



2024 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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A Letter from Dr. Fair

Dear Friends,

As we look back on the year just completed and look ahead to 2025 — when we will celebrate 85 years as a congregation — our overriding emotion should be one of gratitude. We should frequently engage in call and response using the words, "God is good all the time; all the time God is good."

Overall, 2024 was a good year for First Presbyterian Church. We had uplifting worship. All of our ministries carried out important work. Seven people united with the congregation. There were multiple opportunities for study with good participation, service opportunities that were faithfully supported, and some fabulous times of fellowship.

The year got off to a good start with the ordination and installation of officers, including one newly ordained elder and three first time deacons. Brown Bag and Bible began a study of Romans in January, and we hosted the annual Pasadena Community Ministries volunteer luncheon. In February, we had a wonderful Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, followed the next night by a meaningful Ash Wednesday service. The first of March saw us gather in the Fellowship Hall for a wonderful barbecue lunch/fundraiser for the 85th anniversary with Pitmaster John Farley delighting our taste buds and doing the hardest work. The end of March was Holy Week, which culminated in a grand celebration of the Day of Resurrection on the 31st. In May our Early Childhood Program graduated another class of precious little children, we celebrated Pentecost, and served a bunch of delicious handmade breakfast tacos while offering prayers to those who wanted them at our annual Taco and a Prayer outreach event. In early June we gathered for our Super Summer Event and enjoyed a study of famous sayings that — unbeknownst to many of us — come from scripture. That multi-day event was capped off by a fabulous fish fry, thanks to our men. In June we also welcomed Betty Rodriguez to our office staff. July saw us gather in the fellowship hall for our annual 4th of July weekend hot dog and watermelon picnic. In August your nominating committee began working hard to identify those whom God was calling to serve this congregation as officers. In September we had a rally day celebration to kick off a new year of church school. In October, we joined Christian congregations from around the world for World Communion Sunday, elected elders and deacons for the Class of 2027, and prayed for them as they began a time of study and preparation. In November we remembered the saints we lost in the last 12 months with our annual All Saints' Day worship service. We also enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving feast and dedicated our gifts to God for 2025. In December, we observed the season of Advent, watched the light on the Advent wreath grow, and prepared for the birth of our Lord among us. Christmas Eve was a beautiful evening and a great reminder of how blessed we are to be children of God.

Throughout the year, attendance at Brown Bag was strong, as it was for our Presbyterian Women's Bible study, and our church school classes. We also offered a short class on Judaism in conjunction with Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary that was very well attended.



A Letter from Dr. Fair cont.

A difficult part of the year was saying good-bye to beloved members of the congregation. We miss them. I think of them each time I step into the pulpit and see “their” spot in the pews. But we do not grieve as those who have no hope. We rejoice that these saints now know life everlasting in the presence of our gracious God, that pain and sadness and earthly travail are over and their victory is won.

As a minister of word and sacrament in the PCUSA, I have responsibilities beyond this congregation. I serve the Presbytery of New Covenant as the chair of the Calls and Contracts subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry, as well as serving on the Board of Directors of Brazos Presbyterian Homes as chair of their Corporate Compliance Committee and member of their Executive Committee. I also was honored to serve communion at the March meeting of the Presbytery, and we hosted (and I participated in) a Presbytery boundary training event for all church workers. For the denomination, I serve on the board of MRTI (Mission Responsibility through Investing) as a Board of Pensions representative. I took two, short, online classes in 2024, one on world religions sponsored by Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. (and taught by a professor in Australia!) and one sponsored by Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary on the book *A Human-Shaped God: Theology of an Embodied God* by Charles Halton, which won the 2024 Grawemeyer Religion Award.

I anticipate the year ahead will be just as full as the year just completed. Be sure to have October 11-12 on your calendars. Those are the dates for the grand celebration of First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena’s 85th Anniversary. Tica Dickman is doing a great job chairing the effort and we will have a wonderful time around the theme, REMEMBERING – REFLECTING – REJOICING!

Friends, we are blessed to be in communion with our living Lord and one another. Let us never take our bonds for granted but nurture them with the kind of love, mercy, and forgiveness our Lord shows us, while also extending such love to all those in the world around us.

Grace and peace,



The Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



Report from the Clerk of Session

The year began with 195 active members and ended with 193 active members.

- Mary Durham (elder) joined the church triumphant on March 18, 2024.
- Leah Palmer joined the church triumphant on July 18, 2024.
- Ellen Hiller joined the church triumphant on July 20, 2024.
- Charlene Ann Wright (deacon) joined the church triumphant July 25, 2024.
- Brad Sutton joined the church triumphant on August 2, 2024.
- Kay Goates entered the church triumphant on September 18, 2024.
- Reginald (Rex) Knapik (elder) entered the church triumphant on October 20, 2024.
- Pat Pesl (elder) entered the church triumphant on October 23, 2024.
- Nola Bray (elder,. deacon) entered the church triumphant on December 4, 2024.
- The following people were received into membership: Shannon and Steven English, Arthur Cardenas, Patti Beller, Carol Brown, Alice Guerrero, and Kenton Pate.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting was on February 11, 2024. The budget was presented and the Annual Report was distributed.
- There was a called Congregational Meeting on October 6 to elect officers for the Class of 2027 and members at large for the Congregational Nominating Committee for 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Keith
Clerk of Session

Class of 2024

Brett Coe
Donna Gilchrest
Bonnie Keith
Tom Swan

Class of 2025

James Jackson
Roy Kreitz
Pat McPhail
Laura Phipps

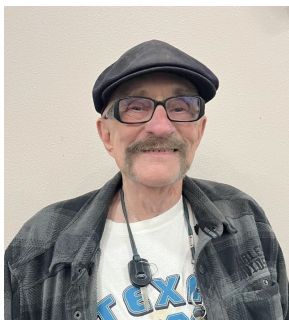
Class of 2026

Sarah Brown
Betsy Marlow
Jason Reed
Barry Webb

FPC Trustees

Brett Coe-Class of 2024
Roy Kreitz-Class of 2025
Betsy Marlow-Class of 2026

New Members



Board of Deacons

The 2024 Board of Deacons is a group of 12 people who serve our church, First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena. We reach out and communicate throughout the year to share God's love during good times and bad.

We shared information and prayers for our church family, as well as communicating with them through birthday cards, special holiday cards, calls, and flowers. We did not do home communion.

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

Our pastor, Dr. Fair, kept us informed of updates and new developments in the church. She also encouraged us to use the grief books to give to those members experiencing the loss of a loved one.

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

Sincerely,

Liz Reed

Class of 2024

Donna Coe
Rhonda Haskins
Elois Murray
James Taylor

Class of 2025

Imelda Carrillo
Cappy Phipps
Liz Reed
Karen Schimnowski

Class of 2026

Samantha Cayton
David Kirkpatrick
Claudia Kreitz
Dolores Thacker



Caring and Fellowship Ministry

The Caring and Fellowship Ministry members provide opportunities for fellowship during the year. Members of this ministry were Gary Berridge, Donna Gilchrest, Glenda Kucera, Betsy Marlow (Chair), Pat McPhail (elder), Jason Reed (elder), Liz Reed, and Karen Schimnowski.

Activities and events included:

- serving coffee before and after the service,
- organizing First Sunday Dinners,
- assisting with decorating and working in the kitchen for the annual PCM volunteer luncheon,
- assisting with the fund raising BBQ dinners for the 85th Anniversary,
- preparing Maundy Thursday Supper,
- hosting the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 3rd,
- providing wassail and baked goods during Advent in the Fellowship Hall between Sunday School and church, and
- supporting the work and programs of Presbyterian Women, Young at Heart, Prayer Shawl, Chain Stitchers, and Cut-Ups.



Caring and Fellowship cont.



Chain Stitchers

Blessing of the "Bibs, Burps, Blankets, & More"

The Chain Stitchers completed 50 baskets filled with handmade items and donated purchased baby items; plus 150 packaged items of hand-made gifts; plus 31 bundles of receiving blankets and hats! Thanks to Prayer Shawl for making the hats! All of these items were delivered to the Community Pregnancy Center of Pasadena. The CPC provides cost free health services, support and counseling for women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has faithfully met weekly in person and on Zoom. 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:

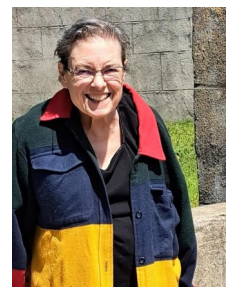
- ◇ more than 120 stocking hats and scarves for seafarers,
- ◇ over 50 baby hats and other items for the Bibs, Burps, Blankets & More project.
- ◇ shawls and lap blankets for people going through illness or tough times, and
- ◇ 100 stocking hats for veterans at De George at Union Station.

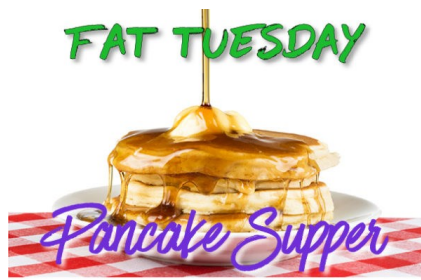
Young at Heart



Young at Heart, under the leadership of Joan Gibertini, meets the third Thursday of the month for fun, food, and fellowship.

Field trips, organized by Ruth Askine, have included trips to such places as Moody Gardens, Christ Cathedral, Hemi Hideout, Festival Hill at Round Top, and more.







Presbyterian Women

The study for 2023-2024 was *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. The study for 2024-2025 is *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* by Patricia K. Tull.

Presbyterian Women, under the leadership of co-moderators, Lou Anne Sinor and Claudia Kreitz:

- ◆ Presented a cutting board and monetary gift to Maria Morales on her retirement
- ◆ Met together monthly for Bible study and fellowship in person and on Zoom
- ◆ Presented a Lifetime Membership to Pat MacPhail at PW's Birthday luncheon in May
- ◆ At the August joint meeting, installed PW officers, adopted the budget, and Dr. Fair introduced the 2024-2025 study
- ◆ Packed, wrapped, and delivered 50 seafarers Christmas boxes
- ◆ Provided receptions or gift cards for funerals
- ◆ Gave love offerings to the church's custodian
- ◆ Donated to Pasadena Community Ministries
- ◆ Donated to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
- ◆ Gave quilts made by the Chain Stitchers, Christmas bags with stocking caps made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and a monetary donation to assist veterans living at De George at Union Station
- ◆ Sold wreaths from Wreaths Across America to honor deceased veterans and received \$5.00 back from each wreath sold to help fund projects to benefit veterans
- ◆ Decorated the Fellowship Hall during Advent with a tree
- ◆ Prepared gift bags for the 100 veterans living in low rent housing at De George at Union Station with stocking caps made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry, socks, peanut butter crackers, cup of soup packet, peppermint candy, and a greeting card
- ◆ Celebrated the Advent season with a Christmas luncheon.



Guest speaker

Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry works in planning for the spiritual formation and Christian education of members of all ages. The 2024 members consisted of Lavinia Brown (deacon), Sarah Brown (elder), Dr. Fair, Donna Gilchrest (elder), and James Jackson (chairperson).

- The Stepping Out in Faith Class was led by Pastor Pat Abrams. The class has completed their study of *Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians* by N. T. Wright and began a study of N. T. Wright's *Paul for Everyone: 2 Corinthians*. The class is a hybrid of in-person and Zoom.
- The Men's Class (led by Mark Corder) studied *2nd Corinthians* by John MacArthur and started *Genesis 1 – 11* by John MacArthur.
- Current Christianity, under the leadership of Mark Clemmons studied *Elusive Grace* by Scott Black Johnson and *Unoffendable* by Brant Hanson.
- The youth meet weekly for Sunday school with Brian Davis and James Jackson leading. They use various books on a variety of topics from the PCUSA *Faith Questions* curriculum.
- The Brunch and Book Group meet monthly on Saturdays in the Fellowship Hall. They have lively discussions about books and enjoy delicious food.
- Chair and mat yoga classes were led by Carey Coker. They met on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Brown Bag and Bible, under the leadership of Dr. Fair, usually met at noon on Wednesdays.
- As part of the Souper Bowl of Caring initiative, the youth collected \$544.25 for Pasadena Community Ministries.
- The Summer Family Event (June 3-5) was designed to be intergenerational with Dr. Fair leading a fun filled lesson. A youth Bible study was offered with two siblings in attendance. They studied elements of Ephesian's 6 with related craft projects of a shield of faith, a breastplate of righteousness, and a sword of the spirit. Two nights a light supper was provided. On the third and last night the men of the church prepared their traditional fish fry dinner.
- Yulissa Delgado continued to do a great job in the nursery during Sunday school and worship. Continuing efforts were made to get volunteers to help.
- The Early Childhood Program reported to the session through the Discipleship Ministry.

Submitted by James Jackson



Brown Bag and Bible



Summer Study



Sunday School



Early Childhood Program



The Early Childhood Program began our year with full classes and excited new students and families. The fall semester flew by with several activities and programs. We welcomed the families to come to the school for our open house program in October. The families enjoyed the songs of our 3 year and 4 year old classes and a tour of the classrooms filled with the children's artwork and pictures. In December, we hosted a Christmas program for the families. The children worked hard to present the Nativity story and songs to fill the sanctuary with Christmas joy. The pews were filled with the children's biggest fans!

We are kicking off our spring semester with the addition of several new families! We are looking forward to the spring activities. We will be celebrating Western Day, Valentine's Day, and Easter.

We continue to be blessed with wonderful students, parents and staff. The ongoing support from the church is much appreciated! We are able to offer our community a safe and loving place for their children to learn and grow.

Respectfully submitted,

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: Tom Swan (chairman), Laura Phipps (elder), Ruth Askine, Mark Clemmons, Imelda Carrillo, Dolores Thacker, Cynthia Berridge, Rev. Fairfax Fair (staff)

2024 Mission and Outreach Ministry impacts were made as follows:

- Presented Wednesday devotionals for the residents of Baywood Crossing,
- Continued support of Pasadena Community Ministries, Inc. with consistent volunteer hours, monetary, and clothing donations,
- Participated in the Crosses on the Corner event,
- Held a successful Taco and a Prayer in May,
- Distributed \$4,410 from the Bethlehem Market to local and global missions in above budget giving,
- Continued encouragement for the Seafarers Christmas box effort - a total of 77 boxes were assembled and delivered,
- Continued working on the 85th anniversary for FPC,
- Hosted the annual PCM volunteer luncheon.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Phipps

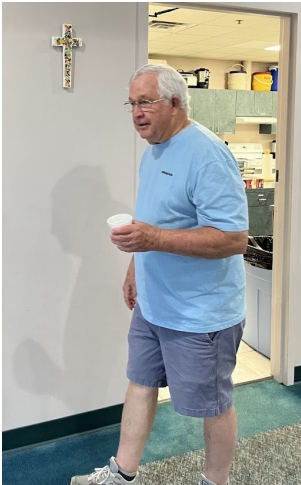


yard.less

Art of the Homeless

Mission and Outreach Ministry cont.

Taco and a Prayer



Personnel Ministry

The Personnel Ministry, consisting of members Roy Krietz (chair), Margaret Bardin, Brett Coe, Bonnie Keith, and Dale Sinor worked with staff to address opportunities and confidential issues. Holly Liechty resigned in May and Betty Rodriguez was hired to replace her as office administrator.

First Presbyterian Staff



Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair
Pastor



Rev. Pat Abrams
Parish Associate



Barbara Davis
Office Manager



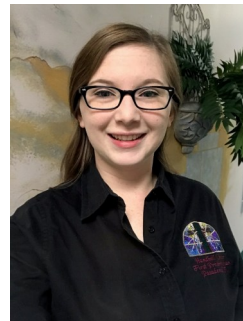
Kimberly Waggett
Financial Secretary



Marilyn Wilkinson
Music Director



Ron Ollis
Organist



Jamie Adams
Handbell
Choir Director



Betty Rodriguez
Office Administrator



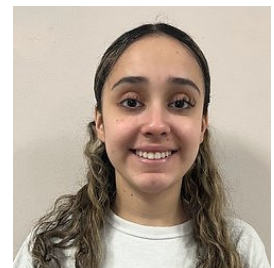
Carrie Reed
Director of Early
Childhood Program



Barry Webb
AV Specialist



Gloria Pinaud
Custodian



Yulissa Delgado
Nursery Attendant

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Committee offers the following highlights and major accomplishments for 2024. The committee consists of Session Members Brett Coe (Chairman) and Roy Kreitz, along with congregational members, Marvin Clark, Bruce Walters, Tom Hoffman, Dale Sinor, and Danny Slaven.

The ongoing, strategic work of the Stewardship Committee 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 2024 were:

- **2025 Budget** – Prepared the 2025 draft of the asking budget for Session review. The budget was brought to Session and approved. The final budget will be presented to the congregation in February 2025.
- **HVAC** - Several key areas addressed throughout the year including a burned-out wire on a relay, a low voltage breaker tripped. Replaced the compressor for the 30-ton HVAC unit on the piano side in the Sanctuary and converted to 407C freon. Replaced filters on all (10) HVAC units. Each unit contains between 4-10 filters.
- **Lighting/Electrical** – Replaced halogen bulbs in all of the parking lot lights using a rented lift. Replaced (2) Wall Pack lights. We experienced low voltage issues throughout the year due to blown fuses on CenterPoint's pole. This caused several LED lights to go out and had to be replaced as well as problems with photocells on our outside Wall Pack lights. The voltage issues also caused breakers to trip on some of our HVAC units.
- **Plumbing** – Numerous toilet and faucet repairs were performed. Had a new circulation pump installed for the hot water heater. This was due to a compliance issue from the city that needed to be corrected so ECP could receive their Health Certificate (a new requirement from the state). Installed a Smart Switch to turn the pump on and off for school hours.
- **Information Technology (I.T.)** – Continued support provided for software and hardware requirements. Setup new laptop for the Office Administrator and new desktop for Financial. Installed a new desktop printer for Financial. Took care of Windows, QuickBooks network and printer issues. Installed new wireless mesh network for ECP. New Sony Laser Projectors were installed in the Sanctuary.
- **Fire Alarm System** – Our fire alarm panel had voltage issues which could not be corrected. Benco had to install a new system and replace some of the horns in the classroom wing.
- **Misc. Repairs** – Replaced worn out doorstops and installed new ones. The ice machine required repair work. Replaced stained ceiling tiles. Replaced tile at the front entrance with an anti-slip tile. Replaced the damaged section of roof on the storage shed with Ice & Water shield and new metal roof.
- **Lawn Care** – Hired tree trimmer to complete major trimming on trees in front of the church and along Preston. The trees created a potential hazard over the street. Ongoing mowing and yard services, along with limb trimming throughout the year. Special thanks to all the Mowing Team, and Roy Kreitz for his beautiful garden.

Stewardship cont.

- **Hurricane Beryl** – We experienced numerous issues due to this hurricane including several days without power here at the church. Many hours were spent by volunteers and our custodial staff cleaning and preparing the church for our members to return. Below is a list of the damage, repairs, and clean-up after this storm:
 - ◇ Part of the fence line on north side of church blew down. The posts did not crack. Had fence guy remove concrete, prop back up, and pour new concrete. Cost \$450
 - ◇ No power and partial power (1 leg) until 7/18/2024. Partial power caused other issues.
 - Replaced 4 LED lights-expect more issues with LED lights-Purchased 8 LED lights \$210
 - One wall pack not working after the power outage. Will check to see if it's the photo-cell or wall pack
 - AVAYA Phones Control Unit power supply died, Cost to replace \$591-AT&T modem had to be replaced. Had to set the 10 T-Stats, printers, and PC's on the network
 - All refrigerators and freezers in the kitchen, ECP, and choir room had to be cleaned out, which Gloria did.
 - ◇ Water entered Barbara's office, the sanctuary, choir room, and Fellowship Hall.
 - ◇ Once power was restored, Gloria scrubbed the walls. This kills mold and mildew, and deodorizes.
 - ◇ Chairs along the back of the choir room had mold growing on the legs. Gloria cleaned them.
 - ◇ Water entered from the soffit above the robes in the choir room. Music that was on the ground got wet. Some robes had mildew. The robes were taken home and washed.
 - ◇ Water leak in Barbara's office was coming from a rusted out area on the internal gutter above the back corner. Was able to use Flex Seal Spray to seal the leak. Will keep an eye on the area.
 - ◇ A large fiberglass board was blown from the spire.
 - ◇ The fiberglass board put a gash in the roof above the women's restroom in the ECP wing. This caused a significant leak in the restroom. Had a roof guy patch the gash for \$100.
 - ◇ Several ceiling tiles were damaged. Replaced the worst tiles in the choir room, hallways, and women's restroom in the ECP wing.
 - ◇ Limbs torn off cypress trees in the back and few trees in front of the church. Had a tree guy cut up and haul off the cypress limbs for \$600.
 - ◇ 2 parking lights were damaged. A glass cover was torn off the light across from the ECP entrance. The pole next to the shed is leaning.
 - ◇ Crepe Myrtles were blown over. We stood them up and staked them off. Some we had to reset several times.

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 worshipping experience for all people.

The members of this ministry were Margaret Bardin, Barbara Davis, Bonnie Keith (chairperson) Pat McPhail, Lou Anne Sinor, Karen Taylor, Berry Webb (elder), Chère Wharry, and Dr. Fairfax Fair.

- The ministry worked with Dr. Fair in planning worship and special services.
- We resumed serving grape juice and wafers instead of prepacked elements in April.
- Brett Coe installed new projectors for the sanctuary that have made the words easier to see.
- The following PCUSA offerings were collected: One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter, March 31, 2024, Pentecost Offering on May 19, 2024; Peace & Global Witness on World Communion Day, October 6, 2024; and Christmas Joy Gift on December 24, 2024.
- In Dr. Fair's absence, guest preachers included Rev. Mike Magee, Rev. Jim Gill, and Rev. David Wells.

Thanks go to all who have prepared, helped, and led in worship. Special thanks go to our talented choir under Marilyn Wilkins' direction, the handbell choir under Jamie Adams' direction, Ron Ollis on the organ and piano, and guest musicians.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Keith
Barry Webb



Worship and Music Ministry cont.



Worship and Music Ministry cont.



Pentecost Sunday



After hurricane Beryl



Family and Friends



Family and Friends cont.





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