



AND AFTERWARD,
I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL PEOPLE.
YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY,
YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS,
YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS.
EVEN ON MY SERVANTS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,
I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS.
I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN THE HEAVENS
AND ON THE EARTH,
BLOOD AND FIRE AND BILLOWS OF SMOKE.

JOEL 2:28-30

May
2018

The News

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Rejoicing in the Power of the Holy Spirit

One might think that seeing a resurrection appearance of Jesus would be all one needed to be qualified to preach the good news of God’s redemptive work in Jesus Christ. But that is not the case. Jesus himself told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, and then explained, “for John baptized with water, but not many days from now you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Later, he said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

So, we need the power of the Holy Spirit in order to be Jesus’ witnesses. Without the Holy Spirit, we lack the spiritual vitality, the spiritual energy, and the anointing upon our respective gifts of the Spirit, to do the joyful ministry to which we are called and for which we are gifted.

Why is it that some Christians do not seem to do their ministry effectively, with joy, with enthusiasm, with commitment, and with power? Is it that some people have more of the Holy Spirit than others? No, because “no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3). As one theologian explained, “It’s that the Holy Spirit has more of some people than others.” In other words, it is a matter of yielding ourselves to the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives and allowing the Lord to transform every aspect of our lives, withholding nothing.

It is not always easy, but we know that the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. Asking, praying, and petitioning the Lord to anoint us with the Holy Spirit is one of the keys to doing Christ’s ministry with power and with joy. Yielding our hearts, our minds, and our souls to the Holy Spirit is how the Lord completes his transforming work in our lives. Let us, this Pentecost, joyfully yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit that we may rejoice in the power of that same Spirit in our lives in the coming days!

Pastor Rich



Pilot Missional Community Progress

It's been a while since I have updated you on our Pilot Missional Community. We continue to gather 2 to 3 times a month for dinner, worship, and learning.

Our kids are integrated into the pilot, sharing their own joys and prayer requests. We are working through an online teaching program with an accompanying workbook for each household. This is the crucial time when we are all discerning who God is calling us to reach.

This doesn't mean an individual or two, but what are our mission fields? The fields are ripe for harvest. Other translations describe the fields as white, indicating it's time to harvest. There are fields all around us, but one of them has been prepared, nurtured, and cared for so that we can do our kingdom work.

Mission Communities exist to reach neighborhoods or networks of relationships. I'm really excited to see where God is sending us and the lives that will be changed through our faithfulness. We always pray for one another and we pray for our church and beyond. Please remember our pilot in your prayers as well!

Pastor Chris

Standing on Holy Ground: Jesus and the Great I AM Sermon Series

The series began the week after Easter and will extend into July.

- 4/8/18 I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- 4/15/18 I AM the Bread of Life
- 4/22/18 I AM the Light of the World
- 4/29/18 I AM the Gate
- 5/6/18 I AM the Good Shepherd
- 5/13/18 I AM God's Son
- 6/3/18 I AM the Resurrection and the Life
- 6/10/18 I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life
- 6/17/18 I AM the True Vine
- 6/24/18 I AM a King
- 7/1/18 I AM the Alpha and the Omega
- 7/8/18 I AM the Root and the Descendant of David and the Bright Morning Star

Sermon podcasts for past sermons are available at: www.firstprestexas.org/sermons. Allow a few days for the most recent sermon to process.

Children's Ministry

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

We see other works of art every day that have a Maker and a plan. We pass them on the street, at work, and every Sunday they play around our feet. Are you thinking what I'm thinking? Yes, people!

People are God's works of art. He is our maker. And, He has a plan for each of us. Every neighbor. Every preschooler. Every parent. God has a plan for all of us, because He made us and loves us.

We want to teach our preschoolers this month that God has a plan for them. Imagine how much better the lives of our preschoolers and, well, all of us could be if we lived like God has a plan for us, and that God's plan is always best. We would be the complete Works of Art that God created us to be.

<p>WEEK ONE</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Joseph Gets a Coat and Goes to Egypt Genesis 37; Jeremiah 1:5</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS God has a plan for me.</p>
<p>WEEK TWO</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Joseph in Jail Genesis 39-40</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS I can trust God's plan even when it's hard.</p>
<p>WEEK THREE</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Joseph Saves the Grain Genesis 41</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS I am part of God's plan.</p>
<p>WEEK FOUR</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Joseph Forgives Genesis 42-45; Psalm 16:11</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS God's plan is always best.</p>
		
<p>MEMORY VERSE</p>	<p>KEY QUESTION</p>	<p>BOTTOM LINE</p>
<p>"THE PLANS OF THE LORD STAND FIRM FOREVER." PSALM 33:11, NIV</p>	<p>WHO HAS A PLAN FOR YOU?</p>	<p>GOD HAS A PLAN FOR ME.</p>
<p>GOD MADE ME.</p>		

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL AND KFC

God wants what is best for us. He has called us His children and given us great things. Because we know that God is good, WE CAN BE HONEST. Lying and cheating are a response to fear. They are what people do if they think no one else will take care of them. But when you trust in God, when you know His love, you have a different response. You can be truthful.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY: Naaman and Elisha's Servant, Gehazi 2 Kings 5	BOTTOM LINE When you're not truthful, you lose trust.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY: David and Ahimelek 1 Samuel 21-22	BOTTOM LINE When you're not truthful, you hurt others.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY: Haman's Plot Against the Jews Esther 3-9	BOTTOM LINE When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY: Confession/Being Honest with God 1 John 1:9	BOTTOM LINE Being truthful with God helps keep you close to Him.

MEMORY VERSE	
"ANYONE WHO LIVES WITHOUT BLAME WALKS SAFELY. BUT ANYONE WHO TAKES A CROOKED PATH WILL GET CAUGHT."	PROVERBS 10:9, NIRV
HONESTY	Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

SAVE THE DATE

- Kids Night Out** May 4 and 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Luncheon** for families with children in 6th grade or younger May 6 after the 11:00 a.m. service
- Vacation Bible School** June 11 to 15 from 9:15 to noon for children 4 years old to 6th grade

Preschool Doings

The preschool is looking forward to a busy end to the school year. Ms. Margaret taught us the true meaning of Easter in chapel. And in the classrooms, it's all about spring! We're learning and exploring frogs, bugs, plants, ducks, bunnies, and chicks.

It's also time to begin working on our Spring Program. The Spring Program is coupled with our annual fundraiser on May 17, at 6:30 p.m. The silent auction will be on display the week of May 17, and the live auction will be after the program.

The children will be watch caterpillars metamorphose into butterflies, ride Sister the pony, and prepare for Summer Camp. Summer Camp will be offered June 11 to August 3 for ages 6 weeks through third grade. Contact the preschool office at 682-551-1207 or download the registration form at www.fppsarlington.com.

Pentecost Offering



This year, our Pentecost Offering is received officially on the Day of Pentecost, May 20, 2018. As with all Special Offerings, times before and after this date are appropriate for donations also. On Pentecost Sunday, we join Christians around the world to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. The Pentecost Offering benefits children at risk, youth, and young adults. Forty percent of the offering stays locally, and this year will go to HOPE Tutoring as decided by the Mission and Evangelism Team with Session approval. The other percentage will support General Assembly ministries for youth development.

For more information on the Pentecost Offering, see www.pcusa.org/pentecost.

Offering envelopes are available outside the chapel and sanctuary several weeks before the offering and after for several weeks. Please use the Pentecost envelopes or designate on your check or other envelope if you are giving to the Pentecost Offering.

Please help aid youth programs in our city as well as our country and world. The theme this year is "Building a Life of Faith". The Bible verse is "God from my youth you have taught me" (Psalm 71:17).

Finance Update

For the Month of March 2018:

Budget

Income: \$ 103,964

Expense: \$ 118,608

Income - Expense for month: \$ (14,644)

Income - Expense for 2018 Year to Date: \$ (45,227)

Comments:

- Total Income is over budget for the month by \$13,875 and over for the year by \$10,213.
- Total Operating Income was under budget for the month by (\$7,657) and under for the year by (\$34,223).
- Donors - Under budget for the month by (\$10,801) and under for the year by (\$23,441).
- Loose Offering – Under budget for the month by (\$8,802) and under for the year by (\$32,243).
- Temporarily Restricted Funds Used for the year – \$58,793.
- Total Expenses - Over budget for the month by \$11,027 and over for the year by \$16,401.

Interesting New Books in the Library

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger has recently been added to the fiction collection of the FPCA library. This is a quiet and thoughtful mystery set in a small town in Minnesota, in 1963. During the summer of that year, in that small town, death visited frequently and assumed many forms – accident, nature, suicide, murder. The story is told by Frank, who was a teen in that fateful summer, but is recalling the events 40 years later. Frank's father is a minister and holds the family together with his steady faith in the enduring grace of a loving God. Frank's younger brother sees with a wisdom beyond his years and shows the loving grace of man. And Frank's growing faith and maturity during the sad days of that summer are wonderful to read.

Another fiction book in the library is ***A Man Called Ove*** by Fredrik Backman. This is a delightful book which surprises and amuses the reader, with clever plot twists and lovely prose. The main character, Ove, is a grumpy old man who is determined to leave this world and join his wife whose death has left him lonely and hopeless. But somehow all his attempts at suicide fail and people keep pushing themselves into his ordinary life, making things much too complicated for a man of such a practical nature. The book is funny and clever and a reminder that life is sweeter when it is shared with other people.

Box Tops for Education



Thank you so much to everyone who has been collecting Box Tops for Education! So far this school year, we have collected about 650 box tops for a total of \$65 for Blanton Elementary and Carter Junior High.

Please continue to collect these labels, which can be found on the tops and sides of various General Mills packages. Each label is worth 10-cents for K through 8 schools. You can turn them in to the orange "Box Tops" shoeboxes located in the church office and in the Fellowship Hall entrance hallway.

A few tips for collecting:

- Please check the expiration date since the program does not accept box tops that have expired.
- If you have time to trim the box tops label before turning it in, that makes them easier to sort and process.

Feel free to email Laura.Farnell@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you for taking the time to help benefit our local schools!

Welcome Home!

Ross and Ellen Dill have rejoined FPCA by letter of transfer from New Braunfels Presbyterian Church, where they have been members for the past 12 years. Ellen grew up attending FPCA with her family, and Ross joined shortly after they were married here in the sanctuary. They celebrated their 50th anniversary earlier this year.

Ellen retired from Arlington Memorial Hospital after working over 25 years in the laboratory. Ross is still working, but winding down to part time with less work travel. Both have taught Sunday school and served on numerous committees. Ross has served as elder both at FPCA and NBPC and deacon at FPCA.

Ross and Ellen have two married sons. Eric and wife Ginger and Ryan and wife Lauren have made Ross and Ellen proud grandparents to five grandchildren. Ross and Ellen are glad to be back home!

Presbyterian Habitat for Humanity Project

The address for the Presbyterian Habitat for Humanity house is 925 Irma Street, Fort Worth. That is just east of I-35 and about a half mile south of I-30.

Donations received from local congregations total \$59,790 so far. (If you would like to contribute, you can do so at church or online at TrinityHabitat.org/presby.)

Now is the time to sign up for the build time slots. Please do that as soon as possible at <http://vhub.at/presbyterians>. Ask Stuart Hanson for more details.

Ask your friends to come - it's a great way to expose our mission to the world! No experience is necessary, and tools and training will be provided at the site. Ages 16 to 100 can participate.

The dates are: **May 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18, 19; and June 1, 2.** Work hours are: **7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



Save the Date!

What: Fellowship lunch, PCHAS presentation, and Ranger game

When: June 10

More details to come!

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, May 21, 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, May 3, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, May 10, 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, May 24, 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, May 17, 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
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Deadline for the June issue of The News is May 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Esther Albright, Elaine Bahn, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Kevin Chin, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Tommy and Kathryn Copeland and family, Michael Deardorff, James Ditto, 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, John Pittman, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Marcia Rober, 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, 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.

