



**Be completely humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing with one another in
love.**

Ephesians 4:2

**February
2020**

The News

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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

SEEING THE FUTURE

No one can really see the future. And for that matter, technically, we can't see the present either. I have read that every second our eyes are open, they receive and send about 100 billion signals down our optic nerve to our cerebral cortex. Our brains process these signals and prepare appropriate responses. But there is some lag time in this amazing process. It takes about a fifth of a second for a visual input to be received and processed. That means that there is a bit of time between what is happening right now and our awareness of it. Pastor Glenn McDonald has written about this.

A fifth of a second doesn't seem very long. But what if you have to avoid a fist coming toward your face, or dodge a falling rock, or extend your arms at the exact right time to catch a pass that wins the Super Bowl? The very smallest slice of time would seem to matter then, a great deal.

Yet we human beings have an amazing way of solving this problem. It involves the most incredible organ in our bodies: our brain. Glenn writes: "During the time it takes you to read this reflection, that three-pound gray, spongy mass inside your cranium will have processed more information than the Hubble Space Telescope has processed since it went into orbit in 1990. According to Dr. Magnus Bordewich of Durham University, your brain holds an estimated 200 exabytes of information, roughly equal to 'the entire digital content of today's world.'"

"You have one impressive brain, especially considering the fact that 80% of it is just plain old water. So, how does your brain deal with the time lag between "actual reality" and what you see? It makes stuff up. Specifically, your brain fills the gap by generating a likely forecast of the future. That's the picture that is presented to your eyes. At any given moment you're seeing what your brain thinks the world will look like a fifth of a second from now." McDonald explains that this means we never see the world as it really is. As author Bill Bryson puts it, "We spend our whole lives...living in a world that doesn't quite exist yet."

There are other ways of seeing the future, however, Glenn says. We are not talking about the Wall Street whizzes who are sure they know the ups and downs of the market, or the political pundits who think they know what is happening in our nation's capital.

God declares the future as if it is happening now, and that is because God, in a way we cannot comprehend, exists in the past, present and future at the same time. 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:11). This is not a divine "maybe." God's plans for the future are a certainty - an assurance that cannot be overturned, a promise that cannot be taken back.

In the midst of whatever uncertainties happen to be clouding your life right now - a difficult financial bind, a hurtful relative, that dreaded phone call from your doctor - you can see the future by fixing your gaze on God, the One who knows the plans he has for you. God knows his plans for FPCA, and we are seeking his counsel for discerning those. That future may not exist quite yet. But in the future, it will. Which means that today we are to answer God's call to take one step at a time with the 20/20 vision of faith.

-Glenn McDonald, edited by Pastor Rich

FPCA Fantasy Football

We wrapped up another exciting year of FPCA Fantasy Football and it is time to announce this year's champion – Melina Pena!! Thanks to everyone who participated: Coleman Sanger, Tara Sanger, Lew Johnson, Pastor Rich, Pastor Chris, Adrian Rodriguez, Ron MacLeod, Eric Gottmann, and Art Pena. The top four teams advanced to the playoffs. Pastor Chris was riding an incredible winning streak and Art was outscoring everyone by a mile. But their good luck ran out in the semi-finals when Eric's team defeated Chris and Melina eliminated her husband!! Melina went on to defeat Eric to win it all. And when I say all, that just means bragging rights which might be the sweetest prize of them all. Great season everyone. Now we will all have to find something else to talk about when we see each other! Til next season...

Pastor Chris.

Financial Peace University

Do you have a New Year's resolution? Wondering how you're going to budget for the commitment you made during the generosity campaign? Want to give even more? What about that charity you've always wanted to give to? Do you want to give beyond your wildest dreams? Come find out how in Financial Peace University (FPU), the nine-lesson course that gives you the proven plan to master budgeting, pay off debt, build wealth, and give generously. The course centers around lessons taught by Dave Ramsey, Chris Hogan and Rachel Cruze, followed by small group discussions. FPU includes your member workbook as well as one year of free access to Financial Peace Membership, where you'll find tons of online resources to help you start winning with money.

Contact Katina Gifford at: 817-565-3835 for more info.

Saturdays, Feb. 1, 2020 - March 28, 2020

Location: Parlor, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Scholarships and childcare available upon request

Children's Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

All Aboard! Jesus loves everyone, and He wants everyone to come aboard and be His friend forever. When we look at the kind of friend Jesus was while He was on earth, we can see that Jesus truly does love everyone. Throughout the Bible, we find accounts of the times that Jesus loved those considered unworthy and wanted to be their friend—no matter what.

At some point, even our precious preschoolers will all find themselves in the shoes of these “unworthy” people. Like

Zacchaeus, they will have friends mad at them for a wrong choice. Or, they may not feel like they fit in because of where they’re from much like the woman at the well. But, Jesus loves them anyway—no matter what. That is what we want them to know. That will help them choose grace and to love everyone the way Jesus loves them.

So let’s get ready for an amazing ride together. All Aboard!

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
Woman at the Well
John 4:1-30

STORY FOCUS
Jesus loves everyone.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

STORY FOCUS
Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
The Unloved Woman
John 8:2-11

STORY FOCUS
Jesus is our friend even when no one else is.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
Love Others
John 15:12

STORY FOCUS
We can love like Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
<p>“LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.”</p> <p>JOHN 15:12, NIV</p>	<p>WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?</p>	<p>JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.</p>
<p>JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.</p>		

Elementary and KFC



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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

All throughout the Bible, the writers of Scripture remind us that God is love. From the creation of the world to God's relentless pursuit of us, God has shown time and again that love is most important.

Even though we've all sinned, God loved us enough to make a way for us to have a forever relationship with Him. The Gospels are full of moments where Jesus prioritized love above all else, especially when He summed up the greatest commandment with: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus made this real when He showed us how much God loves us by sacrificing His life for our sins.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY:
No Greater Love
John 15:12-13

BOTTOM LINE
Love others because Jesus loves you.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY:
Jesus at the Home of Martha and Mary
Luke 10:38-42

BOTTOM LINE
Love others with your time.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY:
Love Your Enemies
Matthew 5:43-47

BOTTOM LINE
Love others because they matter to God.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY:
A Woman Pours Perfume on Jesus at Bethany
Mark 14:1-9

BOTTOM LINE
Love God with everything you've got.

MEMORY VERSE

"HERE IS WHAT LOVE IS. IT IS NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD. IT IS THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO GIVE HIS LIFE TO PAY FOR OUR SINS."

1 JOHN 4:10, NIRV

LOVE

Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

Save the Date

February 2 Luncheon for families with children in sixth grade or younger

February 7 Kids Night Out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

February 21 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

Why Students Serve

Parent Cue

by Cara Martens

Do you ever wonder what kids really think about serving? I'd recommend *Deep Justice in a Broken World: Helping your Kids Serve Others and Right the Wrongs Around Them* by Chap Clark and Kara Powell. They mention a 2006 nationwide survey conducted by MTV to hear from students directly on why they help others.

*70% think it's important to help others in need, but only 19% were "very involved."

To unpack this further, the survey ranked the top five reasons youth aren't involved.

1. It's just not for me (18%)
2. I like to hang out with friends (15%)
3. I don't have enough time (14%)
4. I don't know how to get started (14%)
5. I want to see concrete results (8%)

*70% of kids already involved helping others say that their parent's encouragement played a major role in why they serve. (As parents we need to remember this one stat and understand our potential to engage our children in a bigger story.)

Two other important factors that would motivate more youth to get involved:

- If they could do the activity with their friends.
- If they had more time to volunteer or more convenient volunteer activities.

Blessings,

Adrian

Finance Update

For the month of December 2019

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 180,544

Expense: (\$ 107,055)

Income - Expense for month: \$ 73,489

Income - Expense for 2019 Year to Date: \$ 1,100



Comments:

Total Operating Income is over budget for the month by \$80,908 and under for the year by (\$28,307).

Funds Released is over budget for the month by \$8,163 and over for the year by \$121,669.

Donors – Over budget for the month by \$76,822 and under for the year by (\$ 19,680)

Total Expenses were over budget for the month by \$1,694 and over for the year by \$80,634.

Session Discretionary Funds (not designated or reserved) \$ 24,844

Cost to operate church for one month - \$ 93,320

Join Us for a Saturday Morning at PCHAS

I hope you enjoyed Christmas and have a wonderful start of the new year! Kandi and Kristy have scheduled life skills classes for the moms in the SPF program for 2020, so I wanted to go ahead and get the dates for the next few months out to you so you can pencil us in on your calendar.

We will be in need of volunteers to help with childcare at the Waxahachie campus in the Learning Center/Recreation Room on the following Saturday mornings from 9:15 AM-12:15 PM:

*02/01

*03/14

*02/15

*03/28



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

Seen around the Church

Thank you for participating on our Generosity Roundtables!



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, February 17, 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).

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, February 6, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, February 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, February 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, February 20, 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 March issue of The News is February 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Elaine Bahn, Polly Baugh, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Michael Deardorff, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Yvette Fielder, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Olivia Gottmann, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Betsy Pense, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Allen Ray, Jillian Reynolds, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Brooks Taylor, 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, Shirley Bragg, 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.

