

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

Acts 2:1 - 4

June
2019

The News

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Walking with the Lord in the Holy Land

By Pastor Rich McDermott (Part 1 of 4)

The Context: I had hoped for an opportunity to visit the Holy Land (the land of Israel/Palestine) for the better part of 46 years, starting when I first became a Christian. When this chance to go there with some of our best friends of almost 30 years presented itself, it was one that Betsy and I could not pass up. Our good friends, Fred and Denise Gardner, (see photo) were going with their church from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and told us of openings on their trip. One of Betsy's best friends from Fort Collins, Colorado (where we served for 23 years), Jennifer DeMario, was also able to come with her mother, Daunine Heath. In total we were a group of 31. So from April 29 to May 11, 2019, we embarked on the trip of a lifetime, which proved to be both spiritually inspiring and edifying.



I am somewhat of an archaeological geek, fascinated by early history, ancient ruins, and walking in the paths of famous people in the distant past, especially the path of our Savior, Jesus of Nazareth. Ironically, we viewed Nazareth, the place of Jesus' childhood and early adulthood, only from a distance, seeing it on a faraway hill, and not up close. Nearly every other famous site where Jesus was present we got

to see in living color, and walked the ground where Jesus trod. Because we visited over 40 sites in 10 days, I have decided to break up my recollection into 4 or more parts, highlighting the most important and fascinating parts. It is my prayer that your faith in the Lord will be strengthened as mine has been.

Southern Israel/Palestine and the Negev Desert: A “Tel” is a mound formed by generations of people living on the same site for hundreds or thousands of years. On our first day we visited **Tel Beth-Shemesh**, dating back to the Canaanite period (12th century B.C.), and named for the sun goddess Shemesh. It is where the tribe of Levi settled, the Ark of the Covenant traveled, and where a battle between Amaziah, king of Judah, and Jehoash, king of Israel, happened (Joshua 21:16; 1 Samuel 6; 2 Kings 14:11ff). The most ancient iron workshop in the world was discovered here in 2003. We then visited the **Elah Valley** where David fought Goliath (1 Sam. 17:2, 19); we gathered smooth stones from the nearby wadi, as David had done. **Tel Mareshah**, is mentioned as a conquered city in Joshua 15:44, a city fortified by king Rehoboam (2 Chron. 14:9-10), and warned by the prophet Micah (1:15) of their coming Assyrian oppression. In the inter-testamental period of the



Maccabean revolt (167-164 B.C.), it was the scene of a great Maccabean victory over the Edomites (2 Macc. 12:32-38, Apocrypha).

One of the most impressive ancient sites we saw was **Lachish**. It was first occupied during the Pottery Neolithic period (about 5000 B.C., some 7000 years ago!), and then saw major development during the Early Bronze Age (3300-3000 B.C.). This early Canaanite settlement came under Egyptian influence during the Middle Bronze Age (1650-1200 B.C.) and is mentioned in the Amarna letters (Egyptian clay tablets, 1360 B.C.). Joshua captured it and executed its king (Joshua 10:26, 32, about 1200 B.C.). King Rehoboam of Judah used it to repel Egyptian and Philistine attacks (about 920 B.C., 2 Chron. 11:9). A century later, king Amaziah of Judah was killed at **Lachish** (2 Kings 14:19).

In 701 B.C., **Lachish** resisted when Sennacherib of Assyria invaded, but ultimately fell to the brutal Assyrian leader (2 Kings 18:13-17, Isaiah 36). Miraculously, Sennacherib was unable then to defeat King Hezekiah and capture Jerusalem, perhaps due to the Lord’s use of a “pestilential sickness” (Josephus, Ja. 10.17.21), or a plague of field mice (Herodotus 2.141). For the faithful, it was the Lord who saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 32:22; 2 Kings 19:32-36), killing off thousands in the Assyrian army, and giving the southern kingdom of Judah another 114 years to exist, until its fall to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 586 B.C. (Jeremiah 34:7). **The Lachish Letters** were an amazing archaeological discovery at **Lachish** in 1935, firsthand documents of the political and military situation for the Jews in Judah just prior to Nebuchadnezzar’s destruction of Jerusalem, confirming some of Jeremiah’s observations (Jeremiah 34:7, 38:4). Fascinating stuff!

Enough? That was our first day in Israel. Much more to come.

This is the second of a five part series

Last month, I shared an article I read called “5 Beginner Mistakes – Advice from a Seasoned Pitmaster” and how I believe these relate to ministry. Each month we will look at a different one.



1. **Not Branching Out Early Enough**
2. **Over-Seasoning:** You probably have a lot of spices in your kitchen. When you get started with grilling or smoking meat, you will be tempted to use them all, probably even at the same time! More spice means more flavor, right? Well, not exactly. In most cases, salt and pepper is all you really need to bring out the flavor that’s already in the meat... Start small, and go from there. Try adding one spice at a time, and see what works with what.

When it comes to smoking meat, this was one of the great revelations I experienced early on. For most cooks, salt and pepper is all it takes. In the church world, pastors and church leaders can be guilty of this at times. We read an exciting book. We attend a stirring seminar. There is a new program out there. If one is good, then all of them combined must be great! As Dave Ramsey and others teach, KISS. Keep It Simple Stupid – no offense. Try one thing at a time and make sure it is compatible with our flavor profile. After all, Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth.” Not some whacky rub with 87 secret ingredients.

Caring for God's People through the Social Media Ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington (FPCA)

By Eric Gottmann

What is the hope for the person who is facing a battle with brain cancer? What is the hope for the person who is facing suicidal thoughts and had attempted suicide not long ago? What is the hope for a family struggling to pay the bills and pay the mortgage without a job? What would you do in these situations? Or, more to the point, what would you do if you knew that your neighbor was facing one of these battles?

The brain cancer story is the case of "Valerie." (I am changing their names to respect their privacy). Valerie contacted our church on October 4th, 2017, when she saw an ad on Facebook offering prayers for those facing health issues. That is also the case of "Laurie" who attempted suicide 6 months ago, and was struggling with suicidal thoughts when she saw an ad on Facebook on March 4th, 2018, sponsored by FPCA, offering hope through a prayer. That is also the case of "Julia." Julia contacted FPCA asking for prayers because she was concerned if she could keep up with her bills and was also asking prayers for "safety" for her son who "is going overseas in June." She also saw an ad on Facebook, sponsored by this congregation, when she read these words: "I Want To Pray For You."

Situations similar to these, or even worse, are encountered on a daily basis by the Social Media Ministry at FPCA. **Since August 2017 more than 527 people from our community,**



people from our neighborhood, often in desperate need, have directly contacted our church through Social Media asking for prayers.

This ministry has responded to each one of them with a written prayer, a devotional and a word of comfort. Every Wednesday when they open their e-mails or their Facebook account, they encounter a word of faith and a seed of hope. As I write this short article, our "virtual hand" has reached more than 3,683 people in the first fifteen days (!) of May 2019 alone (a total 20,000 were reached in the whole year of 2018). When scrolling through their Facebook feed, they encounter a church concerned with their problems, open to hearing them and committed to pray for them. They see hope, love and care from people who are committed to Jesus Christ. They see a light, not hidden under the table, but a light of faith and hope, the light that our Lord Jesus has taught us to put on the table.

This is only a fraction of how God has used the Social Media Ministry to accomplish FPCA's mission of "transforming life by glorifying God, following Jesus, and loving our neighbor." May the Lord continue to touch these souls as our prayers help to change their lives.

I sincerely want to thank you. Your generosity is transforming lives! Your offerings and tithes support FPCA's mission and enable this ministry to change hearts and people. If you want to know more details about how God is transforming lives through this ministry, please contact Eric Gottmann, eric@firstprestexas.org.

Children's Ministry

Monthly Overview



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Have you ever played PAC-MAN? The best part of that game is eating the large power pellets. Pac-Man immediately powers up, and then you can do anything. The bad guys can't get you! You can eat them and earn bonus points doing it! It's awesome!

Feeling like we can do anything is a pretty great feeling. We may not have power pellets lying around that we can eat to power up, but we do have another power

source—a real power source that gives us the power to do everything God wants us to do. His name is Jesus. And, He is AMAZING!

We are going to Power Up through the next two months with the hope of creating a super fun and engaging experience for preschoolers to learn about the fruit of the spirit—what happens when we are connected to Jesus, the real power source.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Love 1 Corinthians; John 3:16; John 13:34	STORY FOCUS When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to love.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Paul and Silas in Prison Acts 16:16-34	STORY FOCUS When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to have joy.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Birds and Flowers John 14:27; Matthew 6: 25-34	STORY FOCUS When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to have peace.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Simeon at the Temple Luke 2:22-39	STORY FOCUS When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to be patient.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37	STORY FOCUS When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to be kind.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"I CAN DO EVERYTHING BY THE POWER OF CHRIST." PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NIRV	WHO GIVES YOU THE POWER TO DO EVERYTHING?	JESUS GIVES ME THE POWER TO DO EVERYTHING.

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252 KIDS

**JUNE
2019**

**GRADES
K-5**

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

God created us in His image, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to show us the way to live. He also knew we would need help; that's why He sent us the Holy Spirit. With the power of the Spirit, we can produce

fruit that points others to Jesus. Every month, kids discover something about God's character and how they can reflect or respond to that character because they are created in God's image. We call those Life-Apps. And this summer we're discovering how several of these Life-Apps show up specifically in what the Apostle Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY:
Love Is . . .
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

BOTTOM LINE
Love others because God loves you.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY:
Apostles Are Treated Badly
Acts 5:17-42

BOTTOM LINE
Choose joy no matter what's going on.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY:
Don't Worry
Matthew 6:25-27

BOTTOM LINE
You can have peace because God is in control.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY:
Simeon at the Temple
Luke 2:22-35

BOTTOM LINE
When you need to wait, ask God for patience.

WEEK FIVE

BIBLE STORY:
The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

BOTTOM LINE
Be kind to everyone.

MEMORY VERSE

"THE FRUIT THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES IS LOVE, JOY AND PEACE. IT IS BEING PATIENT, KIND AND GOOD. IT IS BEING FAITHFUL AND GENTLE AND HAVING CONTROL OF ONESELF."

GALATIANS 5:22-23A, NIRV

LIFE APP

What God is doing in you to change the world around you

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Children's Ministry Dates to Remember

Save the Date

- June 9** Decorate and set up for Vacation Bible School
June 10-14 Vacation Bible School from 9:00 am to Noon.

Youth Ministry

How to Help Your Kids & Teens Deal with Anxiety, Part 2

Greetings Teen Parents and Families:

How is everyone doing in your house? No, really! How is the worry and anxiety level in your home this week?

According to statistics and studies, if you have a teen in your home, there is a 1 in 3 chance they are struggling with some form of anxiety. Thanks to phones, social media, and the growing pressure of sports and school, teen anxiety disorder is on the rise. It not surprising, but that does not mean we as Christians need to brush it off as lack of faith or spiritual weakness either.

Especially as a Christian parent, you need to take the time with our teen to talk about how they are feeling. Find out what is stressing them or what might be bringing on worry before it turns into something more.

A few months ago the youth ministry started an Online Parenting Class and each month we discuss different topics. This month we wanted to continue with this topic of anxiety and provide you with a video that we think will set you up to think and talk through the issue of teen anxiety!

(Click link to view the video): How to Help Your Kids & Teens Deal with Anxiety

(Type link into your web browser to view the video): <https://vimeo.com/321571974>

I hope this helps you and gives you a bit of time to reflect on your child/children's mental, emotional and spiritual health. Take the time today or this week to sit down face-to-face as a family and check in on each other's worries and anxiety levels.

This time of year, as grading periods wrap up and new sports seasons start, is the time for new anxieties and stresses.

We are praying for you! Let us know how we can pray specifically for you and your family.
Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

Important Upcoming Youth Ministry Dates

Summer 2019 Events:

- End of Year Bash (off-site) – June 8.
- The Great Escape (Jr. High Camp/Conference Trip for Jr. High Students) - June 22-29.

April Finance Update

Budget	
Income including funds released:	\$ 137,431
Expense:	\$ 118,991
Income - Expense for month:	\$ 18,440
Income - Expense for 2019 Year to Date:	\$ (28,888)



Comments:

Total Income and Funds Released are over budget for the month by \$47,669 and over budget for the year by \$754.

Donors - Over budget for the month by \$12,732 and under budget for the year by (\$23,418).

Total Expenses – Over budget for the month by \$25,440 and over budget for the year by \$18,925.

Pentecost Offering



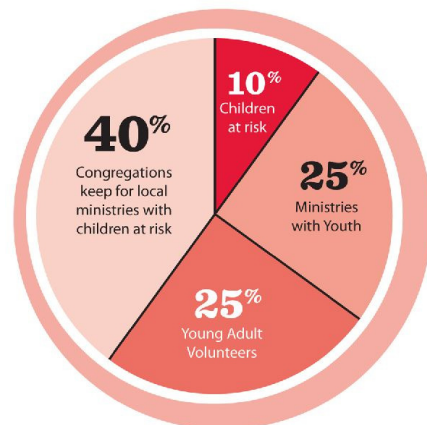
**PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

This year our Pentecost Offering is received officially on the Day of Pentecost, June 9, 2019. 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.



Pentecost Word Search

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

	E T A C O V D A E W H	
	R U R E T S A M F O G	
	A V R S U S E J L N O	
	W R E T M W A Y I C L	
	V I N Y D A A K D D O	
	R A T S G N I N R O M	
D A Y S T A R C P T S A L D N A T S R I F O R E R U N N E R		
E V G F N O P H H O T U J G R O L E S N U O C H C N A R B O		
N M P E I A G O N O F U O R H A D U J F O N O I L I F E I T		
E E M V M I M O S R S F K H O R N O F S A L V A T I O N S A		
R S A A H O F F E T K E E N D O G Y T H G I M L A M E N H I		
A S S Q N G D D O I L A N I N O S N E T T O G E B Y L N O D		
Z I T J O U N N N N D E C A E P F O E C N I R P H Y P L P E		
A A E D Y O E G A C O R S T N E N I V D I V A D F O N O S M		
N H R Z W H S L Q A R S D P O C J T L A M B O F G O D B V F		
	R H O R A T O U C I R	
	P H P O C S N D E G E	
	E L R L D R S G R H D	
	N D O F A E O E R T E	
	T R P O I N L V U H E	
	E E H D D R A E S B M	
	R V E R E O T R E S E	
	E O T O L C I L R H R	
	V S N L I K O A V E T	
	I S G R V V N S A P S	
	G A D A E R B T N H I	
	W P S D R V S I T E R	
	A G S G E V O N O R H	
	L O W O R D H G S D C	
	N O I T A D N U O F Y	

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Advocate | Door | Lawgiver | Redeemer |
| Almighty | Emmanuel | Life | Resurrection |
| Alpha and Omega | Everlasting | Light | Rock |
| Amen | Faithful and True | Lion of Judah | Savior |
| Apostle | First and Last | Lord | Servant |
| Beloved Son | Forerunner | Lord of Lords | Shepherd |
| Bishop | Foundation | Master | Son of David |
| Branch | Governor | Master | Son of God |
| Bread | Head | Mediator | Son of Man |
| Captain | High Priest | Messiah | Vine |
| Carpenter | Holy and Just One | Mighty God | Way |
| Chosen | Horn of Salvation | Morning Star | Wonderful |
| Christ | I AM | Nazarene | Word |
| Consolation | Jesus | Only Begotten Son | |
| Cornerstone | Judge | Passover | |
| Counselor | King | Priest | |
| Day Star | King of Kings | Prince of Peace | |
| Deliverer | Lamb of God | Prophet | |

Seen Around the Church

A special thanks to Jeff Young for the donation of the paint.

Painters have been hard at work in what used to be the brown hall. Lew Johnson and Christine Apperson directed the work and spent hours at the church preparing and painting. We are grateful to the volunteers who came up and helped with the painting.



Our goal is to complete the north hall and then continue south to paint the adult classroom hallway. We will need your help! Watch for notices of painting days and plan to help us clean up and fresh up our building to make it ready for guest this fall.

Pre-School Teachers Appreciation Event



Carter Junior High Teachers Appreciation Breakfast



Senior Sunday honoring Elena Regalado and Samuel Terwilliger



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, September 16, 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, August 1, 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, June 13, 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, June 27, 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 at (817-460-8050) 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 19, 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
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Deadline for the July issue of The News is June 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Esther Albright, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carl Carpenter, Vannah Caylor, Kevin Chin, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Michael Deardorff, Laura, Moses and Abe Duffney, Wasim Abusaef, Don Farrell, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, The Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes, Gary Lindley, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, J.D. Paulk, Betsy Pense, Sue Perry, Nita Price, Jim L. and Jo Ann Quick, Sarah Rabb, The family of Jim Reynolds, Jillian Reynolds, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Boyd and Eleanor Schernbeck, Al Smithson, Brooks and Connie Taylor, Kyle Terwilliger, Sara Van Lieshout, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Richard Whitenight, 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.