

2022 Annual Report



First Presbyterian Church Pasadena, Texas



Our Mission

Our mission is to live and share the good news of God's love, grace, and mercy in Jesus Christ, to equip people for discipleship and service, and to work for social justice and peace.



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Dear Friends,

Although 2022 was still a Covid-affected year, it was wonderful to return to some of our regular patterns and to renew some of our ministries. We celebrated three infant baptisms (!), formed a new church school class, resumed our Maundy Thursday service in the Fellowship Hall with a communion meal, opened our doors for a successful Vacation Bible School, and returned to First Sunday pot-luck lunches. We had a very meaningful Good Friday service and once again celebrated the Resurrection with brass!

Some of the changes forced on us by the pandemic are now used to further our ministries. Live-streaming worship began out of necessity. Now it is an extension of our ministry that has weekly viewers from across the United States, including former members, current members who are away from home or under the weather, and visitors who find us on purpose or accidentally. Zoom continues to be used for some meetings, which cuts down on travel and night driving, and allows some who have moved out of the area to still participate. The Lord can bring good out of anything!

During 2022, Brown Bag and Bible studied the writings of the prophet Haggai and Lenten and Easter themes, and began a study of Genesis. This Wednesday noon group has lively discussions. We may work at a glacial speed, but we run down a fair number of interesting rabbit trails and have a good time! New people (and occasional drop-ins) are always welcome.

Beyond and on behalf of First Presbyterian, Pasadena, I am continuing my work on the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and the Brazos Presbyterian Homes board, and the Board of Pensions' Mission Responsibility Through Investing Committee. My pastors/colleague group was able to meet in person for the first time since the Fall of 2019, and it was wonderful to get together to share camaraderie and insights about ministry in a post-Covid age.

Looking ahead, we have lots to be excited about, including a joyous Jazz Communion service. Invite others to join us at 10:30 am on February 19th, and prepare to worship God with a reverent, toe-tappin' service! Many other ideas are in the works also, for worship, fellowship, and service. May this be a year of many kinds of growth for us as a community of faith, led by our Lord Jesus Christ and focused on God's many blessings.



Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, pastor



Report from the Clerk of Session

The year began with 198 active members and ended with 191 active members.

- One member transferred to another church.
- Three members, who have moved from the area, requested to be removed from the rolls.
- Thelma Jean Paradysz entered The Church Triumphant on March 7, 2022.
- Jo Crisp entered The Church Triumphant on March 14, 2022.
- Granville Sydnor entered The Church Triumphant on April 30, 2022.
- Joe Taylor entered The Church Triumphant on May 4, 2022.
- Juandine Fifield entered The Church Triumphant on October 18, 2022.
- Sue Clark entered The Church Triumphant on November 17, 2022.
- Karyl Nelson entered The Church Triumphant on December 30, 2022.
- The following people were received into membership: Karen Taylor, Dolores Thacker, Nancy Saldivar, Mia Olivia Dickman.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting was on February 13, 2022. The budget was presented, members at large were elected to serve on the Congregational Nominating Committee, and the Annual Report was distributed.
- There was a called Congregational Meeting on October 2, 2022 to elect officers for the Class of 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Keith
Clerk of Session

New Members



Session

Class of 2022

Cindy Berridge
James Jackson
Roy Kreitz
Jim Tinney

Class of 2023

Tom Chitwood
Garland DeLoach
Frank Kucera
Lou Anne Sinor

Class of 2024

Brett Coe
Donna Gilchrest
Bonnie Keith
Tom Swan



FPC Trustees

Cindy Berridge –Class of 2022
Lou Anne Sinor - Class of 2023
Brett Coe - Class of 2024

Board of Deacons

The 2022 Board of Deacons, a group of 12 people, served our church, First Presbyterian Pasadena, by reaching out and communicating with our members through the year to share God's love with them during good times and bad.

We had our meetings on Zoom mostly due to the Covid pandemic, but were able to meet in person at least once in May.

We shared information and prayers for our church family as well as how to communicate with them due to the no contact protocol that was in place. We sent cards, made calls, and at certain times were able to visit in person when Covid restrictions were raised.

We prayed together and shared the concerns that we had in our hearts as well as joys and praises that The Lord has blessed us with.

Our pastor Dr. Fairfax kept us informed of updates and new developments in the church, helped us learn more about our church by sharing the Book of Order with us so we could refer to it regarding church policy as well as the grief books available to share with members.

We had a wonderful group of caring, generous deacons this year and a very supportive and loving leader, Dr Fair.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Haskins and Iliana Vela

Deacon Co-Moderators 2022

Class of 2022

Sandy Boriak
Barbara Chitwood
Rhonda Haskins
Carol Parks

Class of 2023

Mark Clemmons
Claudia Kreitz
Linda Ross
Iliana Vela

Class of 2024

Donna Coe
Carol Ann McCaleb
Eloise Murray
James Taylor

Caring and Fellowship Ministry

The Caring and Fellowship Ministry members provided opportunities for fellowship during the year. Members of this ministry are Cindy and Gary Berridge, Sandy Boriack, Tom Chitwood (elder) Donna Gilchrest, Glenda Kucera, Betsy Marlow, Karen Schimnowski, and Jim Tinney (moderator).

Activities and events included:

- Serving coffee before and after the service
- Organizing first Sunday lunches
- Assisting with the fish fry during Vacation Bible School
- Hosting and providing a Thanksgiving dinner on November 6
- Providing wassail and baked goods on the Sunday mornings of Advent
- Supporting the work of Presbyterian Women, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Cut-Ups



Caring and Fellowship cont.



Milestone birthday celebration
for Kay Goates



Cut Ups at work on crosses
for Crosses on the Corner



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has faithfully met weekly on Zoom and in person on patios and in the building. Participants include both church members and friends from outside the church. With the leading of the Holy Spirit, they have developed relationships, supported and loved one another, laughed, prayed, and crocheted, crocheted, crocheted.

They have made:

- ◇ stocking caps for seafarers,
- ◇ shawls and lap blankets for people going through illness or tough times, and
- ◇ mufflers for female veterans at De George at Union Station.

Presbyterian Women

Purpose of Presbyterian Women

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/who-we-are/>

The study for 2021-2022 was *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* by Merryl Blair. The study for 2022-2023 is *Celebrating Sabbath* by Carol M. Bechtel.

Presbyterian Women:

- ◆ Met together monthly for Bible study and fellowship in person with some joining in on Zoom
- ◆ Presented a Lifetime Membership to Rhonda Haskins at PW's Birthday luncheon in May
- ◆ Installed PW officers, adopted the budget, and were introduced to the 2022-2023 study at the August joint meeting
- ◆ Packed, wrapped, and delivered 50 seafarers Christmas boxes
- ◆ Provided food for funerals (reception or \$50 gift card for a meal)
- ◆ Gave love offering to church's custodian twice a year
- ◆ Donated to PCM (Pasadena Community Ministries)
- ◆ Donated to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
- ◆ Donated to Sarah's House
- ◆ Provided gift cards for assistance to the veterans at De George at Union Station and made gift bags with a Walmart gift card, muffler made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and chocolates for the five female residents.



Respectfully submitted,
Lou Anne Sinor & Claudia Kreitz



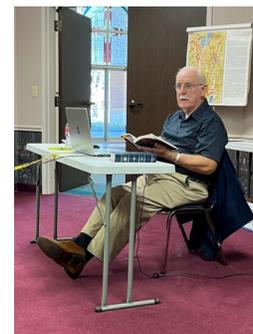
Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry works in planning for the spiritual formation and Christian education of members of all ages. The members consist of Donna Gilcrest (moderator), James Jackson (elder), Cherè Wharry, Pat McPhail, and Barry Webb.

- The Stepping Out in Faith Class completed their study of *Acts for Everyone* by N. T. Wright and is now studying *Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians* by N. T. Wright. The class is a hybrid of both in person and Zoom.
- The Men's Class studied 1,2,3 John and Jude by John MacArthur.
- A new class called Current Christianity was started by Mark Clemmons. They use various books to explore contemporary Christian topics.
- The youth meet weekly for Sunday school with James Jackson and Brian Davis leading.



Teacher Dedication Sunday



- Mia Dickman participated in confirmation classes with Dr. Fair and joined the church.
- Participants in Brown Bag and Bible, led by Dr. Fair, studied the writings of the prophet Haggai and Lenten and Easter themes, and began a study of Genesis.



Brown Bag and Bible



- The Brunch and Book Group has continued to meet in person with some people joining in on Zoom. They have lively discussion about books and enjoy delicious food.
- At the end of the year, the session authorized the hiring of a nursery worker for younger members and visitors. A volunteer will assist.
- The Decluttering Group and yoga classes began meeting again after pausing during Covid.



Youth leaving their mark



Discipleship Ministry cont.

Souper Bowl of Caring



Blessing of the back packs



Nursery play



Garage Sale

In March there was a church wide garage sale with the purposes of opening the church to the community and cleaning out the garage sale store room to return it to the Early Childhood Program for use as a music room. Many people came together to help make it a success.





Early Childhood Program



The Early Childhood Program began its 65th year of serving our community! We welcomed 3 new teachers to our team and started the year with full classes. We began to prepare for our annual Open House and welcomed a building full of parents and children to see our progress. The Christmas program was held in December and we were able to host our first full program since COVID. The sanctuary was full of Christmas joy and singing from all of our children. The spring semester will be as full as the fall with several activities already planned! We are looking forward to Super-bowl day, Western day, and Easter!

It is a joy to welcome children and families from our community to join our school family. We have been blessed with wonderful families, parents and staff. We would like to thank Maria, Roy, Brett, Bruce and the ground crews for always keeping our building in tip top shape. We would also like to thank the members of the church for keeping the program open to our community. The program has changed and grown over the years, but remains a loving and caring environment for children to learn and nurture their minds, bodies, and their ever-changing social skills.

Respectfully submitted by
Carrie Reed



Mission and Outreach Ministry

Mission: Making an impact by intentionally stepping beyond where you live.

Outreach: Making an impact where you live.

Members: Cindy Berridge (chair), Tom Swan, Ruth Askine, Garland DeLoach, Joyce DeLoach, Mark Clemmons, Imelda Carrillo, Dolores Thacker, Rev. Fairfax Fair (staff)

2022 Mission and Outreach Ministry impacts were made as follows:

- Supported Sarah's House with volunteer hours, purchased shelving units, bottled water and collected and delivered various donations from the congregation
- Re-established Wednesday devotionals for the residents of Baywood Crossing
- Continued support of Pasadena Community Ministries, Inc. with consistent volunteer hours, monetary and clothing donations. A "pre-Easter" shoe drive benefitting PCM was also a great success
- Member Mark Clemmons was approved to join the board overseeing Westover Trace also known as the Presbyterian Service Center located at 7311 Westover, Houston, TX 77087.
- Participated in the Crosses on the Corner event by making and displaying a cross to represent the M & O Ministry
- Taco and a Prayer was revived and successfully held in May.
- FPC portion of Pentecost offering was designated to the Mo-Ranch Camp in the Valley.
- Orphan Grain Train was adopted as an outreach project as committee members donated volunteer hours.
- Wonderful Wednesday program in November invited Orphan Grain Train Branch Mgr. Mike Rathjen to speak at the soup and salad potluck supper.
- Ministry voted to approve adding De George at Union Station to the list for Bethlehem Market alternative gift giving mission.
- FPC portion of Peace and Global Witness special offering was approved to be used for needed supplies for the veterans residing at the De George @ Union Station housing.
- Continued encouragement for the Seafarers Christmas box effort
- Approved proposed budget line item benefitting the Kairos Ministry mission
- Developed a "volunteer" sign-up sheet to recruit Sunday morning greeters in the Narthex.

We give thanks and praise for the many ways the congregation supported the Mission and Outreach programs this past year.



Long time greeter Diane Hall



Blessing of the seafarers' boxes



New ministry to the veterans at
De George at Union Station

Mission and Outreach Ministry cont.



Taco and a Prayer



Youth supporting Kairos ministry



Personnel Ministry

The Personnel Ministry, consisting of members Roy Krietz (chair), Margaret Bardin, Brett Coe, and Bonnie Keith worked with staff to address opportunities and confidential issues. In light of changing needs in the office, the committee released Amanda Baker, who was working remotely, and hired former member, Holly Leichty, as Office Assistant. Her responsibilities include being present in the office during office hours, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Staff



Rev. Pat Abrams
Parish Associate



Barbara Davis
Office Manager



Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair
Pastor



Holly Leichty
Office Assistant



Maria Morales
Custodian



Ron Ollis
Organist



Carrie Reed
Director of Early
Childhood Program



Jamie Adams
Handbell Choir Director



Kimberly Waggett
Financial Secretary



Barry Webb
AV Specialist



Marilyn Wilkinson
Music Director

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry offers the following highlights and major accomplishments for 2022. The ministry consists of session members Brett Coe (Chairman), Roy Kreitz, and Frank Kucera, along with congregational members, Marvin Clark, Bruce Walters, Tom Hoffman, and Danny Slaven.

The ongoing, strategic work of the Stewardship Ministry revolves around the efforts of maintaining budget guidelines, monthly reporting of financials, facilities operation, safety and maintenance of the church campus. Particular attention is given to building maintenance and lawn care to facilitate visitor's first impressions of First Presbyterian. Other key highlights for 2022 are:

- **2023 Budget** – Prepared the initial 2023 first draft of the asking budget for session review; will coordinate the final budget for session approval and presentation to the congregation in early 2023.
- **HVAC** - Several key areas addressed throughout the year including damaged thermostat, heater unit replaced, bad relay repaired, control board repaired, and filters on all air handlers replaced.
- **Lighting** – Lighting issues in the Fellowship Hall were resolved by replacing a dimmer light switch. Replaced fluorescent lights with LED in the Library, Office Kitchen, Office Reception area, and Holly Liechty's Office. Will continue replacing fluorescent lights during 2023.
- **Plumbing** –Main water line had major leak outside of Fellowship Hall and was repaired by plumber. Had new water heater installed for Choir Room. Numerous toilet and faucet repairs were performed.
- **Information Technology (I.T.)** – Continued support provided for software and hardware requirements. New desktop computer was purchased and setup for Holly Liechty. New laptop was purchased and setup for Barbara. New desktop and laptop were purchased and setup for the ECP. Took care of various printer and network issues.
- **December Freeze** – Prep work performed to protect the water pipes in the church. Numerous tasks were performed to put the church back in order post freeze.
- **Electronic Outdoor Sign** – Laptop for electronic sign was reconfigured and with new software and to communicate with sign's radio.
- **Misc. Repairs** – Replaced worn out doorstops and installed new ones. Had 5/8" fire rated dry-wall installed in the (2) closets in the Choir Room (per Fire Marshall's request).
- **Lawn Care** – Ongoing mowing and yard services, along with limb trimming throughout the year. Special thanks to all the Mowing Team and Bruce Walters for his tree trimming work.

Respectively submitted by Brett Coe on behalf of the Stewardship Ministry



Worship and Music Ministry

The purpose of the Worship and Music Ministry is to provide a meaningful and enriching worshiping experience for all people.

The members of this ministry were Margaret Bardin, Barbara Davis, Jana Ganderson, Bonnie Keith (elder), Pat McPhail, and Lou Anne Sinor (chairperson).

- The choir under Marilyn Wilkins' direction, the handbell choir under Jamie Adams' direction, Ron Ollis, and Margaret Bardin enhance our worship experience with their beautiful and inspiring music. Other talented musicians, who have also contributed, include Nolan Covington playing violin, Olivia Covington playing piano, Laura and Cappy Phipps playing mountain dulcimer and other instruments, Chrissi Ellis playing flute, Steve Haskins playing guitar, and Noah Adams playing trumpet.
- Members started assisting in worship again as liturgists.
- In Dr. Fair's absence, guest preachers included Rev. Gregory Han, Rev. David Wells, and Rev. Kevin Keaton.
- The Bell Choir moved from the loft to the main floor of the sanctuary for easier access.
- Communion, using packaged elements, was served in the pews again beginning at the Christmas Eve service.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Sinor and
Bonnie Keith





Worship and Music Ministry cont.



Hanging of the Greens





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