

# Annual Congregation Meeting Report For 2025 February 8, 2026

Rev. Rebecca Downs, Pastor  
Corbin Sturch, Director of Music & Organist  
Jackson Okland, Assistant Director of Music  
Connor Wiseman, Head of Audio and Video Services  
Luci Burns, Office Manager  
Joseph Bell, Custodian and Sunday Sexton  
Patricia Anglin, Childcare Provider  
Pat Bumpus, Clerk of Session



**Agenda**  
**Congregational Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Galveston**  
**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Establishment of Quorum
3. Approve Minutes of last year's meetings (pgs. 2-3)
4. Presentation of Annual Reports (pgs. 4-11)
5. Presentation of 2026 Budget (pg. 12)
6. Adjourn by singing, "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (words on screen)

## **Minutes – Annual Congregational Meeting for 2025 February 16, 2025**

### **Call to Order**

Reverend Becky Downs called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was to present the annual 2024 report of the finances and committee reports to the congregation.

### **Meeting**

A motion to approve Debbie Faubion from Trustees Class of 2027 to Trustees Class of 2026. The motion was approved.

A packet was available for all to review that included the Pastor's Report, Clerk's Report, Trustees and Treasurer's Report. Along with the reports of each Church Committee. As Rev. Downs moved through the reports the congregation was given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss. A motion was made to accept the Annual 2024 Report Packet. The motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation of a New Ministry Structure was presented by Heather Sommer. Floor was opened to questions. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the new structure and it carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

A motion was made and approved to adjourn. Rev. Downs closed the meeting with a song and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Bumpus  
Clerk of Session

# Minutes of Congregational Meeting

## November 16, 2025, at 12:00 pm

**Call to Order:**

Meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Becky Downs, Moderator

**Purpose:**

To elect officers for the upcoming years.

**Meeting:**

Slate of Ruling Elders for Class of 2028 presented by Ginny Niebuhr:

Lecina Linehan  
Isidore Mushimiyamana  
Paul Rhoads  
Tom Vandenberg

Slate of Trustees for Class of 2028 presented:

Pat Domangue  
Dave Mitchell

Moderator called for nominations from the floor— none received.

Motion made to receive the people named as Ruling Elders and Trustees. It was approved unanimously.

Moderator called for nominations for 3 members to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2026. Three people were nominated:

Janene Davison  
Mandy Rider  
Lesley Sommer

Motion was made to approve the people nominated to serve. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Motion made to adjourn, passed unanimously. Meeting closed with a prayer and a song.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Bumpus

Clerk of Session

# State of the Church Report

As I've reflect back on 2025 one word keeps coming to mind— adventure! The word adventure has its root in the Middle English *aventure*, which means “a bold undertaking, in which risks are to be encountered, staked on unforeseen events.” In many ways, this year has been an adventure for all of us!

Lots of things at our church have held steady. Our Sunday School classes have continued to explore topics from the Bible, history, and theology. Our midweek men's breakfast has continued to fill hearts and minds (and stomachs!) with good things, and the monthly women's Bible Study is thriving. Our choir and choral scholars have stayed committed to singing in worship each week, joined regularly by the Chancel Ensemble, and they all lead with energy and spirit. We continue to offer generous gifts to our community through Outreach Grants and through individual donations. Committees continue to meet and enjoy their work together which supports our ministry as a whole. Elders guide the congregation on its way, addressing whatever risks and dangers they might encounter.

Other things have happened that have been totally new. We have a new committee structure which includes a Music and Arts Ministry for the first time. We hosted our first ever Blessing of the Pets event, which brought together several ministries and provided a fun and meaningful community connection. We've seen revivals of our Bell Choir as well as EEP Chapel times. And now we're experimenting with a new women's fellowship time on Thursday nights. We are a fine church, with excellent Session and volunteer leadership. These have been “bold undertakings!” And though we took risks, we succeeded in growing and learning from them.

Every year here at First Presbyterian we learn new things, don't we? This year's gathering at the Dickens High Tea along with the Messiah concert were very successful, thanks to the dedication of the Congregational Life Ministry and the Choir, as well as the Communications Ministry who got the word out. Communications also helped to gather a great crowd for the annual All Hallows Eve concert. Missions Ministry is starting to train with Living Waters for the World, in hopes of sharing the gift of clean water with people who don't always have it. The Buildings and Grounds Ministry established a policy for facility use by outside groups and practiced our routine for hurricane preparedness. The Trustees, with the attention of a small task group, managed to reduce our insurance payment significantly for the coming year, and another task group helped Budget and Finance to launch a stewardship campaign that resulted in a significant number of new and increased pledges.

2026 provides an opportunity for new adventures for all of us. God may lead us in directions we've never thought possible, or never even dreamed of! There will be risks we're called to take, and dangers to be faced. Through it all, God tells us not to fear, for our Lord will go with us into those wilderness times. Continue in your love of our Lord Jesus and continue in your care for all of God's creatures. Remember to pray for your staff—me as your Pastor, Corbin, Jackson, Connor, Luci, Joseph, and Patricia, who cares so lovingly for your youngest members. Stand tall in the faith, and we will set off on the adventure together!

*“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” —Ephesians 3: 20-21*

Becky Downs

# FPC Annual Report 2025

**Staff:** Becky Downs (Pastor), Luci Burns (Office Manager), Corbin Sturch (Director of Music and Organist), Jackson Okland (Assistant Director of Music), Joseph Bell (Custodian/Sexton), Connor Wiseman (Head of AV Services), Patricia Anglin (Nursery Attendant)

**Membership:** 116; 8 new members: Donna Ardell, Susan Stoeckle, Emma Uwineza, Isidore Mushimiyimana, Lecina Linehan, Jerry Davila, Sylvia Davila, and John Nilsson; 4 deaths: Bill Rider, Bill Bumpus, Dick Peake, and Elisa McAvin; 3 transfers to other churches due to relocation

## General Operating Budget:

2025 income (giving, EEP rent, building use fees)	\$363,775
2025 expenses	- \$567,813
2025 use of savings / investment income to cover deficits	+ \$208,742
Year-end balance	\$4,704

	Accomplishments and Plans	People
<b>Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular meetings 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. 4 elders completed term, 4 new elders elected and installed.</li> <li>FPC Ministry re-organization</li> <li>Significant revisions to Youth Protection Policy, and Racism and Sexual Harassment Policy, as required by Presbytery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 elected Elders + Clerk</li> <li>Liaisons for each Ministry</li> <li>2 active Elders on Nominating Committee</li> </ul>

<p><b>Administrative</b>  <b>Resources Ministry</b>  Personnel  Finance  Building &amp; Grounds</p>	<p><b>Personnel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel evaluations completed</li> <li>• Year End staff bonuses</li> <li>• Retirement of Nursery Attendant, Terry Verduzco</li> <li>• Hiring of Nursery Attendant, Patricia Anglin</li> <li>• Pastor Becky elected Vice President of Galveston Ministerial Alliance</li> <li>• Pastor Becky elected to Presbytery's Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased income from East End Preschool</li> <li>• Stewardship Campaign. 36 pledges for 2026 (including 8 new), 17 pledges were increased over last year.</li> <li>• Memorials/Honors—Memorial Gifts, Easter lilies, Christmas Poinsettias</li> <li>• 2026—required external review of church finances</li> </ul> <p><b>Building &amp; Grounds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major cleaning out/decluttering in preparation for emptying the 2nd floor for restoration (which then did not happen) – closets cleared, trash out, reorganization of 3<sup>rd</sup> floor storage area.</li> <li>• Hurricane/Emergency Plan reviewed and practiced</li> <li>• Establishment of building use fees/policies</li> <li>• Windows restoration. two “Catalogue” windows restored in 2025, two are out for restoration, one remaining. Using Futch Trust Fund.</li> <li>• (2025) Attention to lighting inside and outside and to roofing and ceilings. Monitoring systems for outdoor water. Programmable lighting and HVAC. Garden refresh- fencing, railings, sitting areas. Re-organization of kitchen and storage rooms. Re-decorating in parlor, bride's room, restrooms.</li> <li>• (for 2026) Significant HVAC maintenance; consideration given to floors, palm trees, painting, parking lots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry Leadership Team</li> <li>• FPC staff</li> <li>• Finance Committee</li> <li>• Treasurer</li> <li>• Liaison with Trustees</li> <li>• B&amp;Grounds Committee</li> <li>• Restoration Task Force</li> <li>• Memorial Fund Committee</li> <li>• Stewardship Committee</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Worship Ministry</b></p>	<p>Weekly 11:00 Worship, including livestreaming, and video library Monthly Communion Weekly Children's Chapel Guest Preaching in Pastor Becky's absence Special Worship services: Jazz Worship, World-Wide Communion, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Blessing of Pets, Blessing of Backpacks, and Blessing of Music Ministry 2026—considering All Saints Day recognition of members who passed New Sanctuary Christmas Wreaths, donated New camera, from a trust fund  Weddings (2025) one wedding. Matt and Mai Beach Baptisms (2026) two upcoming baptisms Funerals (2025) four funerals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry Leadership Team</li> <li>• Bulletin team</li> <li>• AV tech team</li> <li>• Liturgists</li> <li>• Ushers</li> <li>• Communion preparers</li> <li>• Children's Worship leaders</li> <li>• Wedding Liaison</li> </ul>
<p><b>Music &amp; Arts Ministry</b> (<i>New Ministry</i> – used to be within Worship ministry)  Worship Music Arts and Ideas Series Choral Scholars Program</p>	<p><b>Worship Music</b> Choir/Choral Scholars; Ensemble, Bells, Guests Sunday worship, 11:00 Evensong, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays 6:30 <b>Arts &amp; Ideas Series</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (2025) Concert pianist, Sea Chanties, All Hallow's Eve Organ Concert, Messiah select pieces.</li> <li>• (2026 planned) Maestro Saeverud, Opera Hispanica, Univ. Houston Texas Music Festival piano concert</li> <li>• Hosted other groups: Beach Heroes Art Exhibit, Galveston Community Band Concert</li> </ul> <p><b>Choral Scholars Program--</b> fundraising, scholars' care and support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry Leadership Team</li> <li>• C. Sturch, Music Director, Organist</li> <li>• J Okland, Assistant Director</li> <li>• Choir/Choral Scholars</li> <li>• Ensemble, L Wiseman</li> <li>• Bells, D. Neuwiller</li> </ul>



<b>Congregational Life Ministry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Fellowship/Hospitality Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weekly after-worship fellowship time</li> <li>○ Frequent potluck meals</li> <li>○ Special celebrations (birthdays, babies, graduations, retirement)</li> <li>○ Men's Breakfast Fellowship</li> <li>○ (new in 2026) Women's Fellowship—Girls' Night Out</li> <li>○ Craft and Connect</li> <li>○ Book Club</li> <li>○ Astros Game</li> <li>○ Dickens High Tea</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>New Connections Team</b>—welcome bags, after-worship fellowship, calls/visits from pastor</li> <li>- <b>Care and Support Team</b> – Every member and regular attender is on one of 9 care lists. There are ways to submit prayer requests. Meal deliveries can be arranged for members in need.</li> <li>- <b>Spiritual growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 weekly Sunday Bible study classes</li> <li>○ Horizon's Bible study, monthly</li> <li>○ Lenten Study Series</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry Leadership Team</li> <li>• Bible Study leaders</li> <li>• Care Team</li> </ul>
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<b>Missions &amp; Outreach Ministry</b>	<p>Food Resources Card Hosted youth groups on mission trips Weekly chapel for EEP</p> <p><b>Gifts of time, talents, donations:</b>  <i>Individual Giving:</i> Galveston Urban Ministries (school supplies drive), Salvation Army dinner servers and monthly funding of beverages for meals, Meals on Wheels deliverers, Seafarer Center Christmas boxes (40), Salvation Army Angel Gifts (40), Galveston Diaper Bank donations (Christmas Eve diaper drive), Pregnancy Help Center (Change for Change campaign), St. Vincent's House Food pantry, Luke Society Medical Mission (supplies, storage space), Ida Austin/Bereans class donations to Luke Society and Angel Tree totaling \$2200  <i>Giving from General Operating Budget:</i> Seafarer Center and Salvation Army monthly donations;  <i>Giving from Outreach Fund:</i> Spruce Pine PC in NC flood relief, honor gift to Westminster PC Galveston</p> <p><b>EEP Scholarships</b> ~\$11,000, from Freitag/Peterson/Burgess Fund</p> <p><b>FPC Outreach grants--</b> \$49,750 to 13 agencies, using investment from Keesy Trust fund.</p> <p><b>Special Missions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC(USA) Joy Gift Offering (\$1545, sent to Presbytery for missions)</li> <li>• PC(USA) Peace &amp; Global Witness Offering (\$551 to Presbytery, \$183 stays with FPC, used for Seafarer's Ministry)</li> <li>• PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (\$ 981)</li> <li>• Living Waters for the World. 2025 two attended training (funded from the Dorothy Minor Trust); 2026 exploring activity options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry Leadership Team</li> <li>• Salvation Army Servers</li> <li>• Meals on Wheels Servers</li> <li>• Outreach Grant Review Team</li> </ul>
<b>Communications Ministry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Major website overhaul</li> <li>• Facebook presence</li> <li>• Newspaper entries</li> <li>• Event flyers and postcards</li> <li>• Visit Galveston weddings entry</li> <li>• Coast magazine events listings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry Leadership Team</li> <li>• Webmaster</li> <li>• FB content creators</li> </ul>

<b>Board of Trustees</b>	<p>Oversight of investment portfolio (trust funds and property assets) (managed by Bank of America and Texas Presbyterian Foundation.</p> <p>Task Force designed ways to decrease insurance premium burden, including, some changes in types and limits of coverages, increased deductibles, self-insurance of windows and organ—for a savings of ~\$100,000 annually</p>	6 elected Trustees
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	Prepared slate of nominees for Elders, Trustees, and Nominating Committee, for congregation election	Nominating Committee

## TRUSTEES Report Calendar Year 2025

<p><b>Purpose of the Ministry</b></p> <p>The Board of Trustees of First Presbyterian Church of Galveston are members of the Church elected by the congregation in staggered, three-year terms, charged with a fiduciary obligation to manage and safeguard the Church's property interests held in benefit for the Church and its ministries.</p>	<p><b>2025 Chair</b> Dan Klein (Class of 2025)</p> <p><b>2025 Members:</b> Philip Brown (Class of 2025) Debbie Faubion (Class of 2026) Jane Fitz (Class of 2026) Bruce Niebuhr (Class of 2027) Knox Rider (Class of 2027) Anne Woodson (Class of 2027) (Chair 2026)</p> <p><b>Members taking office January 1, 2026</b> Patricia Domangue (Class of 2028) Dave Mitchell (Class of 2028)</p> <p>Dave Mitchell, Property chair, ex officio David Campbell, Treasurer, ex officio Luci Burns, Bookkeeper Becky Downs, Pastor</p>
<p><b>Notable accomplishments in 2025:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Met in person with portfolio manager of the Bank of America Trust Department, which is trustee of the Karl Keesy Trust for the benefit of the church, and manages two investment agency accounts for the church</li> <li>2. Consulted by phone and e-mail with representatives of Texas Presbyterian Foundation, which manages seven of the church's trustee funds</li> <li>3. Reviewed reports and provided oversight of all the church's investment funds. All accounts appreciated in value equal to or surpassing appropriate market benchmark returns. Investments are managed by Bank of America and Texas Presbyterian Foundation; other investments are also held at Merrill Lynch, under the direction of the church's treasurer.</li> <li>4. Reviewed procedure for the investment of excess cash into bank certificates of deposit, resulting in improved return on investments.</li> <li>5. Identified funds from which income could be used to support operating budget shortfalls.</li> <li>6. Heard reports about the church's insurance program, isolated one trustee account, valued at almost \$600,000, to be held as a reserve to meet the large insurance deductibles</li> <li>7. Disbursed funds for Outreach Grants and other designated accounts</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Meetings</b> Quarterly</p>	<p><b>Budget \$ 0.00</b></p>

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2026</u></b>
<b><u>Pledged Giving</u></b>	\$249,930	\$304,530
<b><u>Giving</u></b>	239,900	20,000
<b><u>Free Will Giving</u></b>	15,000	20,000
<b><u>Misc.</u></b> – Building Rental, Weddings, etc.	28,392	36,092
<b><u>Investments</u></b> – Trust Income	15,000	118,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$548,222</b>	<b>\$498,622</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
<b><u>Administrative</u></b> – Office Supplies, Postage, Printing, Copying, Office Equipment, etc.	\$14,415	\$14,650
<b><u>Building &amp; Grounds</u></b> – Plant Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance, Expendable Supplies, Grounds Maintenance, etc.	187,400	159,300
<b><u>Christian Education</u></b> –Curricula, Training, Supplies, Activities, etc.	4,250	1,800
<b><u>Congregational Care</u></b> – Misc. Expenses for Special Services and Events	300	300
<b><u>Communications</u></b> – Advertising, Community Events, New Member Development, etc.	2,480	2,480
<b><u>Evangelism</u></b> –Fellowship, and Marketing	600	600
<b><u>Fellowship</u></b> – Misc. Expenses for Meals and Events	2,280	1,700
<b><u>Missions</u></b> – Presbytery Support, Local Missions, Salvation Army Meals, etc.	12,670	10,470
<b><u>Personnel</u></b> – Staff Salaries, Benefits, etc.	314,257	318,066
<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>	500	500
<b><u>Choir</u></b> – Music, Instrument Maintenance, Guest Musicians	7,100	4,770
<b><u>Worship</u></b> – Worship Supplies, Dry Cleaning, etc.	1,970	2,365
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$548,222</b>	<b>\$517,001</b>