

DEAR FPC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

REGRETABLELY, THERE IS A POTENTIALLY CONFUSING TYPO IN THE LAST ARTICLE IN THIS NEWSLETTER-- THE ONE CONCERNING THE DATE AND TIME OF BILLY RUDDOCK'S MEMORIAL SERVICE.

SPECIFICALLY, THE MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE TOMORROW, JUNE 2ND (NOT JUNE 12TH), AT 1:00 P.M. IN OUR SANCTUARY. MISTAKES HAPPEN, AND I ESPECIALLY REGRET THIS ONE!

PEACE AND BLESSINGS,

PASTOR JIM



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**PUBLICATION NOTICE:** Your pastor, the Editor-in-Chief of this Newsletter, will be away on vacation for three weeks in June. Erica Colding, however, will make sure that an abbreviated edition of the Newsletter will be prepared and circulated according to our normal schedule.

If you have an article to be published in the Newsletter, please send it directly to Erica ([info@fpcofvictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org)) by no later than *Tuesday at noon* in the week you *want it to be published*.

Meanwhile, even if our Newsletter may at times be shorter than usual, it is only because things generally slow down a bit in the summer (for instance, PW

does not meet, PDS is not in session, and our Adult Sunday School Class is going to take a break for a bit this summer).

Faith never takes a vacation, however. Exciting things are happening at FPC, and we hope you will continue to worship with us this summer so that you may be aware of the dynamic things that are happening as we continue to contemplate and implement the next steps in *Our Journey Forward!*



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON  
SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.  
AS WE ALSO CELEBRATE  
THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Please join us to celebrate Trinity Sunday on June 4, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. and to participate in the Lord's Supper. The Scripture readings are 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (Paul's famous trinitarian benediction) and Matthew 28:16-20 (Jesus invokes the Trinity in his Great Commission). The title of the sermon is "God Is with Us," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-6-4-Bulletin-Communion-PDF.pdf>.

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**DON'T FORGET: ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023,  
THE CONGREGATION WILL ALSO GATHER  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR WORSHIP SERVICE  
TO ENJOY A LUNCHEON AND  
TO RECEIVE AN OVERVIEW OF  
THE MISSION STUDY REPORT PREPARED BY YOUR TASK FORCE**

The church will provide the main course for a congregational luncheon to be held after our worship service on Sunday, June 4, 2023. Members are invited to bring a side dish such as a vegetable, salad, or dessert. We will have lunch in Fellowship Hall and then listen to brief presentations from members of the Mission Study Task Force regarding the major topics addressed in the Mission Study they have prepared.

The Task Force has already presented the Mission Study to the Session, and now we want to share an overview of its contents with you, the members and friends of our beloved church.

Within the past five or six years, your pastor believes that not since the congregational gathering that we held in the summer of 2022 has there been such a consequential moment regarding the future of this church. Your Mission Study Task Force has worked long and hard to prepare this study, but, in truth, it is only the first step in the revitalization, renewal, and growth of our church. There is no question that First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas, is alive and viable. Now we must work to make sure that the work we want to do in Christ's name remains sustainable as we continue our 182-year history of service to this community.

Please join us for this important step in the continuation of *Our Journey Forward!*

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**WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME  
WE HAD WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM  
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ON PENTECOST SUNDAY!**

Our church was awash in red last Sunday as members from FPC and Grace Presbyterian Church participated in a joint Pentecost worship service. Members of both congregations gathered in Fellowship Hall before and after the service, and many new acquaintances were made, not to mention that many old ones were revived.

Your pastor has had the pleasure, on your behalf, to receive many sincere compliments from the folks from Grace who worshipped with us and enjoyed their time with us. Our congregation was, naturally!, warm, friendly, and welcoming. In due course, and as the Spirit leads our respective congregations, perhaps we will be able to find more opportunities for combined worship services, in Grace's Sanctuary and ours!

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**OUR CHURCH GROUNDS  
KEEP GETTING MORE BEAUTIFUL  
WITH EACH PASSING DAY**

Your pastor has mentioned before our selfless benefactors who, just out of the goodness of their heart, have been sprucing up the church property both inside and out.

I know that these volunteers neither want nor expect praise-- they are kind, generous folks who are just doing what kind, generous folks do! Still, I would be remiss if I did publicly thank those folks (the ones I know about at least!) for the time, effort, and resources they are bringing to our church to clean us up, spruce us up, and make us look “spic and span” for members and visitors alike. Thanks and blessings to Kathleen Carey, Jim Miller, Billy Leske, Donald Anderson, Robert Wyatt, the ladies who work every other Friday during our “One Great Hour of Caring,” and likely many other unknown folks, all of whom take pride in our church’s appearance and who rejoice in maintaining its beauty.

Of course, gardening, cleaning, repairing, and maintaining a building and its grounds is never-ending work. If you see something that “needs attention,” I hope you will let us know about it in the church office and, if possible, that you will lend us

a hand in keeping our house (well, actually, God's house) clean and orderly. Not only are you helping us keep expenses under control, you are also providing a witness to the community that the folks who worship here love this church and are saying, in an open, kind, and gracious way, "Come on friends, why not join us one Sunday morning soon and experience the joy and the love? We are sure you will want to come back!"

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## OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR AGES 5-12



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Matt 19:14

We will be back next Sunday (6/11), so join us as we continue our lesson on Abraham and Sarah

Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Children ages 5-12 are welcome. Contact Leila Galvan at 956-367-2234 if you have questions or would like to participate. All are welcome!





**HEADS UP:  
ANOTHER RUMMAGE SALE  
IS BEING PLANNED FOR  
FRIDAY, JULY 28, THROUGH SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023!**

Who can forget the fantastic rummage sale that we had in Fellowship Hall in August of last year?

That was such a great success, as we raised \$500 for the Presbyterian Day School and over \$1,500 for the church! The only less than superlative feedback we received about the event was that it should have been publicized earlier so that folks could have had more time to collect “stuff” to bring to the sale.

Well, this year we are starting to publicize our next rummage sale well in advance! For certain, we will have a rummage sale on Friday, July 28, through Saturday, July 29, 2023.

While we continue to make plans about the hours of the sale and the dates and time to drop off donated items, please begin to set aside the things you will want to bring to our rummage sale in July. In fact, if there are things that you need to clean out now and can't wait for the rummage sale, please contact the church office. We have cleared out some storage space (in Fellowship Hall and elsewhere) where we will be able to put items away until we can set them out to be sold.

If you have some items that you want to bring to the church to store for the rummage sale, please call the church office to coordinate the arrangements. Meanwhile, keep your eye out for those things that you believe deserve a new home and a fresh start with some other happy owner who will be looking for bargains at our rummage sale!

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## **VICTORIA BACH FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH PERFORMANCES AT FPC**

The Victoria Bach Festival will be presenting its annual series of concerts in Victoria on June 4-11, 2023. For more information and to purchase your tickets (hurry!), click here: <https://victoriabachfestival.org/concerts/events/>.

Of special interest to FPC are the programs that will be held in our church this year, namely:

Thursday, June 8,  
2023  
6:45 pm - 7:15 pm

### [PRE-CONCERT TALK WITH GEORGE STAUFFER](#)

*First Presbyterian Church, Victoria Texas*

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Thursday, June 8,  
2023  
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

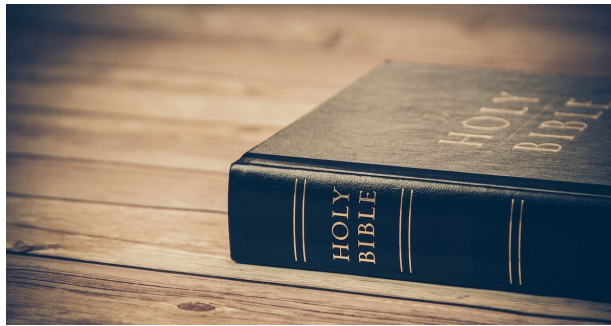
### [VBF BAROQUE ENSEMBLE LED BY STEPHEN REDFIELD](#)

*First Presbyterian Church, Victoria Texas*

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Without a doubt, the performances underwritten by the Victoria Bach Festival are of world-class quality, and we, as residents of this community, are blessed to have access to them. All music, whether of the church or otherwise, is one of God's greatest gifts to his creation. Whether you attend the Bach Festival performances at FPC or elsewhere (or everywhere!), you will be enthralled by the quality of the performances, not to mention that you will be supporting the high quality of musical artistry that this community enjoys.

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## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

- The Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class will take a short break for the Summer. Watch here for future updates.
  - Kingdom Kids: There will be no Kingdom Kids on June 4, 2023. Join us again on June 11.
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## **PERIODIC FPC FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION (JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2023)**

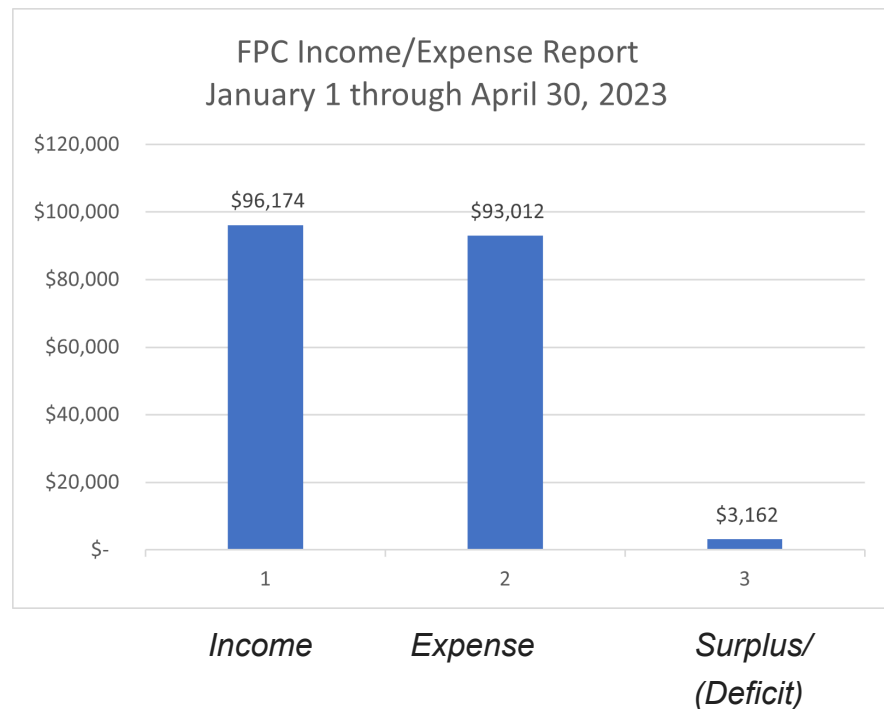
Through the first four months of 2023, church revenue improved in April to the point where a negative cash-flow of \$10,678 at the end of March was reversed into a positive of \$3,162 at the end of April. Obviously, a lot of this has to do with the timing of our collections versus the timing of our payments, but anytime we are collecting more than we are spending is a good day at the church house.

But now a cautionary word based on experience. Historically, collections decline during the summer months, both in large churches and small. Attendance drops as folks go on vacation and forget to send in their tithes and offerings while they are away. Unfortunately, given our razor-thin financial circumstances, any

decline in revenue risks our having to dig into our savings accounts to keep the lights on.

Hopefully, however, among this vigilant and faithful congregation, we will not see this customary “summer lull.” Please mail us your offering if you are going to be away, or drop two offerings in the plate to cover, in advance, the time you will be away!

The Finance Committee is very grateful for the faithful stewardship of this congregation. We, in turn, promise to be faithful stewards of the church’s financial resources.



*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Cor 9:7

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Billy Ruddock, long-time and beloved member of our church, passed peacefully into the Church Triumphant on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the age of 91.

There will be a Service of Witness to the Resurrection in Celebration of Billy's life in our Sanctuary on Friday, June 12, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. A reception with the family in Fellowship Hall will follow immediately after the service.

*In life and in death, we belong to the Lord!*

Peace, grace, mercy,

Pastor Jim

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