

# San Gabriel's Trumpet



August, 2018

## Bill's Blog

This edition of *The Trumpet* is focused on the new class of elders and deacons that have just recently been ordained and installed at SGPC. Presbyterians are unique in that we ordain laypeople to the offices of elder and deacon. Other denominations have elders and deacons, but Presbyterians are unique in our approach to lay ministry. In the *Book of Order* of the PCUSA, elders and deacons answer the same questions of ordination as do ministers. This is a stark reminder that the Presbyterian form of church government levels the playing field between clergy and laypeople. A minister differs only in function from an elder and deacon in our polity - not in ordained "status." We are in fact ordained to the specific ministry of deacon, elder, or minister as all work together - clergy and laypeople - in nurturing the church in the work of ministry.

Ordination has as its root word the concept of "order." Ordination is the act in which the church "orders" to ministry those called to be deacons, elders, and ministers. In ordination, the church sets apart specific individuals for specific functions within the church. Ordained Elders function in ministries of oversight and government. Ordained Deacons function in ministries of compassion and service. Ordained Ministers function in ministries of preaching, teaching, and administering the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and baptism. Those serving in the ordered ministries of the church are held to high standards of discipline and conscience and those in ordered ministry can be disciplined by the session and presbytery for not fulfilling their vows of ministry.

Presbyterians believe that all members of the church are called by God to participate in all aspects of the church's life and work. As our ordination service reminds the church, "this is our common calling [in baptism], to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord." The presence of ordained members serving as elders, deacons, and ministers, in no way diminishes the role of church members in participating in the church's mission.

The presence of the ordered ministries of elder, deacon, and minister exist, according to the words of the ordination service, to ensure that Christ's "ministry continues among us, providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments."

Get to know the new class of elders and deacons that has just recently been ordained and installed at SGPC.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Bill



The children's sermon at SGPC

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## 1 Peter 4:11b (NIV)

*If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.*



SAN GABRIEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH; 5404 Williams Drive, Georgetown, TX 78633; 512-868-0902; sgpcoffice@gmail.com; sgpcgeorgetown.org

Our Mission: Because we are a branch of Christ, we will minister to every generation by nurturing the young, caring for the aging, and providing worship for all of God's children.

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### Class of 2021 - Members of Session and Diaconate



Left to right: Pastor Bill Pederson; Elder Anne Kenter, Youth and Children ministry; Elder Jackie Mitchell, Congregational Life ministry; Deacon Jill Imig; Elder Evelyn Fox, New Member/Outreach ministry; Deacon Connie Carden; Deacon Wayne LaVoncher; Deacon Lynne Moran.

Inset: Elder Terrace Allebach, Worship ministry

#### What Are Their Responsibilities?

“Ordained Deacons function in ministries of compassion and service.”

“Ordained Elders function in ministries of oversight and government.”

- Bill's Blog

### Getting To Know the Elders

**Terrace Allebach**, our new Elder for Worship, remembers going to church when she was 4 years old. She has attended several Walk to Emmaus since 1992 and has been active volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Backpack Buddy project. She has worked as a veterinary technician and at the UT Cockrell School of Engineering for 25 years. Born, raised and educated in California, she moved to Austin after getting married. She is the mother of two daughters and has two grandsons. She likes to play golf, Canasta and is a member of the Creative and China Club.

**Evelyn Fox**, a native Texan, has spent her entire career in the field of education with degrees in secondary education, computer science and a doctorate in Leadership and Policy Analysis. Evelyn and her husband Albert, both retired, have two daughters, two sons-in-law, and one grandson. As the Elder for New Member Outreach, Evelyn wants to help the church grow in ministering to the young and the aging by providing opportunity for growth. She enjoys singing in the church choir and in Sun City Singers. She likes to sew, travel, read and do volunteer work. She is the editor of San Gabriel's Trumpet.

**Anne Kenter**, a long-life learner, is now our Elder for Youth and Children. She has earned degrees in Education and Psychology from University of Houston. At present, she is the Concierge of Independent Living at The Delaney at Georgetown Village. She has worked as a teacher, data specialist, business owner, office manager and has volunteered as a Docent for the Harris County Heritage Society in Sam Houston Park in Downtown Houston. She was on the Board of the Houston Museum of Natural Science Guild, coordinating up to 150,000 children that visited the museum each year. She enjoys time with her family, a son in Georgetown and a daughter in San Antonio, and four grandchildren. She enjoys learning, through traveling, genealogy, visiting museums, and being in nature. A native of Birmingham AL, and a resident of Houston for 52 years, is now happy to be in Georgetown.

**Jackie Mitchell**, our new Elder for Congregational Life, was born and raised in Indiana. After graduating from Purdue University, she came to Texas and studied nutrition at TWU in Houston. After 10 years as a dietitian, she became a food broker for the grocery industry. Jackie was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, became a Presbyterian at Canyon Lake Texas where she served as Elder for Stewardship and Finance. She and her husband Bob have four daughters and seven grandchildren. She likes to travel, read, play Bocce Ball and spoil the grandchildren.

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## Getting To Know the Deacons

**Connie Carden**, a Stephen Minister and a leader in the program, has survived cancer, and is planning to use her survival experience as one of our new Deacons. She has served as an elder in United Presbyterian Church in Houston, where both she and her husband Mike have been active and ordained Elders. They've been married 50 years and have three children and nine grandchildren. Connie is a graduate of University of Houston, spent her career teaching sixth and seventh grade social studies classes. She retired when grandchildren began arriving. In addition to spending time with her family, Connie enjoys traveling, visiting friends, and bingeing on TV late shows. She loves all the activities available at SGPC and in Sun City.

**Jill Imig**, a native of upstate New York, has been elected to serve a second Deacon term. She enjoys participating in Choir and Women of Faith. Jill taught elementary school in the Corpus Christi area for 28 years and is now retired with her husband Don in Sun City. They have two children and six grandchildren. Jill grew up in the Presbyterian Church where her father served as Elder and Deacon, she feels blessings have come full circle now serving as a Deacon. Her favorite hobbies include reading and traveling.

**Lynne Moran**, a former elementary school teacher, is one of our new Deacons. She sings in the choir and serves on the Praise Team. She has been active in church activities since coming to Georgetown - delivering Meals on Wheels and helping in the Pumpkin Patch. She has participated and led in the Women's Emmaus walk. Lynne and her husband C. (Charles) have been married 50 years and have two children and five grandchildren. Both born in Chicago, they have lived in Round Rock and Arlington. Lynne enjoys cooking, traveling and participating in SGPC dining groups.

**Wayne LaVoncher**, newly elected Deacon, expects to use his caring skills to benefit his family and congregation. He was born, grew up, and worked in Indiana after graduating from Indiana University. Wayne is happy to be retired in Texas after a career, which he describes as better than expected, in industrial sales and international businesses. He and his wife Jan, have been married for 54 years. They have a daughter in Texas and son in Wisconsin and six grandchildren.

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*Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.  
All things break. All things can be mended. Not with  
time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love  
intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The  
broken world awaits in darkness for the light that is  
you. - L.R. Knost*

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!



**August 5-8** we have an awesome, free VBS for children from 3 years old through 5th grade. We do VBS a little differently at SGPC. We start with a Family Kickoff Event on Sunday night (Aug. 5) at 6:00 PM, which is a come-and-go family event. It will be a 'Water Day' with water activities planned. On Monday and Tuesday nights (Aug. 6-7) from 6:00 to 8:30 PM we have "drop off" VBS nights where we feed your kids so you can have a couple of evenings free to go to dinner, shop for school supplies, or just go home and rest! Wednesday night (Aug. 8) at 7:00 PM is our Family Program where we finish up the week and you can come see what your kids have learned.

Registration is now open.



On July 14 we celebrated the life of Nancy Wright, beloved long-time pianist at San Gabriel. She contributed to our worship from 2004 until 2018.

*Found on a church sign: "Lord help us to be the people our dogs think we are."*