

+SERVANTS OF THE LORD+

Members and former members of

First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, who became active church workers, 1940-2015

75th Anniversary Celebration, October 17-18, 2015

MINISTERS

Jack Parse
Guy Delaney
David Fletcher
Mike Renquist
Keith Huggins
Jake Gonzales
Carolyn Mitchell
Nora Gonzales
Shane Webb

MISSIONARY WORK

Roy and Nancy Penney—Brazil
Janet Sue Couvillion Whetzel—Jamaica
Ellen Mahaffey Howell—InterVarsity Fellowship, University of Houston
Shane Webb—Chile

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS (CERTIFIED)

Martha Kay Fletcher Garriss
Mary Swan
Rhonda Haskins

CHURCH WORKERS (EDUCATION STAFF)

Betty Herdman
Carol Adams
Mary Jo Chadwick Halbert
Susan Hogan
Anna Marie Kluber
Gayle Keeler Warzon
Carrie Reed
Shane Webb
Jesse Mace
Jo Ann Currie



**A JOYFUL CELEBRATION
OF 75 YEARS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena, Texas was organized as a mission of the Central Park Presbyterian Church (now Trinity/San Pablo Presbyterian Church) of Houston, on November 22, 1936, with thirteen initial members: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Poirrier, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Fairfield, Mr. A. C. Massey, Miss Ruby Fuhlberg, Mr. and Mrs. John Hunter and their five children.

The first few meetings were held at the Pasadena High School auditorium. When the Hunter family of seven persons moved away, the remaining group of six almost gave up. However, the opening of Champion Paper Mill on the Houston Ship Channel brought many Presbyterians from North Carolina to work at the new plant, and the church began to grow. On January 3, 1937, the congregation moved to the Shell Union Hall on Shaver Street and called Rev. Walton G. Sugg as part-time minister, with a salary of \$25 a month. In November 1937, they began meeting in the band hall of Jackson Junior High School (now DeZavala Middle School).

In June 1938, the mission church bought a lot on the southwest corner of Randall and Broadway for \$300. The band hall was purchased for \$150 and moved to the new lot at a cost of \$80. Several additions were made to that first church building with most of the labor provided by the men of the church. The lectern used in the fellowship hall today is the pulpit Mr. L. J. Etheridge made for that first church building.

On October 1, 1940, the Pasadena Presbyterian Church received its official beginning when it was chartered by Brazos Presbytery, PCUS (now Presbytery of New Covenant, PCUSA), and became a self sustaining congregation. The Reverend Dr. Charles L. King, pastor of Houston's First Presbyterian Church, preached the inaugural sermon and suggested the name be changed to First Presbyterian Church, in order to become the first of more Presbyterian churches in the future. The Bible that Dr. King used in that service was donated to the church and is now displayed in the stained glass window

box in the narthex of the present building. There were 42 charter members. Several of these families are represented by members of the present congregation, including Diane Walker Hall, Johnnie Wamble Haltom (of the Webb family), and Thelma Jean Dirr Paradysz.

The congregation broke ground in 1949 for a new sanctuary at 1211 E. Harris Street, near Strawberry Road, and the Randall Street buildings were moved behind the sanctuary to serve temporarily as classrooms and fellowship hall. In addition to the many potluck dinners held in the fellowship hall, there was even square dancing going on which caused one unhappy family to leave. Eventually, new educational buildings, a fellowship hall, and a Boy Scout hut were completed by 1960. A new and larger sanctuary was built in 1968, and the old sanctuary was converted to chapel, bride's room, choir room, library, offices, with attic space above. The pipe organ was installed in 1978.

In addition to enormous growth at First Presbyterian, two new churches were established and supported in Pasadena—in 1955, at Eastminster Presbyterian Church (now an active Hispanic church), 403 Preston Road, and in 1958, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 2301 South Houston/Pasadena Road, near Queens Road. By 1963, there were over 1000 Presbyterian saints in Pasadena churches! After NASA moved to Clear Lake City in 1963, several hundred more Presbyterians joined all three churches.

FPCP moved again in August 1998 when the present church was dedicated at the corner of Preston Road and Crenshaw Road. Large stained glass windows were added in 1999 and 2001. The Holy Grounds Coffee Cafe' was opened in June of 2005.

Since the small beginning as a mission in 1936, there is now a fine community of over 250 members that glorifies God and serves, loves, and cares for others. Our Mission and Outreach Ministry involves extensive participation in Habitat for Humanity, Pasadena Community Ministry (PCM), CROP Hunger Walk, Kairos Prison Ministry, the Gathering Place, Christmas party for the VA Hospital, Young at Heart Seniors Ministry, the Noel Wilkins Music Scholarships at San Jacinto Community College, the Souper Bowl of Caring, meals for Lord of the Streets, shoes for Sole Hope, meals, magazines, and visits to International Seafarer's Ministry, and a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Youth Mission Trips have included work and learning experiences in Dallas, South Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, California, and New Mexico.

In 1978, The Bridge over Troubled Waters, a shelter for women and their children in crisis, was founded by members from First Presbyterian Church, Carolyn and Bob Russell, and Nancy and Roy Penney, of Eastminster Church and later members of FPCP.

A Vietnamese refugee family, Quang Le Tan, his wife Gi Nguyen, and their four young children, were brought to Pasadena in 1979. Our church members provided them with a home and furnishings, jobs, health care and other assistance until they were well established and thriving on their own. They continued as active church members for many years.

In addition, Pasadena Interfaith Manor, an apartment complex for low-income senior adults built in 1981, was a result of the long-term efforts of three local groups—First Presbyterian Church, Knights of Columbus, and B'nai B'rith. It is the only retirement facility in the USA that was built and continues as a project of three faiths.

Our Discipleship Ministry includes the Early Childhood Program, begun in 1958 as a daily Kindergarten, and continues today with classes for ages 3 months to 4 year olds. Presbyterian Women began in 1939 as a Ladies' Auxiliary and meets today with a Day Circle and a Night Circle, conducting monthly Bible studies and many acts of service to the church family and the community.

Today, First Presbyterian Church is blessed with wonderfully dedicated spiritual leadership given us by Reverend Dr. Jim Currie and Jo Ann Currie, Director of Christian Education; Reverend Pat Abrams, Parish Associate; Cheryl Jones, Office Administrator; Kimberly Waggett, Financial Secretary; Carrie Reed, Early Childhood Program Director; Marilyn Wilkins, Music Director; Martha Braswell, Organist; and Maria Morales, Custodian.

For more information, please contact FPC at www.fpcpasadena.org, and on Facebook.

CHARTER MEMBERS – 1940

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Alford, Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Boatright, Miss Nancy Boyd, Mrs. E.G. Bright, Mr. and Mrs. Horace W. Bunkley, Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Cobb, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. E.O. Dirr, Mrs. Charles Dorris, Mrs. E.Y. Eliason and Margot, Mrs. L.J. Etheridge, Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Fairfield, Mr. L. Tom Fox, Miss Ruby Fuhlberg, Mr. Fred Furness, Mr. A.C. Massey, Mr. and Mrs. Crosby Matthews, Mrs. H. Leland Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Page, Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Poirrier and Louis, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Storie and Elnora and Ted and Betty, Mr. and Mrs. T.B. Walker and Jack, Mrs. J.S. Webb and Laura, Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Wilbourn

MINISTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PASADENA 1936-2015

MINISTERS

J. Martin Singleton	1942
John E. Parse	1946
Harry L. Johnson	1963
Dr. George K. Kluber	1975
Dr. Robert Garwig	1996
Jeffrey H. Smith	2002
Dean Pogue	2006
Dr. James S. Currie	2010

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Richard Poteet	1965
Patricia McClurg	1969
Charlotte Kibler	1982

SUPPLY PASTORS

Walton G. Sugg	1937
H. Leland Murphy	1939
Dr. Charles L. King	1974

ASSISTANT MINISTERS

David Jordan	1956	James Shott	1958
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INTERN ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Ted Foote	1977	Gordon Butler	1987
Tim Ferrell	1978	Deborah Dill	1988
Walker Westerlage, Jr.	1979	Kristine Brantley	1989
Kevin Keaton	1980	Richard Culp	1990
Ken Mahaffey	1981	Scott Simpson	1992

INTERIM MINISTERS

Patrick Abrams	1995
Stephen Rehrig	2000
Dr. W. Guy Delaney	2005

PARISH ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Patrick Abrams	2004
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