

Pastor's Article

BY REV. DR. BOB FULLER



Along the Way: A Stewardship of the Ordinary

*Ordinary Disciples Bringing God's Ordinary Gifts
Together for His Extraordinary Work*

In the Great Commission, Jesus gave His disciples both a mission and a way of life. He said:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." — Matthew 28:19–20

The word "Go" here can also be translated, "As you go." Jesus calls us to follow Him not just on Sunday mornings, but along the way—in the ordinary rhythms of our daily lives.

That is the heart of our stewardship theme this year: *"Along the Way: A Stewardship of the Ordinary."* It's about ordinary disciples bringing together ordinary gifts—our time, talent, treasure, and testimony—so that the Lord may do His extraordinary work through us.

As we look toward 2026—the 180th anniversary of our founding—we need to reflect on how God has used *ordinary people* across generations to do extraordinary things for His Kingdom. The Lord has been faithful for nearly two centuries. Now, He is calling *this generation* to follow Him with the same courage, faith, and joy.

How is God shaping us through our ordinary gifts?

TIME

Our church's legacy isn't just written in years — it's written in *ordinary moments* of faithfulness. Moments when people showed up to teach, to pray, to serve, to worship. The saints who came before us didn't build this church by convenience, but by commitment. How are we using the moments God has given us today?

TALENT

God has filled this church with gifted people — builders, teachers, artists, organizers, dreamers. Every generation of FPC has seen God raise up the right people at the right time with the right skills to move His mission forward. This is our moment. How will you use the gifts God has placed in your hands to strengthen His church and bless His city?

TREASURE

This year we have fallen short financially and we need every person to give in 2026. For 180 years, God has provided the people of this congregation with everything we need to fulfill FPC's mission. We will give not out of fear or scarcity, but out of gratitude and faith — knowing the Lord of abundance holds the cattle on a thousand hills. We stand on the shoulders of those who gave sacrificially so we could worship, learn, and serve today. Now it's our turn. Will we trust God with what He's given us?

TESTIMONY

Every disciple has a story. Your story of faith — what Jesus has done in your life — is one of the most powerful gifts you can offer. Witness isn't just about what we say, it's about living in ways that show that we take the Lord seriously. When we share how Christ's love has changed us, we help others discover the same grace and hope we've received. Who needs to hear your story this week? Who needs to see the courage of Christ reflected in your life?

It's Time to Bring Our Gifts Together.

2025 has tested us. We've faced uncertainty and drifted toward a "wait and see" mentality. But God is calling us to something more. Now it is time to *move forward in faith*. To bring our ordinary gifts together for His extraordinary work.

Stewardship of the ordinary is about PARTICIPATION. The mission of FPC isn't carried by a few. It depends on *all of us* — ordinary disciples, bringing our ordinary gifts, trusting an extraordinary God.

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Here's how you can participate:

- **Pray** – Ask God to open your heart to give generously of your time, talent, treasure, and testimony. Ask Him to show you where He is calling you to step forward.
- **Participate** – Get involved in a ministry. Serve. Teach. Build. Pray. Lead. Don't wait to be asked — step up and say, "*Here am I, Lord, send me.*" (Isaiah 6:8)
- **Give** – Make a Faith Commitment for 2026. Trust that your gift — no matter how ordinary it may seem — will be used by God to accomplish extraordinary things.

Fill Out Your 2026 Commitment Card:

- › Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/give
- › Fill out a printed card and mail or drop off at the church office
- › Fill out a printed card and bring it to worship on Commitment Sunday, November 23 (*additional cards will be available that day*)

God's mission has never depended on a few extraordinary people carrying a heavy load. It depends on *all of us*—ordinary disciples walking faithfully with Jesus, day by day, *along the way*.

In 2026, as we celebrate 180 years of God's faithfulness, let's make a statement — that this generation of disciples is just as faithful, just as generous, and just as committed to the mission of Jesus Christ as those who came before.

May the Lord bless the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives—*along the way*.

Grace and peace,



Additional Stewardship information and a copy of the Commitment Card are available on pages 14-15.

SAVE THE DATE

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- 6** November Missions Highlights
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- 8** Flood Relief Update
- 9** Deacons' Article: Home Communion
- 10-11** Happy Children's Sunday and Music with Families Update
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- 13** October Photo Contest Winners
- 14-15** Stewardship of the Ordinary
- 16** Midday Noels Coming this December
- 17** November WOC Circles
- 18-19** Letter from Women of the Church President
- 20-21** KEYS Older Adult Ministry: November

FIRST CUP

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First Press is a monthly publication from the FPC Communications Team.

Want to be featured in FIRST PRESS?

Deadline to submit content: the 15th of the previous month.

Hank Cherry: **Director of Communications**

Dorothy Hecimovich: **Graphic Designer**

Edwin Stephens: **Media/AV Manager**

Robynn Amy: **Media/Production Specialist**

Nona Hall: **Volunteer Photographer**

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ALONG the WAY

A STEWARDSHIP OF THE ORDINARY

This fall, our church is reflecting on the theme *Along the Way: Discipleship of the Ordinary*. It is a beautiful reminder that God calls each of us to follow Christ not only in the big, dramatic moments of life, but also in the small, daily ones—at home, at work, in our families, and in our community.

Jesus chose ordinary people to be his disciples—fishermen, tax collectors, and everyday men and women. In the same way, God calls us today to discover His presence in our ordinary routines and to live faithfully in all that we do.

That is why our 2026 stewardship theme is **A Stewardship of the Ordinary**. Everything we have—our time, our energy, our daily rhythms, our relationships, and yes, our financial resources—are gifts from God. Stewardship means recognizing those gifts and offering them back to God with gratitude.

This past year has not been without its challenges. Like any family of faith, we have walked through seasons of change. Yet even in those moments, God has shown us His faithfulness. Our mission and ministries continue strong: worship that lifts our hearts, teaching that forms disciples, outreach that serves the vulnerable, and community that binds us together in Christ's love.

In 2026, we will also be celebrating an extraordinary milestone—our 180th Anniversary! For nearly two centuries, First Presbyterian Church has been a beacon of faith, reaching out to serve the people of San Antonio and beyond.

Now is the time for us, as ordinary disciples, to respond with extraordinary faith. As you prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year, we invite you to think about how God might be calling you to live a deeper stewardship of the ordinary. Every gift sustains the broad mission of First Presbyterian Church and helps us embody Christ's love in San Antonio and beyond.

Thank you for living generously and faithfully, especially in the ordinary. Together, God uses our everyday offerings for extraordinary purposes.

*In gratitude, on behalf of your FPC Stewardship & Finance Committee,
David Rogers, Stewardship Campaign Chair*

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." — Colossians 3:17



Stewardship is more than a season or a budget—it's the daily practice of gratitude.

This year's theme, ***Along the Way: A Stewardship of the Ordinary***, reminds us that God meets us not only in sacred moments but also in the ordinary spaces of life—at home, at work, and in our community.

Every prayer offered, every act of service, and every gift shared becomes part of the ministry God is doing through First Presbyterian Church. As Pastor Bob reminds us, stewardship is *participation*, not *perfection*—ordinary disciples bringing ordinary gifts so that the Lord may do His extraordinary work through us.

As we celebrate **180 years of faith and service**, we give thanks for the ordinary faithfulness that has shaped this congregation and sustained its mission.

On **Commitment Sunday, November 23**, we'll dedicate our 2026 pledges together in worship. Each card represents a shared step of faith—our collective response to God's generosity and our hope for what He will do through us *along the way*.

Please prayerfully fill out your Commitment Card and bring it with you to worship on Commitment Sunday.

If you have already submitted your card online or by mail, you are still encouraged to bring one forward as a symbolic act of dedication during worship.

You may also scan the QR code or visit **fpcsanantonio.org/give** to complete your Commitment Card online.



2026 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

As part of your stewardship response, please mark all the ways you are committing to participate in 2026.

PLEASE PRINT NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

☐ Committing to the following gift for the 2026 budget

\$ _____ PER (Please check one)

☐ WEEK ☐ MONTH ☐ YEAR ☐ OTHER _____

FOR ANNUAL TOTAL OF: \$ _____

- ☐ I/we have already submitted our commitment card online or by mail & wish to place this card as a symbol of dedication
- ☐ Committing to pray for the missions and ministries of FPC
- ☐ Committing to take the Spiritual Gifts Survey and explore serving opportunities through FPC ministries
- ☐ Committing to share stories of God's faithfulness—through FPC's "Share a Story" form or personally with others