

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness:

come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his:

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise:

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever:

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

- Psalm 100

November
2017

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Newsletter Team

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

Contact us at thenews@firstprrestexas.org

Production by the Tom Fowler Group

The Pilot

Our new discipling leadership group, known simply as “The Pilot,” launched in October. We have had several gatherings where we eat, worship, study, and process in small groups of twos and threes. One Saturday, we met with an outward focus and experienced a simple prayer walk on the streets surrounding our church. The Pilot technically is not a missional community, because we are not bringing lost people into our group. Instead, we are investing and discipling leaders within our congregation so that they will be equipped to go out and make disciples of their own. At that point, missional communities will seek those who do not yet know Jesus either in their neighborhoods or in a specific network of relationships.

We are off to a fun start and the energy is fantastic. One of the greatest parts is those of us with children get to include them in everything we do. It makes for a little noise at times! But my prayerful hope is that the spiritual payoff will be immeasurable as they get to see firsthand and participate in this kind of a discipling community.



Worship Expressions

by Minister of Music Russell Farnell

I will never forget what a church member (who has since passed away) told me about 10 years ago, not long after I came to FPCA. He said, “I want you to know that I am not listening to the choir when you sing in the service.” This took me by surprise, but he explained further.

“I am praying for the choir, asking God to bless them and work through them to minister to the congregation, and to worship him as well as they can.” When I heard this, I knew then that I was in the right church! This is a perfect example of a believer centering his mind's attention and his heart's affection on the Lord. He was seeking to humbly glorify God with his acts of worship during the musical portions of the service.

What should I do then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also. - 1 Corinthians 14:15

This passage resonates with me because it tells me that what each of us does in worship, how we do it, and why we do it, matters. Dr. Bruce Leafblad gave a definition for worship that has been influential in my ministry. I hear echoes of the Corinthians passage in these words:

Worship is communion with God in which believers, by grace, center their mind's attention and their heart's affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God in response to his greatness and his word.

I mentioned in the 11:00 service a few weeks ago that clapping (not applause) is an ancient musical expression of praise in the Psalms. For some, it is a natural expression of appreciation in a public setting. To others, it is a distraction from the object of our worship. Still others prefer to respond in an attitude of prayer by saying, “amen!” I think that all of these expressions are valid if done with a humble attitude, so I don't want to offer an opinion on whether our congregation should or should not applaud in response to a stirring choir anthem, or say “amen.” Rather, I would like to try to give a clearer understanding of what we are doing in worship.

The Music Ministry at FPCA is striving to lead the congregation in offering a sacrifice of praise and prayer directed to God in worship. This is where music in a worship setting differs from most other musical contexts. According to Soren Kierkegaard, the worship service is a congregational drama where Christians are performing acts of worship for the sole benefit of God. This is a performance of sorts, and though we seek to present our offerings with excellence, the sounds of our praises are meant for the Audience of One: our heavenly Father.

So with this in mind, I would ask that we consider an appropriate response when others offer their gifts by leading in prayer, praise, or preaching during worship, and no matter what that response is, that it be offered to God humbly.

We present our offerings of confession, praise, adoration, thanksgiving, and commitment to the Lord in response to his greatness and his word. To paraphrase the Corinthians passage, we should strive to worship with the spirit, but worship with the mind also.

Thanksgiving Baskets!

First Presbyterian Church is again joining Arlington Charities in feeding those who, otherwise, may not be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. The Mission and Evangelism Team has set a goal of: **225 baskets**.

Please sign up outside of the Fellowship Hall, outside of 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.

Again this year, you may bring the food items in your own grocery bags you have on hand. Please return your numbered Basket Sheet and attached envelope along with your food items to the Fellowship Hall on or before **November 12**.

You can also help by bringing any extra food items. Over 900 families are fed by Arlington Charities. These families are Arlington citizens, and they are families who can't make ends meet. Each bag feeds one family so they can celebrate Thanksgiving together at home.

Thanks ~ The Mission and Evangelism Team

Finance Update

For the month of August 2017

Budget

Income: \$ 74,629

Expense: \$ 80,753

Summary

Income - Expense for month: (\$ 6,124)

Income - Expense for 2017 Year to Date: \$ 38,984



Comments

- Total Income was under budget for the month by (\$10,419) and over for the year by \$90,038.
- Total Operating Income was under budget for the month by (\$8,662) and over for the year by \$68,069.
- Givers were under budget for the month by (\$6,712) and over for the year by \$ 39,976.
- Loose Offering was under budget for the month by (\$126) and under for the year by (\$938).
- Temporarily Restricted Funds used – \$4,145
- Total Expenses were over budget for the month by \$ 3,871 and over for the year by \$38,784.

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

This month, we want to cook up a big Recipe For Thanks with our preschoolers! Thinking about the things we're thankful for is the key to any recipe of thanks—and a thankful heart. We chose Recipe For Thanks as our theme because we want our preschoolers to learn how to have a thankful heart.

We will start the month learning about the Ten Commandments. Commandments are some of those ingredients that may

not sound yummy, but they are oh so good for you. Week one, we'll get to hear all about the time God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. While we won't delve deeply into all of them (some of them being a little out of a preschooler's realm of understanding), we will shout out loud and clear God's number one commandment, we should love God more than anything!

During week two, we'll learn all about the Lord's Prayer. Our preschoolers will hear how Jesus taught his disciples how to pray and practice praying the way He modeled. Preschoolers will learn that they can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything. That's something to be thankful about!

We all need people to help us. We can be thankful for our family and friends and all the people in our community. Think about how many people help you each and every day. During week three, our preschoolers will hear the story of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz, and that story is full of people who help! Our preschool friends will also identify who the people are that help them each and every day.

Our final ingredient for thankfulness is not just one thing but THINGS! It's all the things we need, like water, food, clothes, and a place to live. We will talk about being thankful for God giving us what we need with Psalm 23 during week four. Preschoolers will hear how God takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.



Elementary Sunday School

Have you ever paused to think about everything God has done for you? He created a planet that's perfectly suited for otters and ostriches and you. Then, He sent His Son, Jesus, to that planet to die and be raised to life so He could have a forever relationship with you. Through the month, we'll help kids refocus on all that God has done for them. Because when you know what God has done for you, YOU CAN BE THANKFUL—ALWAYS.

Gratitude is a response to the character of God.

WEEK 1

Key Question: What are you grateful for? We kick off a month on gratitude by helping kids to refocus on their own life and discover reasons they can be thankful.

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done. We hope to give kids and families the opportunity to think about all the ways God has shown them love and faithfulness throughout the year. We want them to get excited and celebrate God's goodness.



WEEK 2

Key Question: What do you do when you don't feel grateful? Kids will learn soon enough that sometimes it's hard to feel grateful. Through asking this question, we hope kids will come away with a plan to refocus on what really matters and discover how they can show gratitude.

Bottom Line: Adjust your attitude. We can change our whole outlook on life if we take the time to refocus and think about all that we've been given. We pray that kids will see their own life differently and discover all the ways can show gratitude.

WEEK 3

Key Question: What are creative ways to say thank you? Saying thank you doesn't have to feel like a chore. Kids will discover all sorts of fun ways they can show gratitude to the people in their life.

Bottom Line: Say thank you. We want kids to become the sort of people who take the time to go out of their way to show gratitude towards others.

WEEK 4

Key Question: What's keeping you from being thankful? As we continue to talk about how to refocus on what God has done for us, we help kids take a closer look at what gets in the way of gratitude.

Bottom Line: Always be grateful. Kids will learn that no matter what is happening in their lives, they can always find a way to say thank you.

Save the Date

- November 5** Luncheon for families with elementary aged children and younger at noon in the Fellowship Hall
- November 10** Kids Night Out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- November 24** Kids Night Out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events in Youth Ministry

Mark your calendars:

- November 10** Disciple Now Weekend
- December 9** Christmas Party
- December 17** Christmas Talent Show

Box Tops for Education



In just 2 months, FPCA has raised \$20 for Carter Junior High with Box Tops donations!

Drop off your Box Tops in the church office or the coffee table outside of Fellowship Hall.

Want to learn more about the program or the products eligible? Check out www.boxtops4education.com.

Stewardship 2018

“Glorifying God, Following Jesus, and Loving our Neighbor”

Stewardship Commitment Sunday is November 12, 2017.

Please help us by turning in your pledge card to give to the Lord’s kingdom work through First Presbyterian Church of Arlington!



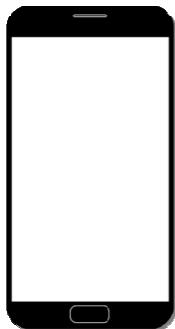
Text Giving Is Coming on Sunday, November 12!

by Jeanne Chin, Finance Manager

I don't know about you, but I see that people are not carrying cash and writing checks like they used to. For those who want an easier way to give, **we have found a way to help!** Giving tithes and offerings will be as easy as sending a text message. You can text your gifts whenever you want to, directly from your mobile phone. It is the quickest way to give and is faster than tying your shoes!

FPCA's Text Giving is an efficient, convenient, and incredibly secure way to donate, where the donor's information is kept safe and sound.

Text Giving Donor Guide



1. Text the amount you would like to give through FPCA's text-giving number: 817-318-7013
2. If you are a first time, text-giving donor, you will be prompted to visit a secure URL.
3. Once you click the registration link, you will enter your credit or debit card information.
4. At this point your donation will process.
5. You will see a confirmation text showing your donation and registration were successful. Voila!

Once you have filled out the form the first time, you will never have to fill it out again. You can give whenever, wherever, and however you'd like through your mobile device.

We will be happy to help you, and are planning to have tables set up with helpers, outside the Chapel and in the Narthex after Sunday worship on November 12. If you have any questions, please let me know at: Jeanne@firstprestexas.org.

Return of the Night of a Hundred Dust Cloths

Pledge (or similar) and your dust cloth belong together – in the Sanctuary.

Company's coming, and we need to dust!

- Monday, November 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Bring your polish and a dust cloth
- Babysitting available

Many hands make light work and a short evening. Let's make it shine!



Presbytery Meeting on November 16

We are expecting up to 250 guests from all around Grace Presbytery for the regular November presbytery meeting. All hands are needed!

Because the meeting is on a Thursday, many who work will be unable to help on the day. But there is much that can be done at other times.

In addition to the Monday evening of dusting and polishing and generally getting spiffy (no sign-up needed for this – just come), extra hands are always welcome. If you have not already volunteered, it is not too late!

If you can help, please call Betty Farrell (817-274-6270) or Bodil Overtree (817-478-1357) or Jane Leathem in the church office (817-274-8286).

Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner

Come one, come all to the annual Thanksgiving Dinner on **Sunday, November 19, at 6:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Team will provide meat and dessert.

If your last name starts with:

A through G Bring potatoes or dressing

H through O Bring a vegetable

P through Z Bring a salad



We are also looking for a few friends to help us cook the turkeys. If you are willing to help, please call Isobel Peden at 972-264-2044 for more information. A little assistance in the kitchen would also be greatly appreciated. We will provide any and every kitchen volunteer with a lovely blue apron. You can let Isobel, Shirley Hertzog, Mary Spencer, or Sandy Thomlinson know if you want to wear one of our aprons!

Festival of Tables Advance Notice

If Thanksgiving is on the horizon, can the Festival of Tables be far behind?

When: Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Tickets (\$3 each) will be on sale on November 5, 12, and 19 in the Red Hall, outside the library, and (at 9:30) outside the office. Guests are welcome to bring an unwrapped toy to the festival.

Hostesses and co-hostesses are needed! Call Bev Koch at 817-261-3202 to volunteer.

Advent Festival Advance Notice

First Presbyterian Church Music Ministry presents

an Advent Festival Service

featuring the Christmas portion of G. F. Handel's

Messiah
an Oratorio

December 10 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

1200 S Collins Arlington TX 76010

www.firstprestexas.org

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. The current study is the book of Deuteronomy. Men of all ages meet 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, November 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.

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

During the school year, this group of youth in grades 6 to 12 meets on Sunday, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., in the choir room.

Children's Music Ministries

The children's choirs meet from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. on Sundays during the school year. 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, November 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, November 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, November 30, 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, November 9 (a week earlier than usual), 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 December issue of The News is November 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Yvonne Babb, Elaine Bahn, David Boice, Debbie Boice, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Tommy and Kathryn Copeland and family, Laura and Moses Duffney, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, David Goff, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Claudia Johnson, Tim Karnes, Bob Koch, Pat May, Allen Miller, J. Fred Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Bill Olsen, Cosme Pacot, Jim L. Quick, Albert Ross, Kyle Terwilliger, Donna Vickers, Karl Winter, and Mary Jane Wright.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Manci, Jack Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, 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. For questions about specific concerns listed above, please contact Juanice Young at juanicey@gmail.com or 817-794-5626.

