



October 2016

The News

Contents

Following Jesus, Transforming Life	2
Women's Bible Study	3
Nominations for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, or Congregational Nominating Team (CNT)	3
Children's Corner	4
Youth Corner	5
Teacher Appreciation Breakfast Served	5
FPCA Health Fair	6
Thanksgiving Baskets Are Coming!	6
Trunk or Treat	6
This Month	7
Prayer	8

Newsletter Team

Bodil Overtree and Deb Gardner, Acting Editors

The NEWS is a publication of
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
1200 South Collins
Arlington, TX 76010

Contact us at fpca_news@yahoo.com.

Production by the **Tom Fowler Group**



Following Jesus, Transforming Life

Stewardship Emphasis Season - Fall 2016

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." - Jesus to his disciples (Matthew 16:25)

This has been a remarkable year and a half for me as your pastor. We have seen some encouraging trends, changes, and opportunities, as well as some stubborn and new challenges. Encouraging trends include growing worship attendance, new members, overall giving, and new choir members. Encouraging changes include our new Associate Pastor, Chris Campbell; our new Director of Youth Ministry, Adrian Rodriguez; our new Finance Assistant, Jane Leathem; and our new evening security monitor, Diane Chin. Other changes include a new alarm system, new Wi-Fi connections throughout our building, a wonderfully renewed bride's room; a new website (nearly complete), and search engine optimization for connecting with people via the Internet. Encouraging opportunities include an upcoming leadership retreat to look at our mission, vision, and core values as a church; a committed group of elders on Session giving spiritual leadership; a hard-working Congregational Nominating Team prayerfully finding new leaders; a new parenting class in Spanish and English; and a variety of new ministry/mission opportunities being explored.

The stubborn challenges include a severe dip in congregational giving at the end of the summer; an alarm system that has yet to work properly; a need to increase our preschool attendance; worship attendance that is uneven and sporadic, though growing; and the list could go on. Our leaders have responded to these challenges with prayer, thoughtful discussion, and concerted action. I have every confidence that, by God's grace and with the Lord's guidance and help, we will overcome these challenges. Thanks to all of you that are prayerfully doing your part in helping us to make these important adaptive changes in our church family.

October 16 begins our Stewardship Emphasis Season. The theme is ***"Following Jesus, Transforming Life"*** and this will become our church tagline for the new website. We will look at five disciples who became apostles, that is, followers of Jesus who became the "sent ones" carrying the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. We will look at Thomas, John, Peter, Paul, and a fifth disciple/apostle to be determined. Our goal will be to see as many people in our congregation as

possible re-committing themselves to following Jesus and to embracing the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We will encourage you to prayerfully consider how you can generously offer your time, talent and financial resources to the Lord's kingdom work through First Presbyterian Church of Arlington. We know that as people re-discover the powerful love of Christ as a daily encouragement in their lives, and respond to Him in faith, that the Lord will be able to provide for the needs of this, His mission/ministry at FPCA.

Please consider joining us in worship on a consistent basis as we begin this journey in October. Your presence makes a world of difference in everything that the Lord is calling us to do. May you be graciously and richly blessed in your every endeavor to glorify and enjoy the Lord in the coming weeks and months of 2016.

Lovingly yours in Christ,

Rich McDermott - Senior Pastor



Women's Bible Study

The Monday Night Women's Bible Study resumed in September. The group meets on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor. All women are invited.

The 2016-2017 study is *Who Is Jesus?* by Judy Yates Siker. Books can be found in the church copy room on the counter. Cost is \$8.

It is not too late to join the group for the October meeting on Monday the 17th. Our discussion will focus on chapter 2 of the book. A light supper (\$2 donation) will begin the meeting.

Questions? Contact Debbie Richardson (der817@gmail.com) or Sheri Quick (sheriq@aol.com).

Nominations for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, or Congregational Nominating Team (CNT)

Exciting Opportunities for Service!



Your Congregational Nominating Team has begun the prayerful process of seeking out nominees to the positions of the retiring Class of 2016. We are seeking people to serve as Elders and Deacons, as part of the Congregational Nominating Team, or as a Trustee.

Have you considered that God might be speaking to you about one of these areas of service? Would you commit to pray and seek God's Word and will with us about this matter? Few things will impact a person's life like Scripture-based service in the Body of Christ. (See passages such as Isaiah 6:1-8 or John 13:12-17.)

What about fellow members? Covenant to pray with us and for us in this process and ask God if He would reveal to you the name of another FPCA congregation member, which you believe might serve in one of these critical areas. FPCA is in exciting times! God is moving in our midst and lives are being uplifted and strengthened through service and Christian fellowship. Join us in seeking to know His will in these vital areas.

Cards for name submission can be found in the pew racks or in the church bulletins. Boxes are distributed around the church facilities for card deposit or you may place your forms in the offering plate. You may also submit your nomination by email to yvettefielder@hotmail.com. Don't delay! Act now and join us in this very important process in the life of our church. No limit on submissions.



First Presbyterian Preschool
Come Grow With Us



How You Can Help Support First Presbyterian Preschool

It's easy to support First Presbyterian Preschool every time you shop at Kroger!

Even if you were enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program last year, you must re-enroll this year to link your card to the preschool as your nonprofit organization. Then, Kroger will donate a small amount to FPPS (based on the amount you spend) each time you shop and use your Kroger plus card.

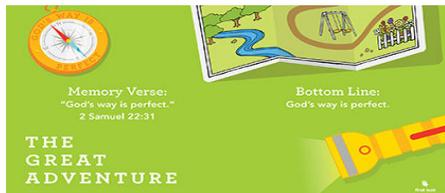
The process is:

- Log in to Kroger.com/communityrewards to enroll for the program. (You will have the option to Sign In or Create an Account to Enroll.)
- Once you have created an account or are signed in, click on **Re -Enroll Now**, and then enter First Presbyterian Church Preschool in the Search box that will appear.
- In the list that appears, select "First Presbyterian Church Preschool #80718" as your designated Community Rewards recipient and click on **Enroll**.

That's all there is to it!

Children's Corner

Preschool Sunday School



This month is all about one man, one GREAT adventure. This month we're talking about Moses! What a guy. What a life. What an adventure! God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. (You don't see that every day.) And, Moses watched God part a sea. (You don't see that every day either!)

Think about all that Moses would have missed if he had said "no" to God's plan. He would have missed out on the greatest adventure he could have ever imagined. One thing is for sure, we don't want you or your preschoolers to miss out on one moment of the great adventure God has planned for you and them. That's why we have filled an entire month with activities and stories and music that will help us all remember that God's way is perfect. That's right: God's way is perfect! God's way is right! God's way is awesome! And, God will show us the way.

Elementary Sunday School

Sometimes I think it would be nice to be a superhero. Most of the time, it's like they act without a single ounce of fear. They see a problem and without thinking they jump to the rescue to save the day, conquering evils and injustices in their tracks.

This month we'll take a look at some everyday heroes from the Old Testament, men and women who had no superpowers except for the fact that they knew God had a mission for them and they trusted in His promise to always be with them.

In truth, we're all called to do heroic things every day. And those moments can be scary.

One of the most difficult things we will ever learn to overcome is fear. In fact, it's unrealistic to expect anyone to become completely fearless. That's why our goal as leaders and parents should be to help our children not become paralyzed by those fears, but learn what to do in the face of them.



That's why we're taking the month of October to discover what God says about courage - being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you're afraid. The truth is, you WILL be afraid. So, the question is, when fear is present, where do you find the courage to stand up, or push through, or keep going?

The Bible is filled with passages reminding us that we can and should be strong and courageous. Our goal as parents and leaders is not to raise superheroes, but to raise everyday heroes. We want our children to grow up facing the world with a different kind of courage—courage to stand up against the bully, courage to speak out for the sake of others who may not have a voice, courage to refuse to do the wrong thing even though the crowd seems to be pushing them in that direction.

We need our children to understand, because they believe and trust in God, they have a unique source of strength and courage. There will be times when we're going to be afraid. But we can trust in a God that is bigger than us. And put our hope in a God who is with us and is in control of every situation. Because of God, we can find the strength to be courageous, every day heroes.

Kids Night Out

Kids Night Out and Strengthening Your Family (for parents) will be held October 14 and 28 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Youth Corner

Important dates for our youth ministry in October are:

October 22 - Movie Day and Lunch: The youth and youth leaders will gather for a time of fellowship at the theater and watch the movie, *I'm Not Ashamed*.

October 6, 20, 27 - The Well: A time together for food, fun, games, fellowship, worship, prayer, and study of God's word (6:00 to 7:45 p.m.).



Teacher Appreciation Breakfast Served



The fall teacher appreciation breakfast was served at Blanton Elementary and Carter Junior High Schools. Twenty-eight members from the Family Living and Friendship classes provided breakfast items, and thirteen volunteers served breakfast for 250 teachers and staff. Community donations were made by Chick-fil-A, McDonald's, Shipley Do-nuts and Starbucks.

We will be honoring teachers at Crow and Ellis in the spring. Supporting the teachers in our neighborhood is greatly appreciated.

FPCA Health Fair



Our church is offering a health fair for middle aged and older adults in conjunction with the University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation. The fair will begin following the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 16, and will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

Come and get screened for blood pressure, high blood sugar, overweight, depression, or memory loss. We will offer education on these topics as well as nutrition, medical power of attorney, and advance directives.

Any questions, call Tom Dombrowsky at 817 -287 -9773.

Thanksgiving Baskets Are Coming!

October 23 is the kickoff Sunday to sign up to bring food for the Thanksgiving Baskets. First Presbyterian Church is again joining Arlington Charities in feeding those who otherwise might not be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner.

The Mission and Evangelism Team has set a goal of 225 baskets. Please sign up outside the Fellowship Hall, outside the Chapel, or in the Red Hall. You can sign up as an individual, a family, or a group. After you sign up, please take your numbered Basket Sheet with the requested list of food items and the attached envelope for the pie crust and turkey donation.



New This Year!

You may bring the food items in your own grocery sacks rather than stuffing them in one paper sack.

Please return your numbered Basket Sheet and attached envelope, along with your food items, to the Fellowship Hall on or before November 13.

You can also help by putting extra food items in the S.O.S. boxes. Arlington Charities feeds over 900 families. These families are Arlington citizens and they are the working poor who can't make ends meet. Each basket feeds one family so they can celebrate Thanksgiving together at home.

Trunk or Treat



It will soon be time for us to assume the roles any adult does on Halloween (some of us with exuberant enthusiasm) - becoming ghouls, ghosts, and goblins. Mothers will be making or buying costumes to transform their little darlings into princesses, Han Solo, Ariel the mermaid, Yoda, or pirates. And all those many characters can enjoy Trunk or Treat in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 29, at 4:00 p.m.

We will have games – alas, no dunking booths - hot dogs, and of course, the candy given out at decorated booths. That is where we all come into this picture.

To make this a success, we must have a goodly number of folks decorate a substitute trunk, booth, or table with a Halloween theme. Just seeing all the happy kids will make your day. Not having to deal with all the sugar highs that ensue will also be a great blessing.

Please contact Kyle at the church office (817-274-8286) to decorate a booth this year. You can donate candy and treats at collection boxes around the church or leave them at the church office for Kyle.

The Women's Bible Study group will be giving out books and stuffed animals to small children. Any contributions of books or stuffed toys can also be deposited in the collection boxes.

This Month

Bible Studies



Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. in the parlor. Men of all ages meet to study the book of Genesis along with great fellowship and a prayer session. Currently, there are about 12 to 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 open to all women. The next meeting is Monday, October 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Bride's Room every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. The current study is *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur.

Music Ministries



Chancel Choir

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

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

This intergenerational handbell group rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:15 until 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Russell Farnell fpcamusic@yahoo.com or 817-274-8286.

Agape Choir

This group meets on Sunday, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., in the choir room. Developing a soundtrack for their lives, youth in grades 6 to 12 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's Music Ministries

The children's choirs meet Sundays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., during the school year. These choirs strive to impart God's love through His gift of music. The focus is on ministry to children rather than on performance. Children ages 4 (when school starts) through grade 5 participate in activities including music/singing and bells/chimes, instruments, and listening activities. The two sections are divided by age and participate in the 11:00 worship service twice per year, usually in December and April.

Church Leadership



Deacon Meeting

Thursday, October 13, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, October 13, at 6:45 p.m., all teams meet for worship in the chapel with subsequent gathering into respective teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in the parlor to oversee the ministry of the church. The work of the Diaconate, church administration, and all Discipleship, Worship, Facility Management, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.

Discipleship



Library Team

The library team works the first Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. 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. 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



Happy Quilters

This group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in!

Saints Alive!

Church seniors will meet for a potluck lunch on Thursday, October 20, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Deborah Coppola of Arlington Charities will provide details about the Thanksgiving Basket project. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert and enjoy a fun and interesting afternoon.

First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Deadline for the November issue of The News is October 15!

Prayer

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Esther Albright, Chona Pacot Anwar, David Boice, Shirley Bragg, Carl Carpenter, Crystal Castaneda, Kevin Chin, Jerry Colleps, Lee Carol Copeland, Dorothy Curtis, Ted Dysart, Wanda Estes, Bobbie Fowler, Nadine Freeman, David Goff, Susan Graham, Dick Haney, Margery Harrand, Edna and Ken Harris, Bill Hayden, Doyle Malone, Edna McCoy, Allen Miller, Mary Ellen Miller, Pat Mingle, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Bill Olsen, Ann Pitstick, Jim L. Quick, Eulabel Sheldon, Linda Smith, Brooks and Connie Taylor, BJ Thomas, Jerry Thomas, Allen Underwood, Donna Vickers, Shelby Wolfe, and Mary Jane Wright.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Aaron Alonso, Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, 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!

Please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at 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 glymjy@yahoo.com or 817-794-5626.

