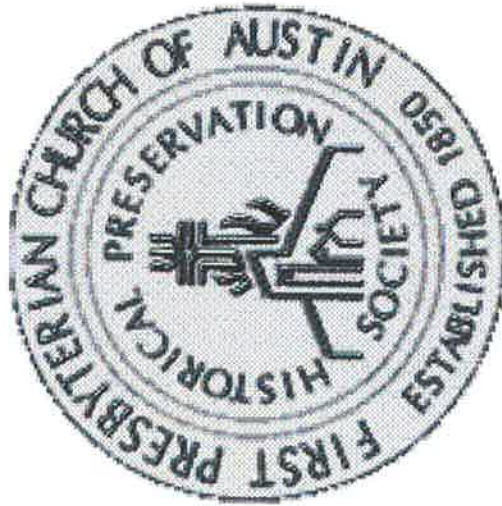


# Self Guided Walking Tour

of FPC

## Campus and Artifacts



Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church

Austin, Texas

# Self Guided Walking Tour of FPC Campus and Artifacts

Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church

of Austin, Texas

We are proud of our heritage and history within Central Texas and more importantly, with Christ's community of worshipping Christians. We hope you will enjoy your stroll through our church and throughout our campus.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to ask any staff member or member of our church, and we will attempt to provide you with any additional information. References to the 7th and Lavaca church are nearly 115 years old!

## *NORTH EXTERIOR*

Begin your tour at the **Texas Historical Marker** located at the foot of the main steps from the parking lot.

(There is also a **Texas Historical Marker** at 7th & Lavaca marking the original site of FPC).

See **Cornerstone** to the right of the front doors at the northwest corner of the church. This limestone block (circa 1890) is from the 7<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca church.

The bronze relief bust of **Dr. Edward Bingham Wright**, FPC pastor 1872-1914 is located in the west support column. Dr. Wright served as a healing force during post Civil War days. The bust was originally installed in the narthex of the 7<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca church.



EDWARD BINGHAM WRIGHT, D.D.

*Proceed to the left of the foyer entrance:*

### **THE MEMORIAL GARDEN**

The garden highlights a **Celtic Cross**, commemorating our Presbyterian heritage. The heart of the cross has a beautifully carved symbolization of the placard that was placed over Christ's head on the cross.

**“ Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”**  
(Jn.19:19).

Of particular significance is that this carving was chiseled from the center of a keystone located at the 7th & Lavaca church.

### **Garden Benches**

A. In honor of Robert & Rosie Bruce, O.L. & Margie Kimbrough, Stella Cornett and Juanita Cornelsen - the bench facing the fountain.

B. In memory of parents and grandparents of the Rev. Dr. Donald Wesley Howard, Jr., by Naomi Holt – the bench west of stairs.

C. In honor of Sybil Evans by Bill & Stephanie Whitehurst – the bench east of the stairs.

### **Jane Van Auken Memorial Fountain and Ossuary**

The sculpture, **“Rejoice”**, based on Psalm 33, was created by FPC member, Nancy Cardozier, to honor the loved ones of First Presbyterian Church.

### **CHURCH INTERIOR**

#### **Foyer**

- A. **Windows** from the 1890 building
- B. **Communion Table** was presented by Mr. & Mrs. William G. Bell and Mrs. William H. Bell to First Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas, September, 1909.

#### **Betty Fox History Center/Library**

- A. **Pictures of our four houses of worship and the old State Capitol**, the first meeting place for the congregation, are located on the north wall over the card index file cabinet.

- B. **Commemorative Centennial Plate**, and description.

- C. **Black Walnut Communion Table** was handmade in 1854 by John S. Spence, who was received into membership at the 1st Session meeting in 1850.

- D. **Candelabras** were given by Doris Sherman in memory of her husband, Arthur Burke Sherman.

- E. **Pulpit** was presented by Mr. & Mrs. William G. Bell and Mrs. William H. Bell to First Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas, September, 1909.

The pulpit was presented together with the Communion Table now used in the foyer. It was used at 7th and Lavaca for 51 years, and at

Jackson Avenue for 18 years. It bears signs of use! Note the hand wear-stains at the corners of the speaker's side, and water stains from flower vases on the center front. It has a very interesting working feature. The literature platform raises and lowers with a wooden handle located in the rear of the case to accommodate the height of the speaker. We have installed casters in the base to permit its being moved, so it can be used on occasion in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, or elsewhere. Restoration was done by Bruce Woolcott.

F. **Small Chandelier** hanging in the northeast corner as well as the larger versions in stairwells of Rissman Hall were given by Mrs. Karl Wagner in 1952 in memory of Karl Wagner. These originally hung in the 7<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca church.

G. **Two Hand Carved Book Cases** given by Mr. & Mrs. Harris Bell in 1953 were inherited from his family.

H. **Time Capsule** located on the top library shelf to the right of the Pulpit was part of the sesquicentennial celebration of 2000 and is to be opened for our Second Century of Outreach Celebration in 2050.

I. **Praying Hands** located to the left of the time capsule were desk pieces of Pastor James Mahon.

### **THE SANCTUARY**

A. **Parament** on the pulpit and the **Bible** on display in the chancel area were gifts from Greyfriars Parish, our sister church in Lanark, Scotland (not always on display).

B. **Chancel Chairs** are from the 7<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca church building.

C. **Candelabras, Cross, and Flower Stand** were made by Wide Lacy, whose membership began in 1977.

D. **Communion Chalice** was presented by The Memorial Fund for the 40th Anniversary (1890) of First Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas. (Used at 11a.m. Communion Service)

E. **Communion Flagon** was presented to the First Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas, by A. A. W. Cleland, Jr., 1881. (Used at 11am Communion Service)

F. **Processional Cross**, was designed and made by FPC member, C. D. Weaver.

G. **Harpichord**, was given in honor of Jonelle Thornsberry Jordan, a ruling Elder and Sunday School teacher by Bryce Jordan, her husband.

H. **Grand Piano**, was given in honor of Grace Swanson by Bob Swanson and family.

I. **1900 Moeller tracker-action pipe organ.**

"In October of 1899, the purchase of a fine pipe organ was approved by Session at a cost of \$2500. As part of the agreement, the old

melodia organ was sold for \$300 to the organ builder, the Möller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland.

Built for the church's 50th anniversary, Opus 263 was installed sometime early in 1900. The first of two inaugural concerts on the instrument was Friday, March 16th, 1900, by the famed organist Clarence Eddy. A total of \$69.52 was raised from the Eddy recital and added to the organ fund, along with other donations and concert offerings. Among the donors of the day were the Brackenridges, L. T. Scarborough, Laura Driskill and concerts by the Blind Pupils and resident organist David Grove. The First Church Ladies Aid Society gave the largest donation, a \$1015 gift, which was quite a sum in 1900!

The organ was dedicated on Sunday, March 18, 1900, with a music sermon by Pastor Rev. Wright which was later published by the Organ Fund Committee at the request of the choir."

Additions and revoicing accomplished in 1959 & 1978.

(Information compiled by Scott McNulty, SP, CAGO, and honorary member of FPCHS, 2003.)

### C. Memorial Windows (left to right).

- **Angel** – in memory of Evelyn Bell.
- **Ruth** – in memory of Annie Armour.
- **Lilies** – in memory of Lucinda Raymond.
- **Creation** - image identified by Rev. Phil Petty of Edinburgh, Scotland

- **Christ Praying** – in memory of Thomas H. Andrews
- **Ascension** – in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spence
- **Behold** – in memory of R. H. and Mary Peck

*Leave Sanctuary, turn right and proceed toward the end of hallway. Enter the double doors on the right, immediately turn around and look to the right of the doors.*

A framed copy of "**Good And Gracious God**" hymn written in honor of our 150 years is hung on the east wall.

Lyrics by Lee Bowman, Associate Pastor  
1996-2000

Music by Kinley Lange, Director of Music  
1995-2003

*Leave the double doors and continue down the hall, turn left at the corner through the Art Gallery to the East Hallway.*

### EAST HALL

A. **Christ and Children Window** in memory of Lettie Gilfillan is located on upper south wall.

*Proceed north, down the corridor toward the office.*

B. **Chancel Cross** above the entrance door hung in the Jackson Avenue location.

C. **Wm F. Gilbert Jewellers' Regulator 8 Day Clock**

The 1912 WFG Clock was presented to First Presbyterian Church by Harris, Marshall, Berkley, and Douglas Bell, children of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Bell, December 1912.

The six-foot high, wall mount clock is a Master's Time Piece. This type of clock was used by jewelers to regulate watches, etc. and features a 12" second sweep hand and twelve-inch hand painted porcelain dial.

Other features include:

"Dead-Beat Escapement", is a very precise and accurate way to allow the power to 'escape' to the hands of the clock. This very efficient mechanism was invented by the Englishman, George Graham, in 1715 who was a Master. It required a Master to make this escapement.

"One-meter pendulum, one second, each sweep". In England, this is called a Royal pendulum and permits the second hand to rest precisely on each second.

A "maintaining power mechanism" for winding is an ingenious solution that does not interrupt power during winding. The clock therefore maintains accurate time during winding.

The clock is "weight driven" which is more accurate than spring driven, providing constant and even power. Weight held by a front-to-rear sprocket winding, thereby moving weight far

from the pendulum at full length. This reduces air interruption with pendulum.

The case is solid cherry and the door latch uses the winding key. Original cost estimated at \$25-30.

Restoration in 1994 by FPC members Richard Johnson, Wide Lacy, Bob Swanson, Herman Thun, Bruce Woolcott and clock enthusiast, Dale Stahlhut

(clock facts by Dale Stahlhut.)

*Leave the main building and cross over the bridge-walk to Rissman Hall. Notice the award winning clay school play ground as you cross.*

### RISSMAN HALL

A. Window depicting ~~Sermon~~ **Sermon on the Mount** is located in the south stairwell, in memory of Beriah and Lilly Graham.

B. **Chandelier** from the 1890 church at 7th and Lavaca was given by Mrs. Karl Wagner in 1952 in memory of Karl Wagner.

*Proceed into the Fellowship Hall.*

A. On the rear wall hangs a picture entitled "**Grace**" from a photograph taken by Elva Price's father. It was donated by FPC member Elva Price.

B. Observe the **stained glass** from the 1890 church installed on the east and west walls of the fellowship hall.

## Archive Center

In the northwest corner of the hall, enter the FPCHS Archive Center. This requires a key that can be signed for in the church office. Be sure and return it for the next visitor. **NOTHING MAY BE REMOVED** unless a Historical Society Member is present! Any materials removed must be signed for in the rolodex.

A. Three **Lectern Bibles** are located on the file cabinet on the west wall.

1. The oldest, printed in 1841, in London, is in the Welsh language. Source unknown.

2. The memorial Bible, was printed in 1884, by the N.Y. American Bible Society, and given by Mrs. M.A. Taylor in 1890. It was used in services of the then new church at 7th & Lavaca, Austin, Texas. This Bible has been restored and placed in an archival sleeve.

3. The latest Bible, printed in 1937 by the American Bible Society was used at the Jackson Avenue location. It was presented in honor of Abraham Harrison Swanson.

A new lectern Bible was given to the church in June, 1996, by our sister church, Greyfriars in Lanark, Scotland, and is kept in the altar area in the Sanctuary. It originally was used in St. Kentigems Church and was given in 1972 when St. Kentigems and Greyfriars congregations united.

B. **Pictures of first FPC lady Elders** Miss Fanny Andrews & Mrs. Laten (Christy Kniffen) Stanberry are located on west wall.

C. **Pictures of Rev. Wright and Evelyn Bell Wright.** Rev. Wright was pastor from 1870 to 1908 during the dark days of the aftermath of the Civil War. During his lifetime he was honored by the veterans of both the north and south. Evelyn Bell Wright, daughter of James H. Bell and Catherine E. Townsend Bell, is the namesake of the Evelyn Bell Wright Presbyterian Women's Association.

D. A gallery of our Ministers and Associate Ministers is hung around the center.

E. Located in front of the windows is **Pew#72** from the 1890 church. In the windows are two vases given by Pat Novak which contain four colors of flowers. The colors represent the church Liturgical Calendar.

F. Two **Sconces** installed above the windows are from the 7th and Lavaca church.

G. Display cabinet contains some of the following:

- **1st Communion set** given by Fanny Spence, sister of John Spence craftsman of the Walnut Communion Table
- **Fanny Spence Bible**
- **7th and Lavaca Centennial Commemorative Plate**
- **Gavel & Block** made from a red cedar log of the schoolhouse in which Brazos Presbytery was organized in 1840
- **Picture of Walnut Communion Table and other artifacts** displayed on the first centennial, 1950
- **Lamp** from the 7th and Lavaca chandeliers
- **Scout Hut Contract** on wooden board

- **Brazos wood from school building** of the early Presbytery
- **Second Communion Set** given by Anna M. Cochran

H. **Deacons Bench** used at the Jackson Street location

I. **Stewardship Contribution Box**

The "Stewardship Contribution Box" was first used for our yearly pledges. The pledges were placed in the locked box and were not opened, but returned to the pledgee at the end of the year. As I remember, there was always enough to meet the year's expenses. I think this occurred during the latter years of Bill Caldwell's ministry, but I'm not CERTAIN.

(a comment from FPC member, Gwen Scott.)

The stewardship box was almost lost during the move from Jackson Street to Mesa Drive. The watchful eye of church sexton, James Guyton, saved this precious artifact.

*Please leave the Center locked and proceed to the north stairwell.*

A. Window depicting **Christ with the Lambs** in memory of William Harris Bell.

B. Chandelier from the 7<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca location was given by Mrs. Karl Wagner.

**EXTERIOR OF RISSMAN HALL**

A. Observe three stained glass **Windows**

B. Two **Capitals** (Corinthian pillars) from the 1890 church and a "**Cornerstone**" **Tablet** commemorating Dr. M. A. Taylor's gift of \$10,000 toward expansion of the educational wing at the 7th and Lavaca church in 1908.

Visit the **Labyrinth**, built and donated by Boy Scout Troop #1, and adorned by more capital building stones recovered from 7th and Lavaca location.

As you are returning the Archive Center keys to the church office, notice near the foot of the stairs to the east wing of the main building the sculpture, "**The Prodigal Son**" by FPC member, Nancy Cardozier, given in commemoration of FPC sesquicentennial.

This concludes the walking tour of artifacts on view. If you have continued interest, please contact the church office to learn of opportunities presented by the FPC Historical Society at 345-8866.

Visit our website:

[http://www.fpcAustin.org/opportunities/historical\\_society/artifacts.html](http://www.fpcAustin.org/opportunities/historical_society/artifacts.html)

Thank You!