



January  
2017

# The News

**“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon  
you.**

**See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.**

**Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your  
dawn.”**

**Isaiah 60:1-3 (NIV)**

## A BRIEF LOOK FORWARD

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Brief Look Forward .....	2
The Six Great Ends of the Church.....	3
Annual Leaf Raking Party .....	3
Children's Ministry News - January.....	3
Advance Notice - 66th Annual Men's Conference at Mo Ranch Coming in May .....	5
Shouting the Lord's Praises!.....	5
Seen Around the Building.....	6
This Month .....	7
Prayer Ministry.....	8

#### Newsletter Team

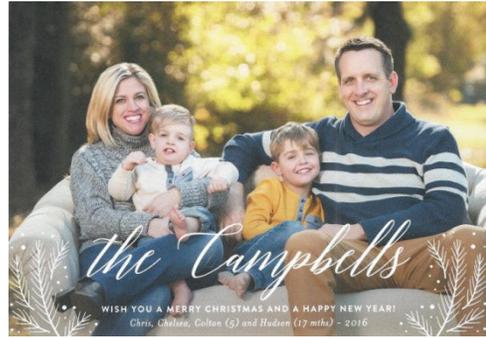
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Campbells! We are most grateful to have received God's call to serve here at FPCA. Chelsea has enjoyed beginning her term on the Preschool Board.



And speaking of the Preschool, Colton absolutely loves his teacher, Coleen, his classmates, and the staff that make his experience so wonderful. So thank you, Sandra, and everyone who supports the ministry of our Preschool. And as soon as Hudson stops napping during Sunday worship, I look forward to him following Colton's footsteps, experiencing the same faith nourishment.

This new call has led to exciting spiritual growth. Soon before I left United Presbyterian Church in Greenville, it hit me that I had not dedicated enough of my time and energy into developing discipleship inside and outside of the church. But to be honest, when you are a solo pastor, it is hard to dig deep in one area while preparing sermons weekly, opening and closing the building, providing pastoral care, and just the seemingly million little things that have to be done on a weekly basis. My immersion into missional discipleship has gratified many of my desires for ministry, while simultaneously challenging me to think, "How can we do this?"

We also have to understand what missional discipleship is. While these two words can hold numerous meanings to any person, there is a core identity that starts with the very nature of God. Our God is a sending God, a missionary God. As the Father sent the Son, the Son sends us. Missional discipleship also recognizes the role of the church in forming disciples. There are no lone rangers here. It all happens within the greater community of the church family. And third, the result is engaging in missional practices that usher in the kingdom of God. That is no small task but neither is the Great Commission. It requires leaders to pour themselves into others and equip disciples to turn around and make disciples. One summary states: *Missional disciples are on a journey, becoming more like Christ, investing their lives in others, and embodying lives of love for the sake of others.* But again, how will we do this?

That is why I am most thankful to serve with Pastor Rich, our staff, and congregational leaders who understand the necessity of missional discipleship. We continue to dream how this can take shape in our unique Presbyterian faith and structure. Looking at the church's

mission statement, discipleship is very important. This new year, we look forward to identifying a model and implementing it. If you find this topic exciting and you feel passionately, I highly encourage you to attend the Discipleship Team meeting each month. I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to dream and serve with you as we discern God's leading of FPCA. God bless us all in 2017!

Live Forever,

Pastor Chris

## THE SIX GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

Beginning January 8, Pastor Rich will be both preaching and teaching a new series on "The Six Great Ends [or Purposes] of the Church." The class will meet for 6 weeks in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. It will include a DVD video with a variety of Presbyterian leaders from around the country. The sermons will follow the same topics.



The Six Great Ends have guided American Presbyterians for over 100 years. The preaching and teaching topics are:

- January 8 - Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind
- January 15 - Shelter, Nurture and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God
- January 22 - Maintenance of Divine Worship
- January 29 - Preservation of the Truth
- February 5 - Promotion of Social Righteousness
- February 12 - Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World

Mark your calendars and join us for this important series of classes and sermons that will challenge us to a broader view of our mission as Jesus' followers.

## ANNUAL LEAF RAKING PARTY



The All-Church Work Day/Annual Leaf Raking Party (weather permitting) will be on Saturday, January 21, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Refreshments will be served and leaf bags will be provided. Please bring your own rake!

Come join us in this fun time.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS - JANUARY

### Preschool Sunday School

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you had a fantastic Christmas season filled with joy and laughter and love. Now that our preschool friends have heard that Jesus was born, it's time for them to learn that He is with them ALL THE TIME and He is all they need.



Throughout the month, our children will hear how Jesus was there for people in the past. He was there when the blind man needed Him. He was there when a man lowered from the roof by his friends on a mat needed Him. He was there to heal the deaf man and the lepers who needed Him. He was there to calm the storm when the disciples needed Him.

Just like He was there when all these people needed Him in the past, He will be

there when we need Him in the future. That's what we want to plant in the hearts of our preschoolers this month. Jesus is all we need, and He's with us ALL THE TIME.

## Elementary Sunday School

Knowledge is a response to the character of God.

Little kids start asking, "Why?" It's like suddenly a switch flips and they begin to string together their questions in an attempt to understand everything around them. And this continues throughout life. Watch an 8-year-old for very long and you can become convinced that everyone is wired with a natural curiosity to discover what we don't know and go where we haven't been.

God designed people in a unique way - different from the rest of creation - to pursue finding the answers to life's hidden secrets. The very fact that we naturally pursue knowledge is proof that there is a God. It's actually genius that God would make us in such a way that we are always discovering, wondering, exploring, innovating, improving, and solving. He wants us to pursue knowing more, because He wants us to know Him more.



The most important thing you can do for young kids is to invite them into the story about a really big God. It's a story that will always be bigger than they can explain or imagine, but God invites them to spend a lifetime discovering who He is and how He loves them.

Jesus helps us know God better. If you want to know who God is and how God loves, look to Jesus. When Jesus stepped foot onto the planet, God was once and for all with us. John writes this about Jesus, *The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth.* (John 1:14, NIrV) As we dig deeper into the story of Jesus, we discover more about how God desires a relationship with us and invites us to help Him spread the message of Jesus throughout the world. To do that, we need to *know* God through Jesus.

That's why we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about knowledge - discovering something new so you can be better at whatever you do. We want kids to

know that God is real, God made them and all things. We hope they leave this month believing that when they discover something new about God, they are learning the best way to win at life.

We will spend the month of January taking a closer look at the way knowledge shows up throughout the Gospels.

## Kids Night Out

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, January 13 and Friday, January 27

## ADVANCE NOTICE - 66TH ANNUAL MEN'S CONFERENCE AT MO RANCH COMING IN MAY



For the last several years, a group of men from FPCA have attended the Mo Ranch Men's Conference for a God-filled weekend in the wide-open spaces of the Texas Hill Country, along the banks of the Guadalupe River. The dates for this year are May 5 to 7.

This is the PCUSA's single largest and longest running conference, where hundreds of men from all ages gather and worship together in Word, song and Sacrament. United in their bond with the Lord and moved by His Spirit, they engage in fellowship, study, recreation and ministry to each other. Through the gifts of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, they receive renewed strength to go forth and live daily, sharing the love of God, revealed in Jesus Christ, through words, deeds and activities. All generations, men from 13 years and up. Ages 13-17 require an accompanying adult registration.

- Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Blair R. Monie, Austin Seminary and retired senior pastor of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas
- Bible Study Leader: Dr. Robert S. (Bob) Crilley, First Presbyterian Church, Grapevine
- Worship Leader: Rev. Matthew Ruffner, Pastor, Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas

Please make your reservations now.

## SHOUTING THE LORD'S PRAISES!

*Come. Let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.* (Psalms 95:1-2, NLT)

The year has come to an end and a new year is upon us. As I reflect on 2016, I am reminded of Psalms 95:1-2. I want to sing, shout joyfully, and give thanks to our Lord God because of all he has done this year for our youth. Our youth have laughed, cried, grown in their relationship with the Lord, overcome obstacles, and the list goes on and on. It has definitely been a joy to walk alongside our youth this year and now reflect on everything that God has done in 2016.





In December, the youth, leaders, and I had our moment of reflection. We were able to gather together for our annual end of year Christmas party and share stories about 2016. It was great to hear our youth talk about how God has blessed them this past year and how they look forward to all God has for them in 2017.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, provided food, and prayed for our youth this past year. We could not have done it without you! Please continue to pray for our youth ministry and that 2017 will be even greater than 2016. I believe that

2017 will still include us singing, shouting joyfully, and giving thanks to our Lord. We will always look to shout the Lord's praises!

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian Rodriguez

## SEEN AROUND THE BUILDING

To see more photos, check out [www.firstprestexas.org/blog](http://www.firstprestexas.org/blog).



## 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 and enjoy great fellowship and a prayer session. 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, January 16, 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

This is the primary worship leadership ensemble for the 11:00 service. The choir also sings for special services around Christmas and Holy Week. It is more than just a great choir, it is a caring fellowship. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. *Nursery care is provided during rehearsals.*

#### 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 (Youth) Choir

This group of youth in grades 6 to 12 meets on Sunday, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., in the choir room. This year the focus of our youth choir is to engage singers at Carter Junior High by inviting them to participate in the YouthCue Choir Festival in Waco. This is a combined choir of 300+ singers from all over Texas and surrounding states. The festival is February 24 to 26, and ends with a grand concert on Sunday, February 26.

#### 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. There are two sections, divided by age, and both participate in the 11:00 worship service twice per year, usually in December and April.



### Church Leadership

#### Deacon Meeting

Thursday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

#### Team Meeting Night

Thursday, January 12, 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, January 26, 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, January 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert and enjoy a fun and interesting afternoon.

Contact Bev Koch (817-261-3202) for details.

First Presbyterian Church  
1200 S. Collins Street  
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**Deadline for the February issue of The News is January 15!**

## PRAYER MINISTRY

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** Esther Albright, Chona Pacot Anwar, David Boice, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carl Carpenter, Crystal Castaneda, Kevin Chin, Jerry Colleps, Lee Carol Copeland, Dorothy Curtis, Ted Dysart, Ken Floyd, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Nadine Freeman, Lila Glenn, David Goff, Susan Graham, Dick Haney, Margery Harrant, Ken and Edna Harris, Brandon Hay, Bill Hayden, Doyle Malone, Allen Miller, Mary Ellen Miller, Pat Mingle, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Bill Moulton, Bill Olsen, Jim L. Quick, Albert Ross, Eulabel Sheldon, Linda Smith, Al Smithson, Bob Spriggs, Brooks and Connie Taylor, B. J. Thomas, Jerry Thomas, Allen Underwood, Donna Vickers, Jessica Villarreal, and Mary Jane Wright.

**Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces:** Aaron Alonso, Sean Ansley, 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 [juanicey@gmail.com](mailto:juanicey@gmail.com) or 817-794-5626.

