

FEB  
2016

# THE NEWS



*<sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

- Ephesians 6:14-17



Thanks to each of you for making the Mitten Tree a success. We were able to help warm a lot of hands with our warm hearts. This is such a caring congregation and our generosity is always appreciated. The items were distributed to Arlington Charities and Arlington Life Shelter.

To God be the glory,  
Mission and Evangelism Team

## Children & Youth Ministries Volunteers Needed



Kids Beach Clubs start the week of September 14. We need volunteers on Monday's for Blanton Elementary, Tuesday's for Ellis Elementary and Wednesday's for Crow Elementary from 3:10-4:50 p.m.

Preschool and elementary Sunday School teachers are needed. We will have a luncheon and training on September 13 after the 11:00 a.m.

service.

Kids For Christ (KFC)-We need people to lead or help with KFC during the 11:00 a.m. service. If you can do this once a month or even once every other month it would help.

Please contact Kyle at 817-274-8286 or 520-560-2720 or [kyle@firstprestexas.org](mailto:kyle@firstprestexas.org) to volunteer or for more information.

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## **Comfort and Hope for the Journey of Grief**

February 26-28 - Mo-Ranch, Hunt, TX

Are you or someone that you know struggling with the loss of a loved one?

A weekend retreat in the Texas Hill Country for adults who have experienced the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or friend. You are not alone.

Sharing your loss with others who truly understand what you are going through makes the burden of grief easier to carry. Join the Mo-Ranch and Faith & Grief Ministries for a weekend retreat filled with acceptance, understanding, encouragement, spiritual enrichment and hope.

Register at [www.moranch.org](http://www.moranch.org) or contact them at: 1-800-460-4401, Ext. 246. See the bulletin board by the library for more information or Pastor Fred Babb at: 817-274-8286 or email: [fred@firstprestexas.org](mailto:fred@firstprestexas.org).

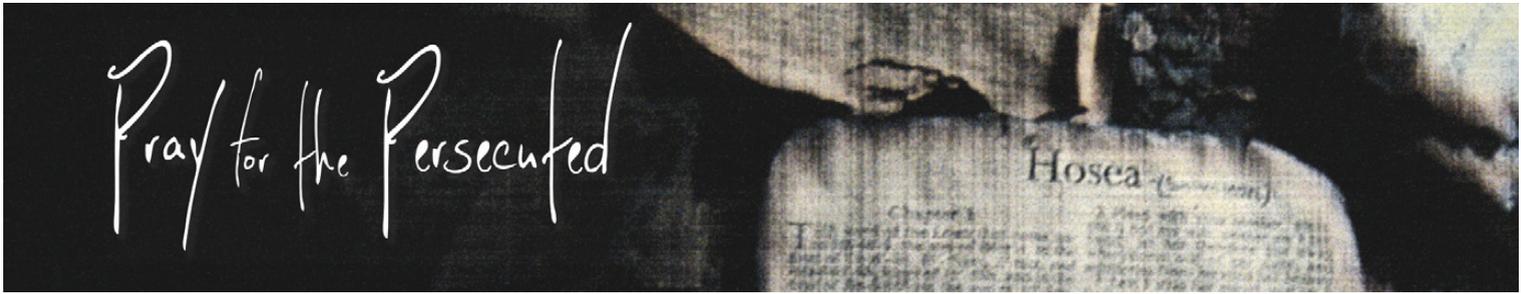
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It is time for the Porchlights organization meeting. Come Sunday, February 21 at 3:00 p.m. in the Parlor, for dessert and coffee (dessert will be provided). We will draw for groups at that time.

To have dinner in individual homes-contact Sandy Thomlinson 817-522-2080 or Claudia Johnson 817-253-4541.

If you wish to dine out, contact Elaine Bahn 817- 275-2548, to be part of the Streetlights group.



Iran - Praise be to God for answered prayers. Pastor Saieed Abedini was released January 16 after more than 3½ years, along with reporter Jason Rezaian, former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati, and Nosratollah Khosravi-Roodsari, apparently a former FBI consultant. A fifth American, language student Matt Trevithick, 30, was also released.

- source *Idaho Statesman*

China - Authorities in China's coastal Zhejiang informed the wife of Huang Yizi, a local pastor, that he had been put under criminal detention for "endangering national security" but would not reveal where he was being held.

Huang, who was released from prison after a year-long sentence on Aug. 1, was detained again on Sept. 12.

Huang is only one of many individuals detained after protesting China's increasingly stringent religious restrictions, both in Wenzhou and other parts of China. Chen Chao-hua, a teaching pastor with China Christian Evangelic Mission was detained in late August and held for 24 hours, but he has since been detained again. A deacon named Zhang Zhi is also missing, as with the other cases, family members have not been officially notified.

- source *ChinaAid*

Sudan - The Rev. Michael Yat and the Rev. Peter Yein Reith, both from the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, have been charged with undermining the constitutional system and spying, offenses punishable by death or life imprisonment.

The clerics are charged with waging a war against the state and assault on religious belief.

"We know they have been arrested, but we don't know where they are being detained," said the Rev. Kori Romla Koru, general secretary of the Sudan Council of Churches. "We are trying to find them."

- source *Huffington Post*

Iraq - The Christian residents of Mosul, Iraq, are under blatant attack, as the Islamic State distributed flyers giving them three options: convert to Islam, pay a fine, or be killed. Many of their abandoned homes now say in black lettering, "Property of the Islamic State."

Canon Andrew White, also known as the "Vicar of Baghdad," is the Chaplain of St George's Anglican Church in Baghdad, Iraq. He estimates that his flock used to number around 6,000 people, but in the last decade over 1,200 have been killed, according to CNN's Arwa Damon.

"One of things that really hurt was when one of the Christians came and said, 'For the first time in 1,600 years, we have no church in Nineveh,'" he told Damon. White refuses to leave Baghdad, despite the danger, as St. George's is Iraq's last Anglican church.

- source *Huffington Post*

# The Nicene Creed

from 2004 PCUSA Book of Confessions

In the first three centuries, the church found itself in a hostile environment. On the one hand, it grappled with the challenge of relating the language of the gospel, developed in a Hebraic and Jewish-Christian context, to a Graeco-Roman world. On the other hand, it was threatened not only by persecution, but also by ideas that were in conflict with the biblical witness.

In A.D. 312, Constantine won control of the Roman Empire in the battle of Milvian Bridge. Attributing his victory to the intervention of Jesus Christ, he elevated Christianity to favored status in the empire. “One God, one Lord, one faith, one church, one empire, one emperor” became his motto.

The new emperor soon discovered that “one faith and one church” were fractured by theological disputes, especially conflicting understandings of the nature of Christ, long a point of controversy. Arius, a priest of the church in Alexandria, asserted that the divine Christ, the Word through whom all things have their existence, was *created* by God before the beginning of time. Therefore, the divinity of Christ was similar to the divinity of God, but not of the same essence. Arius was opposed by the bishop, Alexander, together with his associate and successor, Athanasius. They affirmed that the divinity of Christ,

the Son, is of the same substance as the divinity of God, the Father. To hold otherwise, they said, was to open the possibility of polytheism, and to imply that knowledge of God in Christ was not final knowledge of God.

To counter a widening rift within the church, Constantine convened a council in Nicaea in A.D. 325. A creed reflecting the position of Alexander and Athanasius was written and signed by a majority of the bishops. Nevertheless, the two parties continued to battle each other. In 381, a second council met in Constantinople. It adopted a revised and expanded form of the A.D. 325 creed, now known as the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed is the most ecumenical of creeds. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joins with Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and most Protestant churches in affirming it. Nevertheless, in contrast to Eastern Orthodox churches, the western churches state that the Holy Spirit proceeds not only from the Father, but from the Father *and the Son* (Latin, *filioque*). To the eastern churches, saying that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both Father and Son threatens the distinctiveness of the person of the Holy Spirit; to the western churches, the *filioque* guards the unity of the triune God. This issue remains unresolved in the ecumenical dialogue.

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We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**



# CORNER

Kyle Terwilliger



# Children's

## PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR FEBRUARY

It's love month! Get out the heart stickers and stamps. Grab the heart foam shapes. It's time to show some love. Nobody loves us more than Jesus, and this is the month we celebrate that.

Preschoolers will spend the month learning that Jesus loves us no matter who we are or what we do. He loves everyone. He loved the woman at the well even though they were from different places and cultures. Jesus loves us no matter where we live or how we dress too. He loves all the children all over the world.

Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he had made so many terrible choices in his life. Jesus loves us even when we make bad choices. When we hurt

somebody's feelings or disobey, Jesus still loves us. And realizing that He loves us so much is life changing. It changed Zacchaeus's life for sure!

Jesus loved the woman who was about to get stoned for things she had done in the past. She had made some very bad choices and nobody loved her. But Jesus loved her, and He saved her. Jesus loves us no matter what too!

Jesus wants everyone to know that He loves them. He told the disciples to go and tell everyone everywhere that He loves them. He wants us to share the news too. We can tell our family and friends that Jesus loves them. Jesus loves everyone.

### **February 5**

Kids Night Out

### **February 26**

Kids Night Out

### **March 11**

Kids Night Out

### **June 6-10**

Vacation Bible School

### **July 19-22**

Camp KidJam

## ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR FEBRUARY



As God's Son, Jesus deserved a palace with a throne. When you have a job to get done, you need the right tool. Hammers and screwdrivers work great for doing the job they were designed for, but sometimes you need something a

little more complex. You need a tool that has the right attachment for the job, one that cooperates with that tool to get the job done.

Like a drill. Without the right drill bit to do the

work, it's just a noisy paperweight.

Or a ratchet. Without the right socket, well, I guess you've got a shiny little ... hammer maybe? It's just not useful unless you have both parts working together.

There are even some tools that don't need another piece. They need another person, like those lumberjack crosscut saws. The saw won't work at all unless two people are working together. **That's cooperation—working together to do more than you could do alone.**

When you think about it, cooperation is huge. When you cooperate, you can build more. You learn more. You can do more.

As kids are growing they become more aware of the people around them. They have friends on the playground or in their neighborhood. They have to work in teams to finish projects in school. If they don't learn God's plan for cooperation, they'll have a difficult time getting along with people. That's why it's important that we take some time out to discover more about what the Bible says about cooperation.

Cooperation is actually a spiritual concept that originates with God. God designed us as human beings not only to need each other, but also to need Him. Now, it's not like God was up in heaven desperate for some help, so He made us. No, God is all-sufficient. But, He created us so we could have a relationship with Him, and so that we could participate in His work together. In other words, God put all of us together on this planet to do more together than we could ever do alone, and in some cases—with His help—to do things that might even seem “undoable.”

So, we want every leader, every parent and every child to memorize this verse of Scripture: **“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do,”** (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV).

Just think about the difference you could make in your church if every parent, leader and child really bought into this spiritual concept of cooperation. The Bible is full of stories of people who came together in faith to do something they never could have done alone. We can't wait to hear about what happens when kids start understanding God's design for cooperation.

## WEEK 1

Think about the Israelites building the tabernacle. We'll look at different passages throughout **Exodus 28, 31, 35 and 39**. God could have had Moses do the work on his own, but instead God called expert artists, craftsmen, and all kinds of people to work together to build this incredibly intentional place of worship.

Bottom Line: **We can work together to get God's work done.** Cooperation starts with God. When we work together we can do the work He has for us to do and accomplish more than we could ever do on our own.

## WEEK 2

There's this really great and rather bizarre story in **Exodus 17:8-13** where Joshua is battling a group of people called the Amalekites. As the battle starts, Moses is standing on a hill with his brother Aaron and another guy named, Hur. And there Moses is, holding up the staff of God. As long as Moses keeps his arms up, the Israelites are winning. But when he drops his arms, the Israelites start losing. So Hur and Aaron make this really great decision. They hold up Moses' arms—and with God's help, the Israelites are victorious.

Bottom Line: **We can work together to help someone else succeed.** Just like Hur and Aaron, it's important for a child to realize that working together isn't just about doing something for yourself. You can work with other people to help them win at life too.

## WEEK 3

In **Luke 5:17-26**, we find in the life of one paralyzed man who just happened to have some really good friends. When His friends heard that Jesus was in town, they tried everything to get their friend to Jesus. In fact, as friends, they cooperated, tore a hole in a roof, and dropped their friend down in front of Jesus while He was teaching. And as a result of their faith and cooperation a miracle happened.

Bottom Line: **We can work together to change someone's life.** When we work with others, we not only help them, but we can help God change their life.

## WEEK 4

In our final week, we look at how the Early Church worked together in **Acts 2:42-47** to help those who were in need. And when they cooperated, people noticed. When other people saw all of these different kinds of people working together, they came to know Jesus.

Bottom Line: **Working together can point people to Jesus.** Our kids can learn how to be the church even at a young age. Just think about the impact they could have on the world when they realize that how they work together could impact a person's relationship with Jesus.

This month, think about this question: “What can you do together?” What can you do together as a church to demonstrate to your children the way God designed us—not only to need each other, but also to need Him? How can we cooperate with God on His plan to change the world?

I have this sneaking suspicion that the children who watched those friends that tore the roof apart and saw Jesus make that man walk again were never the same. They had stories to tell for generations because they had seen the power of cooperation and what happens when God shows up to put His stamp of approval on people working together. This month, help make that the story of your church too.

By Dan Scott ©2014 The reThink Group. All rights reserved. [www.ThinkOrange.com](http://www.ThinkOrange.com) \*Used by permission.

When was the last time you had to make a tough call? Was it when deciding what to eat for lunch? To drink Coke or Pepsi? Go to the gym or skip it? The truth is, we make judgment calls all day long, from what we watch on TV or who we hang out with to more complicated decisions like whether to attend a party or stick with a tough friendship. And, in every decision, we're forced to ask the question, "Which option is better?" The problem is, our natural tendency to judge leaks into places it shouldn't—like our relationships. We start thinking of people as options and deciding which ones are better or worse. Many of us are even tempted to make those judgments about ourselves. Unfortunately, most of the time, we make decisions about people without all the facts. We don't know someone's whole story, their whole situation, or their whole potential. We miss the big picture. Maybe that's why, in the Bible, God makes it super clear: Judgment is His call. Not ours.

**Busted  
Drop the rock.**

What makes a good person or a bad person? That's easy, right? We all have an opinion about how the best kind of people behave. And if we're honest, we usually conclude that we are the best kind of person. That the way we live, think, and act is the best way to be. Maybe that's why it's so easy to judge people who are different from us. We assume that, even when we sin, their sin is probably worse than ours. That was exactly what happened when some religious leaders brought a woman to Jesus. She had been caught in the middle of something scandalous. And while the religious leaders had problems of their own, they were pretty convinced that they weren't as bad as her. Everyone watching thought they knew what Jesus would do, how He would react. But as He

often did, Jesus surprised them all. And through His response, we find that we, like the religious leaders, have only one option when it comes to judging others. We must drop the rock.

**Bad Girl?**

**With other people, assume the best and trust God with the rest.**

Who would you nominate for most likely to succeed? What about most likely to not succeed? Most likely to screw up? Most likely to disappoint everyone? The truth is, it's easy to look at people around us and make judgments about who they will eventually become. We see their current actions and we feel like we can predict their future. But that isn't always true. No matter how well we know someone, we can't see what will happen when God enters their story. As we look at the lives of Israel's spies and one very unlikely helper, we find that God's plan is something we can't ever predict. And we have to trust that, no matter how it seems, He is at work in others' story as much as He is at work in our own.

**Not Against**

**Even when you fail, He is for you.**

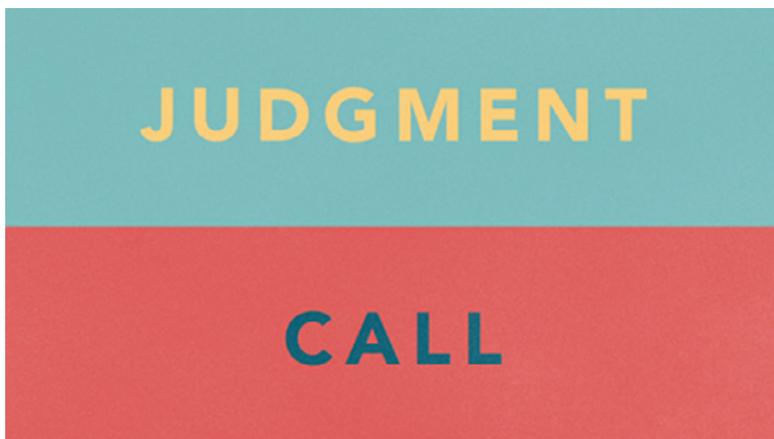
There's nothing worse than feeling like a failure. Whether it's a bad quarter in the football game, a failing grade, or a total face-plant in the middle of your dance recital, failure is not fun. And for a lot of us, that feeling isn't limited to school or sports. Sometimes, we even feel like a failure in our relationship with God. We make mistakes. We sin. And it's easy to judge ourselves harshly and become discouraged. The Apostle Paul was no stranger to that feeling. Prior to writing most of the New Testament, Paul wasn't such a good guy. He was an epic failure. And through his words, we discover the encouraging truth that even when we fail, God is for us.

- February 7**  
Super Bowl Party
- February 14**  
The Well
- February 19-20**  
It's A Mystery
- February 28**  
The Well
- June 26-July 3**  
The Great Escape (Jr. High)
- July 10-15**  
Fun In The Sun

**Kyle Terwilliger**

**JERICO  
CONFERENCE**

**youth**



## For the month of November 2015

### For the Operating Budget:

Income:	\$ 66,567
Expense:	\$ 65,126
Net Income over Expenses for the month:	\$1,441
Net Income under Expenses YTD:	(\$35,862)



### Comments

- **Income** for the month of November was over budget by \$2,004 and was under budget for the year by (\$35,754).
- **Adult Pledgers** for the month of November were over budget by \$901 and were over budget for the year by \$8,505.
- **Non-Pledgers** – Over budget for the month by \$7,966 and under budget for the year by (\$6,728).
- **Loose Offering** – Over budget for the month by \$368 and over budget for the year by \$1,967.
- **Temporarily Restricted Funds Used** – Net credit of \$344 into temporarily restricted funds this month.
- **Expenses** for the month of November were over budget by 2,326 and were under budget for the year by (\$30,436).



## Join a Lenten Small Group

During Lent, about 12 small groups will be studying the book and video curriculum by John Ortberg called, "All the Places to Go...How Will You Know?"

If you would like to join, form, lead or host a small group during Lent, please send a note to: [kim@firstprestexas.org](mailto:kim@firstprestexas.org) or [rich@firstprestexas.org](mailto:rich@firstprestexas.org).

# thisMonth

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every **Wednesday** morning at **7:00 am** in the Parlor. Men of all ages meet to study **The Book of Daniel** along with great fellowship and prayer session. Currently, there are about 12 - 15 men in this group. All men are invited to join this study.

### Women's Bible Study

The Women's Monday Night Bible study is opened to all women. This group meets on the third Monday of each month. Next meeting is Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. in the parlor. Members rotate on providing a light meal and volunteering to act as a facilitator.

Please contact Debbie Richardson (der817@gmail.com).

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet together to study the book of Hebrews every **Tuesday** morning at **10:00 am**. For meeting dates and locations throughout the summer, please contact Lorna Snyder.



## ADULT MUSIC MINISTRIES

### Chancel Choir

The choir meets for rehearsals on **Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm**. Join us as part of the music ministry of FPCA!

### Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

This inter-generational handbell group rehearses **Wednesday evenings from 6:15 pm until 7:15 pm**. If you are interested in ringing in this group, please contact Russell Farnell [fpcamusic@yahoo.com](mailto:fpcamusic@yahoo.com) or 817-274-8286.

## CHILDREN/STUDENT MUSIC MINISTRIES

### Agape Choir

Meet **Sunday, 4:30 - 6:00 pm** in the choir room.

Developing a soundtrack for their lives, youth in 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade learn choral music with an emphasis on scripture. This choir sings periodically in worship services, and participates in outreach activities such as singing for retirement centers and homeless shelters. They attend the YouthCUE Baylor youth choir festival annually.

### Children Music Ministries

Meets **Sundays, 4:30 - 5:30 pm** in room 218.

CMM strives to impart God's love through His gift of music. The focus of CMM is on ministry to children rather than on performance. Children ages 4 (when school starts) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participate in activities including music/singing and

bells/chimes, instruments, and listening activities. The two sections are divided by age. CMM participates in the 11:00 worship service twice per year: usually in December and April.



## FACILITIES

### All Church Work Day!

**February 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 12 noon**

Come join the Facilities Team in cleaning and maintaining our church facility. We need as much help as we can get. Donuts and coffee are provided!

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### Deacons Meeting

Thursday, **February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**, the Diaconate meets in the Parlor to oversee the following ministries - Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship.

### Team Meeting Night

Thursday, **February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm**, all Teams meet for worship in the Chapel with subsequent gathering into respective teams for ministry planning and coordination.

### Session Meeting

Thursday, **February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm**, the Session meets in the Parlor to oversee the ministry of the church. The work of the Diaconate, Church Administration, Facility Management, and all Discipleship, Worship, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.

## DISCIPLESHIP

### Library Team

The library team works the first Wednesday of each month, from 7 until 8:30 pm. Anyone interested is welcome. No particular skill is required, the work is easy, and we always have a good time as we process books to be added to our inventory. The choir is usually practicing during this time, so pretty music drifts up the hall as we work, and there is always a bit of chocolate to make the work more pleasant! If you would like to be involved in library work but cannot come at that evening time, please contact Sandy Thomlinson and special daytime work sessions can be arranged.

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

### Quilting Group

The group will meet the first three Wednesdays at 10:00am come join a wonderful group of ladies who quilt, sew, knit, and just enjoy being together!

### Saints Alive!

For Saints Alive! events, contact Bev Koch at 817-261-3202.



## birthdayFund

The Birthday Fund is another opportunity to be involved in the stewardship of the church. You can give a dollar for each year you have been alive, and this money will be used to further ministry here at FPCA. This fund has provided money for new lapel microphones, new gliders for the nursery, blood pressure monitors, temporal thermometers, banners for Holy Week, assistive listening devices, etc. If your birthday is coming up, Don't Forget 'em!!!! (We promise not to reveal your age. Donations can be made at anytime during the year in any amount.



During the month of **December**, the following gifts were received. Thanks to all who donated.

**Betty Burdett Nancy Welborne Brittan Welborne  
Kieran Welborne & Chona Pacot Anwar**

Thanks to all who donated.



The Chancel Flower sign-up charts went up outside the Chapel and the Sanctuary the first week of December. Choose your Sunday by writing your name on the chart(s). Choose your dedication by filling out a flower order form (available in a large envelope near each chart). The cost of providing an altar arrangement is \$50.00. Questions? Contact Maggie Johnson at: 214-450-8083 or [teachmepretty@yahoo.com](mailto:teachmepretty@yahoo.com)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE for the March Issue of the "NEWS" is FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>**

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WITH HEALTH & OTHER CONCERNS:**

Esther Albright, Chona Pacot Anwar, David Boice, Andrew Bridges, Crystal Castaneda, Jerry Colleps, Lee Carol Copeland, Laura Duffney, Laura Farnell, Bunny Floyd, Bonnie Forte, Bobbie Fowler, Dave Goff, Susan Graham, Margery Harrand, Edna and Ken Harris, Bill Hayden, Deva Kellam, Doyle Malone, Garrett Mastin, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Bill Olsen, Tim Poston, Albert Ross, Carolyn Savko, Tonya Scrobeck, Eulabel Sheldon, Linda Smith, Brooks Taylor, Allen Underwood, Donna Vickers, Audrey Wallace, Nita Whitenight and Mary Jane Wright

*Please contact the church office at 817-274-8286 if you have any congregational care needs. For questions about specific concerns of those listed above, please contact Juanice Young at [glymgy@yahoo.com](mailto:glymgy@yahoo.com) or 817-794-5626.*

**PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:**

Aaron Alonso, Ben Boughton, David Caldwell, Austin Curran, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Matthew Lopez, Mike Mancini, Jack Murtha, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Christopher Young and Robbie Wallace

**PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS.**

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW CHRIST!**