



“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV)

July
2021

The News

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Newsletter Team

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Editors

The News is a publication of
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
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Meet Our Newest Team

July is the month that our teams and session ordinarily take off. But we have a brand new team that was just elected by the session in June that I want to introduce. As we progress with the planning and preparation for our Transform renovation project, it is crucial to have a small group of members, who serve on behalf of the session, and can stay on top of things. Depending on the church and context, these teams can have a variety of names (steering team, project management team) and to be honest, we do not have an official name yet. The name is not as important as the five men and women who have committed to serve.

As I was brainstorming possible names with some of our leadership, certain names kept coming up and that always gets my antenna up. Envisioning that this team would have five spots, I came up with five people I felt like 1) God has called and equipped; 2) are committed to FPCA and Transform; and 3) bring unique skills and traits to the team. You might think having five engineers is the way to go, or five architects, or five facility experts. But from personal experience, and reading and listening to other experts, variety serves these teams well. You will see a variety in gender, age, history at FPCA, and particular connections to our ministries.

So without further ado, I am thrilled to share that all five said yes without any serious arm-twisting or threats! To me, this is another sign that our discernment led us to the five men and women God has called for this task. In alphabetical order they are: AJ Baker, Ross Dill, Tina Hanson, Melina Pena, and Larry Stephenson. We are in the process of finalizing a document that will specify their duties and authority. Once that is finished and approved by the session, it will be time for them to get to work as many of you are enjoying the month off! I look forward to working with this team and we always covet your prayers for God's wisdom and guidance. Have a safe, blessed, and wonderful July!

Pastor Chris

Finance Update

For the month of **May 2021**:

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$82,976

Expense: (\$80,745)

Income - Expense for month:

\$ 2,231

Income - Expense for 2021 Year to Date:

\$(9,099)



Comments:

We are always so grateful for your generous donations. Because of your support we:

- resume our senior flexibility group; reopen the nursery for the 11am service; resume KFC (Kids for Christ) at the 11am service; and offer a weekly drive-in worship service at 8:30am.
- commemorate together, the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.
- enjoy Senior Sunday and congratulate our high school senior, Jonathan Terwilliger.
- provide opportunities to serve by helping Arlington Charities distribute food.
- have the Children's Ministry Picnic/Takeout Luncheon, sharing pizzas with families.
- As of May, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$951,397.

We are doing well and, because of you, we are able to carry out the ministries that are calling to our FPCA family. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns, at jeanne@firstprestexas.org.

Children's Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

We don't want trusting God to be hard for our preschoolers. God has done so much to show us that we can trust Him. That is why we are going to continue teaching our preschoolers that they can Press Play and trust God with everything. The music, the dancing, and the instruments continue this month. And, most importantly, we have more true stories from the Bible of people who show us why we can trust God.

We want preschoolers to trust that God is always with them. We want them to look to Jesus so He can show them they can trust God. We want them to put on the armor of God and trust Him to use it to make them strong. And, we want them to trust that nothing can ever separate them from God's love. It is our prayer that they will always remember all of the reasons why they can trust God.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego Daniel 3:1-28	STORY FOCUS God is always with me.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Peter Walks on Water Matthew 14:22-33	STORY FOCUS Jesus shows us we can trust God.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Armor of God Ephesians 6:10-17	STORY FOCUS God helps me stand strong.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Nothing Can separate us from God's Love Romans 8:38-39	STORY FOCUS I can trust God.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART." PROVERBS 3:5, NIV	WHO CAN TRUST GOD?	I CAN TRUST GOD.
GOD LOVES ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

JULY 2021

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

When it comes to confidence, we might try and base it on what we do well or what a teacher or parent might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something that lasts forever. We think that's found in understanding how God sees us. God created us, and God loves us. Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when you put your confidence in Jesus, you can truly see yourself how God sees you.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
Daniel 3

BOTTOM LINE

Trust that God is always with you.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY

Peter Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on Jesus.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY

Armor of God
Ephesians 6:10-17

BOTTOM LINE

Use what God has given you to stand strong.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY

Nothing Can Separate Us
From God
Romans 8:38-39

BOTTOM LINE

God loves you no matter what.

MEMORY VERSE

"BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS."

PHILIPPIANS 1:6, NIV

CONFIDENCE

LEARNING TO SEE YOURSELF THE WAY GOD SEES YOU

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Children's Ministry Dates to Remember

July 26-30: Vacation Bible School in-person from 9:00 am to noon at FPCA. The video lessons will also be available online all week.

Youth Ministry

You Should Forgive Your Kids

by Tim Walker

“I sorry.” When those words are delivered by the high-pitched voice of a child, they melt you. *Of course I’ll forgive you*, you think. *How could I not?*

Even if there is a huge mess behind her.

Bookcases are knocked over.

The dog is barking.

The cat is perched on top of the chandelier.

A team of people are unrolling “condemned tape” across your house.

But when you hear “I sorry” and see those big brown eyes, the anger and frustration lessen a little bit. Sure, they may be staring at a corner for a while or be contained in their room, but you’ll forgive them. There’s a reason God makes them so cute at that age.

But as they grow older, “sorry” gets a little more difficult to digest.

Like when your middle schooler looks you in the face and lies.

Or when she says she’s going one place, and ends up at another.

Or you stumble across a social media account and find your child has been bashing you.

Or your high schooler wrecks the car.

Or in a teenage hormonal rage, he or she took a verbal shot at your most vulnerable point.

There are times when your child’s actions will feel more personal.

There are moments when their words will cut you deeply.

And you’ll find yourself in a unique position.

You may not want to forgive them.

In fact, it will feel as painful, if not more, as the betrayal of a close friend.

You’ll be sad.

You’ll be mad.

You’ll feel like a failure.

You’ll feel like they’ve failed you.

You’ll wonder if you can ever trust them again.

You may find yourself scrambling, wondering where do we go from here?

Forgiveness won’t come so easily.

Those big brown eyes won’t make it all go away.

Your child should have known better.

He or she should have made different choices.

The pangs of guilt, preying on your own parental insecurities, will whisper in the back of your head.

I wish I could offer an easy answer here.

But when you are that hurt, one thing becomes painfully clear, **forgiving is a choice.**

And so you have to choose to forgive.

It doesn't mean there aren't consequences for their actions.

Or that trust isn't damaged.

But you choose to forgive.

Because if you don't, it will destroy you.

And it will destroy your relationship with your child.

You choose to forgive the hurt.

You choose to forgive the disappointment.

You choose to extend grace.

And you also choose to be wise. To have perspective on the situation and be the grownup. You try to determine what needs to happen differently to avoid being in that situation again.

You teach.

You guide.

Even when your heart is grieving.

I don't think there's ever been a time I identified more with the heart of God than when my child did or said something that wounded me, and I still chose to forgive.

And when I do, I also show my child how to forgive. Because when we have experienced forgiveness, it makes it easier to forgive.

I don't want to turn this into a place to rant, or even a forum to vent about what your teen did. So I'm going to ask some simple questions that may be helpful to other parents of teens:

What are some ways you personally have chosen to forgive your child? How did you take "the high road" and forgive even when you were hurting?

A Praise and Prayer from the Shideler's

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. John 21:25

This is the closing verse of the Gospel of John. Marla enjoyed studying her way through John via a women's group that met weekly via Zoom. While the study ended in April, she had a wonderful time in the Word as she renewed long-time friendships and made new friends along the way. She recently met with a Wycliffe member who was displaced from her place of service due to COVID concerns in her country of service. The member told Marla that John 21:25 is one of a Bible translator's favorite verses. Why is that? This translator (like many others) works with a team of national translators who carve out time from their many other responsibilities to serve on the translation team. When this translation team reached the last verse of the last chapter of John they were ready to celebrate! One member of the team, when pondering over how many other books John says might have been written, marveled aloud to the rest of the team, "We would NEVER finish the translation"!

Reading, studying, and being transformed by God's Word is an integral part of our relationship with Him. Our continuing passion is to serve as part of the team making it possible for other language groups to read His Word in a language that speaks best to them. Thank you for praying for us and our Wycliffe ministry!

Since our last update:

- **Brett** had energy to press through and complete the March meetings at Wycliffe's US headquarters in Orlando. He also enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Tallahassee with son Adam, daughter-in-law Christina, and grandson Edward;
- **Marla** was blessed to recently clear TWO "units" (one couple and one single) to return to their places of assignment. She is also providing member care to a family who is transitioning back to life in the US, and to three others who are facing challenging situations of various kinds.

If you'd like to pray for us, here's what's going on...

Wycliffe USA is in the middle of a planned (since March 2019) review of the teams and processes involved in serving its members. As the review has progressed, two Vice President roles within Wycliffe USA were brought to an end; including Brett's role as Vice President of Staff Care and Resources. Soon after this role ended, God opened other doors for ministry within Bible Translation with Brett just accepting the role of Special Projects with the SIL Global HR Team. He will be serving again with Wycliffe's partner organization, SIL International. (You may remember that while we were in Cameroon from 1993 to 2007 we served with SIL International.) He will start this new position on 12 July. Please pray as he prepares to take on his new responsibilities that will include serving as a point of contact for partner organizations around the world (including Wycliffe USA) and SIL International's Care and Wellbeing team while he uses his experience in member care to

serve the global community. It truly is a widening of responsibility and we covet your prayers as he moves forward in his preparations.

Thank you for praying for us, for your financial partnership, for your messages of care. We are grateful for you!

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 24:31

Donations of snacks needed

We are in need of snacks for Vacation Bible School July 26-30.

If you are able to help please bring individually packed lunch box size snacks to the Fellowship Hall kitchen (examples: vanilla wafers, goldfish, pretzels etc.). Please mark your items for Adventure Days and VBS.

Questions- please call Marge Dawson 817-980-6825. Thank you

Summer Celebration





Presbyterian Children's Homes 2021

August 1st Rangers play Seattle at the new ballfield, \$20 tickets hosting PCHAS Youth – You are Invited!!!!

August 1st is also the deadline for collecting school supplies for PCHAS youth in FTW, North and West Texas.

Fall 2021 Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

School Supply Wish List

Benefiting Children in
Fort Worth, North and West Texas

Elementary School

1-Inch 3-Ring Binder
12" Ruler
Backpack
Ballpoint Pens
Colored Pencils
Crayons
Dry Erase Markers
Dry Erasers

Glue Sticks
Hand Sanitizer
Highlighters
Index Cards
Pencil Pouch w Zipper
Pencils - #2
Pencil Sharpeners
Pocket Folders Without Fasteners

Protractor
Scissors (Blunt Tip)
Spiral Notebooks
Composition Books
Subject Dividers
Tissues
Washable Markers
Wide Ruled Loose Leaf Paper

Middle and High School

1 ½ Inch 3-Ring Binder
Backpack
Ballpoint Pens
Calculator (basic)
Graph Calculator (TI-84 Plus CE)
Drawing Paper
Dry Erase Markers
Dry Erasers
Glue Sticks
Graph Paper

Hand sanitizer
Highlighters
Index Cards
Markers
Pencil Pouch
Pencils - No. 2
Pencil Sharpener
Pocket Folders
Protractor
Ruler

Scissors
Spiral Notebooks
Composition Books
Subject Dividers
White-Out
Wide Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
USB Flash Drives
Earbuds (headphones)

July 4th word search

E	S	S	R	A	T	S	A	C	Y	Y	N	K	V	H	W	V	O
B	R	R	T	A	W	I	I	A	I	O	D	E	I	S	F	I	F
G	E	T	E	I	C	T	M	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	I
J	M	V	C	L	O	A	N	T	L	S	E	P	I	R	T	S	D
B	M	D	K	I	K	W	A	T	P	A	J	L	O	V	L	I	S
N	U	L	R	N	A	R	S	L	H	E	G	V	A	E	K	D	E
L	S	T	F	H	B	G	A	J	L	J	C	C	V	N	N	C	T
G	A	V	I	E	O	I	A	P	J	G	A	A	K	S	N	A	A
P	D	T	L	D	K	R	O	H	S	T	R	E	R	E	T	Y	T
A	I	E	T	D	B	M	D	V	I	T	U	E	D	J	C	A	S
R	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	O	E	C	G	N	O	A	K	H	D
A	H	I	K	J	V	H	N	L	E	R	E	C	R	Z	B	N	E
D	J	C	R	L	N	H	C	B	U	P	I	C	N	I	C	L	T
E	I	C	A	E	L	A	R	B	E	J	O	K	R	M	E	I	I
N	C	P	K	E	M	A	M	D	A	M	I	E	C	E	I	D	N
O	B	D	P	H	B	A	N	N	E	R	S	P	D	N	A	F	U
S	J	T	I	C	H	I	Y	D	J	A	M	M	U	D	G	M	Y

AMERICA
BANNERS
BARBECUE
BEACH
CELEBRATION
COUNTRY
DEMOCRACY
FIREWORKS

FLAG
HAMBURGERS
HOT DOGS
ICE CREAM
INDEPENDENCE
JULY
PARADE
PATRIOTIC

PICNIC
SPARKLERS
STARS
STRIPES
SUMMER
TRAVEL
UNITED STATES
VACATION

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 will resume meeting the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. beginning September 20.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study*

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Parlor 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 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. *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, Aug 5, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night*

Thursday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting*

Thursday, August 26, 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 817-522-2080) 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 August issue of The News is July 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Lloyd Counts, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Yvette Fielder, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, 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, 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, Barbara Hughes, Jeanne Malone, 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.

