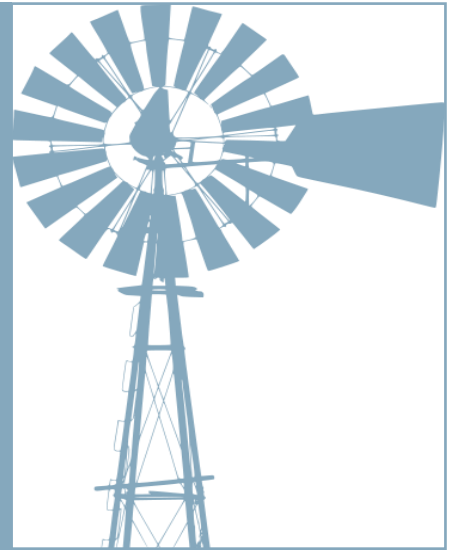


WINDMILL MAY 2023 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—KERRVILLE

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES GROWING TOWARD

GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP • CHRIST-CENTERED SERVICE

SPIRIT-LED LIVES



Time is Filled with Swift Transition

By Tim Summerlin

First Presbyterian Church-Kerrville shared an electric moment on Sunday, April 23, when it was announced that the ballot response to calling Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia as pastor of the congregation was unanimous. Those gathered rose spontaneously to applaud the landmark event and to express their gratitude to the Pastor Nominating Committee, which had worked faithfully for over two years on this search. The sense of joy was palpable. Although assured that the small group chosen to undertake the search was relentlessly moving through the lengthy process, necessary confidentiality could be frustrating during the long months.

But now we are nearly there. We have met our new pastor and his wife Jessie. They have identified a home and sold theirs in Atlanta. Commitments will claim them until the first of July, but we have now glimpsed our church's future. Naturally, we will be discussing that future increasingly in the coming days. We will be pondering what it asks of us. However, now is the right time also to look back and reflect on the period of transition we have passed through since November 2019, when FPCK was briefly without a pastor. This three and a half year period of transition is an important part of our lives, and we must be sure not to waste it. Anticipating that the era of a new pastor entails changes, what have we learned during the sojourn of our two interim pastors, David Evans and Jack Haberer, that will make us a stronger faith group as Pastor Jasiel and Jessie arrive?

One observation is that this transition reminds us that these people of God are survivors. The shock of sudden leadership departure followed quickly by



a pandemic that gripped the world for over two years did not crush its spirit. It suffered, yes. Some members departed. Some became less visible, the younger especially. Covid conditions severely curtailed normal activities. But one of the earliest responses was to provide for worship via internet to a congregation that could not gather, and to those shut in after normal worship returned. Both session and deacons adjusted to the changed conditions. Our loyal staff found ways to adapt their office work, and ministry to children and elementary students returned as soon as possible. Individuals stepped in to help lead. Print and web communication responded to the curtailing of face-to-face gathering.

We have been blessed during this transition by two dedicated interim pastors. David Evans stepped away from retirement to address our immediate needs. His warmth and pastoral skills provided reassurance. When major league baseball's spring training was limited, he chose to stay with us longer than first planned!

An interim church committee then selected Jack and Barbie Haberer to join us for a longer period as

a full pastoral search got underway. Arriving in June 2020, Jack would hardly have guessed that his service would continue for nearly three years, but he was too well acquainted with the PCUSA not to realize that a pastor search, like the mills of God, grinds slowly, but grinds exceedingly fine. Jack has accompanied us through the increasing refinement of our streaming services and the careful return to sanctuary worship, first in limited seating with masks and finally with the full celebration of communion in traditional manner.

From the first, Pastor Jack believed recovery, guidance through the uncharted covid era and helping the congregation “reclaim its sense of confidence” were priorities. He saw that distrust between FPCK and Mission Presbytery needed to be faced explicitly. He sponsored two Saturday “group therapy sessions” led by a reconciliation consultant to aid in the healing.

Several organizational steps and program emphases have occurred in this transition time, and Jack’s own summary best captures many of these: “the massive intensification of pastoral care led by parish associate Susan Montoya, care coordinator Shannon Tuschak, the deacons and others – in pursuit of attaining a ‘100 Percent Care Rate’; the hiring of vitally energized youth and children’s directors Emily McAllister, M’Leah Alexander, and Audrey Mitchell; the launch of the monthly Pop-Up Food Market; the fund-raising and wall-raising of the Habitat house; the renovations of Ryan Hall; the huge increase in music concerts and recitals by outside groups and, all the more, by our own Sabrina Adrian, Seth Lafler and the church choir.”

In summing up his sense of the character of FPCK, Haberer says, “This is a congregation of bridges, not of walls. They are earnest in their hunger to learn the faith and grow in it. They overflow with

compassion toward each other.” Reflecting on any advice he might offer, Jack says, “Make Jesus the focus of your life work in the years ahead. Remember: There is a God. God’s name is not Jasiel. Not Jack. Not your name. The right name is Jesus.”

One point on which PCUSA polity is firm is that the former pastor’s involvement ends as the new one arrives. In our case there will be a cushion of the month of June between those steps. As Jack says, “Barbie and I will grieve as we leave, given the deep friendships we’ve experienced here. But we need not move away. We can stay in our home and remain friends. But we will absent ourselves from all ministerial tasks. We won’t discuss matters of church policy or practices. You won’t see us in any services here for a year or two or three. Then again, our little RV will make tracks as Barbie quilts her way and I book-write my way all around this country of ours.” And a bon voyage on those next ventures!

We all have our own perspectives on the transition period now ending. That is as it should be. A Reformed tenet is that of the right of the individual conscience. But I hope this summary provides a reminder that, tough as it has been in many ways, our congregation has not simply hunkered down or hibernated during the last three years. This has not been a time of stasis. Again, Sunday’s joyous worship reaffirms First Presbyterian’s spirit and commitment to mission. Now, as we face the future, we should remember that important as a pastor is, the whole of the congregation defines its soul. We have a great opportunity to claim that truth as Jasiel and Jessie come to join us.

The title of this piece, as a few may recognize, comes from an old gospel hymn, one whose chorus urges, in times of transition, “Hold to God’s unchanging hand.” Let’s determine to follow that counsel.

Guest Preaching Schedule For June

June 4: Rev. Dr. Jose Irizarry – President of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

June 11: Rev. Dr. Sallie Sampsell Watson – General Presbyter, Mission Presbytery

June 18: Rev. Charlie Hornes – Chaplain, Schreiner University and Mo-Ranch

June 25: Rev. David Evans – Honorably Retired Presbyterian Pastor

Class of 2023

Jacob Barnes



Beth Cunningham



Caroline Daschel



Emilia Graham



Robert Jackson



Benjamin Lohmeyer



Keaton Mitchell



Joey Rodriguez



Simon Silvius



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Lauren Avery	1
Bev Kapelle	2
Harold Wunsch	2
Dave Tritenbach	3
Donna Lewis	4
Emily McAllister	5
Charles Collie	5
Michelle Sebesta	6
Miranda Collum	7
Megan Delgado Michell	9
Bill Cooper	9
Gabriel Schlechte	10
John Hale	10
Carol Brinkman	11
Del Davis	11
Emmy McCrae	11
Mindy Powell	12
Gene Hutzler	13
Claire Russell	13
JoVon Bryan	13
Hannah Watson	14
Nancy Wallace	14
Darrell Korman	15
Linda Speck	16
Jeff Cooper	16
Amy Lightfoot	16
Randi Van Winkle	17
Marilyn Sinclair	18
Jean Tritenbach	18
Gaye Avery	20
Kristen McAlexander	20
Sam Baublitt	21
Lola Barnes	22
Don Priour	23
Don Morris	24
Lisa Doster	24
Katie Burns	26
Jeanette Vaughan	27
Tricia Matthews	28
Will Cowden	29
Dean Porter	30
Colten Cooper	30
Susan Heffington	31
William Jackson	31

Christ-centered service



APRIL TOTALS

Foodbank Pop Up Market:

Food was distributed to 107 families consisting of 371 individuals.

Hope's Kitchen:

125 meals served (including To-Go meals)



VAYA CON DIOS!



ALL CHURCH DINNER

FAMILY LIFE CENTER
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

HOSTED BY HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP
& PERSONNEL COMMITTEES

Please join us as we wish Jack and Barbie Haberer well in their new adventures.

A fajita dinner will be provided by the church, feel free to supplement with an appetizer, salad, or dessert.

5:30-7:00 PM

All orders are due by May 11th.

Mother's Day Carnations!



You can fill out a form located in the narthex or church office or order online.
Carnations will be \$1.00 each.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11

PW Day Circle
10:30 am,
Room 208

PW Night Circle
7:00, Ryan Hall

CCP Preschool
Graduation
5:00 pm, Schreiner
Chapel

May 13

Organ Concert
w/Dr. Sabrina Adrian
4:00 pm, Sanctuary

May 14

Mother's Day

May 20

Pop Up Market
9:00 am, FLC
Parking Lot

May 21

Youth Led Worship
8:30 & 11:00 am
Sanctuary

May 24

All Church Dinner
5:30 pm, FLC

Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer,
Interim Pastor, Head-of-Staff
Rev. Susan Montoya, Parish Associate
Eldon Sheffer,
Commissioned Ruling Elder

Ministry Staff:

Dr. Sabrina Adrian, Organist
Seth Lafler, Choir Director
Shannon Tuschak, Care Coordinator
Audrey Mitchell,
Director of Children's Ministry
Emily McAllister,
Director of Youth Ministries
Alysse O'Brien,
Director of Children's Music
Scott Russell,
Director of Children's Corner
Ann Reynolds, YES Center Director

Support Staff:

Mary Stone, Business Administrator
Alicia Martin, Asst. Administrator
Alfred Valero, Facilities Manager

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