



*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)

November
2021

The News

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Newsletter Team

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Enter In...

As we begin the month of November, life feels like we are beginning to look to the end of the year. It is such a fun and celebratory time with important holidays like Thanksgiving, the season of Advent, and of course Christmas. Throughout the fall, our session and deacon teams have been visioning for their respective ministries in 2022. All that we do serves to fulfill our mission statement which is to transform life by glorifying God, following Jesus, and loving our neighbor. We in leadership and as a staff are excited for 2022 for many reasons. But there has been a growing momentum throughout 2021 as more people have returned to in-person worship, more people have connected with us through our live stream worship service, and your generosity has been just incredible this year.

At no point this year has a staff member come to me and said, "Pastor Chris, our team really wanted to achieve _____ this year," or "do _____ this in the spring. But we are not sure the funds are there. What should we do?" I have served churches where this question has come up and I know it has come up at FPCA. But I have not heard that this year and that is amazing! It is so much more fun to bless and release teams to fulfill their mission throughout the year and we can do that because of your faithful and consistent generosity to FPCA.

This is a special time of year because as our teams are looking towards 2022, this is an appropriate time for all members and friends of FPCA, everyone who considers FPCA to be their church home, to discern how God is calling you to grow in your trust in him, particularly when it comes to your resources. A couple weeks ago, I preached how we serve a B-I-G God and that God has big dreams for FPCA.

To assist your discernment when it comes to your mission support, we will journey through our fall generosity campaign called, "Enter In," where we will learn much from what Jesus teaches in what is called the "Parable of the Talents" in Matthew 25:14-30. We will look at what it means to:

- Enter in to your opportunity
- Enter in now
- Enter in to courage
- Enter in to the joy of your Lord

We will provide other materials as well as offer a discipleship series that your Sunday school class may use. It can also be used on an individual basis as well. This will all lead up to our commitment Sunday on November 21st where our goal is for 100% of everyone

who considers FPCA to be their church home to turn in an estimate of giving card for 2022.

I know I am excited for where God is leading us. But I love hearing from you when you share with me why you are excited! More and more of those kinds of comments and conversations have been happening over the past couple months and I trust that will continue – especially as we Enter In.

Live Forever,

Pastor Chris

Finance Update

For the month of **September 2021:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 58,965
Expense: (\$86,545)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$27,580)**
Income - Expense for 2021 Year to Date: **(\$3,613)**



Comments:

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

- examine the doctrine of the threefold office of Jesus Christ: prophet priest, and king, in our sermon series called “Prophet, Priest, King”.
- enjoy great Mexican food and fellowship together at our Fall Festival Lunch.
- launch a new Women’s Ministry Bible study called “Get Out of Your Head”.
- resume the Monday Night Women’s Bible night with a study called “What My Grandmothers Taught Me”.
- resume Kid’s Night Out which is a great time for kids to have fun playing, eating pizza, connecting with one another and having a short Bible lesson.
- resume Children’s Music Ministries, Youth Music Ministries, and Ring of Praise handbell ensemble rehearsals.
- Enjoy a great Youth Back to School Celebration with Group Dynamix with a day of fun and food.
- As of September, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,186,438.

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

This month we are going to use a community garden to teach our preschoolers that "I can thank God for everything." Wow, there is so much goodness in that one statement!

First of all, I can thank. Choosing to be thankful is the road to contentment, joy, and peace. And we want our preschoolers to have all of that goodness in their lives. Second, I can thank God. Thanking God is how we acknowledge the One giving us all the good in our lives. And third, I can thank God for everything. Yes, even the not so good stuff. When we thank God for everything, we are showing God that we believe He can use ALL things for His purpose and nothing is too big for Him.

We want our preschoolers to know they can thank God for everything. We want them to experience the contentment, joy, and peace that comes from a thankful heart.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz Ruth 1-2	STORY FOCUS I can thank God for my family.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY David and Jonathan 1 Samuel 18:1-4	STORY FOCUS I can thank God for my friends.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Manna Exodus 16	STORY FOCUS I can thank God for food.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Elisha's Room 2 Kings 4:8-17	STORY FOCUS I can thank God for people who help me.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART." PSALM 111:1, ESV	WHO CAN YOU THANK FOR EVERYTHING?	I CAN THANK GOD FOR EVERYTHING.
GOD LOVES ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

NOVEMBER 2021

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

Everything we have comes from God. He is faithful to provide what we need. And even more than what we own, God can also provide what we need to face whatever happens in our life. God has proven time and again that we can trust Him no matter what. We can complain or become jealous of what others have . . . or we can choose to respond with contentment, knowing that God has a plan for our lives.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Be Content (Paul in Prison) Philippians 4:11b-13	BOTTOM LINE God can help you be content.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27	BOTTOM LINE Wanting more and more can make you miserable.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Israelites Long for Egypt Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7	BOTTOM LINE Don't miss out on what you have now.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Giving Freely to the Lord's People 2 Corinthians 8:1-5	BOTTOM LINE You can always use what you have to help someone else.

MEMORY VERSE	"THEN HE SAID TO THEM, 'WATCH OUT! BE ON YOUR GUARD AGAINST WANTING TO HAVE MORE AND MORE THINGS. LIFE IS NOT MADE UP OF HOW MUCH A PERSON HAS.'" LUKE 12:15, NIRV
CONTENTMENT	Learning to be ok with what you have

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Save the date

November 5: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 for children 6th grade and younger.

November 19: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 for children 6th grade and younger.

December 3: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 for children 6th grade and younger.

Youth Ministry

Five Ways to Help Your High Schooler Find Their Purpose

by Stuart Hall

How do we give our teenagers something to do—not just a list of things to stay away from? How do we give them opportunities to collaborate with their family, serve their community, and discover how God has uniquely wired them to influence the world around them? What would a list of things they can do look like?

In other words, how can we help find the answer to this question: Why is my teenager on the planet and how do they matter for what really matters?

Such shallow, inconsequential queries.

The problem with such a great question is that having a teenager is kind of like living in a haunted house.

Every now and then you'll see a figure out of the corner of your eye, followed by a moaning sound, and then a door will slam shut. And braving the apparition behind that slammed door is like taking a trip to Ikea: you go in just to take a look around and end up walking out with eight cups, four plates, three bowls, a couple of towels, and some silverware.

It's like a Swedish ghost invaded your home.

I think it's far more important to ask the right questions than it is to have a bunch of answers that don't apply. Here are just a few questions for you to ask yourself and your high schooler about your high schooler . . .

How can we expand their world and our dinner table?

A shark in a fish tank will grow to eight inches. A shark in the ocean will grow to be eight feet or more. A shark will never outgrow its environment. The same is true about your high schooler. The more we expand their world, the more ability they have to see and feel what makes them come alive. Expand your dinner table with diversity and different points of view. To whatever extent possible, travel—even if it's within your local community to understand its history and stories. Become a reader, and invite your teenager to join you. Help them to hear and listen to different voices.

How can we make sure they're second-best?

Second-best? Yes. This seems counterintuitive, but Kellee and I have experienced its power. Want to find out if your teenager's gifting is also their passion? Make sure they're surrounded by people who are just as gifted, if not more. Yes: teenagers need wins under their belt, but if all they do is win, they're not learning anything about themselves. We didn't want our children to be the smartest, most talented, fastest, most athletic, the best. And being willing to change the landscape allowed our teenagers (and us as parents) to gauge where gifting was overshadowing a lack of passion.

Who is relying on our teenager?

The thing that kids need most is to feel like they matter. By "matter" we mean the extent to which we make a difference in the world around us. People matter for three reasons: awareness (I am known), importance (I am significant), and reliance (someone is counting on me). One of the most interesting parts of the research we're uncovering as it relates to the next generation: The next

generation feels awareness and importance. What they don't feel is reliance: being needed. Most of us as parents are pretty good at the first two. Reliance is a great revealer of passion and purpose.

Is our teenager an intricate part of a team?

Because reliance is such a powerful revealer, we think it's critical that the next generation joins a group, team, or initiative where their gifting and presence are relied upon. It makes sense why teenagers would rather miss church than miss band practice, drama rehearsal, a job, or their athletic team practice or games. In those contexts, they're relied upon. Their absence has consequences detrimental to the greater good and the whole. Serving meets this need as well, but we strongly recommend some sort of team initiative that intertwines and includes diversity. Collaboration reveals passion and purpose.

Are we letting our teenager fail?

As parents, we want two contradictory goals: We want our kids to never feel pain, and we want our kids to have the character that only comes from pain. To balance this correctly means you'll have to resist the urge to prepare the path for your child, and instead prepare your child for the path—whatever that path may be. Failure reveals passion and purpose.

Please hear me say this with every ounce of love and compassion in me: Your teenager cannot forge their own path using somebody else's map. God has not given your teenager your vision for their life. If He has, maybe it's not God your teenager is listening to. Your high schooler will love and honor you as their parents by becoming the best version of the person God created them to be. It's not your high schooler's responsibility to become who you want them to be.

Our job is to love and guide them as they become who God wants them to be.

Our love doesn't need to be perfect.

It just needs to be true.

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

Comfort and Joy

Comfort and Joy

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

7:00 p.m. Zoom



The FPCA Women's Ministry Team would like to invite you for a special Christmas event. Russell Farnell, our Director of Music Ministry, will show us how the meaning of cherished Christmas carols can help us set our minds on the anticipation of the birth of our Savior. Come join us online as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas and embrace the comfort and joy of the season.

Registration details to come!

Faith & Blue



Pastor Chris Campbell and First Presbyterian Church were pleased to welcome Deputy Chief Kyle Dishko and Sgt. Michael Chitty for National Faith & Blue Weekend during Sunday worship, where they were presented with five (5) American flags flown in honor of the men and women of the Arlington Police Department during the Arlington Field of Honor (9/4 – 9/11). Saturday afternoon the pastor and Session Members prayed with and for a larger contingent of Chief Dishko's officers at the East Arlington Police Center.



An Advent Festival



An Advent Festival
a service of worship in song
celebrating the coming of the
Savior with choir, organ, and brass

Sunday, December 12, 2021
11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

featuring ***Gloria*** by John Rutter and
Glory to God by Russell Farnell

First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins St
Arlington, TX 76010
www.FirstPresTexas.org

Gifts of Hope

FPCA will once again be offering Gifts of Hope for the 2021 Advent Season. Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift market that offers a creative and caring way to honor friends, family members, colleagues, etc. through donations to a wide range of outreach organizations. "Shoppers" choose an organization, donate the amount specified, and then receive a card to give as a gift to friends or family. This program not only supports outreach organizations, but also seeks to offer a less materialistic option for gift giving. Be on the lookout for more information as we approach Advent.

firstprestexas.org/live

Participate in worship live online each Sunday, or later that week.

Our services are streamed live on Facebook and YouTube, and on our website Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Facebook and YouTube offer an easy way for you to connect and view our worship services on your computer or mobile device, especially if you are on the go.

More immersive and participatory, our website offers the YouTube version of our live stream along with the order of worship so that you can follow along with the prayers, readings, and hymns printed. The buttons above and below the video allow you to register your attendance and give online during the offering time. Our services are available any time during the following week. Click on the play list at the upper right to select a past service.

The screenshot displays the website interface for First Presbyterian Church of Arlington. At the top, there is a blue 'Attendance Register' button. Below it, a large video player shows a live stream of a church service with the text 'Go to firstprestexas.org to register' overlaid. To the right of the video is a 'Live Services' playlist with a list of services including 'All In - First Presbyterian Church of Arlington - Live Worship Service' and 'Why Do We Believe? - First Presbyterian Church of Arlington - Live Worship Service'. Below the video player is a green 'Give' button. Underneath the 'Give' button is a text prompt: 'Press the button above to Give during the Offering time. Download this week's Order of Worship, or follow along below.' Below this is a PDF viewer showing the 'The Worship of God' document. The PDF includes instructions like 'Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.' and 'Please silence all phones and devices.' It lists the order of worship: Praise to the Lord (arr. John Behnke), Prayer for Preparation, Welcome and Opening Prayer, and Alleluia 7 (Taizé Community).

Go to firstprestexas.org/live to participate.

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, November 4, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night*

Thursday, November 11, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting*

Thursday, November 18, 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 December issue of The News is November 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lloyd Counts, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Yvette Fielder, the Formusoh Family, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, the Gottmann Family, 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.

