



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16-18 NIV

March
2019

The News

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ALL IN - LEADING WITH HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH

Chris and I and three ruling elders just returned from the Fellowship Community's 2019 National Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, called “All In - Leading with Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength.” This was an encouraging and inspiring time with orthodox Presbyterians from all over the country. We had the great privilege of hearing some extraordinary teachers and leaders. Among them are Rev. Dr. Ed Stetzer, author, pastor and professor at Wheaton College; Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben, Chief of Chaplains in the U.S. Navy, retired; Rev. Dwight Radcliff, founding pastor of The Message Center in Gardena, CA; and the Rev. Donna Marsh, Associate Pastor at National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. A variety of workshops were also led by seven other national leaders in the Church.

I attended a workshop led by Adam Neder, professor of theology at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA, from where my son Matt graduated. He taught on "A Christian Approach to Teaching Christian Theology." Among his points were: 1) Successful Christian teaching depends on the Holy Spirit. God alone reveals God, and God desires to make Himself known. 2) Prayer is essential to Christian teaching. We must ask God to move when we need God to move. 3) When the Spirit acts, our teaching will NOT be a safe space, but rather an experience that disturbs and unsettles us. An encounter with the living God is a life-giving trauma, but it is neither comfortable nor relaxing. 4) What we say is inseparable from who we are. We must participate in Jesus' prophetic self-communication. Our lives must bear witness to the truth of Jesus. 5) One key problem in Christian teaching is that many people have a "deadening familiarity with the sublime." That is, the Almighty God whose very presence strikes fear and awe in the hearts of those who recognize Him, is reduced to an abstraction whom we neither fear nor revere. It is dangerous to "play Christianity." Staffs of churches become "professional" Christians who speak of a suffering, crucified Christ and then get paid for it. We

must recover the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom. Dr. Neder challenged us with these words.

The Rev. Dr. Ed Stetzer also had some challenging words on "The Commissions of Jesus."
1) We are sent. By God and by Jesus. John 20:21. Charles Spurgeon once said, "Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." Being sent means answering a call to discomfort. 2) To all different kinds of people. Matthew 28:19 "of all nations" means every tongue, tribe and nation, all people groups, all Gentiles. It is the same gospel but we use different means to share it. 3) We must live the message. Luke 24:47: "repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations." We must be those who practice what we preach. 4) We are empowered by the Spirit. Acts 1:8 The Spirit enables us to be his witnesses in hard places. He concluded by asking us (and we should now ask one another), "Where do you long to see the Holy Spirit move in your church?"

The Fellowship Community (TFC) is a network of Presbyterian churches and leaders called together to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ by growing in Christ's likeness, living by God's Word, and joining in God's mission in the world. At the heart of The Fellowship Community is the desire to reclaim a covenanted biblical community, where we are united by a clearly articulated theology, a shared commitment to disciple-making, and a culture of encouragement and accountability. First Presbyterian Church of Arlington has networked with TFC for several years since its inception, we have hosted two TFC Regional Gatherings, and we are an established member of TFC. Hopefully, you can see why!

Pastor Rich McDermott

A fresh start

Our fantasy football season had quite the dramatic finish! Pastor Rich squeaked out the championship victory over Adrian. So the Broncos fan has bragging rights til next season. It was lots of fun and we look forward to another fun season next fall.

I shared in a sermon recently how the Campbells are moving houses in March. They say it takes a while to figure out where you really want to live in a city. Well after 2.5 years, we found the right house in the right spot. We look forward to opening our doors to welcome y'all in sometime soon. I'm excited because this location is really close to our gym where I've made some missional discipleship efforts. And this gives us a fresh start in a new neighborhood to connect with people who may not be followers of Jesus. Please pray for a smooth move and for God to reveal some people of peace around us. We look forward to calling this house home for many years!

Live Forever,
Pastor Chris



The Importance of a Welcoming Office!



Questions FPCA church members might ask—

Who answers the phone when I call the church office?

Who is the first person a visitor to our church office might see?

Could I possibly volunteer to be that person?

Call or e-mail Lona Watkins for answers!!

817-460-1372; wboblo@aol.com



Women`s Retreat Reservation

The Women's Retreat will be held March 29-31 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Granbury, TX. The brochures and registration forms are available in the church office and can be mailed to Bev Koch, 2808 Burlwood Drive, Arlington, TX 76016. Please contact Bev Koch at 817-261-3202 if you have any question

Hope Tutoring Event MARCH 30TH

HOPE Tutoring which provides free tutoring to elementary students in Arlington is having its 22nd annual fundraiser Saturday, March 30 at 6PM at Trinity UMC. The event, "The Greatest Kids - The Greatest Future" includes dinner, a keynote speaker, a high school choral group and silent auction, concluding at 8:30PM.

See us for reservations, sponsorships, donations, silent auction items or volunteer opportunities - Marge & Bob Dawson, Manuel LeBlanc, Gary Lindley, George Morey, or Art Pena.

Children's Ministry

Drive time



DRIVE TIME SPRING BREAK EDITION

PRESCHOOL - ELEMENTARY

Whether you're on a road trip for spring break, taking a long drive to a relative's house, or even on the way to baseball practice, this resource can help you turn your kid's eyes away from devices and toward you . . . and one another!

Conversation Prompts:

1. What is the last funny thing you saw or heard?
2. Besides a cat or a dog, what is your dream pet? If we had one, what would you name it? Would you dress it up? Where would it sleep?
3. If you had \$20, what would you spend it on and why?
4. If you could be invisible for one day, what would you do?
5. If you could build anything outside, what would it be?
6. I noticed you like to play with (name of friend). What do you like best about them? What would you like to know about my best friend growing up?
7. I really love watching you (activity or hobby). What do you enjoy playing or doing?
8. Let's talk about the favorite games we like to play. You go first; then I will tell you what I liked to play when I was your age.

Activities:

1. Name a color and see who can be the first to spot 10 items of that color outside of the car.
2. Looking at license plates, have your child try to find the numbers 0-9.
3. Play **Would You Rather?** Take turns asking silly or serious questions like: "Would you rather have a pet elephant or a pet dinosaur?" or "Would you rather take a hard test at school or try something you've never done before, like zip-lining?"
4. Make up a story one sentence at a time. Start off with one sentence, then the next person has to pick up where you left off, moving from person to person until the story has a resolution.
5. Working your way through the alphabet, take turns naming things you're so hungry you could eat. For example, YOU: "I'm so hungry, I could eat an Aardvark." YOUR KID: "I'm so hungry I could eat a Buffalo."

Children's Ministry Dates to Remember

Save the Date

- March 1** Kids Night Out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- March 3** Luncheon for families with children in 6th grade and younger
- March 22** Kids Night Out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- June 10-14** Vacation Bible School from 9:00 am to Noon.

Youth Ministry

Connecting Through the Written Word

Hi awesome parents!

I hope last month's topic on "taking pride in who God made them to be" was helpful to you as you continue to minister to your teen. This month's topic addresses an issue common to most parents in this day and age—how teens communicate primarily through the written word rather than face to face (or even verbally, over the phone). This cyberspace-texting-Instagramming realm is the world they live in, and to try and change it is fruitless. Our hope this month is to encourage parents to enter your teen's world and offer you some practical suggestions for how to increase communication with your teen, but also to foster a relationship with your teen that will continue to mature and grow as you grow together.

Text messages that communicate your love for them and notes are great forms of communication. Use those means to offer affirming words to your teen, because whether it seems like it or not, your approval of them is crucial! Teens want to know if their parents are proud of them, that they are becoming a man or woman in their parents' eyes, if they are pretty, if they are manly and if they have value. You are your teen's biggest cheerleader, so step into that role and tell them in writing!

What are some ways you can express words of affirmation to your teen? Try some of the following:

- Tell your son or daughter, "Someday you are going to make an incredible husband/wife for a lucky woman/man! I'm so proud of who you are becoming!"
- Or what about, "I was praying for you this morning and thanking God for giving me such a great son/daughter."
- Or, "I just want you to know I think you handled that situation maturely!"

Encouraging or affirming texts, notes, or emails might feel like you are gushing, but your teen will eat them up (though they might not communicate that to you!) Teens love knowing they are unconditionally loved, important and accepted.

Try it! Even if your teen isn't making the wisest choices at the moment, throw a note in their lunch that tells them how much you love them. Teens crave this from everyone—friends, teachers,

coaches. But most importantly, from parents. My guess is they will tuck it away and carry that note into adulthood.

Now, I want to encourage you to take the time to write something longer to your teen—what I call an “I Believe in You” letter. These are powerful ways to communicate in writing what are sometimes awkward to say face to face. “I Believe in You” letters are longer notes where you, the parent, tell your teen how much you love them but also the strengths you see in them.

Here is an example:

Dear...,

You are as cherished to me as you were the instant you were born! From the time you were very little, I knew you were going to do great things—you are a leader by nature, and you have amazed me with your determination and spunk! Most of all I am so impressed by your tender heart for others. You are not judgmental; you love everyone, and you are a great friend. I look at these qualities and see how God is molding you to be an amazing adult and future leader that will be a blessing to many people! I want you to know that no matter what I am here to stand beside you and guide you as you grow into the woman/man God has purposed you to be. You are a blessing to me, and I am so very proud of you!

Love, Mom/Dad

There are many more things you can say—this is just a short example. Write your letter on nice paper, in your handwriting (not on a computer). Seal it in an envelope and either mail it or leave it on your teen’s pillow. Don’t expect a tearful response or hug; it may be something private your teen tucks away in a keepsake box. But know for sure it will impact them and build them up in a way spoken words can’t.

As you continue to try and figure out this high responsibility of parenting, know that I’m just an email away! It is my pleasure to walk beside you on this journey as much as I can to be an encouragement to you.

Together with your family,

Adrian Rodriguez

Important Upcoming Youth Ministry Dates

Winter/Spring 2019 Events:

- Alley Cats Outing - February 27
- Love Invasion (Local Mission Trip for High School Students) - March 11-14
- Senior Sunday - May 19

Summer 2019 Events:

- The Great Escape (Jr. High Camp/Conference Trip for Jr. High Students) - June 22-29

Reminder: Flower Calendars

The Flower Calendars are located in the Narthex outside of the Sanctuary and in the hallway outside the Chapel. Please feel free to sign up for a designated date.

JANUARY Finance Update

Budget

Income including funds released:	\$ 65,770
Expense:	\$ 78,695
Income - Expense for month:	\$(12,925)
Income - Expense for 2019 Year to Date:	\$(12,925)



Comments:

Total Income and Funds Released are under budget for the month by (\$17,146) and under budget for the year by (\$17,146).

Donors - Under budget for the month by (\$16,821) and under budget for the year by (\$16,821).

Total Expenses – Under budget for the month by (\$9,037) and under for the year by (\$9,037).

Pray for Belize

From March 11th to March 17th, members from FPCA will travel to Belize as a part of our 11th annual short-term mission trip to Belize. The Belize Leadership Team continues to follow the leading from our key verse – John 15:16-17 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.” The Lord has called our team for his purpose in Belize.

As you read this newsletter, please plan to pray for the team and the work the Lord has placed before us in Belize. We pray that the team will have safe travel, good health, patience and trust in the Lord.



This year's team consists of four adults (Suzie McCoy, Kathi Dailey, Tina Hanson, and Jill Craig) and four youth (Samuel Terwilliger, Jonathan Terwilliger, Lydia Terwilliger, and Caroline Norris). We invite you to pray for each individual member. We will continue investing in relational missions with Youth Enhancement Services in Lord's Bank, Belize. We are planning the following activities with the students:

- Daily Worship and Bible Study
- Icebreakers and daily games
- Sessions on Social Media Awareness – the Do's and Don'ts for presenting a Godly Image
- First Aid Kit Assembly with discussion on Basic First Aid
- Sessions to Prepare for Job Market (resume building, filling out job applications, how to introduce yourself, practice interviews, and presenting yourself appropriately throughout the process)
 - Fun Crafts – Jewelry Making, Canvas Painting, Survival Bracelets
 - Swimming Field Trip



Please pray for renewed friendships, new friendships, fellowship, and learning with the students and staff at YES. Also pray that the students will be open to seeing how much Jesus loves them.

We also expect to tackle painting an area around the school/training center. Many of you may remember the new siding we placed on one of the classroom buildings last year (see picture). We will not know the exact project until we arrive in Belize, but it is very likely that we will be painting the building this year!! This is a fairly large project for 3 days and 8 people. Please pray that the team will have the energy to complete the painting project. We are going to ask the students if they want to join us in the afternoons! 😊

The Belize Mission Team thanks everyone for their

prayers and support. Without YOU these mission trips would not be possible.

You may follow our adventures with our daily posts via our blog at www.fpcamissions.blogspot.com!

A Praise and Prayer from the Shideler`s

Looking back...

As we enter March and look back at 2018, what made you rejoice?

In Wycliffe, we rejoice that in 2018 fifty seven communities around the world received Scripture in their language. YOU had a part in this!

2018 Year in Review

Let's praise God together as we reflect on how He brought hope to communities around the world through His Word in 2018. There was a lot to celebrate and we're looking forward to more in 2019!

Join us in praising God!

We've begun new assignment responsibilities:

- Brett is now the Senior Director of the Ministry and Care Resources department. This department is comprised of six different teams. Together these teams provide: HR and member care services to new and established members of Wycliffe USA, partnership development support, financial services, assist in planning retirement and when needed support through counseling services.
- In addition to continuing as a Resource Coordinator, Marla is now serving as an Associate Director for the Care Team. In this position, she provides support to four other Resource Coordinators.
- Wycliffe USA has a new president! Dr. John Chesnut, an 18 year Wycliffe member, was recently named to replace Bob Creson. We are grateful for Bob's leadership of the past 16 years and pray for John as he prepares for the Sept 4 start of his new role and accompanying responsibilities.

If you'd like to pray for us, here's what's on our hearts this month...

- Pray as we learn our new roles and responsibilities. So much to learn!
- Pray as we participate in planning the weeklong March meetings of the entire Ministry and Care Resources department in Florida. Pray for God's leading as the schedule is planned and we prepare.
- Marla's dad fell and broke his hip on 15 Jan. Following surgery he's recovering in a rehab center. Pray for God's Hand on his continued healing and that God would guide future decisions (such as whether or not Marla can be at the March MACR meetings).
- Pray as we devote much time to completing dad's apartment in our home. Our goal is to have it done by the end of February. Pray for energy, protection, and timing as we work!

How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey.

Psalm 119:103 (NLT)

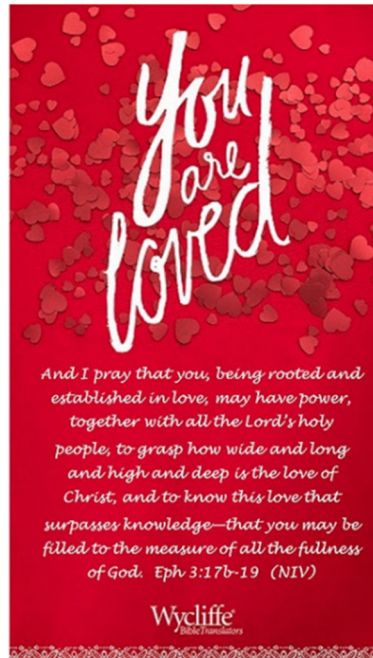
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering is received during the season of Lent at FPCA. This is one of four special offerings collected during our church year. Offering envelopes are provided outside the chapel and sanctuary or designate OGHS on the memo portion of your check. Posters are located around the church halls.

Presbyterians worldwide have participated in this offering for over 60 years and give about as much as all other denominations put together. The offering gifts are divided between three programs- Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. For a list of how these gifts were used in previous years or for more information, see www.pcusa.org/oghs.

Seen Around the Church

Shideler`s Card message for our congregation



Youth Lock in Picture

Grateful to God that you're a part of our lives as we work together to make His love known!



2019 Super Bowl of caring



Belize (Pictures 2018) – Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



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. 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 will meet on Monday, March 18, at 6 p.m. 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, March 7, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Facilities, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, March 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, March 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, March 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 April issue of The News is March 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Esther Albright, Richard Ankele, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Vannah Caylor, Kevin Chin, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Mike Copeland, Michael Deardorff, Laura, Moses and Abe Duffney, Wasim Abusaef, Neal Estes, Don Farrell, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, The Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, J.D. Paulk, Sue Perry, John Pittman, Nita Price, Jim L. and Jo Ann Quick, Sarah Rabb, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Al Smithson, Brooks and Connie Taylor, Kyle Terwilliger, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Richard Whitenight, Jake Winkler, Karl Winter, Mary Jane Wright, Bob Zakrzewski

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, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, 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 Marge Dawson at mdawsonarltx@att.net or 817-980-6825.