



*"For I am not ashamed of the
gospel, for it is the power of God
for salvation to everyone who
believes..."*

Romans 1:16

July
2019

The News

Table of Contents

Walking with the Lord in the Holy Land..... 2

A Fallen Officer and a Simple Prayer 5

This is part 3 of a 5 part series..... 6

Children's Ministry 7

Youth Ministry..... 8

May Finance Update 10

A Praise and Prayer from the Shideler's 11

Seen Around the Church 12

This Month 13

Prayer Ministry 14

Newsletter Team

Talita Gottmann and Tina Paulk
Editors

The News is a publication of
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
1200 South Collins
Arlington, TX 76010

Contact us at thenews@firstprestexas.org

Walking with the Lord in the Holy Land

By Pastor Rich McDermott (Rich and Betsy's trip to Israel/Palestine - Part 2 of 4)

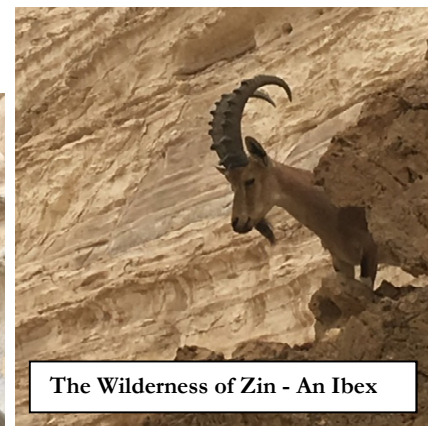
Southern Israel/Palestine: We saw the excavations at Tel **Beer-sheba**, located within a prominent city in southern Israel. Abraham had a well there that was seized by servants of Abimelech, King of Gerar, but a covenant was made between Abraham and Abimelech, and that place was named **Beer-sheba**, meaning, "the well of the oath" (Genesis 21:22-32). Earliest settlement of this location dates to 3400-3100 B.C. and it is mentioned at least ten times in the Old Testament (OT). Tel **Arad** is not far from there, mentioned at least six times in the OT, and given in a list of defeated Canaanite kings (Joshua 12:14). A Jewish temple similar to Solomon's was discovered at **Arad**, and its use dates from the 11th to 7th century B.C.

Wilderness of Zin (2 photos)

The 12 spies passed through **Zin** when they went up to view Canaan (Numbers 13:21), and the Israelites, also, in the exodus (Exodus 17:7, Numbers 20). This particular canyon is fascinating and ends at a spring that seems to come from the rock. The wild ibex seemed very friendly.



Wilderness of Zin - spring of water



The Wilderness of Zin - An Ibex

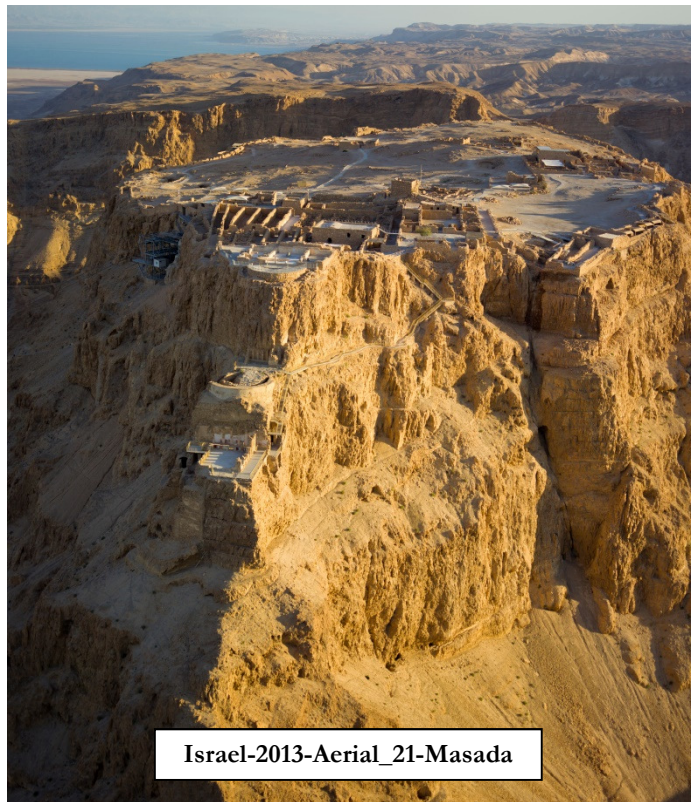


Masada

Masada is to the Jews what the Alamo is to Texans. It was the last stronghold of a group of Jewish rebels (the Sicarii) who fled Jerusalem after its utter destruction by the Romans in A.D. 70 (predicted by Jesus, Luke 21:5-24) in the First Jewish-Roman War (A.D. 66-73). Roman General Flavius Silva took 3 years to build a siege ramp to root out the Jewish rebels, and on April 16, A.D. 73 when the fortress was finally breached, the Romans found 960 men, women and children who chose to be killed by the hands of their own families and friends rather than surrender to the Romans. Modern Israeli soldiers are now commissioned at Masada.

Masada (2 photos)

While there is no Biblical record of the high rock fortress at **Masada** (east of Arad, near the Dead Sea), the Jewish historian Josephus tells how it plays a prominent role in 1st century A.D. Judaism. Initially built as a fortress by the Hasmoneans in the first century B.C., Herod the Great expanded the structures, built two palaces, and fortified it significantly from 37-31 B.C. He intended to use it to escape a revolt, if needed, and his family used it occasionally, but Herod himself never stayed there.



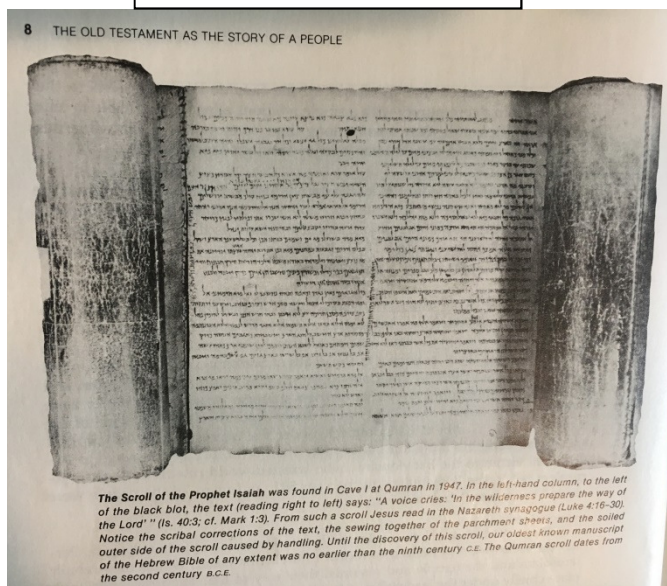
Israel-2013-Aerial_21-Masada

The Dead Sea and the Scrolls at Qumran (2 photos)

Most of our group floated in the **Dead Sea**, called the Salt Sea, Eastern Sea, or the Sea of Arabah and referred to many times in the OT. It is not mentioned in the NT. The Dead Sea is bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel to the west. It's shore is 1,412 feet below sea level, the lowest point on planet earth. It is almost 1000 feet deep, and has 34.2% salinity, ten times as salty as the ocean. You can read a magazine while floating in it. Plants and animals do not live in such water, hence its name.

The **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered in the caves of **Qumran** (see picture, on the NW shore of the Dead Sea) in 1947 by Bedouins. Many believe the Jewish sect of the Essenes lived and studied in these caves from the late 2nd century B.C. to about A.D. 68. Over 900 scrolls were eventually discovered, and they are the most important ancient texts of the Old Testament that exist.

Scroll of the prophet Isaiah



other words, over 900 years, there was not a single substantive difference in content of the largest book in the Bible that needed changing. It gives you an idea of how meticulous were the Jewish scribes who copied these texts in ancient times, and how trustworthy are our English translations of these ancient texts. What we are reading today in the Bible are the best attested ancient books in the world, and we can be assured that the texts we are reading today are almost exactly the same texts that were read almost 2000 years ago. Praise be to God!

The Jordan River and Jericho

About half of our group of 31 decided to get baptized (or to "reaffirm their baptismal covenant") in the **Jordan River** in a spot, just north of the Dead Sea, believed to be near where John the Baptist baptized many Jews, including our Lord Jesus Christ. It was a moving scene, one where folks were re-committing their lives to Christ and seeking to receive anew the power of God's Holy Spirit in their lives. It was thrilling to see the joy and the dedication of these disciples.

Jericho is one of the oldest cities in the Holy Land, dating back to 9,000 B.C. It is best known for being the first city miraculously conquered by Joshua and the Israelites in about 1200 B.C. as they entered the Promised Land. Jericho today is the home of thousands of Palestinians, and since we were there on a Friday, the day of rest for Muslims, we only got a brief tour of the town on our bus. Still, imagining all the civilizations that had been established there, and knowing Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, and the man traveling "from Jerusalem to Jericho," it was exciting to actually be there. *Next month, we share about Jesus' ministry in Galilee.*

The most incredible find was the great **Isaiah scroll** (see picture), a complete text of all 66 chapters of the prophetic book, written in Hebrew, on sheepskin, and copied before the end of the 2nd century B.C.! It predates by 900 years the next oldest manuscript of Isaiah of much use to translators. When the two were compared, scholars expected hundreds, and perhaps thousands of differences would need to be reconciled for Bible translation. Instead they found 14 differences: 11 spelling differences, and 3 names of towns that had changed! In



A Fallen Officer and a Simple Prayer

By Eric Gottmann

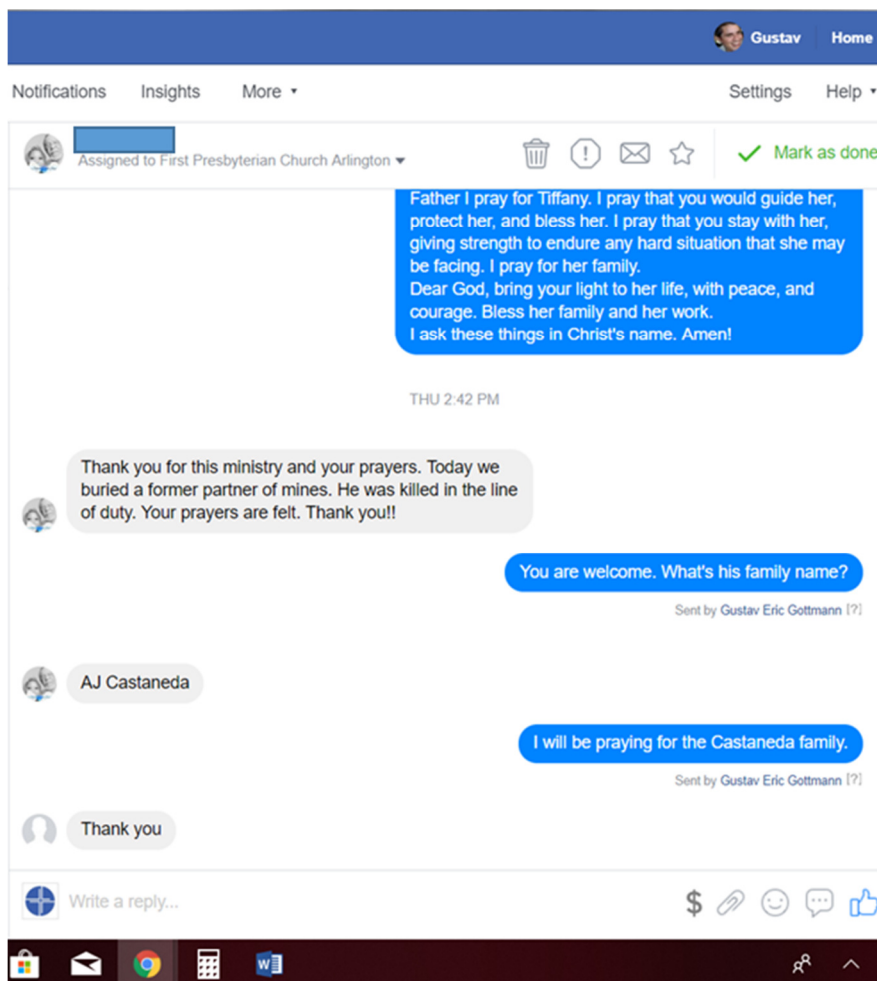
A Grand Prairie police officer has died after a crash on the President George Bush Turnpike Friday morning, June 7.

Officer A.J. Castaneda, 38, was killed after a driver lost control and hit him while he was running traffic enforcement at 10:40 a.m. Castaneda was a five-year veteran of the force. He worked previously with the U.S. Coast Guard for eight years and Tarrant County Sheriff's Department for six years.

Castaneda was named 2015 Grand Prairie Patrol Officer of the Year and a 2017 North Texas Police Chiefs Association Officer of the Month.

I think many of you may have seen this tragedy that brought together a community. But what does this have to do with our Social Media Ministry?

On June 17, as usual, I sent a prayer to the members of this Ministry, part of that prayer says "I pray that You [God] stay with her, giving strength to endure any hard situation that she may be facing."



Three hours after the prayer was sent I got a reply back from a woman, who is part of my prayer list, thanking us, thanking this ministry because that prayer "was felt." That morning, she had just buried her former partner AJ Castaneda (see conversation below). For many this could be just a "coincidence," but for me, God is using us to comfort and bless people.

Officer Castaneda leaves behind his parents and two children, one of them with special needs for whom he travelled internationally to find experimental treatments.

I'm still praying for his family and friends.

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.

This is part 3 of a 5 part series

We are continuing our discussion around the 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**

3. **Overloading The Cooking Chamber:** There are smokers that can hold 8 racks of ribs without a sweat. If you just got your first smoker, this is probably not the case. When you place too much meat in a smoker, you compromise on a number of things. For one, more cold meat in the chamber means the heat will be harder to handle, and the cooking times will definitely be longer. You might also discover that the amount of smoke you are generating is not enough for all of it. Take the time to learn what the limits of your cooker are.

One of my favorite Clint Eastwood lines comes at the end of the film Magnum Force, part of the Dirty Harry series: "A man's got to know his limitations." Churches cannot be all things to all people. When we try to do so, we are falling into the consumer mindset trap. We may attract some people who are drawn to graze in our pasture. But when they've eaten it up, they move onto



the next place searching for more. This also ties into point number 2. As we experiment, try one thing at a time. We need to stretch beyond our natural comfort zones but it needs to happen at a manageable rate. That is not an excuse to do nothing. But before expecting a leader, or a pastor, to do what is the work of the congregation, everyone is set up for failure. The work of

the church is not done properly and there is not enough smoke generated. Hope you stayed with me through that analogy.

Children's Ministry

Monthly Overview



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

This month, we will continue with our Power Up theme as we learn how Jesus gives us the power to love others—and not just the ones who are easy to love. No, this kind of power is what helps us love everyone! This powerful kind of love looks a lot like goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Our hope is that in the midst of playing games and laughing, connecting with friends and spending time with

small group leaders, talking with parents at home and driving down the road, our preschoolers will learn how much Jesus wants to help them be all that God made them to be. Everything that Jesus is—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—is available to us. All we have to do is plug into the power source and POWER UP!

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
Every Good and Perfect Gift
James 1:17

STORY FOCUS
When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to show goodness.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
Peter's Friends Pray
Acts 12:1-19

STORY FOCUS
When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to be faithful.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
Jesus Is Gentle
Mark 5: 25-34

STORY FOCUS
When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to be gentle.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
Timothy
1 Timothy 4:12

STORY FOCUS
When Jesus is your friend, He gives you the power to have self-control.



MEMORY VERSE

"I CAN DO EVERYTHING
BY THE POWER OF
CHRIST."

PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

WHO GIVES YOU
THE POWER TO DO
EVERYTHING?

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS GIVES ME
THE POWER TO DO
EVERYTHING.

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

252 KIDS**JULY
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:
Every Good and Perfect Gift
James 1:17a

BOTTOM LINE
Show God's goodness to others.

**WEEK
TWO**

BIBLE STORY:
Peter Gets Out of Prison
Acts 12:1-19

BOTTOM LINE
Be faithful so others can count on you.

**WEEK
THREE**

BIBLE STORY:
Jesus and the Little Children
Mark 10:13-16

BOTTOM LINE
God can give you the strength to be gentle.

**WEEK
FOUR**

BIBLE STORY:
Taming of the Tongue
James 3:3-10

BOTTOM LINE
God gives you the power to have self-control.

MEMORY VERSE

"GOD BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU. AND I AM SURE THAT HE WILL CARRY IT ON UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED. THAT WILL BE ON THE DAY CHRIST JESUS RETURNS."

PHILIPPIANS 1:6,
NIRV

LIFE APP

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

©2019 The reThink Group. All rights reserved. www.ThinkOrange.com

1

Youth Ministry

The Power of a Symbol

Dear Parents,

This month I want to talk to you about symbols. A symbol is an object that has meaning attached to it, but it is also a great tool in the parent's tool belt.

Here are some examples of important symbols you may have in your life that carry important meaning:

- a wedding ring
- refrigerator art from when your teenager was a child
- a family heirloom that was passed down to you
- a moment in time that was captured in a photograph
- an item from your childhood home that takes you back in time when you look at it

Symbols are powerful. I would like to suggest that you harness the power of symbols to help pass down faith to your teenager.

Here is a 3 minute and 13 second video that helps you do that. Just click on the link below or visit the youth section of our website to view the video:

The Power of a Symbol

This month's article is my way to encourage you as a parent. Your job is so important, and our student ministry is cheering you on as you pass down faith to your teenager.

I challenge you to consider how you can use symbols as a tool to help you pass down faith to your teenager.

The reason I believe this is an appropriate method is because God used it.

- In Genesis 9:13-17 God used a rainbow as a symbol of His promise
- In Genesis 28:18-22 Jacob established a monument to remind himself of God's promise to bless his descendants
- In Genesis 7:8-13 Aaron's staff became a symbol to Pharaoh of God's presence with the Israelites and His power
- In Exodus 12 the Passover feast is rich with symbolism none more important than the use of the Lamb to represent coming salvation

and it goes on and on....

- the monument of 12 stones when the tribes of Israel crossed the Jordan river
- the 10 commandments given on stone tablets
- the ark of the covenant
- the Temple

on and on...

It's not just in the Old Testament either. In the New Testament we see symbols:

- the gifts of the Magi to Jesus in Luke 2
- Jesus washing His disciples' feet in John 13
- the use of symbols in the many Parables that Jesus taught
- the expensive perfume spilled on Jesus' feet in Matthew 26

and on and on...

- the breaking of bread representing the breaking of Jesus' body
- the wine that represented His blood
- the cross which is perhaps the greatest symbol in all of Christendom

God used symbols in the Scripture. Still to this day those symbols remind us of who God is and what He has promised.

As a parent who is passing down faith you have a great opportunity to offer symbols to your teenager as well.

The Rites of Passage Experience that our student ministry is offering to your family is a great place to start discovering symbols you can offer your teenager. I encourage you to take some time to pray, dream, and think about the types of powerful symbols you can present to your teenager. It can help them remember the faith that your family holds dear.

Cheering you on,

Adrian

P.S. If you come up with a great idea for a symbol, would you be willing to send it to me? I would love to share that idea with other parents to help inspire them.

Important Upcoming Youth Ministry Dates

Summer 2019 Events:

- **July 7** Youth Bake Sale.
- **July 12** Girls Night
- **July 19** High School trip to Epic Waters
- **July 26** Guys Night

May Finance Update

Budget

Income including funds released:	\$ 79,973
Expense:	\$ 79,818
Income - Expense for month:	\$ 155
Income - Expense for 2019 Year to Date:	\$ (28,733)



Comments:

Total Income and Funds Released are under budget for the month by (\$8,905) and under budget for the year by (\$8,151).

Donors - Under budget for the month by (\$10,242) and under budget for the year by (\$33,660).

Total Expenses – Over budget for the month by \$2,400 and over budget for the year by \$21,325.

A Praise and Prayer from the Shideler`s

Standing on the rock...

Have you ever encountered such a busy time in life that you find yourself shortening or even skipping your daily devotions? I (Marla) have.

Our days have been overly full lately as they have included our service to Wycliffe, construction, and trying to stay caught up with all the other things that fill life. (We really don't like eating dinner at 9 PM!) As I sat at my computer feeling completely overwhelmed with all that I had to do that day, I heard that small, still voice in my heart as He whispered, "Psst. What about Me?"

As the pressures of our day's activities are unrelenting we've RE-discovered the day has GOT to start with sitting at His Feet, drinking deeply of His Living Word that we already have in the language we understand best!

Knowing this, we are more motivated than ever to press on in our service with Wycliffe so that the work of Bible translation will be facilitated around the world.

Thank you for partnering with us as together we serve those who are still waiting to read His Word in the language they understand best.

Until ALL have heard...

Marla and Brett

Praises!

- **Praise God** with us for the progress Brett is making in learning his new role of Vice President for Ministry & Care Resources and People Services. One huge added challenge is that for the past five months he continued filling his previous role (Senior Director of Ministry & Care Resources) in addition to his new role until a new Senior Director was identified. By God's grace, our team has a new Senior Director! (**Pray for** Brett as he trains and mentors the new Senior Director for the next few months. Brett's looking forward to filling only one role!
- In the past month, Marla has "cleared" two family units to return to their field assignments. **Pray for** Marla as she serves Wycliffe members; **pray** she will reflect Christ's love well as these members come and go, experience life events, and serve in Bible translation roles around the world.
- **Praise God** with us for good progress on Marla's dad's apartment. We're putting the finishing touches on several projects (painting door frames, nailing the baseboard, installing light fixtures) in preparation for carpet installation on 18 June. We're grateful for the energy and stamina God continues to gift to us.

Prayer requests

- There's so much going on; please **pray for** joy in the journey and perseverance in the race.
- Brett continues growing into his role as Vice President. He will be in Orlando the second week of June for meetings on the Wycliffe USA budget planning processes. **Pray for** travel safety, good communication and decisions, that the

entire process would be led by the Holy Spirit, and that all decisions would honor God and advance Bible translation in the coming fiscal year.

- Marla's gradually settling into her new role as an Associate Director of the Care Team. In this role she provides leadership to four other Resource Coordinators as her "AD" team serves nearly 300 Wycliffe USA members around the world. Another responsibility she has is to keep the Care Team's procedure manual updated and current in the face of recent major changes to the integrated personnel management system Wycliffe uses. As this system is being used by Wycliffe USA as well as our partner organizations around the world, this new system impacts every aspect of the Care Team's activities and responsibility. Brett describes it as "an immense change". Marla agrees as she spends every available moment editing the team's workflow processes. **Pray for** clarity of thought, good communication, and sound decisions.

We are grateful for your prayers.

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me... Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:3 & 24

Seen Around the Church

The Loose Ends class served dinner at the Life Shelter on Friday, June 14



Thank you for supporting our youth with "rent a student"



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, August 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, August 22, 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
1200 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010**

Deadline for the August issue of The News is July 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carl Carpenter, Vannah Caylor, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Michael Deardorff, Don Farrell, The Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes, Gary Lindley, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Barbara Mooers, J.D. Paulk, Betsy Pense, 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, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Richard Whitenight, Karl Winter, 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.

Prayers for our home-bound members: Esther Albright, Shirley Bragg, Bobbie and Tom Fowler, Jack Gray, Allen and Charlene Miller, Cary and Ruth Moore, Carrie and Cosme Pacot, Al Smithson, Brooks and Connie Taylor, Mary Jane Wright.

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.