those who helped Pastor Phil and me during the retreat: Eric and Renee Goelzer, Natalie Hell, Jerald Schroeder, Cody Binder, Shelby Steinbach and Skyler Pustka. And, of course, a HUGE "shout out" to Rob for allowing us to spend our time in his amazing backyard and for helping cook our meals!



By Jill Rodriguez

Kids' Connection





Kick Off Sunday, August 28, was a huge success. We are very happy to be back on our normal routine of Sunday School and Kids' Connection. We had a great morning of activities which ended with a fabulous brisket lunch and a fantastic carnival put on for the FPC kids by 1PY. Thanks to Cody and the youth for making the carnival a success.

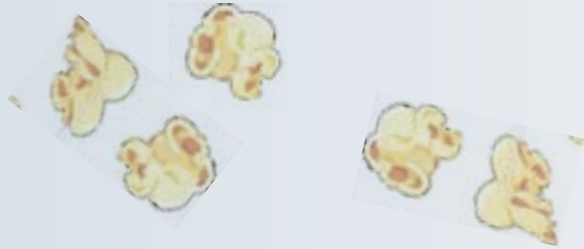
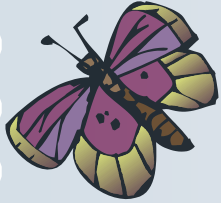
Stay tuned for upcoming FPC Children's Ministry events. Please make sure Ms. Jill has your email address so that you can be included in the announcements that go out via email. We will have an outing of some kind in October and, believe it or not, rehearsals for our 2011 Christmas Pageant begin on October 16. The pageant will be presented on December 4. Please make plans to be a part of this annual event.



Kids' Connection



Butterflies, Popcorn, & Flying Fingers



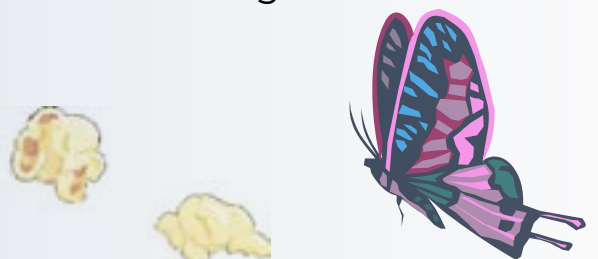
By Shirley Ginn

Flying Fingers' main project this year has been a Butterfly quilt. We received blocks with butterflies on them and have made them into a beautiful quilt. No one knows how old the blocks are but they were found to be in excellent shape. Loretta Luehlfing and Lucille Koehler have been busy quilting now that the blocks are put together and we will be selling tickets on the quilt later this year. Barbara Dean and Bertha Ochoa have also been helping with the quilting. We are in need of additional quilters to help us get the job done.

A visitor from Missouri shared some ideas with us, and Flying Fingers is making our own rendition of two of those ideas. The first is small quilted pillows with a cross on one side and a prayer on the back: a perfect item for our lay ministers to give to some of our folks in care facilities. They can feel the cross and know that we are always thinking of, and praying for, them. Just as children cuddling a special doll or blanket feel loved, these pillows remind our shut-ins that Jesus and FPC love them. The second idea we are using is to make small tote bags in which a bag of popcorn is placed, along with some candy and a note thanking the recipient for "popping in." Also included is a card giving information on the ministries of FPC along with some basic contact information. Pat Bees is distributing these to our visitors.



Carla Braune has been busy sewing pillows slips and cosmetic bags for the women's shelter. We will be delivering them later this year to let them know they are loved. Mary Ann Rheinlander and Pat Bees have been very busy making tie quilts which will also go to the shelter.



Bertha Ochoa and Lois Newton are busy making prayer shawls. Their work is beautiful and it such a joy to be able to provide these shawls to those in our church family who are in need of a reminder of God's love and our hugs.

Judy Borger and Shirley Ginn are the experienced quilters and are always bringing new ideas. They have their rotary cutters in hand are busy cutting fabric for all our projects.

Another new project we have undertaken is "Cool Ties." We are making them for the Blue Star Mothers to add to their gift packages sent to our local troops. With the heat here, one can only imagine what it must be like to be in the desert in full uniform. Hopefully these will help keep our troops just a little cooler and let them know we love them and are praying for them.



As you can see, our Flying Fingers participants are busy, but not too busy to enjoy an occasional night of games, food and lots of laughter. Some of our regulars have been taking care of family needs and we look forward to having them back with us real soon.

Flying Fingers is truly a blessed group of talented people who love making things for others. Please come join us. No skills are needed, just a willing spirit to learn and a loving heart. No need to know how to sew or quilt or crochet, we can always find the perfect spot for you. Your reward will be new friends, great fellowship and maybe a new skill. Flying Fingers meets on Monday evenings, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the Mornhinweg Center. Give Mae Kraft a call for additional information or just come to check us out.

Summer Service, Sharing, Sun & Fun



The months of July and August had quite a bit to hold for FPC Youth (1PY). In July, 35 1PY missionaries loaded into vans and traveled to the Navajo Indian Reservation in Fort Defiance, AZ. We spent a week serving by painting houses, landscaping, playing with Navajo children, and hanging out with Navajo teens. It was a wonderful experience to be a light in such a dark place as the “rez”. While we were there we were able to see the conditions that the Navajo people live in everyday. Poverty and violence have been commonplace amongst the community and many of the children and teens have not grown up in stable homes. Our eyes have now been opened to the everyday blessings that the Lord has given, such as loving parents, roofs over our heads, and a safe, fun city like New Braunfels to call home.

While on the trip, our missionaries bonded with the Navajo children and communicated Christ’s love through their service. Some of our missionaries gave piggyback rides for hours on end, some helped teach Bible classes, and some became so close that they were asked to sign a Navajo teen’s most prized possession, his skateboard. All those who went were challenged to “be different”.

Special thanks to our Mission Trip volunteers: thank you for all of your work and support; it would not have been possible without you.



By Cody Binder



Later in July, Lifebread made 1PY a stop on their nationwide tour. Lifebread is a Christ-centered nonprofit organization that goes to villages in Africa, helps the locals build small bakeries, and teaches them how to bake bread for sustenance as well as for economy. Lifebread is also intentional about sharing the gospel with those whom they assist. They told us about how they share the bread of the oven as well as the bread of life.

The middle school crew was active in August as we took an outing to ZDT's as well as having a workday down in the Bormann Room (followed by a swim at the pool). Both were times of great fun and fellowship. We are so glad that our youth are willing to bring their friends to experience our "Wacky Wednesdays". 1PY also served at Travis Park United Methodist Church in downtown San Antonio during July. We go every month with a 5th Sunday to help cook and serve breakfast for the homeless community.

We are now off and running with the 2011-2012 school year! Look for 1PY members during football games, we are well represented. We are excited about a brand spankin' new year and all the Lord has in store for it.

Bible Study

Opportunities @ FPC

Ministry

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10am, Mornhinweg Center
Studies one book of the Bible at a time
from beginning to end.

Searchers

Searchers

Sundays, 9:15am

Church Office Conference Room
Covers the great characters in the
New Testament. All are welcome to
discover the relevance of historical
biblical figures to our lives today.

Small Group Bible Study

Wednesdays, 7pm
Mornhinweg Center
A group-facilitated study
of Max Lucado's "Books
of Ezra & Nehemiah Life
Lessons Inspirational
Series".



Faithwerks

Kingdom Seekers

Sundays, 9:15am
Mornhinweg Center

Meet to study God's word and
make practical applications to
everyday life.



WOW Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 7pm,
Mornhinweg Center
All women invited.



WOW Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, 7pm,
Mornhinweg Center
Lysa Terkeurst study:
"Becoming More
Than Just a Good
Bible Study Girl"



Band of Brothers

Monthly on 3rd Tuesday
6:30pm Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study
Meets in member homes
"Connecting men with God
and each other through
Jesus Christ"

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, 9:15am

Seele basement Lounge
Start up group looking for
men who genuinely desire a
deeper connection with God
and other like-minded men,
through Jesus Christ. Please
contact Rob Miller if you are
interested -- 606-5253.

Noon Bible Chat (NBC)

Wednesdays, 11:30am
Mornhinweg Center
\$5 donation/home
cooked lunch, then
Bible study, "Great
Hearts of Courage",
CD series profiling the
lives and Christ-like
qualities of renowned
Christians.



Around FPC

Worship



Where everybody
is somebody and
Jesus Christ is
Lord



Let's Connect! Real Relationships, Real Fellowship, Real Fun!

You are invited to join the ladies of FPC for an overnight retreat!

Saturday, October 22

The Haven River Inn -- Comfort, TX



Lori Brookins, FPC

Missionary in residence, guest speaker

Cost approx \$100*

*(*dependent upon group size, room sharing -
\$25 deposit required to reserve a space)*

Contact Paula Molz

830-214-5568

paulammolz@yahoo.com

www.havenriverinn.com

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

Did you know....?

Due to US Postal regulations, FPC must request return receipt when we mail out bulk mailings (see below), and we pay twice when mailouts to our members are returned to the church. As good stewards of our resources, please assist the church in keeping your contact information current. Any address, name, phone, or E-mail changes should be reported to the office at 609-7729 x10, office@firstprotestant.com, or through the Webview link at www.firstprotestant.com. Thank You!

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

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