



*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die...*

Ecclesiastes 3.1-2

*... a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time
to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to
dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a
time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast
away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a
time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of
peace.
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (KJV)*

September
2017

The News

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Family on Mission

Last month, we concluded our summer study of Mike and Sally Breen’s book *Family on Mission*. To be honest, it was everything I had hoped it would be. Those three words, family-on-mission, sound so simple and we bring our preconceived ideas about what they mean. But I do not think it is too far a stretch to suggest that the Breens have grounded them in a biblical way that is challenging, inspiring, and not what we usually have in mind.

It was amazing to see the intergenerational exchange among class members. Some said they wish they had this book when they were younger because they would have parented differently. And the great thing about this instruction is that we all have the opportunity to serve as spiritual parents right here and now no matter what stage of life we are in. That obviously applies to parents with children in the house, but it is just as true for the couples without children, singles, widowers - every category you can think of.

We even shared our first family meal to get a glimpse of what it could be like to live and function together. That even included our kids running around and of course delicious food.

This is launching some of us into a pilot missional community that I will be most excited to share with you over the coming months. If you missed the study, you will not regret borrowing or purchasing a copy for yourself!

Live Forever,
Pastor Chris



Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services



Some 70 youth, staff, and foster parents that are under the PCHAS “umbrella” came for Sunday services and lunch on August 13. This was our 32nd Annual Outing to a Texas Rangers game.

Special thanks go to the Fellowship Team with Isobel Peden at the helm, Divine Agha, Lou and Charles Arnold, Shirley Herzog, George Neill, Mary Spencer, and Sandy and Harold Thomlinson for the lunch preparations.

With plenty of extra food, we were well taken care of at the

ballgame. The Rangers came up just a little shy of beating the Astros, but we all had fun (including Lew Johnson who couldn't pass up sharing the Sunday Special at the Ballpark - \$1 ice cream - with the youth).

We also had an opportunity to learn more about the many programs that PCHAS provides:

- Adoption – Services for both women considering placing a child for adoption and families wanting to adopt children
- Foster care – Screening, training, and support for foster families
- Child and family – Services and support to stabilize families during a crisis
- Group homes – On Itasca campus, for privately and CPS-placed children, ages 5 to 18
- Single parent family – On Waxahachie campus, support and services to promote self-sufficiency
- Transitional living – Support and encouragement for young adults 18 to 24 years old
- Education – Tutoring and guidance for children in programs, including group homes

PCHAS has a new opportunity for helping single parent families. It is expanding that program at its Waxahachie campus to double current capacity, from 7 homes to 14. PCHAS is looking for churches that might be willing to help provide some much needed items as new families move in to the homes. Contact Marge and Bob Dawson for more details.

Box Tops for Education

FPCA is conducting a church-wide collection of Box Tops for Education to benefit Carter Junior High and Blanton Elementary. These labels can be found on the tops and sides of various General Mills packages. Each label is worth 10-cents for K-8 schools. You can turn them in at the orange "Box Tops" shoeboxes located in the church office and in the Fellowship Hall entrance hallway. Thanks for taking the time to save these labels to benefit our local schools!



Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

It's time for a favorite of preschoolers and their leaders! It's Super Kids month! All kids want to be Super Kids, and they can when they realize that God is always with them. Because God is with them, they can be brave. Because God is with them, they can be strong. Because God is with them, they can be courageous. Because God is with them, they can be wise.



We want our preschoolers to know that when they know God is always with them, they can be super! This month, our preschoolers will learn that we can do super things when we trust that God is always with us and do things His way. Yes, super – the kind of super that really

matters – comes from God, and it's not about what WE can do but about what GOD can do.

We will start our Super Kid month with the story of Elijah and the fire. The story focus is “when God is with me, I can be brave.” The children will hear how Elijah trusted God to be with him as he challenged those who worshiped the fake god Baal. He was brave as he stood up to the king who worshiped an idol rather than the one true God.

Then, the children will meet one of the strongest women in the Bible, Esther. The story focus is “when God is with me, I can be strong.” We're not talking about the normal super power strong, we're talking about the strength that only God can supply. Esther used this strength to save her people.

In week three, preschoolers will meet another woman from the Bible, Rahab and learn how her trusting God kept two spies safe. The story focus is “when God is with me, I can be

courageous.”Because God was with her, Rahab had the courage to keep Joshua’s spies safe and therefore saved her family from harm.

We’ll finish the month with the story of Joshua and how he knocked down a city wall by just walking around it! The story focus is “when God is with me, I can be wise.” God told Joshua to lead his men to walk around the city of Jericho’s wall without weapons, just trumpets. That must have sounded pretty unusual to Joshua, but he was wise and trusted God and did what God said. This story is a favorite of preschoolers everywhere.

We want our preschoolers to grow up knowing that God will use them to do super things when they trust that He is ways with them and do things His way. THAT is what makes a super kid...well...super!

Elementary Sunday School

God desires a relationship with us. That’s why He created us in the first place. When we sinned and broke that relationship, God continued to pursue us. God sacrificed His only Son to make it possible for us to have a relationship with Him again.

Jesus demonstrated friendship in the most generous way possible. He showed us the greatest love when He laid down His life for His friends. He went to the cross, not on principle or for a cause, but because of love and wanting to be with us forever.

Friendship is a reflection of the character of God.

WEEK 1 - What makes someone a good friend? At this phase in their life, kids are starting to experience the ups and downs of friendship. That’s why we start with a foundational question to help them wrestle with what God says about having strong friendships with others. If they can recognize the qualities God desires for friendship, they’ll not only choose friends who exhibit those, but hopefully will put them into practice for themselves.

We start the month with something Jesus said in John 13:34, *I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you, (NIrV)*. Along with that, we’ll take a look at one of the most famous friendships in the entire Bible: **David and Jonathan**. These guys went through a lot together. From making a promise to help each other to escaping the dangers of Jonathan’s own father, King Saul, they showed us exactly what it meant for friends to love each other.

Bottom Line: **Friends love one another.** Loving our friends often means putting aside what we want to give our friends what they need. We pray that kids will learn how they can show love to their friends in everyday situations at home and school.

WEEK 2 - What does it mean to accept a friend? Even kids will tell you that some people are easier to get along with than others. But just because we get along with some people better than others, doesn’t mean we ignore them or treat them poorly.

In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, *Christ has accepted you. So accept one another in order to bring praise to God, (NIrV)*. We see this played out perfectly through **Paul and Barnabas**. Paul had a terrible reputation, one that was well deserved. But after his encounter with Jesus, Paul changed. Barnabas believed that about Paul, accepted him, and stood up for him as he introduced Paul to the rest of the apostles.

Bottom Line: **Friends accept one another.** We pray that kids start to realize that regardless of how people dress, what they own, or are able to do, we are called to accept them and show them how much God loves them with our friendship.

WEEK 3 - When a friend hurts you, how do you respond? When kids are tweenagers, it doesn't take long for best friends to become worst enemies. It's inevitable that friends will get into an argument, but when kids are equipped with how to respond, forgiveness might be an easier option for building bridges in the broken relationship.



In Colossians 3:13, Paul writes, *Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you,* (NIV). Towards the end of the book of John we see through **Jesus and Peter**. After denying Jesus three times, Peter was feeling guilty and

ashamed. But Jesus still had plans for Peter. Jesus forgave Peter and restored the broken friendship. And when we put our faith in Jesus, Jesus offers that same forgiveness to us. In turn, we can offer forgiveness to others.

Bottom Line: Friends forgive one another. While it's true that people will do things that hurt us, we need to be willing to let it go and forgive because God forgave us first.

WEEK 4 - How can you be a friend this week? At some point in a person's life, he or she is going to need someone they can trust to help them through it. Kids know what's happening in their friends' lives. However, they don't always know how to help. Through the discussion this week, we hope to help kids come up with simple ideas they can put into practice to encourage those friends no matter what they're going through.

We close out the month with something Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, *So encourage each other with the hope you have. Build each other up. In fact, that is what you are doing,* (NIV). When **Job** experienced trial after trial, his friends decided to help. They didn't bring meals or tell jokes. Rather, they came along side and grieved with Job. Now, we find out they didn't always get it right, but for that first week, they let Job know that they were there for him.

Bottom Line: **Friends encourage one another.** Kids might not always know what to say or do when it comes to helping cheer up their friends. We pray they discover that they can encourage each other even if it simply means being a shoulder to lean on.

Save the Date

Kids Night Out - September 15, September 29

Back Packs and Supplies for Carter Kids



Time for Choir!

Music Ministry

Interested in leading worship through music?
Join the Chancel Choir,
Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble,
Agape Youth Choir, or Children's Music Ministries!

Contact Russell Farnell for information:
817-274-8286 or
russell@firstprestexas.org

- Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.
- Ring of Praise handbell ensemble starts rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6, at 6:15 pm.
- Agape Youth Choir will be inviting Carter Jr. High choir students to the YouthCUE choir festival in February.
- Children's Music Ministries resume on Sunday, September 10. We are looking at meeting from 12:45 to 1:45 this year with a lunch for the kids after the 11:00 service for people who are interested. Your child is eligible for Children's Music Ministries if they are 4 years old at the start of the school year (August 21).

The Men's Conference at Mo Ranch

A couple of Georges - George Neill and George Morey - attended the 66th Annual Men's Conference held at Mo Ranch May 5 to 7, 2017. It is the largest gathering of Presbyterian men in the United States with over 400 attending.



The theme of this year's conference was "Navigating Life, Steered by the Compass of the Word." The keynote speaker was the Reverend Dr. Blair Monie, the pastor of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church for 19 years before retiring 2 years ago. The Scriptural reference for his talk was the famous passage from Micah: *"He has told you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* - Micah 6:8

The Bible study leader again this year was the very popular Reverend Dr. Robert Crilley, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Grapevine for 24 years.

Both pastors provided meaningful and hopeful messages to a group of men finding their purpose in God's Kingdom.

Workshop sessions covered a wide-ranging group of topics. Activities included several "sports" (e.g., canoeing and horse shoes) and a men's choir that sang Saturday evening.

The weekend culminated with a 7:00 a.m. worship and communion service on a hill overlooking the Hill Country and the Guadalupe River.

Next year's men's conference is May 4 to 6, 2018. The keynote speaker will be Reverend Donovan Drake. If you have an interest in attending, please reserve a room at Mo Ranch now.

Senior Flexibility Class

New Name, New Days, and Room Change

Come get fit with us! The Senior Flexibility Class will be changing its days to Tuesday and Friday at 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in Room 103 (next to the Preschool office) The new days and location will begin Tuesday, September 5.

There is no charge, but participants will be responsible for purchasing and storing their own exercise equipment. If interested, contact Thomas Dombrowsky at 817-287-9773 or tomasdom@sbcglobal.net.



HOPE Tutoring Pancake Breakfast



PANCAKE BREAKFAST
benefitting
HOPE TUTORING CENTER

HOPE TUTORING CENTER
Helping Our Pupils Excel
www.hopetutoring.com

Saturday, Sept. 9
8:30 - 11:00 am
Tickets \$7 at the door

Hosted by:
Trinity United Methodist Church
1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington

It's Not Too Late to Become a HOPE Tutor

Scheduled training for HOPE volunteers was on August 31. *However*, if you were unable to attend, additional training sessions are available by appointment.

To arrange for training, call 817-860-7757, or e-mail HOPE Tutoring at either coordinator.hope@sbcglobal.net or hope_tutoring@sbcglobal.net. For more information, check the website at www.hopetutoring.com.

Volunteer now!

Youth Ministry

The Lord is Worthy of Praise

Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness. - Psalm 145:3

As the summer has come and gone and I look back at everything we have done as a youth ministry, I am reminded of God's faithfulness and goodness. The Lord is definitely worthy to be PRAISED!

First, we can praise God for his provision. We had a challenge to raise at least \$8,500. Through several fundraisers, Rent-a-Student, and special gifts from our church family and others, we were able to raise over \$14,000. The Lord is definitely worthy to be PRAISED! Rent-a-Student is particularly special because it allowed our youth to learn how to serve God's people by helping several of our church members with odd jobs around their homes. It was awesome seeing our youth serve our church members.

Second, we can praise God for leading our youth to a closer relationship with him. From June 17 to 24, youth leaders, our very own junior high students, and I went on the adventure of a lifetime to Gunnison, Colorado, for the Great Escape. Our trip included stops in Amarillo, Texas; New Mexico; and of course the beautiful Rockies of Colorado. Many of our students on the trip had



never been to Colorado, so it was such a huge treat for them and they absolutely loved it. This trip saw three of our youth give their lives to Christ. The Lord is definitely worthy to be PRAISED!

Last, we can praise God for adding to his number even more. Fun in the Sun was our trip to South Padre Island, Texas, on July 10 to 14, for our high school students. Just like the Great Escape, we had a number of kids who had never been to South Padre Island, so it too was a treat for them. This trip was amazing to say the least. God

showed up in an amazing way. Just like with the Great Escape, the worship and fun started as soon as we arrived. The rest of the week included an array of activities like fun at Schlitterbahn Water Park, the beach, and much more. This will definitely be a trip that our high school students will never forget. Three more of our youth accepted Christ on this trip. Again, the Lord is definitely worthy to be PRAISED!



In closing, I am just in awe at what the Lord is doing at FPCA with our youth! Seeing them worship and grow in their relationship with Christ is a beautiful sight. Please continue to pray for us as we look to grow and make preparations for our fall and spring activities. In addition, please pray for our students as they start school again. Thank you in advance for all of your prayers and support!

Blessings in Christ,
Adrian Rodriguez

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, September 18, 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. 6. 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, September 14, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, September 14, 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, September 28, 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, September 21, 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 October issue of The News is September 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Yvonne Babb, David Boice, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Lee Carol Copeland, Brad Davis, Laura Duffney, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, David Goff, Edna Harris, Andrew Hydock, Tim Karnes, 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 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 or his cell phone: 970-218-3689. For questions about specific concerns listed above, please contact Juanice Young at juanicey@gmail.com or 817-794-5626.

