

For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
Isaiah 9:6 - 7

December  
2019

# The News

## Table of Contents

Treat Them Gently - Good Advice from a friend of Pastor Rich .....	1
“An Unexpected Messenger” .....	3
Children’s Ministry.....	5
Youth Ministry .....	7
An Advent Festival .....	8
Finance Update .....	8
This Month.....	9
Prayer Ministry.....	10

### 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@firstprrestexas.org](mailto:thenews@firstprrestexas.org)

# The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Treat Them Gently - Good Advice from a friend of Pastor Rich

My friend, Pastor Glenn McDonald from Indianapolis, has experienced people who don't agree with him. He has some good advice for people who have difficulty getting along with others. As we begin Advent, it is worth hearing his advice:

*Shortly after I entered seminary, Mary Sue and I hoped that we might be able to make some friends.*

*We invited two other seminary couples to our apartment for dinner on a Friday evening.*

*After we had cleared the plates we got out a deck of cards and said, “So, who’d like to play some Hearts?”*

*We will never forget the looks of shock and horror that came over the faces of our guests.*

*They had all been raised in church traditions that equated card-playing with deep sin.*

*I don’t think we could have offended our guests more gravely than if we had said, “You know, there are so many good dog casserole recipes. How did you like that labradoodle you ate this evening?”*

*Ongoing battles about non-essential issues (like dancing, card-playing, and choosing the “right” translation of the Bible) have long tarnished the Church’s reputation before the watching world.*

*Even as outsiders strain to catch a glimpse of this transforming life that Christ-followers keep advertising, what they often hear instead is haggling about questions that truly don’t seem to matter.*

*How much water does it take to be properly baptized? Is it OK to drink a beer while watching your favorite team? Is it acceptable for worship leaders to wear jeans? Will God be upset if I get a tattoo?*

*What are people of faith supposed to do if it appears that Scripture hasn't specifically addressed these and countless other issues?*

*The apostle Paul declares that when there's a Winners vs. Losers mentality regarding peripheral spiritual issues, even those who think they are "winning" wind up losers.*

*Here's what he advises: "Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with — even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently." (Romans 14:1-3, The Message)*

*Accepting others means we can lay down the terrible burden of trying to be right about every peripheral issue.*

*And that means we don't have to invest massive amounts of time and energy trying to convert others to our way of seeing things.*

*Which just might leave enough time for us to get to know each other over a few hands of Bridge.*

Amen and amen.

## **"An Unexpected Messenger"**

Can you imagine people scalping tickets to a Sunday worship service at FPCA for \$500? Neither can I and I'm very thankful for that. But that is what happened when Kanye West appeared at Joel Osteen's church in Houston. Much has been made about Kanye's recent Christian album and what can only be called a revival in Louisiana. It has many people wondering what this is all about. Some cynics see this as a money grab as some report he had accumulated an immense amount of debt. The truth is that Kanye has always been pretty unpredictable and you never quite know what he is going to say next.

Kanye's appearance at Osteen's church was broadcast online. Tickets could be claimed online for free but of course people found a way to capitalize on the unique event as the demand for tickets skyrocketed. It has been interesting to hear several conversations about all this spring up at church and even in conversations with fellow pastors. While we cannot truly judge what is Kanye's heart, there are some truths that are evident that we can draw from.

First, Kanye does not treat these events as concerts or shows. He views them as mission. Before sitting down with Osteen, Kanye and his choir visited a prison in Houston to perform privately for inmates. I have not heard of an upcoming "Kanye at Folsom Prison" album or film being released anytime soon. But I must say, that would be intriguing!

Second, at his revival in Louisiana, Kanye made every effort to not make the event about him. This megastar did everything he could to avoid the spotlight and personal attention. It is easy for pastors and worship leaders to make moments about ourselves and not actual worship. This was an impressive and humble gesture on his part.

Third, listening to the young men and women who attended saying how they had never heard the gospel before speaks to God's fingerprint on all of our lives. There is something innate in us that longs to connect with our Creator. Our souls long for God. And sometimes the means of making that connection can come from a very unexpected voice.

Kanye was and is a voice out in the wilderness pointing not to himself, but Christ. I'm not saying he's John the Baptist. When we see him in camel's hair and eating wild locusts and honey, then we can say that. But until that happens, it definitely is John the Baptist-ish!

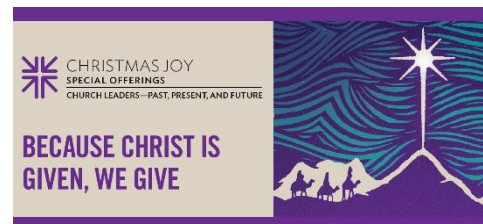
Ultimately, what is most important, is that Christ is glorified throughout all this. Paul writes in Philippians 1:15-18, “Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice.”

Kanye is not the first mega-successful artist to be born-again. He joins the ranks of Bob Dylan, Alice Cooper, and even John Lennon who had a conversion late in life. While we cannot predict what he will say next, we should rejoice in how he is connecting lost souls with their Creator. And hopefully we can be inspired to be the ones crying out in our own wildernesses, pointing others to Christ the Lord. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Chris.

## FPCA's Two Special Offerings in December

Our church supports two special offerings during the month of December. One is the Christmas Joy Offering which goes directly to Presbytery. The other goes to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). Offering envelopes can be found outside the sanctuary or chapel or designate on your check which offering you are supporting.



A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations a direct way of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The receipts from the Joy Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to the National Ministries of the General



Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education. To read a brief account of how one family benefited from the Christmas Joy Offering, visit:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/story/arms-church-around-us/>.

Our church continually supports PCHAS but especially at Christmas. During FPCA's Christmas Eve services, the offerings that aren't designated otherwise will benefit PCHAS. To find out more about PCHAS, visit: <http://www.pchas.org>. You could also speak to Marge and Bob Dawson, PCHAS Ambassadors and volunteers, about this very worthy organization which supports many children and families in a variety of ways throughout Texas.

Submitted by Sheri Quick and Bob Dawson

Mission and Evangelism Team

# Children's Ministry

## Preschool



### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

The very first Christmas looked a lot different than the one we will experience over the next few weeks. It was a string of God planned events that would come together to create a wonder-filled story that would be told again and again and again. God sent His Son to earth in the form of a human baby who grew to be a man like no other. Ultimately, He gave His life for us.

This month, we celebrate the beautiful gift of Jesus. We want preschoolers to say again and again that, 'God gave us Jesus.'

We want it to live deep within their hearts so they grow to trust that God loves them with a love so great that He gave them His one and only Son, Jesus, to be their friend forever.

May we all pause under our own starry, starry night this year and remember the wonder of what we are celebrating. God gave us Jesus.

#### WEEK ONE

**BIBLE STORY**  
The Angel and Mary  
Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46-49

**STORY FOCUS**  
God told us He would give us Jesus.

#### WEEK TWO

**BIBLE STORY**  
Jesus Is Born  
Luke 2:1-7

**STORY FOCUS**  
Jesus is born.

#### WEEK THREE

**BIBLE STORY**  
The Shepherds  
Luke 2:8-20

**STORY FOCUS**  
The angels tell about Jesus.

#### WEEK FOUR

**BIBLE STORY**  
Happy Birthday Jesus!  
Retell the Entire Christmas Story

**STORY FOCUS**  
God gave us Jesus because He loves us.

#### WEEK FIVE

**BIBLE STORY**  
The Wise Men  
Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

**STORY FOCUS**  
The wise men come to see God's Son.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
<p>"GOD HAS GIVEN A SON TO US."</p> <p>ISAIAH 9:6, NCV</p>	<p>HOW DO WE KNOW GOD LOVES US?</p>	<p>GOD GAVE US JESUS.</p>

## Elementary and KFC



### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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

Him. Knowing Jesus can give us joy no matter what's happening around us.

God is the source of our joy. Our circumstances might not always make us feel happy, but we can have joy knowing that God is in control. Through Jesus, God made a way for us to have a relationship with

#### WEEK ONE

**BIBLE STORY:**  
Jesus Is Promised  
Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 53:8, Micah 5:2  
(plus OT review)

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can have joy because God keeps His promises.

#### WEEK TWO

**BIBLE STORY:**  
The Coming Birth of John the Baptist  
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can have joy because anything is possible with God.

#### WEEK THREE

**BIBLE STORY:**  
The Coming Birth of Jesus  
Luke 1:26-56

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can have joy because God is with you.

#### WEEK FOUR

**BIBLE STORY:**  
Jesus Is Born  
Luke 2:1-20

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can have joy because God sent His Son.

#### WEEK FIVE

**BIBLE STORY:**  
The Wise Men Visit Jesus  
Matthew 2:1-12

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can find joy when you search for God.

### MEMORY VERSE

"ALWAYS BE JOYFUL BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO THE LORD. I WILL SAY IT AGAIN. BE JOYFUL!"

PHILIPPIANS 4:4,  
NIRV

#### JOY

Finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way



## Save the Date

**December 1** Luncheon for families with children in sixth grade or younger

**December 6** Kids Night Out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**June 8 - 12** Vacation Bible School from 9:00 a.m.- noon.

## Youth Ministry

We are excited to announce that because of our continued relationship with Young Life Of Arlington we were given the opportunity to serve our Carter Jr. High students in a different way this year. This year we have had the privilege to start WyldLife at Carter again and what an amazing start to the year it has been.

We have had several clubs so far where we are averaging 68 kids per club. These students have laughed, prayed, heard the Gospel, and eaten plenty of pizza together. We praise God for the relationships that we have been able to build thus far with our friends from Carter.

We look forward to many more shared moments together as the year goes along!

Here are some pictures of our time together this semester.



Blessings,

Adrian

# An Advent Festival



## Finance Update

For the month of October 2019

### Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 62,355

Expense: (\$ 77,889)

Income - Expense for month: (\$ 15,535)

Income - Expense for 2019 Year to Date: (\$ 75,583)

### Comments:

**Total Operating Income** is under budget for the month by (\$23,407) and under for the year by (\$98,346).

**Funds Released** is over budget for the month by \$628 and over for the year by \$103,457.

**Donors** – Under budget for the month by (\$22,391) and under for the year by (\$ 93,352)

**Total Expenses** were under budget for the month by (\$2,527) and over for the year by \$80,634.

**Session Discretionary Funds (not designated or reserved)** \$ 41,684

**Cost to operate church for one month -** \$ 75,000





# 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 study is open to all women. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 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](mailto:fpcamusic@yahoo.com) or 817-274-8286).

### Youth Choir

During the school year, this group of youth in grades 6 to 12 meets on Sunday, 12:45 to 1:45 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, November 7, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

### Team Meeting Night

Thursday, December 5, 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, December 19, 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, November 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 January issue of The News is December 15!**

## Prayer Ministry

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** Apana Agha, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Grace Broekhuizen, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Marge Dawson, Michael Deardorff, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Betsy Pense, Craig Poindexter, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, and 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, and Robbie Wallace

**Prayers for our homebound members:** Esther Albright, Suzette Armstrong, Polly Baugh, Shirley Bragg, Renabel Clutz, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Jack Gray, Marge Harrand, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Kraemer, Jeanne Malone, Allen and Charlene Miller, Cary and Ruth Moore, Carrie and Cosme Pacot, Ann Pitstick, Al Smithson, Jack and Betty Snowden, Lorraine Swanson, Brooks and Connie Taylor, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, and Mary Jane Wright

Pray for those who do not know Christ!



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