

Dear FPC Family,

As the days of May speed by and we prepare for summer schedules, I'd like to share a little about life at FPC in the months ahead.

While we have one family getaway planned, I will be on campus and engaged in FPC activities throughout the summer. In June, I will have the opportunity to join our high schoolers on their summer mission trip to Miami, Florida, where we will run VBS camps with Haitian, Jamaican, and Cuban churches, serving the homeless, and doing construction work in conjunction with Praying Pelican Missions. Cassie, Moses, Zoe, and I will join the rest of our church family at Mo-Ranch in July for FPC's annual time of prayer and community. Finally, in August, I will join our Mission team on a trip to Uganda, where I will speak at a Renewal Summit hosted by Africa Renewal Ministries (ARM), offer daily breakout sessions, and then preach that Sunday at Gaba Community Church.

While this will prove to be a very busy few months, the thing I am most excited about is the vision work currently being finalized. Your vision team, comprised of elders, lay leaders, and pastoral staff, has made tremendous progress in crafting a vision to carry us through the next 15 years. I look forward to sharing the results of this work as we return from summer schedules in early September.

With the details of my schedule out of the way, I would like to provide updates on the other business, projects, and summer activities of our church.

Budget Update

You may have noticed that we have been sharing our budget status in the weekly bulletin. As we get closer to the end of our fiscal year (June 30), we believe it is essential to make you aware of our financial position as current giving, along with five-year giving trends, are used to guide our finance team in setting budget parameters for the next fiscal year (July 2024-June 2025). As always, we are grateful for your commitment to sacrificial giving and the ongoing generosity that allows us to support the work of the Gospel on campus, throughout Houston, and around the world. As I write this email, we are behind about \$75K for the current month, with a total of \$650K needed by the end of the fiscal year, and we remain prayerful that we will receive what is required to close the year on budget.

Ministry Updates

As we head into the summer months, I would like to share a few updates on our ministries, pastors, and staff. First, **Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life**, will be on sabbatical from June 3 through August 31. Jon was eligible for a sabbatical last year but deferred until this summer to assist during my first year. We are grateful for his faithfulness and I hope you will join me in praying for him as he takes this time to care for his soul and be renewed physically, mentally, and spiritually. In his absence, the departments reporting to him will report to me and Pastor Emmanuel Paulpeter. Any needs or concerns can be emailed to pastorsoffice@fpchouston.org.

Our search for a replacement to lead the Caring Ministry at FPC continues. As our hiring committee works to identify the person God has for this role, we have asked pastor and new Covenant Partner, Rev. Dr. Bill Dunn, to serve as Care Specialist. Bill has already begun responding to requests for caring support, conducting hospital visits, and providing general support to those unable to make it to campus. Patsy Powell will continue to support this ministry in her role as Caring Ministry Coordinator. If you have a request for the Caring team, please email caring@fpchouston.org.

Finally, as we finalize our ministry plans for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and work to align our activities with an updated vision, we have decided to put our next **Project Flourish** season on hold. Last year, we announced that Project Flourish would move from a biannual program season with a prize pool of \$250K to an annual season with a \$125K prize pool to allow us to enable more gospel-minded initiatives. Many of our past participants, specifically those who have received monetary awards (“Flourishers”), continue making meaningful contributions to our city. If you missed it, please take a moment to check out the recent article about 2019-2020 Flourisher, Belong Kitchen in [Paper City](#). Please pray with us as we assess the best rhythm for this program and our priority to be here for the Gospel and for Houston.

Campus Updates & Summer Schedule

Summer is the time we schedule major updates and repairs across our campus. With our friends at Presbyterian School on vacation, we have more flexibility and space to complete large projects. This summer, our two significant efforts will include overhauling our air conditioning system and modernizing our elevators. Both should be underway by mid-summer. We do not anticipate any disruption to campus access as a result.

As is our practice most years, we will implement a summer building schedule to allow for reduced facility support and utility costs. Please make note of our schedule change, which takes effect on June 1:

Summer Building Schedule (June 1-July 31)

Sundays: 7 AM-2 PM

Monday-Friday: 7 AM-8 PM

Saturdays: Closed

Please note that on the Sunday of Mo-Ranch Weekend, July 14, we will have a single worship service at 11 AM.

Technology Update

Technology resources are constantly advancing, and we are always working to ensure we are using the tools that best support our business functions, ministry activities, and your ability to interact with the FPC community. To that end, we have researched and identified a new church management software called TouchPoint, which will replace our current system, FellowshipOne, this summer. In addition to helping our staff consolidate business functions, better manage activities, and connect with our community, this tool will offer each of you more customized engagement with the ministries you love. TouchPoint puts everything you need in one place through a mobile app—details about your activities, easy access to other group members, and valuable resources like sermon replays and online giving. TouchPoint will roll out to staff in June. Look for more information from Hunter next week on how you can begin using this new platform.

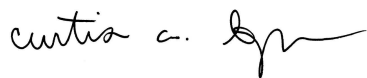
Before I wrap up, I want to share a word about staying connected this summer. With vacations, camps, and other summer activities, it is easy to stray from the rhythms that keep us strong in our faith and in fellowship with one another. Whether you will be here in Houston or enjoying a break from our characteristic heat and humidity, I hope you will take advantage of the following:

- **Weekly Worship:** In-person or online, please join us for our summer sermon series, *For Such a Time As This*, where we will (re)discover the timeless truth that God is always present, even—perhaps especially—when He seems most absent.
- **WoW Summer Gatherings:** Our Women of the Word (WoW) Bible Study will meet monthly this summer to study “What If Jesus Was Serious About Heaven?” by Skye Jethani. Virtual options are also available.
- **Summer Chancel Choir:** Summer is a great time to try singing with our Chancel Choir. No auditions or long-term commitments are required, so join as your schedule permits. Sunday morning rehearsals begin at 10 AM, starting June 2. High school and up welcome!

For more information about these items and other summer activities for all ages, visit our [Summer at FPC](#) page.

Have a wonderful holiday weekend and a safe and restful summer!

Yours in Christ,



Curtis A. Bronzan
Senior Pastor



© 2024 First Presbyterian Church of Houston. All rights reserved.

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

5300 Main Street | Houston, TX 77004 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.