



*Humble  
yourselves,  
therefore,  
under God's  
mighty hand,  
that he may  
lift you up in  
due time.*

*1 Peter 5:6*

February  
2018

# The News

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The News is a publication of  
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## *Soul Keeping*

A six-week Lenten Bible study, video, and sermon series, starting Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018

### **WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER FORMING A GROUP DURING LENT FOR SOUL KEEPING**

by Pastor Rich McDermott

Lent is a time for preparation, repentance, reflection, and prayer. This year, FPCA will focus on a new book/Bible study and DVD video curriculum by John Ortberg called *Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You*.

Ortberg takes you on an exploration of the soul from the perspective of someone who has struggled to understand and care for his own soul. He shares his honest, funny, moving, insightful, and tender journey with you so that you can better care for your own soul. Your soul's resting place is in God, both in this life and the next, and we want to help you to enjoy it now!

Consider how many famous passages from the Bible have to do with the soul:

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.* - Deuteronomy 6:5, -Mt. 22:37

*...he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.* -Psalm 23:2-3

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.* - Psalm 103:1

*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen in whom my soul delights;...* - Isaiah 42:1

*Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* - Matthew 10:28

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,..* - Luke 1:46

*Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul,..* - Acts 4:32

*Beloved, I urge you ... to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul.* - 1 Peter 2:11





Or consider this quotation from Ortberg's favorite mentor:

*Our soul is like an inner stream of water, which gives strength, direction, and harmony to every other element of our life. When that stream is as it should be, we are constantly refreshed and exuberant in all we do, because our soul itself is then profusely rooted in the vastness of God and his kingdom, including nature; and all else within us is enlivened and directed by that stream. Therefore we are in harmony with God, reality, and the rest of human nature and nature at large. - Dallas Willard in *Renovation of the Heart**

We believe that this Lent can have a profound spiritual impact on the lives of all those willing to join this *Soul Keeping* movement. There will be opportunities on Sundays to sign up to facilitate a group. Pick a time in the week you would like to meet; invite neighbors, friends and family to meet weekly. Get a study guide for each person, share a book with a spouse or friend, and get a DVD. Each weekly video session is 22 to 24 minutes, and the study guide is the resource for discussion and personal study. Tell Kim Lewis ([kim@firstprestexas.org](mailto:kim@firstprestexas.org), 817-274-8286) when you are meeting and who is meeting with you. Make 2018 a year of spiritual growth for you!

## Pilot Missional Community

by Pastor Chris Campbell



In December, the Discipleship Team invested in our missional leaders by purchasing the *Missional Community Starter Kit*. It fits perfectly where our Family on Mission has been going, and will spur us on where God is sending us! While our pilot missional community has been learning what it looks and feels like to develop the necessary rhythms of an MC, the Starter Kit will provide the practical and expert guidance before our leaders launch their MCs. Alex Absalom was the keynote speaker at the Fellowship Community's national gathering last year, so some of our church leaders got a great preview of what was coming. Doug Paul is another pastor, and together they have published a handy field guide which corresponds with online teaching through their Church Innovation Lab. We will have access to virtual coaching throughout the year as well as a private Facebook group for fellow Starter Kit leaders across the globe.

In January, we reviewed some basics like revisiting the definition of an MC: *A Missional Community is an extended family of relationships, centered around Jesus, who go and make disciples amongst a specific group of people far from*

*God.* We are a group of 20 to 50+ people (both adults and children). The focus is on forming disciple-making disciples of Jesus. We have a healthy mixture of UP, IN, and OUT together. An MC is defined by a Mission Vision to a specific neighborhood or network of relationships. And there is an expectation of multiplication from day 1.



Over these next weeks, we all will be discerning who God is calling us to reach through a specific mission vision. Each MC that launches will be unique in this respect. The form and structure will be very similar, but the approach and nuances may differ depending on who the MC is trying to reach.

No matter what, this is all about discipling leaders who will be equipped to disciple others. With God's leading and blessing, the multiplication effect of disciple-making will be phenomenal and it will all be done to the glory of God!

## A New Journey

### To the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington

As many of you know, I have served in two positions during my time at FPCA; the obvious one is Organist, the other is Interim Facilities Manager. At the end of October of 2017, I concluded my role as Interim Facilities Manager when we hired Gary Lindley, who is doing an outstanding job of taking on that role for us. So, naturally, I started looking for new things to do. When we hosted the presbytery meeting in November, I stumbled upon the exhibit of the Church Music Institute (CMI), and that gave me an idea. The idea that I had was to send my organ music library catalog to the executive director of CMI to see if it could be of any use to them, as they are producing both choral and organ reference libraries for the church music community. The response I got was, "of course we would love to use this information," and long story short, I suggested I would be interested in part-time employment if it was needed. So I began working there part-time that next week, doing miscellaneous tasks involving their libraries and more.

Up until December, I had planned to do my two jobs together, but things happened and a new step in my career has been put before me: I have accepted a full-time position as Director of Administration & Communications with the Church Music Institute in Dallas, Texas. While I am thankful for my time here at FPCA and have grown in the church music area of organ, I feel this new role will place me in a better position for the future. Upon taking this new position, this means I will not be able to keep up with my duties here at FPCA, so my last Sunday to play services will be February 11, 2018.



My time here at FPCA has been an all learning experience. I'd like to say thank you to the Facilities Team and all of them for helping me work through issues in that department, and for their guidance when I needed insight on some of our issues. I'd like to thank the choir for all of their support of me both inside FPCA and outside of it when I had events elsewhere. A sincere thank you goes to Russell Farnell for showing me new ways of worship planning, service playing, and bringing new ideas into my ministry.

At CMI, I will gain connections nationwide in the very small world of sacred music academia, performance, and publishing. I feel that I have been blessed with other skills to promote the Church and its music, and this calling is an ideal time to begin this journey. If there is anything I can do to assist FPCA while working at CMI, please let me know. Being relieved of regular

church playing responsibilities for some time will allow me to focus on preparing organ repertoire and presenting recitals, which has not been possible the past year. At this point, it would be more beneficial to me for my own musical development and gratification. I will benefit later from developing these other playing skills, and will serve the church as a regular organist at a higher level in the future.

I hope to keep in touch with you, and that the transition to a new organist will be a smooth and rewarding one.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lang, MM

## Children's Ministry

### Preschool Sunday School

Jesus loves everyone is the sweetest news we will ever share with our preschoolers. And since sweets are a HUGE part of this month—with all of the heart-shaped cookies and candy hearts—we decided the perfect theme for February would be SWEET SHOP!!



We will hear the stories of the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, the unloved woman, and Peter. Jesus showed love to all of these people, and it's the same kind of love He has for you and me and every preschooler that we get to teach each Sunday. We want our preschoolers to grow up knowing that Jesus loves us all, no matter what, and He will never stop loving us.

We'll begin the month learning about the woman at the well. Even though she was from a different place than Jesus, He still wanted to be her friend. Jesus loves everyone. No matter where we're from, Jesus loves us. No matter how different we are from each other, Jesus loves us.

The second week of the month we'll meet Zacchaeus. He made bad choice after bad choice, but Jesus still wanted to be his friend.

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong. We can be unkind. We can fail to share our things. We can make bad choices. Even when we do all these things, Jesus still loves us.

During week three, preschoolers will hear about the woman that no one else loved—you know, the one that was about to be stoned to death. Yep, Jesus loved her too. Can you imagine how that woman felt when Jesus came to her rescue? Jesus loves us when no one else does. Even when we feel alone, we can know that Jesus loves us.

We'll end the month with Peter. He denied Jesus three times just like Jesus said he would. But Jesus didn't stop loving him. No matter what we do, Jesus doesn't stop loving us. No matter where we go, Jesus doesn't stop loving us. Jesus always loves each and every one of us.

So get your sweet tooth—and your heart—ready for a super sweet month filled with the good news that JESUS LOVES EVERYONE! It's going to be one, huge, sugar overload, not because of candy but because Jesus' love is just that big and sweet!



## Elementary Sunday School and KFC



God was kind to us even when we didn't deserve it. Even when we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. Because of God's great love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Jesus personified kindness in the way He lived and interacted with the people He met. But, as we read the Gospels, we find that Jesus didn't just model kindness. He commanded it. By treating others the way we want to be treated, we live out the way Jesus taught us to live.

### WEEK 1

**Key Question:** What does kindness look like? When kids can identify the kindness of others, they have a better chance of replicating that in their own life. We want kids to figure out how they can show kindness to others based on the ways people have been kind to them.

We start the month talking about the foundation for our kindness. In Titus 3:4-7, Paul talked about God's amazing kindness towards us. God poured out His kindness when He sent Jesus to rescue us from the consequences of our sin. We can have life forever because of God's kindness and love.

**Bottom Line:** Be kind to others because God is kind to you. We pray that as kids learn about God's kindness through Jesus, they will see how they can reflect God's kindness to the people in their lives.

### WEEK 2

**Key Question:** When is it hard to be kind? If we're completely honest, we encounter situations when we don't feel like being kind. Kids are starting to understand how to think about what they do and don't want to do. We hope they can work through the difficulties they face when showing kindness when they don't want to show kindness. If they can identify when it's hard to be kind, they can figure out a plan to help them show kindness anyway.

In Ruth 1 and 2, we find Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth. Their husbands have died and Ruth has the opportunity to return home to her family. Instead, she chooses to show kindness to Naomi and stay with her. Ruth's kindness doesn't go unnoticed. Boaz notices how Ruth is caring for her mother-in-law. He goes above and beyond to care for Ruth and completely changes her life.

**Bottom Line:** Be kind to your family and friends. When it comes to our family and friends, we often find ourselves taking them for granted. We hope through the story of Ruth, kids will learn to show kindness to those they care about most.

### WEEK 3

**Key Question:** Have you ever received unexpected kindness? Often the best kindness is the kindness that feels completely random. We want to help kids discover how they feel when someone surprises

them with kindness. Help them figure out the unexpected ways they can show kindness to people in their lives.

In Matthew 25:35-40, we'll revisit one of Jesus' teachings on kindness. For one reason or another, people are overlooked every day—no one even notices them, much less shows kindness to them. But Jesus says that when we show kindness to one of the least of these, it's as if we're showing kindness to Him. We hope kids discover how they can show kindness to people who are overlooked in their world.

**Bottom Line:** Be kind to people who are overlooked. Everyone deserves to be treated like they're valuable, no matter who they are. We hope kids start to see people who have needs and work with the adults in their life to show kindness and meet those needs.

#### WEEK 4

**Key Question:** How can you be kind to people you don't get along with? There are times when we face people who we feel don't deserve our kindness. But Jesus tells us to love our enemies. Through this question, we hope kids start to discover how they can show kindness to people who fall into this category.

We finish out our month in Matthew 5:43-48. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus expands the scope of who deserves our kindness. Not everyone will be kind to us; some may be quite mean to us. Jesus says that we should love our enemies and pray for them.

**Bottom Line:** Be kind to people who aren't kind to you. As kids discover what Jesus says about loving our enemies, we pray that they discover ways they can show God's love and kindness to people they might not get along with all of the time. They don't have to be best friends, but they can be kind.

## Save the Date

Luncheon for families with children  
in sixth grade or younger      **February 4** after the 11:00 service

Kids Night Out      **February 9 and 23** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



## The 4-Week New Members Class

**Fixin' to Join: An Adventure in Christian Community**

**Begins Sunday, February 25, at 9:45 a.m. in Room 214, in the Brown Hall**

- Week One: "Your Story: A Journey with the Living Christ"
- Week Two: "On Being a Christian in a Postmodern World"
- Week Three: "Christian, Protestant, Reformed, Presbyterian"
- Week Four: "On Being Sent: Relational Ministry, Missional Discipleship and Incarnational Witness"

## YouthCUE 2018 – Coming Soon

The YouthCUE Festival of Youth Choirs will be February 9 through 11 in Waco. FPCA is sponsoring 15 singers from Carter Junior High so that they can attend this event and get a larger experience in choral music.

The following article gives an idea about why we are doing this unconventional method of missional music ministry. This piece will appear in the YouthCUE concert program:



Which comes first, music or relationship? YouthCUE choir directors and choristers agree that music is an extraordinary tool for building essential relationships. Directors expect and train their choirs toward excellence as an education for the soul, but consistently they report no performance outweighs the value of knowing students and being called to minister to them as individuals.

Russell Farnell and First Presbyterian Church in Arlington began a new adventure four years ago when their church decided to be missional in their relationship to their next-door neighbor, a junior high school full of eager and energetic teens with a spectrum of needs.

Russell had a lifelong connection to music and ministry through his grandfather who was both preacher and composer. But it was at a youth camp when the Spirit spoke directly to Russell about how he was to touch lives through his gift of music. Following his family's path, he studied Composition and Church Music. He notes that composition is valuable to a church musician because it is an extension of how he crafts a worship service. He weaves composition throughout his ministry to keep things fresh and new.

A heart open to new experiences was a perfect match when Russell began volunteering in the choir class at the neighboring school. He begins each academic year simply being present to help the boys learn their parts and assist the teacher. After he and the students get to know each other he invites them to the Baylor Festival of Youth Choirs. The invitation includes preparation and sometimes the students think there's "no way" they can be ready to sing in February. But Russell encourages them to try and see what they can accomplish.

The trip is a special treat for some who've never visited a college campus. The weekend event gives Russell time to bond with the students and share the love of Christ in ways that he can't in the classroom or during rehearsal. The opportunity to hear their voices join with hundreds of others boosts confidence and opens doors for the students.

*Love your neighbor* is truly a command that changes the world one life at a time.

## First Annual Parable of the Talents Show



Please join us February 18, 2018, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to support our youth as they present to you FPCA's First Annual Parable of the Talents Show.

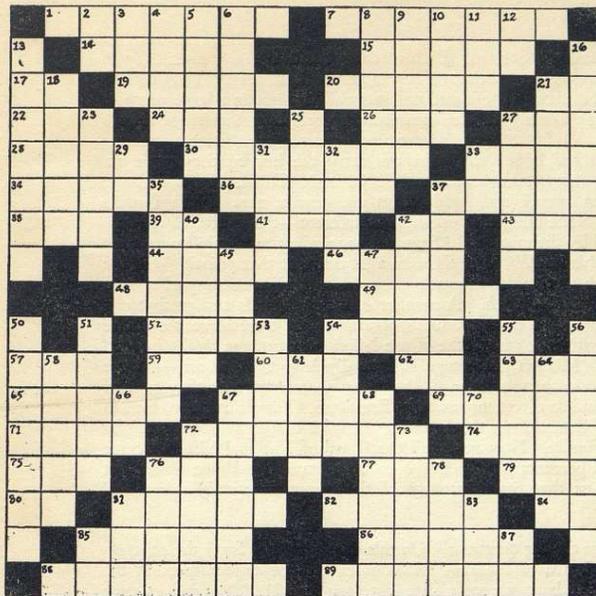
The youth will showcase not only their biblical knowledge, but also their talents. Lunch will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!

# February Puzzle

This crossword puzzle was published in 1925 in a pamphlet titled "A Few Cross Words about the Budget." In the pamphlet, the newly organized Board of National Mission asked that "every church send 42 per cent (the National Mission percentage) of its benevolent budget to the Board (with due regard to the arrangements existing between the Board and any independent synod or presbytery)... If the Board comes through this year without a deficit, there need be no more cross words about that budget."

When completing the puzzle remember that it was created almost 100 years ago. Lingo, terms, and definitions may be out of date. **Answer is on page 10.**



### ACROSS

- \* 1 A southern state, chiefly rural, but with large industrial and power developments.
- 7 What ignorance of English does to people with reference to the normal life of American communities.
- 14 Name of thirteen villages in the United States, the largest of which is in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.
- \* 15 A European race, who since the war, have experienced a strong revival of interest in Protestant religion.
- 17 That very useful sun God.
- 19 Sad news in verse.
- 20 Pleasant (Ital.).
- 21 Personal pronoun.
- 22 What our Alaskan missionaries see most of.
- 24 What the eighteenth amendment was designed to make the United States.
- 26 The least anyone can do with a hard job.
- 27 What the missionary does with the seed of the Word.
- 28 Indian tribe in Arizona.
- \* 30 Indian tribe in Idaho.
- 33 Floating marker.
- 34 Larva of the ghost moth.
- 36 Attain to.
- 37 Affectionate diminutive, applied to a boy (Ital.).
- 38 Born.
- \* 39 All of us and our country.
- 41 Conjunction.
- \* 42 Island, part of New York (ab.).
- 43 An organ.
- 44 A spring habit with a hen.
- 46 Common ancestor.
- \* 48 A Continent whose people in this coun-

- try are the occasion of one of our most acute problems of racial adjustment.
- \* 49 A western state which, while representing one of National Missions' most difficult problems, is famous for the completeness of the comity arrangements among Protestant churches.
- 52 Taverns.
- \* 54 A feature of Board financing made necessary by the church's slowness in remitting funds.
- 57 To pay the penalty for.
- 59 Of age (ab.).
- 60 Employ.
- \* 62 A Continent (ab.).
- 63 A number (Ital.).
- 65 A fog horn.
- 67 The female of the ruff.
- \* 69 Indian tribe to whom Drs. Riggs and Williamson were pioneer missionaries.
- 71 An entrance.
- \* 72 Middle west city, famous as industrial center.
- \* 74 Indian tribe in Arizona.
- 75 An innocuous beverage.
- 76 Came down suddenly.
- 77 Expire.
- 79 Month (ab.).
- 80 Civil Service (ab.).
- \* 81 State with largest rural population of any in United States.
- \* 82 Nationality related to Presbyterian Church by recent church union.
- 84 Everyone (ab.).
- 85 Contributor—may his tribe increase!
- 86 Drive back.
- 88 Commissions.
- \* 89 Part of Asia Minor, with a good many representatives, relatively, in this country.

### DOWN

- \* 2 State which has been most largely under French influence (ab.).
- 3 Thoroughfare (ab.).
- 4 Courageous.
- 5 Somewhat bitter.
- \* 6 European race with considerable Presbyterian and Reformed constituency.
- \* 8 Good Presbyterian stock.
- \* 9 Mountain area, chiefly in Missouri and Arkansas.
- 10 Legal seizure.
- 11 Unit.
- 12 Day of week (ab.).
- \* 13 State with second largest number of Indians.
- \* 16 The Synod with the greatest urban and immigrant problems; has also almost every other form of National Mission problem.
- 18 Serious.
- \* 21 Indian tribe in California.
- 23 Come in.
- 25 Two-toed sloth of South America.
- 27 Prefix, above.
- 29 That is (ab.).
- 31 Beak of a bird (pl.).
- 32 Prefix referring to a number.
- 33 Part of verb to be.
- \* 35 European race of radical social tendencies.
- 37 Animals with two hands (pl., poss.).
- 40 Net.
- 42 Author of familiar quotation "All that a man has will he give for his life."
- 45 A color.
- 47 When both talk at once.
- \* 50 Academy maintained in state named in 49 across.
- \* 51 Part of Asia-Minor people reached by our church in New England and elsewhere.
- 53 Fatty animal tissue.
- 54 Prefix, toward the left.
- 55 Rested on his feet.
- \* 56 A race a tenth of whom are in this country, especially in Southwest.
- 58 Remains.
- \* 61 A Balkan race.
- 64 East Indian coin.
- 66 Conjunction (Latin).
- 67 What a lack of economic opportunity will do to a community's development.
- 68 Sea-ducks (pl.).
- \* 72 Cottage hospital maintained by Board in New Mexico.
- 73 Plate of baked clay (pl.)
- 76 Girl's name.
- 78 Discover.
- 81 High hill.
- 83 Personal pronoun.
- 85 What many ministers are called and most of the rest want to be (ab.).
- \* 87 Island, part of New York (ab.).

\*Definitions so marked refer to some specific part of the work or responsibility of Presbyterian National Missions.

# Finance Update

## For the Month of December 2017

### Budget

Income: \$ 130,519

Expense: \$ 92,427

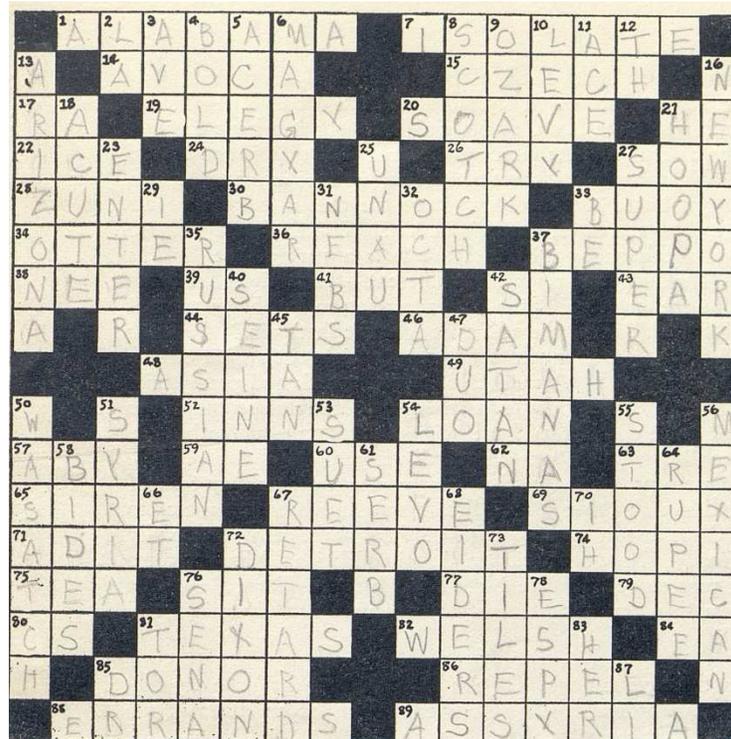
### Summary

Income - Expense for month: \$ 38,092

Income - Expense for 2017 Year to Date: \$ 73,349

### Comments:

- **Total Income** is over budget for the month by \$45,471 and over for the year by \$121,017.
- **Total Operating Income** was over budget for the month by 40,731 and over for the year by \$84,966.
- **Givers** - Over budget for the month by \$42,455 and over for the year by \$66,928
- **Loose Offering** – Over budget for the month by \$30 and under for the year by (\$1,513)
- **Temporarily Restricted Funds Used** – \$10,642
- **Total Expenses** - Over budget for the month by \$8,521 and over for the year by \$47,668



# 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, February 19, 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](mailto: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, February 1, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

### Team Meeting Night

Thursday, February 8, 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 1, 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, February 15, 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 March issue of The News is February 15!**

## **Prayer Ministry**

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** Esther Albright, Yvonne Babb, Elaine Bahn, David 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, Tim Karnes, Bob Koch, Pat May, Allen Miller, J. Fred 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](mailto:juanicey@gmail.com) or 817-794-5626.

