



“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

Matthew 2:1-2

January
2021

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

Be Renewed

Happy New Year! This is always a great time to reset and refocus. Many people do that by setting resolutions that are long forgotten by February. But we won't be like that, will we? It has been nothing short of miraculous seeing our building begin its renewal process after fighting insurance claims for years. Our roofs are nearing complete replacement and the Bennet Spire has been rebuilt piece by piece. We are committed to taking care of these in our short term maintenance and our long term planning by annually budgeting for deferred maintenance. With that underway and preparing for next steps of our Transform building renewal, we cannot neglect ourselves.

Ordinarily (one of my favorite churchy words), we would have conducted our annual generosity campaign in the fall – October or November. Thanks to COVID, our capital campaign's conclusion was delayed until then. We were so intentional with our Will You Grow? generosity campaign in 2019 that we did not want to short-change the process and opportunity for spiritual growth by jamming it in along with Transform. So the session decided to push the generosity campaign back to January. The session also voted to partner again with Alan Wildes from Generis to shepherd us through this.

Be Renewed will be a very different campaign than Will You Grow? and Transform were but it is built on the same three convictions regarding biblical generosity:

- The Kingdom of God is to grow.
- The Church is the primary agent for Kingdom growth.
- The Church that is financially free can better fulfill its mission.

We are in great need of renewal after what 2020 put many of us through and this is our opportunity to partner together to further Kingdom growth. Be Renewed also offers the same three promises as before:

- You will not be pressured. This campaign is an adventure of grace and giving. Through prayer, information, inspiration, and faith, you are asked to discover God's will for your own life.
- You will not be manipulated. No one will trick or trap you and no one will try to make your decisions for you.
- You will not be confronted regarding the amount of your commitment. This campaign is challenging but is not

confrontational. It is invitational. No one will be surprised. There are no hidden agendas.

I know some of you are thinking, we just went through two very personally challenging campaigns within the last 15 months and I would agree. I was very open about the challenge God placed on our hearts. But I can tell you this. FPCA will always be a place that challenges everyone to grow spiritually and we will not shy away from that. However, our commitments will come at the end of exploring what it means to renew our hearts, our thinking, our spirits, our strength, and God's promises. I know that Be Renewed will be another transformational opportunity God is giving each of us to trust and love him more. There will be adult and youth discipleship curriculum going along with the series so I hope you will plug in with a class. Email me if you need help connecting with a class. Be on the lookout for mailings coming soon as well as important weekly updates and inspiration from our Be Renewed Executive Director, Nelson Abam.

- Pastor Chris

January Sermons:

January 3rd: Epiphany Sunday – “Morning Glory” Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 60:1-6

January 10th: “Be Renewed and Take Heart” 2 Corinthians 4:16

January 17th: “Be Renewed in My Thinking” Ephesians 4:21-24

January 24th: “Be Renewed with a Steadfast Spirit” Psalm 51:10-12

January 31st: “Be Renewed in My Strength Powered by Hope” Isaiah 40:31

A New Year's Prayer for FPCA

by Pastor Rich McDermott

How grateful I am for this church and its care, for six years of mission and ministry and prayer.

How blessed I am to have known you, each one; for the challenge, God's kingdom and all of the fun!

We have a great history, we know that is true, but the Lord is declaring that our future is, too!

In knowledge and faith, we have grown like the sod, now we must use it to glorify God.

It is time to teach others, to reach out in love, and to pray that the Spirit descends like a dove.

We must look for our gifts, and pray for God's power, to spiritually anoint us: may it come in this hour!

For the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; hungry souls are awaiting, can they count on you?

There is no time for gossip, dissension and fights; we can't spout our opinions long into the nights.

But, rather keep our focus on the Word of the Lord and our call as disciples who are in one accord.

If we let it, our building can be a great tool, if we give and it becomes known as Jesus' own school,

Where people can learn, and be challenged, and loved, where Jesus is worshiped and shared, but not shoved.

So as I retire and take up a new call, this is my prayer for you, one and all.

Mighty Lord: You're the One who created the world; You designed the creation and how it unfurled.

Now do a mighty work at FPCA; deepen our trust and show us the Way.

We know Jesus is the way, truth and life, now give us courage and end all our strife,

So we can serve others who demonstrate need, then let Jesus come in and give him the lead.

May Christ be the One who is first in all things, for that's when we know that what our God brings
Is Joy and Communion, Fellowship and Peace, and a healthy church body that cares for the least.

As the place for your mission is rebuilt from the norm, encourage us, empower us, and help us transform!

May we be the ones who share Christ with great glee, and follow Him as disciples for everyone to see!

Much love,
Pastor Rich

Joyful Retirement Reception for Rich and Betsy



Women`s Ministry Team



LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN!

**Coming in February 2021
to a Computer Near You**

The new year is just around the corner, and it's time for a fresh start. Hit the reset button by joining with other women of FPCA in a virtual event. We will explore how to begin the new year right, learning about how to study God's Word.

More Details to Come!

Women's Ministry Team

Finance Update

For the month of **November 2020:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 87,802
Expense: (\$ 75,298)

Income - Expense for month: **\$ 12,504**
Income - Expense for 2020 Year to Date: **\$ (10,708)**



Comments:

Total Operating Income is under budget for the year by (\$150,719).

Funds Released is under budget for the year by (\$39,713).

Donors – Under budget for the year by (\$83,335).

Total Expenses were under budget for the year by (\$136,485).

Session Discretionary Funds (not designated or reserved) - \$ 17,583

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

FPCA Fantasy Football Results

We want to congratulate our top 3 owners from this year's fantasy football league!

- 1) Marla Thomas
- 2) Melina Pena
- 3) Talita Gottmann

These ladies dominated the guys this year but we'll be back! Great season everyone.

because we will not achieve on earth as in heaven overnight, or maybe ever before Jesus' return, we will not stop trying.

Pastor Chris.

Children's Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

This month is going to be Out of This World! We are going to use this fun and exciting theme to help teach preschoolers about the most amazing thing ever, which turns out isn't a thing at all. No! He's a person! You know who I'm talking about – Jesus! We are teaching preschoolers that Jesus is amazing! And, we're doing it by sharing stories about some of Jesus' amazing miracles.

Jesus displayed an amazing understanding of God when He was at the temple as just a young boy. The people who heard Him were amazed! Jesus calmed a storm with just a word. Amazing! Jesus filled fishermen's nets with fish. Amazing! Jesus healed a blind man with mud and spit. Amazing!

This world, well this universe, is filled with amazing things, but nothing will ever be more amazing than the One who created it all. Jesus is amazing, and we want our preschoolers to know it!

<p>WEEK ONE</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Jesus Teaches at the Temple Luke 2:41-50</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS Jesus' teaching is amazing.</p>
<p>WEEK TWO</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY The Four Friends Mark 2:1-12</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS Jesus' healing is amazing.</p>
<p>WEEK THREE</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Calming the Storm Matthew 8:23-27</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS Jesus' power is amazing.</p>
<p>WEEK FOUR</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Catching Fish Luke 5:1-10</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS Jesus' miracles are amazing.</p>
<p>WEEK FIVE</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Healing the Blind Man John 9:1-12</p>	<p>STORY FOCUS Jesus is amazing.</p>
<p>MEMORY VERSE</p>	<p>KEY QUESTION</p>	<p>BOTTOM LINE</p>
<p>"EVERYONE WHO HEARD HIM WAS AMAZED." LUKE 2:47, NIV</p>	<p>WHO IS AMAZING?</p>	<p>JESUS IS AMAZING.</p>
<p>JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.</p>		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

JANUARY 2021

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RESPONSIBILITY AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

The psalmist wrote, *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, (NirV)*. God is the author of creation, and God has entrusted us to care for and cultivate it. We do that by taking responsibility. From the work we need to accomplish to people we meet to the words we use; life is filled with moments where we can decide to reflect God's character, take responsibility, and use what we have wisely. When we follow through and do what needs to be done, we can point others to Jesus, the One who took the ultimate responsibility for us and made it possible for us to be with God forever.

WEEK	BIBLE STORY	BOTTOM LINE
ONE	Greatest Commandment Matthew 22:36-40	Love God. Love others.
TWO	Bigger Barns Luke 12:13-21	Share what you have.
THREE	Ant and Sluggard Proverbs 6:6-8	Work hard.
FOUR	Parable of the Bags of Gold Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)	Make the most of what you've been given.
FIVE	Use Words Wisely Ephesians 4:29	Use your words wisely.

MEMORY VERSE

"SUPPOSE YOU CAN BE TRUSTED WITH SOMETHING VERY LITTLE. THEN YOU CAN ALSO BE TRUSTED WITH SOMETHING VERY LARGE."

LUKE 16:10A, NIRV

RESPONSIBILITY

Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

Youth Ministry

Families Only Spend 37 Minutes Together a Day: Make Them Count

by Stephanie Thomas

37 minutes. That's not long.

Go on an Instagram deep dive? 37 minutes.

Watch an episode of your favorite show, then ignore the remote when the countdown begins and it rolls into the next episode? 37 minutes and then some. Mentally reorganize your to-do list before actually checking anything off? Thirrrrrrrty Sevvvvvven Minnnnnutes.

All I'm saying is, 37 minutes goes by quickly.

So when a survey of American parents found that families spend just 37 minutes a day hanging out together, we noticed. **After all, if we can so easily breeze through that amount of time on other things, there's a good chance we're phoning it in with our families too.**

That's why we'd like to invite you to join us on a challenge.

Challenge: Make Your Minutes Count

If you're like the parents surveyed, you've probably got a few understandable reasons for struggling to spend more time with your family, including the demands of work, chores, and your kids' activities.

That's why we want to be clear from the start. We're not here to pressure you into adding more family minutes to your daily total. We're simply encouraging you—and ourselves—to make the most of the minutes we already have. Are you in?

Great! We'll start with some overarching thoughts and then get into a few practical ideas.

Think: Quality Over Quantity

What would you say if I told you that those big chunks of time you spend in your child's vicinity physically while in your own world mentally don't count? Not to your kid anyway. Kids long to be seen, heard, and enjoyed.

In these pandemic times, you might read this and feel the urge to scream, "WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT FROM ME, LADY?"

I'm with you. We're all together a lot these days. Like, a lot. But what I want to communicate here is the age-old rule of less is more. Of quality over quantity. Of little moments over big displays.

Done right, we're so much better off looking for small opportunities to connect than we are setting aside time we don't have to half-heartedly participate in relationships.

So as you're thinking through your daily allotment of family time, keep these things in mind:

- I'm not looking for more time, I'm looking to spend our time more purposefully.
- We don't need a solid 37 minutes to hang. We can grab five or ten minutes here and there throughout the course of an entire day.
- My kids long to be seen, heard, and enjoyed. That won't take much time, but it will require intention.

Help Yourself: Set Your Phone Aside

We'll save surveys, stats, and deep thoughts on parental phone use for another time. We all know we spend too much time on our phones. I sure do.

We can give ourselves an advantage and avoid inevitable distraction by leaving our phone in another room when we engage with our family. You can turn the volume up so you don't miss important calls. Or turn notifications off if you know every ding will bring you running.

Our phones might not reach total "out of sight, out of mind" status, but I can promise you this: your kids will notice. And they might even say something like, "Where's your phone? You know, I think you're on your phone too much." Guilty as charged. But grateful for the reminder.

5 Ideas for Grabbing Quality Time Together

Making the most of your minutes can be simple. We gathered a few ideas below, but you might also brainstorm with your spouse and kids about what they'd like to do. Who knows what they'll come up with!

1. **Teach your kids an old-school card game.** Something like War, Slap Jack, or Speed. These games require little setup, are easy to get going once you know the rules, and either run short or can be stopped and restarted at any time.
2. **Get silly with a song.** Host a dance party in the hallway, sing karaoke using a lyric-laden YouTube video, or crank up some lively tunes before dinner. You can play just one song or keep on rocking until your heart's content.
3. **Take a quick walk together.** Walking takes you out of the home and away from most of your parental duties, leaving you free to relax and chat. Plus, just 12 minutes of brisk walking can put your whole crew in a better mood!
4. **Flip the script on bedtime.** Instruct your kids to brush their teeth and get into pajamas right after dinner. By doing this, you avoid bedtime blues later on and can instead spend the last few minutes of the evening cuddling up, reading books, and talking.
5. **Watch with wide eyes.** The easiest of them all. Find your kids, sit close by, and give them your full attention. While they play, say, with full sincerity, "Oh wow, I want to know all about what you're doing!" Linger for a minute or two longer and move on.

Making the most of our minutes really is that easy. Our kids just want to be seen, heard, and enjoyed and we can do that with the time we already have. I'll be working on this on my end and I hope you will too!

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

This Month

Some activities are postponed until further notice. The Activities marked with * are happening.



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 Monday Night Women's Bible study is currently not meeting. Normal meeting time is the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

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 (fpcmusic@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, not in December, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

(Mostly Online) Thursday, December 3 & 10, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

(Two nights, off-schedule) Wednesday, December 2, and Monday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets online to oversee the ministry of the church. Indoor worship, Budget, Generis, and other matters. 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, , 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 February issue of The News is January 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Richard Ankele, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Jeanne Chin, Edna Collins, Lloyd Counts, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Yvette Fielder, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Liana Leathem (Jane Leathem's granddaughter), Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Bodil Overtree, The Owings Family, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan Reynolds, Beth Rotert, Kathy Rotert, John and Donna Vickers, and Nancy Welborne.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, James Dailey, 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 Moore, Carrie Pacot, Ann Pitstick, Betty Snowden, 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 Chris Campbell at 817-274-8286.

