



Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judaea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

“In Bethlehem in Judaea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’ ”

Matthew 2:1-6 (NIV)

January
2018

The News

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Newsletter Team

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This Changed Everything

Beginning January 7, Pastor Rich will be present a documentary film series on the 500 years of the reformation. The class will meet for 6 weeks in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. Each week, the class will include a video followed by 30 minutes of questions and discussion.

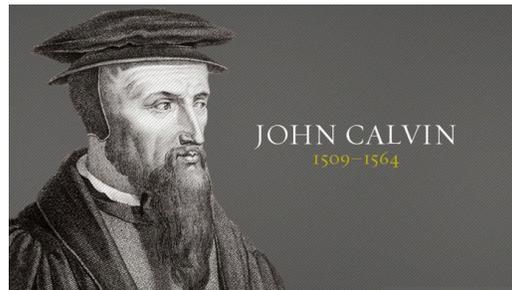
What: A 6-week documentary film class

When: 9:45 a.m. on **January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11**

Where: Fellowship Hall

Each Week: 30 minutes of film, 30 minutes of questions and discussion.

This documentary series, which recently aired on PBS, is both informative and spiritually edifying. There are spiritual, theological, psychological, and sociological forces that shape opinions today in ways that are similar to the dynamic forces of the sixteenth century: ecclesiastical power, political intrigue, the printing press, and a populace hungry for reform and



truth. This should whet our appetite for growing and reforming as followers of Jesus Christ, and will prepare us for going deeper with the Lord during

Lent. Bring a friend, and start a fruitful discussion! Please consider joining us for this 6-week adventure into the 500-year movement that changed everything.

Family on Mission

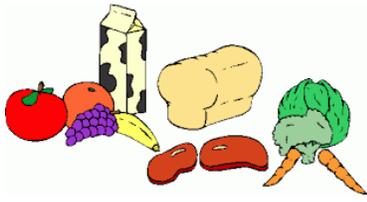
I am so pleased with this first portion of our Pilot Missional Community. For the past several months, we have gathered at least two times a month to learn what it looks, feels, and tastes (yes, yummy food) to live as a Family on Mission. We spent a lot of time learning what it means to find fruitfulness by especially studying John 15:1-8. And instead of your typical study (of which I've led countless times) where we read and say, "That's nice," and move on, we stayed on this thought of abiding. The idea is, until we began to implement Jesus' teachings, imitate Jesus' own actions as his disciples, it is not time to move on.

Looking forward to 2018, we are shifting location and focus. Art and Melina Pena have been incredibly gracious in opening their home to our Family on Mission. Now it is Tommy and Katherine Copeland's turn! We will continue to learn the rhythms of a missional community. But our focus will be preparing our emerging leaders to leave the nest and spread their wings later in the year. Keep praying for this group and where God is leading us to join him on his mission!

Live forever,

Pastor Chris

Arlington Mobile Food Pantry



FPCA has joined about nine other Arlington churches to help staff a Mobile Food Pantry. Providing food and support staff are the Tarrant Area Food Bank, Arlington Charities, and Arlington Urban Ministries. We have been to several planning sessions and plan to serve the southeast side of Arlington. St. Andrews Methodist Church has offered their parking lot, and the second Saturday morning of each month has been set for the distributions.

The training session is on the evening of Tuesday, **January 9**. Saturday, **January 13**, has been set for the first distribution. For FPCA to participate, we will need several of our church members to sign up on each Saturday with this outreach to our community.

Call Sheri Quick at 817-451-8586 or email sheriq@aol.com for more information or to volunteer.

Youth News

2018 is here, and as I reflect at all God has done in 2017 it is with JOY that I am able to say, God is good! Though 2017 was by no means a perfect year, I love seeing what God is doing in the lives of our young people at FPCA. I love how our youth have grown in their relationship with the Lord and



how they have extended the love of Christ to their friends and neighbors. This has been their heart this past year, but it is all because of the example they have been shown from our very own congregation.

Two great examples that come to mind are Allen and Carole Ray. Last year, we as a Youth Ministry partnered with them to give a male and female student at Carter Junior High a computer. Students write an essay on why they feel they are deserving of a computer and from there we select the two winners.

Our first year, we had 10 students write essays. Now, in our second year, we had 50 students turn in essays. There were so many great essays and it was hard to choose only two winners. I have to admit many of the essays even made us cry. Sometimes I don't realize how blessed I am until I hear stories from our neighbors at Carter.

I am blessed to be a part of a church that loves the Lord and their neighbors. Please join me in thanking Allen and Carole Ray for their work at Carter. They have truly been a blessing to the kids and are truly making a difference within our community. We look forward to year three of our computer program and to hear the stories from our friends at Carter on how the computers have helped them achieve their educational goals.

Blessings,

Adrian Rodriguez



Finance Update

For the Month of November 2017

Budget

Income: \$ 86,273

Expense: \$ 78,160

Summary

Income - Expense for month: \$ 8,113

Income - Expense for 2017 Year to Date: \$ 35,182



Comments:

- **Total Income** is over budget for the month by \$ 1,225 and over for the year by \$ 75,471.
- **Total Operating Income** was under budget for the month by (\$ 1,745) and over for the year by \$44,161.
- **Givers** – Under budget for the month by (\$ 1,284) and over for the year by \$ 24,398
- **Loose Offering** – Over budget for the month by \$ 720 and under for the year by (\$ 363)
- **Temporarily Restricted Funds Used** – \$ 8,871
- **Total Expenses** – Over budget for the month by \$ 282 and over for the year by \$ 39,147

Children's Ministry News

Preschool Sunday School

Preschoolers and kindergarteners love showing us what they can do. They are full of WATCH THIS moments. And it can be anything – turning in a circle, running and jumping on a pile of pillows,



curtseying like a princess, or my favorite, making their eyebrows go up and down. I love it when they learn how to do that. Their facial expressions are hilarious!

Pretty much anything they can do falls into the WATCH THIS category, simply because they think anything they learn how to do deserves a WATCH THIS moment.

This month we're going to run with that theme and the words 'WATCH THIS!' will be said... A LOT! For all of you science experiment fans, you're going to have a blast! Any messes that will be made will be TOTALLY worth it. We want to invite kids to WATCH THIS as we do a few impressive things so we can lead them to the ONE who can do ANYTHING!

The goal for this month is to learn that Jesus is the one to watch, because JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING!

We'll begin the month talking about the time Jesus caught all of those fish after Peter caught nothing. Can you imagine Jesus saying, 'Hey Peter! Watch this!' as He pulled up the net filled with fish? Jesus can do things we can't. Peter wasn't able to catch fish on his own. But, with Jesus, his nets were filled! Only Jesus can do that! Jesus can do anything.

Or, how about the time Jesus walked on water. That was definitely a WATCH THIS moment! Jesus can do what is impossible. I can't walk on water. Can you? No. We can't. It's impossible for us. But, nothing is impossible for Jesus. Jesus can do anything.

Then, there's the time Jesus fed over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Can you imagine the look on the disciples' faces as they watched the food keep coming and coming and coming and then as they picked up the leftovers? Nothing is too hard for Jesus. Feeding all those people seemed an impossible task for the disciples. But, nothing is too hard for Jesus to do. Jesus can do anything.

We'll end the month with Jesus doing something else only He can do – turning water into wine. The kids may not know what wine is, but they know it's a fancy party when you've got juice boxes or punch. They love watching water turn into a super fancy party drink. Only, we have to use drink powder to make it happen. Jesus did it all by Himself because Jesus can do anything.

Elementary Sunday School

Growing in faith is not something that happens by simply cramming information about the Bible into a child's brain. The knowledge in their head means nothing if we don't help kids experience what that knowledge can do in their heart. To experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith and that takes commitment.



God keeps all His promises and puts His plans into action. Because God has kept His promises to us, we can make a plan and stick to it. One of the best plans you can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. Commit to practicing faith by reading God's Word, praying to Him consistently, talking about Him with friends, and living out your faith every day.

WEEK 1 - Key Question: **How can you hear from God?** When kids learn they should learn to hear from God, they might have some questions. After all, when God doesn't really speak audibly, how can I hear from Him? We hope kids wrestle with this idea and learn that through reading God's Word they can hear from God and discover what God wants for their life.

WEEK 2 - Key Question: **How do you pray to God?** Kids are just starting to discover that they can pray more than before meals and at bedtime. We hope the kids in your environments learn that they can pray to God whenever they feel like praying with whatever words come to mind. God is

WEEK 3 - Key Question: **Who can you talk with about God?** Talking about what God is doing in your life is an important part of growing in faith. But not every child knows the best person to talk to about their faith. We hope kids figure out the trusted people who can be a sounding board to listen to their faith stories.

WEEK 4 - Key Question: **How can you live for God?** Kids might think that they only practice their faith when they are at church. But when you practice living for God, you discover that whatever you do—work, play, read, sing, listen, whatever—can be a way you worship God with your life.

Save the Date

- January 7** Luncheon for families with children in 6th grade or younger, 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- January 12** Kids Night Out, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- January 26** Kids Night Out, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This Month



Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the parlor. The current study is the book of Revelation. 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, January 15, 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, January 11, 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 11, 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 25, 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 18, 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 February issue of The News is January 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Esther Albright, 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, Lila Glenn, David Goff, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Claudia Johnson, Tim Karnes, Bob Koch, Pat May, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, John Pittman, Jim L. Quick, Aileigh Rodriguez, 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 Mancini, 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.