



*“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

*Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV)*

September  
2021

# The News

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## “Prophet, Priest, King”

After spending four Sundays on what our children need as they headed back to school, this is going to feel like back to school for the adults! The final three Sundays this month will examine the Christian doctrine of the threefold office of Jesus Christ: prophet, priest, and king. Office is just another word for function. The three titles are special ones in the Old Testament. Often, someone was declared a prophet, priest, or king by being anointed with oil. This is how the term Messiah connects with these offices because Messiah means “anointed one.” Whereas humans could only fulfill one of these functions, we will examine how Jesus did all three and why that is significant.

Early church father Eusebius (3rd-4th centuries) wrote, “...so that all these have reference to the true Christ, the divinely inspired and heavenly Word, who is the only high priest of all, and the only King of every creature, and the Father’s only supreme prophet of prophets.” Both the Heidelberg Catechism and the Westminster Shorter Catechism (both part of our Book of Confessions) specifically teaches on this subject. And this doctrine was important to Lutheran theologians, John Calvin, and even John Wesley.

I’m looking forward to digging out Calvin’s Institutes again and freshening up on this doctrine. This might be the first time you have explored this in any way. But I promise not to make this a weekly academic lecture series. This doctrine has spiritual meaning and the more we know how Jesus fulfills each of these offices and how they are connected, we will know our Lord that much better. That should be the goal for each one of us.

Pastor Chris

# Finance Update

For the month of **July 2021**:

## Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income:       \$ 84,169  
Expense:       (\$70,828)

Income - Expense for month:                   **\$ 13,340**  
Income - Expense for 2021 Year to Date:       **\$ 10,194**



## Comments:

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

- worship together and continue to learn about the book of Nehemiah this summer.
- have Vacation Bible School, teaching children that to Jesus they are known, they belong, they are forgiven, they can change, and they can make a difference.
- have a time to share and learn about a student ministry group from A&M serving and bringing Jesus to a largely Muslim nation.
- 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.
- welcome a brand new task force to help with our Transform renovation project.
- As of July, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,105,235.

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

Many of us remember a special toy or plush friend from our Toy Box that gave us comfort and companionship when we needed it. It's part of growing up. We were made to want someone with us. And that Someone is Who we will be talking about this month. He is the only One who can truly always be with us.

We will say countless times this month, "God is always with me." We want our preschoolers to believe it with all of their hearts. With this truth as a foundation, they can be brave and wise. They can have courage and strength.

Then, when the times comes that their favorite toy, blanket, or pillow cannot be with them, they will know that there is Someone who loves them and will always be with them. No matter where they go or what they do God is always with them . . . and you.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Moses' Mom Exodus 1:22-2:10	STORY FOCUS God is with me so I can be brave.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Deborah Judges 4 and 5	STORY FOCUS God is with me so I can be wise.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Rahab and the Spies Joshua 2:1-22; 6:22-25	STORY FOCUS God is with me so I can be courageous.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Esther Esther 2:2 - 8:17	STORY FOCUS God is with me so I can be strong.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"WE HAVE THE LORD OUR GOD TO HELP US." 2 CHRONICLES 32:8, NLT	WHO IS ALWAYS WITH YOU?	GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME.
GOD LOVES ME.		

# Elementary and KFC



## ELEMENTARY

SEPTEMBER 2021

### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

#### GOD VIEW:

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

God took the initiative by sending Jesus to show us how much He loves us and fix the relationship between us. When we see a need and choose to do something about it, we reflect God's image in us. Through our initiative, others can see the reality of God's love for them.

#### WEEK ONE

##### BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall  
Nehemiah 1:1-2:18

##### BOTTOM LINE

Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

#### WEEK TWO

##### BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah Helps the Poor  
Nehemiah 5

##### BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to make things right.

#### WEEK THREE

##### BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah and Sanballat  
Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

##### BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on what needs to be done.

#### WEEK FOUR

##### BIBLE STORY

The Wall Is Rebuilt  
Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17

##### BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

#### MEMORY VERSE

**"WORK AT EVERYTHING YOU DO WITH ALL YOUR HEART. WORK AS IF YOU WERE WORKING FOR THE LORD."**

COLOSSIANS 3:23A, NIRV

#### INITIATIVE

SEEING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND DOING IT

## Save the date

September 10: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00

September 24: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00

# Youth Ministry

## 6 Conversations to Have With Your Kid at the Start of the New School Year

by Leah Jennings

Last year, everything changed.

The pandemic's arrival altered life as we knew it, forcing us to pare down to the essentials while businesses, churches, and schools shuttered their doors indefinitely. The uncertainty left us fearful, and the constant vigilance of keeping everyone safe and healthy while maintaining work, our homes, our kids' academic success, and our mental health left us beyond exhausted.

It was a lot.

But as we enter a new school year, we are hopeful. While things aren't exactly as they were before the pandemic descended, a lot of us are feeling closer to normal than we've experienced in a long while. And with the return to our usual rhythms, we might find our kids are opening up to us more now that they have the emotional capacity to do so.

Whether your kids are the chatty kind or the silent type, you can anticipate your kids will feel all kinds of things this upcoming school year. Here are some conversation topics you can anticipate having with your kids:

**Learning isn't always easy.** Prepare your kids to expect not to know every answer. Remind them that they won't be good at everything right away, and that school is the place they're meant to be challenged and learn something new.

**A fear of fitting in.** Your kid may have spent last year in the familiarity of home. Or their friend group dynamic may have changed. Whatever the case, help your anxious kid navigate their desire to fit in by reinforcing their identity—remind them they are great the way they are and that they already have a place where they belong, and that's right at home.

**Focus on what is in your control.** There will be many things your kid will face at school that they have no influence over, but what they can control is their effort and how they treat other people. Use this time to talk to your kid about what true kindness is—respect for themselves and others—and what to do when someone isn't showing kindness to them.

**Homesickness.** Kids spent a lot of time at home last year and may find themselves missing home way more than they normally would once they go back into a typical school setting. This conversation is an opportunity for you to build trust by reminding your kid that you will always come back for them and that there are other caring adults in their lives they are safe with.



**Feeling unsafe.** Hopefully, your kid won't find themselves in a position where they don't feel safe. But if they do, you want to have built a foundation with your kid before this point, reminding them that they can come to talk to you about anything no matter what. Remind your kids that families may have surprises for each other, but they don't keep secrets from each other.

**Navigating change.** Drive home the idea to your kid that change isn't always a bad thing—we can miss what used to be, but be excited for what's to come. Remind your kid that humans are capable of feeling different feelings all at once.

These are just a few conversations you can expect to encounter, but these definitely won't be all of them. Remember to approach every conversation with curiosity, patience, and grace as you learn to navigate the changes—and the emotions that go with them—together.

## Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who so generously donated snacks to the Adventure Days, VBS and the PCHAS trip to the Ranger game. (We won in a walk off!)

All the children loved the snacks and ice cream (it was dollar ice cream day).

Thanks also for all the school supplies donated to the PCHAS campuses - our congregation has such big beautiful giving hearts. Thanks for answering our "call for help."

Marge & Bob

Here's a pic of Bob, the ice cream man, passing out treats to our PCHAS guests at the Rangers game.



# Music Ministry Opportunities

## Music Ministry Opportunities

- Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.
- Ring of Praise handbell ensemble rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:00
- Youth Music Ministries will resume on September 12 with snack lunch in the Fellowship Hall, then move to the Choir Room
- Children's Music Ministries resume on September 12. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall at 12:45 with a snack lunch, then move to Room 218, with pick up at 1:45. Your child is eligible for Children's Music Ministries if they are 4 years old at the start of the school year (August 16).

## Church Library

You are invited to visit the FPCA church library now that the church is open again. The library is located in the hall near the front of the sanctuary. To check out a book you only need to sign your name on the check-out log.

When the FPCA pre-school closed, we received a large stack of nice children's books for the library, and many are already on the shelves.



Here is a sample of the recent additions to FPCA adult fiction:

### **Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict**

An incredible novel that focuses on one of the people with the most influence during World War I and World War II: Clementine Churchill.

### **The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson**

Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.



### **Hazel Creek by Walt Larimore**

In the Great Smoky Mountains wilderness in 1925, Nathan and Callie Randolph, with their five unique daughters, struggle to maintain their farm, forests, family, and faith against a menacing business and an evil company manager trying to pilfer their land and clear cut their forest.

### **The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis**

At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written.



## **Fall Festival Lunch**

The Fall Festival Lunch will be Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship!



# Live Stream and Social Media News

As probably almost everyone already knows our church has been broadcasting our Sunday Worship Services live since August 15th. It's been a great success! First, because now our members and online visitors can feel a deeper worship experience. Second, in terms of numbers, both on YouTube and Facebook, a Live Stream allow us to reach more people online, capture more attention, more online visitors and therefore accomplish the mission to spread the Gospel not only locally but globally.

I want to thank all members of our congregation that made this possible and also thank you all those that help me every Sunday to make this happen. May God bless you richly.

If you want to watch our Sunday Worship Service through one of our Social Media channels, just go to the address that you can see below.

Eric Gottmann

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/firstprestexas](http://www.facebook.com/firstprestexas)

YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofarlington](http://www.youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofarlington)



# 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, September 2, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

### Team Meeting Night\*

Thursday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

### Session Meeting\*

Thursday, September 23, 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.



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**Deadline for the October issue of The News is September 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, 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.

