

August
2018

The News

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Table of Contents



Connecting Your Story to God's Story.....2

A Person of Peace.....3

The Great Escape 2018 and Fun in the Son 20184

Enroll in Preschool for 2018-20194

Women's Bible Study for 2018-2019.5

Children's Ministry.....5

This Month.....7

Prayer Ministry8

Newsletter Team

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Connecting Your Story to God's Story

Be a part of *THE STORY* starting on Sunday, September 16, 2018

When I was a young man, I thought I was pretty much alone in the world, and that only a very few people cared about me or my story. I struggled with depression. But I discovered that a very important person did care, and that person proved to be the most important of all. I discovered that God not only loved the whole world, but that he loved and cared about me, and wanted a relationship with me. Slowly, but surely, I began to connect with Jesus, to read the Bible, to connect my story to God's story, and I began to embrace and celebrate God's amazing love and grace in my life. When I did, I was able to extend that love to other people around me, and realize that life was much bigger than I thought.

Reading the Bible has nearly always been a struggle for me, especially in the Old Testament. It was so big, so foreign, so hard to understand and to put into context, that I found myself often giving up and avoiding it. Surprisingly, much of the Old Testament still remained a great mystery to me even after studying it for years in seminary and beyond. I learned the most by studying it with other Christians in small groups. As a pastor, I began to look for ways to make the entire Bible more accessible to myself and to other people. Then I found a terrific tool to help with this task. It is called *The Story*.

The book called *The Story* is a best-selling abridged chronological Bible. There are no verse references in the text, and the segments of scripture are woven together with transition text written to connect the storyline, so it reads like a seamless story in 31 chapters. For people new to the Bible, this way of reading scripture reduces the intimidation one can feel when approaching the full-length unabridged Bible, and it gives them a holistic and sequential picture of the storyline of Scripture. For seasoned Bible veterans, the chronological arrangement

THE STORY

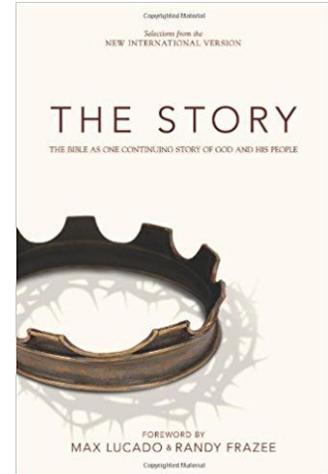
FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY.

of the essential texts reveals the way the whole Bible fits together in a single grand narrative. Reading through *The Story* triggers interest and understanding, and drives people back to the original Bible texts for further exploration.

There will be opportunities for small groups, adult classes, youth and children's classes, and families at home to engage *The Story*. We pastors will be preaching in worship on all 31 chapters (one per week) of *The Story*, taking a break from it during Advent and Christmas season. We will arrive with Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, and wrap up with the early church in mid-May. It is an opportunity you won't want to miss. You will emerge with a new understanding of the great scope of God's redemptive history through reading God's Word in the Bible.

You will be hearing more about The Story in coming weeks. But start praying now for how you might be involved, and friends and family that you may want to invite to connect their story to God's story. I pray that the big picture of God's amazing love for the world, and for you, will come alive for you in a new and powerful way.

--Pastor Rich McDermott



A Person of Peace



One of the concepts we taught during *Family on Mission* last summer and have continued to teach in our Pilot Missional Community is that of the Person of Peace. Luke 10 is one of the places Jesus practically teaches people about the Person of Peace. God has called us to intentionally love people who are not yet believers. It is someone who is open to the peace that Jesus brings. Alex Absolam teaches that someone becomes your person of peace when they respond to how Jesus looks in you. A person of peace has five qualities:

1. They welcome you.
2. They receive you and implicitly receive Jesus in you. They are not a believer but like that you are.
3. They serve you.
4. You intentionally invest in those most open to you. Be focused. Depth over breadth.
5. They become a gatekeeper into their network of relationships.

It is the epitome of one of our MARKS of FPCA – Relational Evangelism.

Since January, I formed a friendship with a Person of Peace at the gym. After spending 20 years in the Army and some time in law enforcement since, he was stuck. He was missing purpose in his life and did not know what to do with his life other than go fishing. We spent time talking about this and it was something I prayed about. Guess what! He got a new job, but it is out of state. He has moved to get started and while I am happy for him, I personally did not get to experience the full closure of perhaps him coming to faith. I do trust that God used me in these months to invest in him and I trust God will place someone else in his life to pick up where I left off. Prayers for my friend and for all of us seeking to grow the kingdom through relational evangelism.

--Pastor Chris Campbell

The Great Escape 2018 and Fun in the Sun 2018



Our middle and high school students had an amazing time at camp this summer. They learned about God's creation and were able to see His creation with their own eyes each day. Whether it was the beautiful mountains or the beach, they were reminded that God is the creator.

Furthermore, they learned that we live in a fallen world, but God loves us so much that he sent his son

Jesus Christ to die on a cross for us. These were definitely trips of a lifetime for many of our students.

These trips are not possible without the prayers and support from our church. Thank you so much to those who helped us financially, with snacks or supplies, and prayed for us. You all are rock stars!

Blessings,

Adrian



Enroll in Preschool for 2018-2019



Come Grow With Us

Voted Best of the Best 2015 Private Preschool and Favorite Private School in Arlington Today 2015
Highly Qualified Teachers
Low Teacher to Student Ratios

NAC Accredited

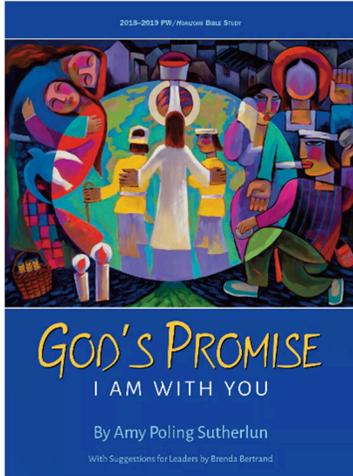
Church members get a 10% Discount!

First day of school is August 13, 2018

Serving Children Six Weeks to Pre-K

Women's Bible Study for 2018-2019

Guides for the women's Bible study for the 2018-2019 year are now available for pickup in the church workroom. There is a box on the long counter with the guides and an envelope for the cost of the book. The guides are \$10. Please make sure to sign your name and note if you paid with cash or by check.



The study this year will be *God's Promise: I Am with You* by Amy Poling Sutherland. The Presbyterian Women website describes it:

In nine lessons, this study traces God's recurring promise of presence from Genesis through the Gospels—from the beginning to the end of the age. God's "I am with you" promise is spoken in varied circumstances and to many different people throughout scripture. Some instances may be quite familiar, while others might surprise you.

The group will resume its meetings on Monday, September 17, in the church parlor at 6:00 p.m. All women are invited to this Bible study.

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

Children's Ministry

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

We are super excited about our new theme as we leave land and head for water with Anchors Away. We're even more excited about our bottom line as we set sail to teach preschoolers that God's way is perfect.

When you think about it, there are tons of different ways we can go in life. And, they can all sound like the right way at the same time. Our kids are going to grow up with more choices than ever on which way to go. Every

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Jonah Jonah 1:1-3:10	STORY FOCUS I should go God's way.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Naaman 2 Kings 5:1-14	STORY FOCUS I can do what God says even when it's hard.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Josiah (Young King) 2 Chronicles 34	STORY FOCUS I can help others go God's way.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Gideon's Army Judges 7:1-8	STORY FOCUS God's way is always perfect.
		
MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GOD'S WAY IS PERFECT." 2 SAMUEL 22:31, NIRV	WHOSE WAY IS PERFECT?	GOD'S WAY IS PERFECT.
GOD LOVES ME.		

day, they will have to decide if they are going to go this way or that way. Is this the right way, or is that the right way?

That's where we come in! We have the opportunity to begin teaching our children that God's way is perfect. In fact, GOD'S way is the ONLY way that is 100% the RIGHT way every, single time! Not my way. Not your way. God's way!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND KFC



- Week 1** **Luke 2:41-52** Jesus Grows in Wisdom
Say This: If you want to be wise, search for wisdom.
- Week 2** **Proverbs 22:3** Wise People See Danger
Say This: If you want to be wise, look before you leap.
- Week 3** **2 Chronicles 10** Rehoboam Listens to Fools
Say This: If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.
- Week 4** **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord
Say This: If you want to be wise, trust God to give you wisdom.

Remember This

"If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it.
He will give it to you."
James 1:5a, NIV

Life App

WISDOM – Finding out what you should do and doing it

This Month



Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the parlor. 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 on summer hiatus. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 17, 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, August 2, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, August 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, August 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.



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.



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!

Saints Alive! is on hiatus for the summer. Church seniors will begin meeting again for a potluck lunch on Thursday, September 20, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



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

Deadline for the September issue of The News is August 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Esther Albright, Elaine Bahn, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Kevin Chin, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Tommy and Kathryn Copeland and family, Michael Deardorff, Laura and Moses Duffney, Neal Estes, Don Farrell, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Tim Karnes, Pat May, Allen Miller, J. Fred Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, J.D. Paulk, John Pittman, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Marcia Rober, Aileigh Rodriguez, 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, James Dailey, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Amie Murtha, 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.