



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

John 3:16-19, NIV

March
2017

The News



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Newsletter Team

Bodil Overtree and Deb Gardner, Acting Editors

The News is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
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Arlington, TX 76010

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Production by the **Tom Fowler Group**

Online Giving Is Here



Dear FPCA Family,

You may have heard our messages sharing our Online Giving tools with you. New things can often seem overwhelming. We get it. When something is working, we don’t like to change. But everything we do is designed to help us collectively serve the Lord better, and this is no exception.

Benefits of Online Giving to you:

- The ease of being able to sign up for online giving, and to donate.
- Even when you’re traveling or visiting family away from our building, the opportunity to give is with you through our website or through text messaging.
- We now even have the ability to set up recurring giving, meaning, you set the amount you want to donate and it’s automatically given each month.
- You can login to your giving account and track your donations for the year. You may use this for your taxes as well as set giving goals for yourself.

We welcome you to try our Online Giving tools and we are happy to answer any questions you might have. You can give through our church website at firstprestexas.org under the "Serve and Give" menu, or you can send a text message (with a numerical amount) to 817-318-7013. We also have "Giving Guides" to help you set up your online giving or text giving. Please contact the office or send us an email if you have any questions.

In Him,

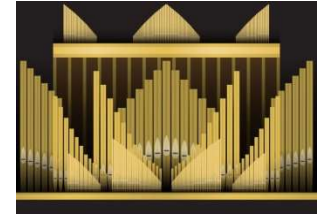
Pastor Rich McDermott



Organ Recital

by Joshua Lang

I'd like to invite you to my second and final master's recital at TCU. I will perform the works of Sweelinck, Bach, Vaughn Williams, Guilman and Langlais. Here is the information:



Friday March 10, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Texas Christian University

Ed Landreth Auditorium

2800 South University Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76129

Admission is free with parking available on the corner of Rogers/Cantey, and down Rogers adjacent to University Christian Church.

Carter Connection: Where Challenges and Opportunities Intersect

by Betsy McDermott



Raise your hand if you or your children attended Carter Junior High. Today, Carter seems to many to be a different place than it was years ago. However, it does still have students charged with the task of learning, and teachers and staff charged with the task of teaching and guiding these seventh and eighth graders. And this school is still our nearest neighbor. How can we love our neighbor?

Carter Principal, Reny Lizardo, gave us some statistics about his school in a recent gathering of community members that included the Chamber of Commerce, City of Arlington, Mission Arlington, eight churches, Arlington Police, and AISD:

- 1,100 students
- 97% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 25% mobility rate with transience affecting the rolls daily
- 60% of the students ride buses to school
- 13 to 15 buses serve Carter, compared with 3 to 4 at other schools
- Carter area extends east, past Highway 360, an area that includes many hotels and apartments
- 80% Hispanic
- 14% African American
- Parent events draw 50 to 100 parents due to multiple jobs, lack of transportation, language barrier
- No PTA or booster organizations due to the same reasons; hence, no fundraising


A positive: Carter had the second highest performance among 40 Texas schools of similar demographics.

The passionate and articulate student council has raised awareness about the eroding of their athletic field by Johnson Creek. The resulting restrictions on use of the field have ruled out all home games on their own turf this year. Home games are played at Sam Houston, eliminating the presence of a home crowd, as students, limited in transportation options, are unable to attend.

Challenge: anything that calls for special effort or dedication

Opportunity: a combination of circumstances favorable for the purpose

It would seem that the great challenges next door present us with great opportunities. Happily, various groups and individuals are reaching out to become involved in supporting Carter:

- # We  Carter is the group of community members mentioned above.
- Carter Athletic Field Team is a subteam exploring a solution for the athletic field.
- Sue Lavender has organized a welcome back to school breakfast for the staff for several years.
- Adrian Rodriguez, our Director of Youth, goes to the school several times a week and has growing relationships with students and staff.
- Russell Farnell goes to Carter a couple of times a week to help with choir and music programs.
- Russell and Jane Leathem will take the choir to participate in Youth Cue in Waco February 24 to 26.
- Allen and Carole Ray were chaperones on the first field trip Carter students have taken in years.
- The Rays, Bob Dawson and others have assisted students challenged by reading at testing times.
- Isobel and David Peden, Ozzie Garza and others have assisted with August student registration.

This involvement is very exciting! Let's love our neighbors with the steadfastness with which the Lord has loved us. Please pray for this ministry as we seek what the Lord has in store for Carter. Stay tuned for future updates on challenges and opportunities and ways to get involved.

H.O.P.E. Tutoring - "Night of HOPE"

What	Barbeque Dinner, Silent Auction MC – Jim Douglas Speaker – UTA Dean of Education Dr. Teresa Doughty Entertainment – Bowie Choir
When	Saturday, March 25, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Where	Trinity United Methodist Church 1200 West Green Oaks Boulevard
Tickets/ Details	Marge or Bob Dawson, Manuel LeBlanc, Ron MacLeod, George Morey



Preschool Summer Camp 2017



The Preschool Summer Camp will run from Monday, June 5, through Friday, August 4. It is for children ages 6 weeks through third grade. Themes to be announced!

- Monday to Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- Before and after camp programs available
- Flexible schedules
- Open 6:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- \$75.00 program fee

Register for fall and summer, and the program fee is FREE. Stop by the preschool to register, or contact Sandra Ybarra at 682-551-1207 with questions.

Children's Ministry News

Preschool Sunday School

This month, we're working to build into kids a love for others. Imagine with me, for a moment, a world filled with men and women who love others the way Jesus loves us. That's what we want for our preschoolers.



We'll begin with the story of the Good Samaritan. He was a great example of how to love everyone. Jesus was always helping people - no matter who they were - and that's what the Good Samaritan did too. We want our preschoolers to know that they can love others by helping.

After we talk about helping, we'll move on to sharing. We'll tell the story of the guy who

built bigger barns for his grain, instead of sharing with people who needed food. Our preschoolers are going to learn that sharing is the way to go, when you have overflow!

Then, we'll talk about how we can still love others by sharing, even when we have a little. In fact, it's an even bigger expression of love when we share out of our little, like the widow who shared two small coins.

We'll wrap up the month with the prodigal son where we'll see that we can love, no matter what, thanks to forgiveness. Just like Jesus loves us, even when we do something wrong, we can love others, even when they do something wrong.

It's going to be an awesome month of building with our preschoolers. We'll be building into kids who can then proclaim, "I can love everyone."

Elementary Sunday School

Forgiveness is a reflection of the character of God.

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded about God’s grace and forgiveness.

- God makes us white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18)
- God’s mercies are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- God is faithful and just to forgive our sins. (1 John 1:9)

When our relationship with God was broken beyond repair, God offered His only Son as the way to forgive us and restore the broken relationship.

Since we are created in God’s image, we have the ability to offer forgiveness when people in our lives hurt us. God’s love in us makes it possible for us to forgive others and work towards fixing our own relationships that break down from time to time.

Jesus made it possible for us to have God’s forgiveness.



God’s showed us just how much He cares about forgiveness when He made the ultimate sacrifice and sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin. While sin separates us from God, He offers grace and forgiveness as a gift for us to receive. We have been forgiven for so much, it’s only right that we turn to those in our lives and offer forgiveness to them in return.

That’s why we think it’s important for us to help our kids and families discover more about Forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay.

Our Memory Verse for March comes from Colossians 3:13: *“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.”* (NIV)

This verse, from Paul’s letter to the church at Colossi, reminds us not only that God forgave our sins, but also that we should forgive others instead of holding grudges against one another.

Save the Dates

Kids Night Out March 10 and 24, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Spring Festival..... April 8

Vacation Bible School..... June 5 through 9

Junior High Youth Camp June 18 through 23

High School Youth Camp ... July 10 through 14



Opportunities for Giving to Those in Significant Need

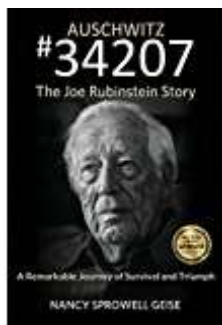
by Pastor Rich McDermott

FPCA has opportunity regularly to provide for people who are devoted members of our church and yet are in significant need. In recent months, this need has grown, and our resources for meeting that need have been considerably depleted. If this is an area for which the Lord has given you a heart to give beyond your regular tithe, please consider giving to FPCA with a note that it is for the “Sunrise Crisis Care Fund,” which enables us to provide for the working poor in our midst. Thank you in advance for considering this special need, and may the Lord *“provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work”* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

New Books in the Library

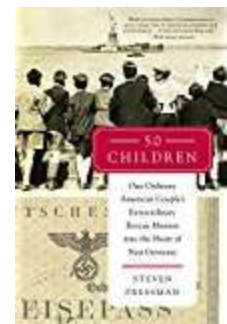


Two new books in the FPCA library are difficult to read, but very rewarding, inspiring and informative. They both concern the terrible events that we know as the Holocaust.



Auschwitz #34207 is the true story of Joe Rubinstein’s harrowing years in the prison camps in Germany where he was imprisoned from 1942 to 1945. He avoided the fate of so many, including his family, by a series of small but significant and fortunate events. His survival seems to be attributed to his determination, his cleverness and his faith in God. The rest of the story is as remarkable as Joe’s years in the camps. He married a lovely Christian girl, immigrated to America and became one of New York’s leading shoe designers. Nancy Sprowell Geise interviewed Joe for two years and published the book in 2014, when he was a joyful 93 years old. Nancy is a friend of Betsy McDermott.

50 Children – One Ordinary American Couple’s Extraordinary Rescue Mission into the Heart of Nazi Germany is a true story written by Steve Pressman about his wife’s maternal grandparents, Gil and Eleanor Kraus. In January of 1939, the couple was living a comfortable life in Philadelphia. Gil was commissioned by a national Jewish fraternal organization, Brith Shalom, to bring to America 50 Jewish children who were living in danger in Hitler’s Reich. Once Gil agreed to this mission, he and Eleanor worked tirelessly to find sponsors for the 50 children and to prepare the mounds of paperwork necessary because of America’s stringent immigration regulations. Then they traveled to Germany in the spring, a most dangerous journey for a Jewish couple. Because of their unshakable determination to bring back the 50 children, and with the help of people in America and Germany, they did accomplish that task. It is an amazing and inspirational story written in a very clear and readable voice.



Both of these books can be checked out of the FPCA library. Look for them in the New Book section, which is across from the door nearest the Red Hall.

March Puzzle



Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 251Matt.9:33-10:10

H	B	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	S	H	E	E	P
C	I	N	U	T	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	G	S	E
A	S	U	E	A	D	D	A	H	T	E	A	A	N	T
E	D	I	S	E	A	S	E	I	S	S	M	D	A	E
R	W	E	L	A	E	H	S	U	S	O	E	U	E	R
P	O	T	K	Y	N	C	S	E	H	Z	S	O	L	U
O	R	L	D	O	A	D	M	T	A	E	G	O	C	R
E	C	N	I	R	P	M	A	M	D	A	N	F	H	Z
S	M	A	I	H	E	S	A	L	V	L	I	R	A	E
I	E	O	I	L	T	H	T	T	S	O	H	E	N	B
A	T	L	D	I	E	W	P	I	T	T	C	E	D	E
R	I	M	R	G	E	A	M	E	J	H	A	L	R	D
P	E	I	R	L	N	O	R	O	H	C	E	Y	E	E
Y	P	O	V	N	N	I	H	S	M	S	T	W	W	E
S	H	E	A	V	E	N	K	E	I	J	U	D	A	S

AMAZED ANDREW
FREELY APOSTLES
HEAL CLEANSE
HEAVEN CROWDS
ISRAEL DISEASE
JAMES ISCARIOT
JESUS JOURNEY
JOHN KINGDOM
JUDAS PREACH
PETER MATTHEW
PHILIP MESSAGE
PRINCE SANDALS
RAISE SHEPHERD
SHEEP TEACHING
SIMON THOMAS
SPIRITS ZEBEDEE
SPOKE TWELVE
TUNIC ZEALOT
THADDAEUS

Apostles Chosen

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2016 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Answer on page 10

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is received during the season of Lent at FPCA. This is one of four special offerings collected during our church year. Offering envelopes are provided outside the chapel and sanctuary, or designate OGHS on the memo portion of your check. Posters are located around the church halls.

Presbyterians worldwide have participated in this offering for over 60 years and give about as much as all other denominations put together. The offering gifts are divided among three programs- Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. For a list of how these gifts were used in previous years or for more information, see www.pcusa.org/oghs. Please see our Sunday bulletins for more details.



Upcoming Retreats

Women's Ministry – March 31 to April 2



The women of the church will return to Glen Rose for their annual retreat and stay at the Still Water Lodge. Our speaker will be Anne Beall, and her topic is “The Story Goes On” She wants to help us claim our place in God’s ongoing story that is being written now, just as much as in Biblical days. Reservations begin March 5 and end March 19. All are welcome.

Men's Ministry – May 5 to May 7

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.

Please make your reservations now. For more information, contact George Morey at 817-789-3772.

An Addition to the Discipleship Team's Annual Report

The Indagators Class is currently studying “The Holy Land Revealed,” as presented in a lecture series by archaeologist Dr. Jodi Magness of the Department of Religious Studies of the University of North Carolina. The series is accompanied by a study guide and offered through The Great Courses. Within the last year, the class has also completed a 24-week study of “The Old Testament,” as presented by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School and a 6-week study of “The Life and Work of C.S. Lewis,” as presented in a lecture series by Rev. Dr. Larry Thomas that the class co-sponsored with the Theological Inquiries Class.



Class activities include serving dinner at the Arlington Life Shelter and providing Thanksgiving baskets for Arlington Charities. Other class projects have been to support the refugee children of the Rio Grande Valley and the work of Heifer International.

The Indagators Class had its genesis in the 1990s as a reorganization of the Matilda Holder Class. All adults are welcome. We meet in the Bride's Room at 9:15 a.m.

Contacts:

Jane Leathem
Kathy Rotert

Didja Know?

When the building was new, back in 1956, the evening edition of the Dallas Times Herald ran the following article.

Church Building Rites Planned In Arlington

Special to Times Herald

Arlington, Sept. 26.—The new \$350,000 church and education building for the Arlington First Presbyterian Church will be dedicated this week.

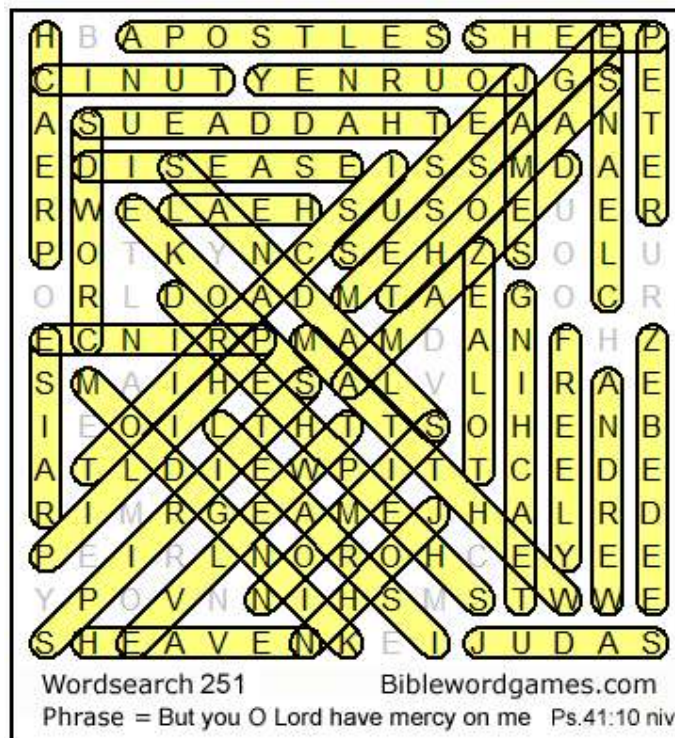
The official dedication will be at 11 a. m. Sunday with Dr. Hoytt Boels of Denton, executive of the Synod of Texas taking part as guest preacher. Dr. Jasper Manton of Dallas, Stated Clerk of the Synod of Texas also will be present.

At 3 p. m. Sunday there will be special services for the dedication of memorial gifts and furnishings. Rev. Charles L. Dickey of St. Andrew's Church in Austin will be the guest preacher. Rev. Dickey is a former pastor of the Arlington church.

Officers of the church will conduct the guests on a complete tour of the building after the afternoon services.

The four-day dedication services will open at 7 p. m. Thursday in the main sanctuary when the congregation of the church will give a silent prayer of personal dedication.

From 7:30 to 9:30 p. m. Friday there will be open house. The Women's Association of the church will serve refreshments.



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 Exodus 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 at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 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..

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, March 9, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, March 9, 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, March 23, 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, March 16, 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
Arlington, TX 76010

Deadline for the April issue of The News is March 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Esther Albright, Chona Pacot Anwar, Yvonne Babb, Polly Baugh, David Boice, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Crystal Castaneda, Kevin Chin, Jerry Colleps, Lee Carol Copeland, Dorothy Curtis, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Lila Glenn, David Goff, Susan Graham, A. Jack Gray, Dick Haney, Margery Harrant, Ken and Edna Harris, Brandon Hay, Bill Hayden, Doyle Malone, J. Fred Miller, 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: 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 or 817-794-5626.