

**First Presbyterian Church  
Pasadena, TX  
Annual Report  
2021**



## **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,

Every day is a day the Lord has made, a day to be glad for God's many blessings. The 365 days we were given in 2021 were a bit like a roller-coaster ride, including a long, slow encouraging climb toward hope at the beginning of the year as Covid vaccines became available but were in short supply, followed by a fast, steep decline in cases before the rapid rise in case counts brought on by onset of the deadly Delta variant, breakthrough cases, and the omnipresent Omicron strain. Covid-19 has been a strain indeed, a strain on us as a church family, as a broader community, and as individuals. All of us know people who have been affected by the virus. Some of us know people who have lost their lives or the lives of family members to it. While I remain incredulous about the changes to everything that we have endured over the last two years, they are what they are. None of us will forget these pandemic times, yet because of them we have added to our ministries at First Presbyterian in ways that will benefit many people in days to come. The most obvious of these improvements is our ability to livestream worship. Now, when our members are away from the area – whether to visit grandchildren, take a vacation, or even because of a relocation – they can continue to be a part of our worshiping community. Friends and family in other places can join us. Distant family who are unable to travel will be able to “be present” for weddings, baptisms, and funerals/memorial services. Some of our members who are physically unable to come to church are joining with us every week. That's a blessing that has come from this major ordeal.

2021 brought the reopening of the church offices, the resumption of in-person meetings of Brown Bag and Bible, the return of Trick or Trunk, and candlelight Christmas Eve communion in the sanctuary. We welcomed six wonderful new members. Our Early Childhood Program provided love, learning, and care for a number of precious children from the area. Sarah's House, an emergency shelter for moms and children without homes, became one of our budgeted, ongoing ministries. Our members generously contributed over and above mission gifts through Bethlehem Market totaling \$6781. Through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, we were able to make a big difference in the lives of some people with extraordinary needs.

Despite the challenges, First Presbyterian has continued to witness to the light of Jesus Christ and share God's love with members, neighbors, and strangers. Borrowing from the words of Paul in his letter to the Colossians, may this new year find us leading lives worthy of the Lord, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of God. God gives us the grace to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to God. We persevere through the current difficulty and uncertainty knowing God is with us today and always. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, pastor



## Report from the Clerk of Session

For the first six months of 2021, Tom Hoffman served as Clerk of Session. Dr. Fair recognized his twelve and half years of dedicated service as Clerk during worship on July 4.

The year began with 202 active members and ended with 198 active members.

- Two members transferred to other churches.
- One inactive member requested to be removed from the rolls.
- Bill McPhail died January 4, 2021.
- Jane Christopher died January 29, 2021.
- Basil "Bill" Flores died July 24, 2021.
- Elizabeth Dean died September 15, 2021.
- Kevin Smith died October 12, 2021.
- Jaqueline "Jackee" Baggott died December 2, 2021.
- Jamie Jamison died December 8, 2021.
- The following people were received into membership: Laura and Cappy Phipps, Liz Reed, Karyl Nelson, Jann Harper, and Carlton Suiter.



- ◇ The Annual Congregational Meeting was on February 14, 2021. The budget was presented and the Annual Report was available to be picked up.
- ◇ A Congregational Meeting was called on May 30, 2021, to elect the Congregational Nominating Committee.
- ◇ A Congregational Meeting was called on September 12, 2021, to change Dr. Fair's terms of call from Designated to Called Pastor, update two bylaws, and elect officers in the Classes of 2022 and 2024.
- ◇ A Congregational Meeting was called on October 31, 2021, to elect Tom Chitwood to fill an unexpired term as elder in the class of 2023.

To meet Presbytery requirements, the session adopted a *Manual of Administrative Operations* on October 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Keith

Clerk of Session

### Class of 2021

Margaret Bardin

Imelda Carrillo

Donna Gilchrest

Danny Slaven

### Class of 2022

Cindy Berridge

James Jackson

Roy Kreitz

Jim Tinney

### Class of 2023

Nola Bray

Garland DeLoach

Frank Kucera

Lou Anne Sinor

### FPC Trustees

Dan Slaven - Class of 2021

Cindy Berridge - Class of 2022

Lou Anne Sinor - Class of 2023

## Board of Deacons

The 2021 Board of Deacons served First Presbyterian church as a group of 12 people who answered the call to love and care for the members of the congregation. Our pastoral role is to keep in touch with our church members throughout the year and strive to share the love of Christ in times of joy and in times of difficulty.

Due to the continuation of the COVID 19 pandemic, our method of training the new Deacons was through phone calls, online meetings and one-on-one sessions. We reviewed the adjusted role of the Deacon, ideas to keep in touch with their cluster, where grief books are kept, and other practical information.

All Deacon meetings were conducted through ZOOM and Deacons kept in touch with their flocks by reaching out by way of phone calls, emails, notes, cards, and birthday cards. The Deacons kept each other informed of the status of their members and issued prayer requests through the Deacon group text. This also allowed us to keep the church office informed of prayer requests and concerns.

The Deacons assisted the Caring Committee with a Drive-In Flu Shot day on October 5, 2021, with the help of Nola Bray and Walgreens.

We are pleased to have the encouragement and loving advice from the Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair, who kept us updated on member concerns and answered any questions regarding policy or procedures in the practice of being “shepherds” to our “flocks”.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rhonda Haskins, Iliana Vela  
Deacon Co-Moderators 2021

### **Class of 2021**

Glenda Kucera  
Pat McPhail  
Karen Schimnowski  
Ann Wright

### **Class of 2022**

Sandy Boriack  
Barbara Chitwood  
Rhonda Haskins  
Carol Parks

### **Class of 2023**

Mark Clemmons  
Claudia Kreitz  
Linda Ross  
Iliana Vela

## Caring and Fellowship Ministry

The Caring and Fellowship Ministry members provided opportunities for fellowship once it was deemed safer to congregate. Members of this ministry are Cindy and Gary Berridge, Sandy Boriack, Nola Bray (elder), Donna Gilchrest, Glenda Kucera, Betsy Marlow, Karen Schimnowski, and Jim Tinney (moderator).

Activities and events included:

- Serving coffee and individually wrapped donuts and muffins before and after the service in the fall
- Providing barbeque lunches in October
- Co-sponsoring with Mission and Outreach Trick or Trunk on Halloween night with a hot dog supper and trick or treating from car to car
- Hosting and providing a Thanksgiving dinner on November 14
- Providing a hot dog lunch for participants of Hanging of the Greens
- Providing wassail, coffee, and cookies on the Sunday mornings of Advent
- Supporting the work of Presbyterian Women, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Cut-Ups.



Caring and Fellowship cont.



## Presbyterian Women

*The purpose of Presbyterian Women, Pasadena, is to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, to build an inclusive, caring, community of women that strengthen the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and to witness to the promise of God's kingdom.*

Circles (morning and night) met jointly via Zoom, in person or hybrid.

This year's study is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* by Merryl Blair.

### Presbyterian Women:

- ◆ Met together monthly for Bible study and fellowship in person or via Zoom or hybrid
- ◆ Hosted Presbyterian Women study training for our cluster
- ◆ Presented a Lifetime Membership in August at PW's Birthday Zoom meeting to Bonnie Keith
- ◆ Elected and installed PW Officers at the August Zoom Meeting
- ◆ Provided missionary support to Janet Sue Whetzel
- ◆ Packed, wrapped, and delivered 41 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

Respectfully submitted,  
Lou Anne Sinor and Claudia Kreitz



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has faithfully met weekly this year, 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
- lap blankets and shawls for residents of Baywood Crossing
- scarves and stocking caps for the homeless
- afghans for residents of Ronald McDonald House
- shawls and lap blankets for people going through illness or tough times



Packing and delivering prayer shawls and lap robes for residents of Baywood Crossing



## 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 Gilchrest (moderator), James Jackson (elder), Chere Wharry, Pat McPhail, Bonnie Keith, and Barry Webb.

The Stepping Out in Faith Class studied *Luke* by N. T. Wright, then *Acts for Everyone* by N. T. Wright, first on Zoom, then in person, and for the remainder of the year a hybrid of both in person and Zoom. While the building was closed, the Men's Class met on the patio of Mark Corder, then back in the building.

In preparation for the fall Sunday School, Donna Gilchrest and Bonnie Keith refurbished the elementary room.

Donna Gilchrest and Bonnie Keith prepared to teach the elementary age in September using the *Growing in God's Love Series - People Jesus Met*. James Jackson and Brian Davis led the teenagers using the Faith Questions Series - *Deep and Wide*.

A group of volunteers have agreed to cover the nursery if a little one needs care during the service.

The water slide with the balls was given to the Early Childhood Program.

Chrissi Ellis is the youth representative to PYCC.

The youth have enjoyed several social events, such as going out to eat or to the movies.



# Discipleship Ministry cont.



New space for the kids!



ECP  
Christmas Program



## Brown Bag and Bible

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair lead Brown Bag and Bible on Zoom until summer. In July we returned to the building. This year's studies have been 1st Peter, 2nd Peter, and chapter 3, verse 15 of different books of the Bible.



## Brunch and Book Group

The group began the year meeting on Zoom and resumed meeting in person in July.

This year's selections were:

*The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride

*True Colors* by Kristan Hannah

*The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family and Defiance During the Blitz* by Eric Larsen

*Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

*The Horse Dancer* by Jojo Moyes

*Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver

*This Tender Land* by William Kent Kreuger

*The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* by Marie Benedict

*Sooley* by John Grisham

*The Janissary Tree: A Novel (Investigator Yashim Book 1)* by Jason Goodwin

*Cotton Eyed Joe: A Tale of Grace* by Bob Lively

The leaders of the book discussions have been Linda Ross, Mark Clemmons, Ruth Askine, Diane Moose, and the whole group.

Youth and adults who love to read are welcome to join the group, usually on the third Saturday at 10:00 a.m. You can discuss the book and share your ideas or just listen.



# Early Childhood Program



Our Early Childhood program has had a wonderful start to the school year! Our classes began full, and we are pleased to report that we are still adding students to our school family. We have welcomed two new teachers to our staff. Mrs. Katy Pfingsten teaches our Pre-K class and Mrs. Maritza Green teaches our music class.

We were able to host our annual Meet the Teacher night in August as well as our Open House in October. Our Christmas program was held in December and was a remarkable success. Our sanctuary was full of proud parents, grandparents, and friends. As we start our spring semester, we are grateful for the families that support our program as well as the support from the church. We will be celebrating the Superbowl, Rodeo days, and Easter. Our favorite part of Spring is watching the caterpillar life cycle as they grow into butterflies. You might catch us outside releasing the butterflies that we have nurtured and named.

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.

We are so grateful to share this beautiful building with the church. Our ministry together is a gift to our community!

Respectfully submitted by

Carrie Reed



## Mission and Outreach Ministry

The Mission and Outreach Ministry members included Ruth Askine, Cindy Berridge (moderator), Imelda Carrillo, Mark Clemmons, Joyce and Garland DeLoach (elder), Diane Hall, and Bonnie and Jim Keith.

The Mission and Outreach Ministry plans and coordinates evangelism; outreach; and mission initiatives and programs in the church, the local community, and beyond. To this end, ministry members:

- ◆ Found new software and created a new website with the assistance of church staff
- ◆ Featured guest speaker, Laura Joy, from Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, at Wonderful Wednesdays on February 24 via Zoom.
- ◆ Received session approval to support Sarah's House, an emergency shelter for single homeless women and single women with children
- ◆ Investigated Chamber of Commerce membership with the result of Brett Coe volunteering to represent the church
- ◆ Voted for our portion of the Pentecost Offering to go to Covenant House Texas
- ◆ Have representation to Pasadena Community Ministries, as Mark Clemmons interviewed and joined the Board of Directors for PCM
- ◆ Arranged pen pals between the residents of Baywood crossing and church members
- ◆ Featured Judy Fletcher, who spoke about Synod's Solar under the Sun project at Wonderful Wednesdays in September
- ◆ Assisted the Caring and Fellowship Ministry in hosting Trick or Trunk
- ◆ Encouraged members to pack Christmas boxes for seafarers to add to the ones packed by Presbyterian Women
- ◆ Facilitated members giving to Pasadena Community Ministries and Sarah's House
- ◆ Sponsored Bethlehem Market, an alternative gift market, to support various missions

As we continue to strive towards living out the mission of our church, we invite you to join the Mission and Outreach Ministry in 2022.



## Personnel Ministry

The Personnel Ministry, consisting of members Roy Krietz (chair), Margaret Bardin (co-chair), Brett Coe, Jana Ganderson, and Bonnie Keith worked with staff to address opportunities and confidential issues.

The Ministry initiated the process of changing the terms of call for Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair from designated to called pastor, which was approved by congregational vote on September 12, 2021.

A new staff position, called AV Specialist, was created for the person who does the sound and livestreaming during worship. Most Sundays that is Barry Webb.

### First Presbyterian Staff



**Rev. Pat Abrams**  
Parish Associate



**Amanda Baker**  
Office Assistant



**Barbara Davis**  
Office Manager



**Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair**  
Pastor



**Maria Morales**  
Custodian



**Ron Ollis**  
Organist



**Carrie Reed**  
Director of Early  
Childhood Program



**Jamie Taylor**  
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 2021. The ministry consists of Session Members Roy Kreitz (Chairman), Danny Slaven, and Frank Kucera, along with congregational members, Brett Coe, Marvin Clark, Bruce Walters, Tom Hoffman, and Stan Ganderson (Secretary).

The ongoing, strategic work of the Stewardship Ministry revolves around the efforts of maintaining budget guidelines, monthly reporting of financials, facilities operation, and 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 2021 are:

- **2022 Budget** – Prepared the initial 2022 first draft of the asking budget for Session review; will coordinate the final budget for Session approval and presentation to the congregation in early 2022.
- **SBA Loan** – Federal loan applied for and received \$33,829. This was for the second round of the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) under the CARES Act. We applied for and were granted loan forgiveness under the SBA guidelines. Thank you to Kimberly Waggett for her hard work and efforts on this loan.
- **HVAC** - Several key areas addressed throughout the year including compressor replacement, condenser fan motor repairs, air handler fan motor belts, and filters on air handlers replaced.
- **Lighting** – Parking lot lights were replaced as needed and a new LED wall pack was installed. Several LED lights were replaced in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Plumbing** – Repaired water leak on the fire sprinkler main valves by repacking gaskets. Various toilet and faucet repairs were performed.
- **Information Technology (I.T.)** – Continued support provided for software and hardware requirements. Two new laptops were purchased and setup for the Soundbooth and for Pat Abram's Sunday school class. A new desktop was purchased and setup for the reception desk. Took care of various printer and network issues.
- **Insurance Policy** – Negotiations with our insurance company resulted in a premium drop from \$32,473 to \$19,659 for 2021.
- **February Freeze** – A great deal of prep was 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** – Took care of numerous issues on the LED sign. A controller card and (2) receiver cards had to be replaced and configured. Replaced broken hinges and installed new braces for the LED panels.
- **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 Committee

## Worship and Music Ministry

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

The members of this ministry are Margaret Bardin (chairperson), Barbara Davis, Joyce DeLoach, Jana Ganderson, Pat McPhail, and Lou Anne Sinor (co-chairperson).

- Worship in the beginning of the year was in person with masks being required, temperatures measured, and social distancing. Packaged communion elements were used for communion services.
- Guest preachers included:
  - Rev. Kevin Keaton, who preached on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Rev. Gregory Han, who preached on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Rev. David Wells, who preached on August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Handbell Choir resumed practicing and performed in October.
- The following PCUSA offerings were collected:
  - One Great Hour of Sharing—April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Easter)
  - Pentecost Offering—May 23, 2021
  - Peace & Global Witness (World Communion Day)—October 4, 2021
  - Christmas Joy—December 19, 2021

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Bardin, Chair  
Lou Anne Sinor, Co-Chair



# Worship and Music Ministry cont.



Worship and Music Ministry cont.





New Visitors

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**4647 Preston Ave.**  
**Pasadena, TX 77505**  
**281-991-8700**  
**fpcpasadena.org**

