



*“For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”*

*1 Peter 2:25 (ESV)*

August  
2021

# The News

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## Newsletter Team

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# Back to School, Back to Church

It's August which means it's that time of year most children and teenagers head back to school. As a parent of two elementary students, there is so much we do to prepare them for the school year. Thankfully some things are so much easier than when I was their age. School supplies are purchased and delivered to their classroom with one click online. As more and more schools have adopted some kind of a dress code, that has simplified the clothes we buy for them.

But as people of faith, our children need more preparation than picking the right backpack. It is our job as parents, grandparents, even spiritual parents through a church like FPCA, to prepare them with the characteristics of our faith. Psychiatrist William Glasser is well-known (perhaps to some) for identifying five basic human needs: having fun, survival, love and belonging, power, and freedom. While he worked from a secularist perspective, some of these elements are scriptural. So beginning August 15th, we will embark on a new sermon series – Back to School, Back to Church. This will identify some of the needs of our children and how we as a church can help model and teach those qualities. Our four Sundays will address: joy (having fun); power; freedom; and faith (survival, love and belonging).

I am really looking forward to this series and seeing the children of FPCA continue to grow into the disciples God created them to be. I am also grateful for all of you who answer the call of our faith to teach and pass on the faith to following generations. This is a team effort – it's a church effort!

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris

# Finance Update

For the month of **June 2021**:

## **Budget (Operating and Funds Released)**

Income:       \$113,711  
Expense:       (\$84,441)

Income - Expense for month:                   **\$ 29,270**  
Income - Expense for 2021 Year to Date:       **\$ 20,562**



## **Comments:**

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

- worship together and learn about the book of Nehemiah this summer.
- have Adventure Days for children, during the last week of June, traveling back in time to study the book of Acts.
- enjoy our Summer Celebration Dinner together as a church family.
- provide opportunities to donate school supplies to Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services.
- provide opportunities to serve by helping Arlington Charities distribute food, and to volunteer for HOPE Tutoring - Reading Camp.
- have the Children's Ministry Picnic/Takeout Luncheon, sharing pizzas with families.
- As of June, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,094,060.

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](mailto:jeanne@firstprestexas.org).

# Children's Ministry

## Preschool



### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

This month's theme is *Construction Zone*, and the incredible machines you see at a construction site are pretty powerful. But, we have Someone even more impressive, more powerful to talk about this month. GOD! We can't wait to teach our preschoolers that God is powerful!

Our preschoolers will hear over and over that God is powerful as they learn true stories from the Bible where God displayed His mighty power. We want them to remember that God is more powerful than anything or any person they will ever face in this world. They can always look to God for help because God's Power. Is. AWESOME!

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> God Made Me Genesis 1:26; Psalm 139:14	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> God is powerful.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Moses and the Sea Exodus 13:17-18; 14	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> God's power is awesome!
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Moses and the Water Exodus 17:1-7	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> God's power can give me what I need.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Daniel's Food Daniel 1:8-17	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> God's power helps me make the right choice.
<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Daniel and the Lions Daniel 6:1-23	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> God's power can protect me.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GREAT IS OUR LORD AND MIGHTY IN POWER." PSALM 147:5, NIV	WHO IS POWERFUL?	GOD IS POWERFUL.
<b>GOD MADE ME.</b>		

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# Elementary and KFC



**ELEMENTARY**

AUGUST 2021

## MONTHLY OVERVIEW

### GOD VIEW:

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

When Jesus was a boy, He grew in wisdom. God wants us to discover wisdom, too. When we make a wise choice, we reflect the character of Jesus to the people around us. That's why giving kids a strong foundation of wisdom is important. We want to equip them to face down whatever choice they may face in the future.

### WEEK ONE

**BIBLE STORY**  
Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Wisdom is worth searching for.

### WEEK TWO

**BIBLE STORY**  
Solomon Asks God for Wisdom  
1 Kings 3:4-28

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Trust God to give you wisdom.

### WEEK THREE

**BIBLE STORY**  
Wise People See Danger  
Proverbs 22:3

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Think before you act.

### WEEK FOUR

**BIBLE STORY**  
Rehoboam Listens to Fools  
2 Chronicles 10  
(supporting: Proverbs 13:20)

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Hang out with wise people.

### WEEK FIVE

**BIBLE STORY**  
Renew Your Mind  
Romans 12:2

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Never stop growing in wisdom.

MEMORY VERSE

**"IF ANY OF YOU NEEDS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD FOR IT. HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. GOD GIVES FREELY TO EVERYONE AND DOESN'T FIND FAULT."**

JAMES 1:5, NIRV

WISDOM

Finding out what you should do and doing it

# Youth Ministry

## Parenting Through Transition: Confession Of A Recovering Control Freak

by Holly Crawshaw

I started back to fulltime, in-office work this week, for the first time in over three years.

To be honest, my emotions over this transition have swung back and forth like a pendulum: Anxiety. Excitement. Guilt. Pride. Eagerness. Dread.

(What? Your pendulum is a little less extreme than mine?)

Well, it's true—transitions make my insides feel like a shaken up (diet) soda can (that I would consider a nutritional victory, naturally).

Is that true for you? Does change make you want to pull the blankets over your head and binge-eat chocolate and watch bad/amazing reality TV while ignoring the phone/bills/responsibilities/all-the-things?

Oh, cool. Me neither. (That was sarcasm, friends.)

Why does change/transition, threaten to (or, in some cases, succeed in) paralyzing us? I mean, when's the last time you looked back—even just a month or two— and thought, “Man, nothing's really changed. My kids, my marriage, my job, my relationships . . . not one thing has changed?”

I believe it was everyone's favorite cowboy, Louis L'Amour, who said, “The only thing that never changes is that everything changes.” (Guilty: I had to Google this, but I knew that quote was definitely a thing.)

For me, it's one major factor: Control. Or, more specifically, the lack thereof.

Let's talk about this control thing. I mean, what do I really have control over? What I'm wearing to work? My 4-year-old told me this morning that I looked like a piñata. So. Maybe someone should take that control away from me before she starts swinging at me with a broomstick (this is a not an unlikely scenario, FYI).

The issue with craving control is that we're never satisfied with how much control we have. We always, always, always want more. Control isn't tangible. You can't send it to its room. You can't plead with control. You can't tuck yourself in a warm blanket of control at night.

So why do we battle desperately to cling to control?

I remember driving home from the hospital with Lilah, my first-born. It was pouring rain and I was pretty sure her neck was broken or we'd installed the car seat incorrectly, because her head kept flopping around like a fish out of water.

All I could think was, “They just gave us TOTAL CONTROL of this barely-human's life and we can't even drive her home properly?!!”

I was in a panic, and immediately overwhelmed with the strong desire to never allow that wrinkly miracle out of my sight. I vowed to maintain complete control over her life forever and ever.

(\*\*\*GIANT EYE ROLL\*\*\*)

It's one of the most challenging concepts of parenting—letting go of our kids. Sure, we want to make every effort to guide, to support, to teach, and to discipline. But we can't live their lives for them. But we can't control everything. We can't control . . .

- how they behave when we're not around.
- who they play with on the playground.
- which sports they choose to participate in.
- how hard they study in school.
- who they date.
- how they respond to discipline or criticism.
- what they eat.
- the growth of their faith.

Basically, we want to control it all.

But guess what. We can't. (I know. The realization bummed me out, too.)

We can kick.

We can scream.

We can give ourselves anxiety-induced ulcers. But we can't control everything.

So. How am I doing with my control issues? I'm at work . . . and, yes. I've worried about my 4-year-old, home with a sitter. I've worried about getting back in time to get my 8-year-old off the bus. I'm going to have to work after the kids go to bed. I have a meeting in fifteen minutes I'm not totally prepared for. **AND I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THE CUPCAKES IN THE BREAK ROOM.**

But here's what I'm committed to—moving forward despite my fears.

I'm going to acknowledge my lack of control. I'm going to apologize to God for wrestling Him over this elusive idea that I can control the variables. I am going to give the cupcakes a very wide berth.

I'm going to give myself permission to be imperfect. Permission to figure out this transition over time—not today. Permission to allow my kids to fail. Permission to be a recovering control freak who, on occasion, dresses like a neon-colored paper maché party game.

# Vacation Bible School





# 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, August 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  
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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, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Candida Costa, 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, Lydia Rodriguez Santana, 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, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, and Robbie Wallace

**Prayers for our homebound members:** Esther Albright, Suzette Armstrong, 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.

