

JOURNEY INTO JOY

"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..."

Philippians 2:4-5

August
2019

The
News

Table of Contents

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

This is part 4 of a 5 part series..... 4

Cool Solutions Update..... 5

Children's Ministry 6

Youth Ministry..... 8

Presbyterian Children's Homes Lunch and Rangers Game..... 9

Preschool Enrollment for Fall 10

The 4-Week New Members Class 10

A Praise and Prayer from the Shideler's 10

Seen Around the Church 11

This Month..... 13

Prayer Ministry 14

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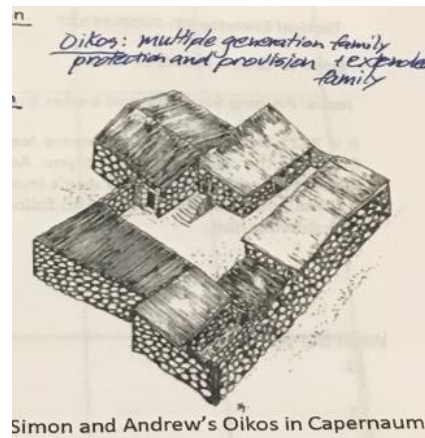
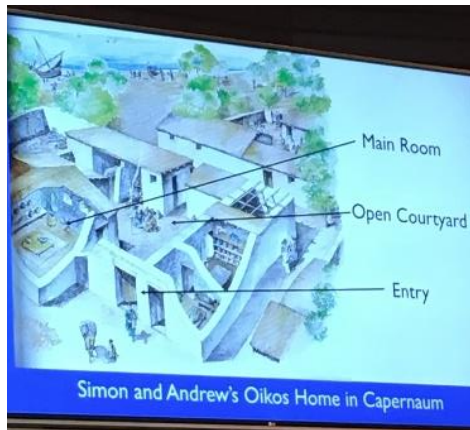
Walking with the Lord in the Holy Land

By Pastor Rich McDermott (Rich and Betsy's trip to Israel/Palestine - Part 3 of 4)

Jesus' Ministry in Galilee

Most of Jesus' public ministry took place in Galilee, the region surrounding the Sea of Galilee, and to the west of it, especially the NW corner of the lake (see picture of Rich and Betsy). After leaving Nazareth, Jesus made his home in **Capernaum** (Mt. 4:13), and taught in the synagogues of the area (Mt. 4:23). He certainly preached and taught at the synagogue at Capernaum (Mk. 1:21, John 6:24-59), and I believe other synagogues may have included **Bethsaida** (John 1:44, Mt. 11:21, Mk. 8:22-26), **Chorazin** (Mt. 11:20), **Magdala** (Mark 8:10) and elsewhere where he performed many miracles. We got to see ruins in each of these places, including the synagogue at Capernaum and, the recently discovered synagogue at Magdala (the home of Mary Magdalene). If you go to the Holy Land, both sites (Capernaum, Magdala) are a must. The beautiful church at Magdala is remarkable, with an amazing boat pulpit that looks out over the Sea of Galilee (see picture). Jesus called four fishermen to follow him (Mt. 4:18, 21), and healed Peter's mother-in-law and others at Andrew and Simon Peter's house in Capernaum (Mk. 1:29-34), which is excavated next door to the synagogue (see picture of artist rendering). Capernaum is among the most authentic spots for those looking to literally walk where Jesus walked!





An Ancient Boat

In 1986, when the level of the Sea of Galilee was quite low, two brothers who were fisherman came across something protruding from the uncovered floor of the lake, which turned out to be the hull of a **first century boat**, very similar to ones that Peter, Andrew, James, John and Jesus used. The remains of this boat are now on display at the Yigal Allon Galilee Boat Museum in Kibbutz Ginosar. The 27 x 7.5 x 4.3 ft. boat gives a remarkably realistic picture of the type of boat (mostly cedar) used by fishermen in Jesus' day. Radiocarbon dating puts it at 40 B.C. (plus or minus 80 years) and pottery found in the boat puts the boat at 50 B.C. to A.D. 50. Nothing actually connects **The Ancient Galilee Boat** (see picture) to Jesus, but it is beginning to be called The Jesus Boat because it was likely around him, even if it did not carry him.

Tabgha

2 miles west of Capernaum, **Tabgha** is a city associated with three events in Jesus' ministry: 1) the miracle of the feeding of the 5000 (Mt. 14:13-21, all 4 gospels); 2) a resurrection appearance by Jesus (John 21:1-24), and; 3) the Sermon on the Mount nearby (Mt. 5:1-7:29). We visited the Church of the Beatitudes, on the hill nearby, and Betsy and I were deeply moved by the sheer number (1000's) of Christians visiting this site and reciting the Beatitudes in at least two dozen different languages. People from Asia, Africa, South America, Europe, North America, and Oceania were all represented. It was a modern reminder of the miracle of Pentecost, and, of the Great Commission, that we are called "to make disciples of all nations." Alleluia and Amen!

Tel Dan and Caesarea Philippi

The city of **Dan** represented the northern border of Israel in the time of King David. It was here that the famous "House of David" inscription was found in 1993-94, originally written by King Hazael of Damascus some 2900 years ago, bragging about killing David's descendants Joram and Ahaziah. It is the oldest archaeological reference to the historical King David.

Caesarea Philippi is the ancient Roman city located at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon. It is adjacent to a spring, a grotto (cave – see picture) and related shrines dedicated to the Greek god Pan, called “Paneas” since the Hellenistic period. Jesus intentionally came here, to reveal himself to his disciples as “the Messiah, the Son of the Living God,” (Mt. 16:16 – Peter’s confession). Jesus also declared in front of this rocky cave and spring that many Jews considered to be an entrance to hell, that Peter was a rock on which he would build his church, “and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18).



Mount Carmel and Caesarea Maritime

Mount Carmel rises 1600 feet above the Mediterranean Sea to the west of Galilee. It was here that the prophet Elijah held his contest with the evil prophets of the pagan god Baal, and challenged the apostate king Ahab (1 Kings 18:1-46). A statue commemorating his victory and vanquishing of the prophets of Baal (see picture) dominates the landscape. The Lord sent fire to consume the wood and water around the altar Elijah had constructed, causing all present to declare, “The Lord indeed is God! The Lord indeed is God! (1 Kings 18:39). A powerful painting by Lucas Cranach the Younger (circa 1545) commemorates this Biblical event.

Caesarea Maritime: Herod the Great constructed an amazing harbor, palace, amphitheater and race track for his pleasure at **Caesarea** “on the sea.” In the theater (see picture) Herod Agrippa I allowed the people to call him a god, and the Bible (as well as Josephus and Herodotus) note that he immediately fell sick, was eaten by worms and eventually died (Acts 12:21-23). It was here, also, that the Apostle Paul was imprisoned, and spoke before the governor, Felix, to defend himself and share the gospel (Acts 24:10-23).



In next month’s fourth and final installment, we will tell of our time in and around Jerusalem and the events surrounding Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection!

This is part 4 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**

4. Impatience: One of the beginner smoking mistakes many young pitmasters make, is not allowing the smoke to work its magic. Opening the lid too often leads to fluctuating temperatures, especially on longer cooks like briskets. Know that many of the great results you can get from smoking meat, are because you let things happen. Don't cook with a clock... Instead, cook by temperature and tenderness.

There's the common adage in the smoking world, "If you're lookin', you ain't cookin'." I want to see results now! Of course we do. Who has time for a 14 hour smoke when I can microwave something in 30 seconds? But what tastes better? Who gets in line at a fast food restaurant at 6am so they can get the first burger of the day? People wait for hours at places like Franklin's, well for lots of reasons, but because it is supposed to be one of the best. I haven't been there yet ☹ To change the culture of a church, or any organization, can take up to around 8 years. Shoot, most pastors aren't around in the same place for 8 years for that to happen. So that can make it doubly tough. Consistency is key. Staying the course is crucial. And don't open the lid on your or anyone else's smoker uninvited!

Live Forever,

Pastor Chris



Cool Solutions Update

This year, FPCA contracted with Cool Solutions to help us create a plan to address our facility needs – short and long term. Tim Cool has worked diligently to provide some recommendations on how to maximize our space to best achieve our mission – transforming lives. This involved multiple conversations with the staff and church leaders. Tim partnered with GFF (formerly Good Fulton & Farrell Architects) to develop some conceptual ideas. Coincidentally, GFF is the firm I worked with in Greenville when United Presbyterian Church planned their project. They have a studio dedicated solely to churches and I can vouch for their creativity and expertise.

Tim presented his findings to the session in May and the report was well received. Without going into too much detail, and because it is just a concept at this point, I will highlight some overall goals: clear access points for various parts of the facility; centralized and secure children's and preschool area; a large gathering space for members and guests before and after worship; ADA compliant making our facility friendly for all ages and those with mobility challenges; leaving enough room for substantial growth. This can all be done without significantly altering our footprint which will reduce the overall cost.

It is too soon to guesstimate what the final project cost will be because we are not at that point yet. We do believe it is important to share as much as we can along the way to be as transparent as possible. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Rich or myself. The session was wise in selecting Cool Solutions for this challenge. Pray for God to bless us with discerning wisdom in the months to come as we advance in this long but worthwhile process.

In Christ,

Pastor Chris Campbell

Children's Ministry

Monthly Overview



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Mining for gold has been around ever since humans discovered that first glittering speck of rock. But, there's something that is even better than gold. It's the Bible! The Bible is better than gold! It teaches us that God loves us all the time. It teaches us that God loves us so much He gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. It teaches us how to live our best life. And, it teaches us how to share our stuff.

The teachings in the Bible are worth more to us—are more

valuable in this life—than thousands of pieces of gold and silver. At the end of the day, learning how God, our Creator, wants us to live is worth way more than anything money can buy.

So grab a Bible, and get ready. We're going on a treasure hunt! We want to begin to uncover some nuggets of truth and set our preschoolers on a lifelong search for treasure—the kind of treasure that is better than gold.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
The Bible Is Better Than Gold
Psalm 119:72; Jeremiah 31:3

STORY FOCUS
The Bible teaches me God loves me all the time.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
God Loves Us So Much
John 3:16

STORY FOCUS
The Bible teaches me God loves me so much He gave me Jesus to be my friend forever.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
House on a Rock
Matthew 7:24-27

STORY FOCUS
The Bible teaches us how to live.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
Bigger Barns
Acts 2:45; Luke 12:16-21

STORY FOCUS
The Bible teaches me I can share my stuff.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"YOUR TEACHINGS ARE WORTH MORE TO ME THAN THOUSANDS OF PIECES OF GOLD AND SILVER." PSALM 119:72, NCV	WHAT IS BETTER THAN GOLD?	THE BIBLE IS BETTER THAN GOLD.
GOD MADE ME. GOD LOVES ME. JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.		

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MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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

God is the creator of the world. He's in charge of everything. We show that we trust God by obeying Him and His plan for our life. Jesus showed the ultimate act of obedience when He chose to obey His Father's plan to die for our sins.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY: What Is the Bible? Psalm 119:105	BOTTOM LINE When you learn about God, it's easier to follow Him.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY: The Fall Genesis 3:1-24	BOTTOM LINE Trust and obey even when you think your way is better.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY: Noah Genesis 6-8	BOTTOM LINE Trust and obey even when others don't.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY: Abraham to Isaac Genesis 12-21	BOTTOM LINE Trust and obey even if you don't know how it will work out.

MEMORY VERSE

"THE WAY WE SHOW OUR LOVE IS TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS. HE COMMANDS YOU TO LEAD A LIFE OF LOVE. THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING."

2 JOHN 6, NIRV

OBEDIENCE

Trusting who's in charge by doing what you're asked to do

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1

Save the date from Children's Ministry

- **August 4** Children's & Youth Ministry Volunteers Luncheon and Training.
- **August 18** Children's & Youth Ministry Open House and Luncheon.

Youth Ministry

The Power of a Shared Experience

Dear Parents,

I want to begin by thanking you for taking time to read through our articles each month. This has been a wonderful way for me to get to know the parents in our ministry.

My goal with these articles is to encourage your family to continue to grow in your faith together.

This month we are going to talk about shared experiences you have with your teenager. There is power in a shared experience. You share many experiences with your teenager. Some of them are great and some of them are not so great.

- you share vacations together
- you share holidays together
- you share crisis and tragedy together
- you share mission trips together

What would happen if you strategically planned a significant shared experience with your teenager each year designed to help pass down your faith to them?

Here's a short video that can help you get started in that direction. Enjoy!

<http://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/56713948/7bc91229fa>

Here are seven experiences that I believe you can share with your teenager throughout the adolescent journey.

I want to tell you ahead of time that our student ministry has material available to help you plan each one of these experiences. Our goal is to help you create significant shared experiences with your teenager.

6th grade – *Preparation for Adolescence* – In this shared experience you will spend five 15 to 20 minute appointments discussing with your sixth grader the changes that they are going through physically, mentally, and spiritually. These will typically happen before bed each night for a week.

7th grade – *Blessing Ceremony* – In this shared experience you communicate to your teenager that they are no longer a child by offering them a biblical blessing. It is a chance for them to recognize that they are growing and changing, and their relationship with you will grow and change as well.

8th grade – *Purity Weekend* – In this shared experience you will get away with your teenager for a weekend to enjoy a fun getaway. During this time you will also share with them the dreams in your heart in the area of purity. It will be a chance for you to teach them that waiting for marriage is not crazy, but it is God's beautiful plan for them.

9th grade – *Driving Contract* – This shared experience allows you to spend an evening with your ninth grader discussing with them the way you are going to handle building and rebuilding trust during the years that they'll be driving a car. Together you'll sign a driving contract that will serve as a communication tool to help you in these crucial years to come.

10th grade – *Money Matters* – This shared experience allows you to spend an evening with your teenager having a little bit of fun and teaching a really important life skill. By having your teenager guess what is spent in your household budget monthly you'll get an idea of what they know about how to manage money. You'll also get a chance to share with them eight biblical principles on how to manage money God's way.

11th grade – *Family Tree* – In this shared experience you will allow your teenager the chance to learn their family heritage. They will never know who they're going to be unless they take some time to learn where they come from.

12th grade – *Manhood/Womanhood Ceremony* – In this shared experience you will host a grand finale to the parenting journey. It will be your chance to unleash your new adult into the world by blessing them as a grown adult.

I will end our time today by asking you one quick question. Did you get all seven of these shared experiences in a healthy way from your parents when you were a teenager? What an investment it would be to give these experiences to your teenager.

There is power in a shared experience. A shared experience can be a gift you give your teenager that will set them up for a life that is driven by faith.

As always if you have any prayer requests, thoughts to share, or questions for me feel free to reply to this email.

Until our next time,

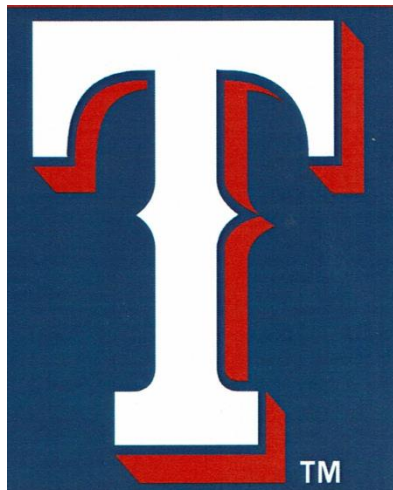
Adrian

Important Upcoming Youth Ministry Dates

2019 Events:

- **August 2** Back to School Bash @ Epic Waters: 11am – 2pm.
- **August 25** Youth Kick-off.
- **September 26** Dodge Ball

Presbyterian Children`s Homes Lunch and Rangers Game



You are invited, as 1st Arlington hosts (for the 35th time) PCHAS youth and foster families for the last regular season game in the Ballpark, Rangers vs Yankees - Sunday 9/29/19 at 2:00 pm. The youth will be here for 9:40 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. worship followed by lunch and then off to the game. PCHAS foster parents and single parents join with the Itasca youth as our guests.

Tickets are \$25 (group ticket price of \$15 is marked up to cover the cost of tickets for 60-70 PCHAS staff and youth) and we'd like to have firm reservations by **September 1, 2019**. See you then! Contact Bob Dawson (txt 214-415-5396)

Preschool Enrollment for Fall

The Preschool is now enrolling for the Fall. Church members get a 10% discount on monthly tuition. The first day of school is Monday, August 12.

Please contact the FPCA Preschool Office at 682-551-1207.

The 4-Week New Members Class

Fixin' to Join: An Adventure in Christian Community

Begins Sunday, August 25 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 214, in the north Sunday School hall

Week One: **“Your Story: A Journey with the Living Christ”**

This is a chance to share our journeys of faith with one another and learn about one another.

Week Two: **“On Being a Christian in a Post-modern World”**

What it means to be a Christian and why it is so vitally important in today's world.

Week Three: **“Christian, Protestant, Reformed, Presbyterian”**

This will help us understand the blessings and issues of our particular tradition in the family of faith.

Week Four: **“On Being Sent: Relational Ministry, Missional Discipleship and Incarnational Witness”**

A chance to learn about gifts, equipping, ministry and mission.

A Praise and Prayer from the Shideler`s

Who is Jesus?

We joined our new local church in ministry last week as we helped out with the VBS program for over 120 kiddos, many of whom are unchurched and had never before heard of Jesus. After hearing the story of Jesus calming the storm, one little guy approached an adult helper and asked, “Who is Jesus? Doesn't He have something to do with Christmas?”

What a joy it was to be part of the Church—Christ's Body—in spreading the Good News of Jesus to this generation of little ones. Many other church members looked for opportunities to strike up a conversation with the adults who brought their kids to VBS and many invitations to church were handed out.

As VBS-ers left on Friday afternoon we got to hand out Bibles to the kids. For many of them this was their first Bible. What a blessing it was that several parents asked for Bibles too.

Please pray the seeds of faith that were planted would find fertile soil, that hearts and spirits would be hungry, and that those who the Lord is calling would find their way to a local church.

Thank you for standing with us in ministry!

Praises!

- Last month we asked you to pray for the budget meetings in which Brett was a participant. **Praise God** with us the budget was finalized, that the discussions around it were filled with grace, good communication abounded, and decisions were made.
- After months (and months!) of long days of projects, Marla's dad's apartment is FINISHED!!! Join us in **praising God** for this! While we've yet to put pictures on the wall and decorations on the shelves, the furniture is moved in. He's delighting in getting his paperwork sorted into his filing cabinet.
- It's been (several) decades since we've helped with VBS and we'd forgotten how exhausting it is! We **praise God** for strengthening us for the task!

Prayer requests

- Brett will be back at Wycliffe USA headquarters from 24 July to 2 Aug. He'll be participating in a Spiritual Retreat for the leadership team, discussing how Wycliffe can better serve and work with US churches, and meeting with his supervisor and peers. **Please pray** he will be strengthened for each interaction, and that every conversation and decision would be led by God.
- With dad's apartment finished, we've now turned our attention to remodeling the downstairs half bath to include a walk-in shower and to make it more handicap accessible. **Please pray** for our perseverance!

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". John 14:6 (ESV)

Seen Around the Church

Children's Spring Festival



Vacation Bible School



Summer Celebration Dinner & Youth Bake Sale



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
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Deadline for the September issue of The News is August 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 Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Michael Deardorff, Laura, Moses, Abe Duffney, Wasim Abusaef, The Farnell Family, 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, Allen Ray, Jillian Reynolds, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Eleanor Schernbeck, Sara Van Lieshout, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Richard Whitenight, Karl Winter

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, 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. If you have any congregational care needs, please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at 817-274-8286.