



*“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 2:2 (NRSV)*

January  
2022

# The News

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### Newsletter Team

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# Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! I trust everyone had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed ringing in the New Year! I want to spend a moment tying up some loose ends from 2021 and then highlight what I see in store for 2022.

This is a great time to thank all those who fulfilled their terms serving as an elder, deacon, trustee, or congregational nominating team member. I am so grateful to everyone who answers the call to serve the church in this special way. It is not something to take lightly and I never take you for granted. This is also an exciting time as new officers hop onboard for new terms. Please pray for rest and refreshment for those who rotated off and pray for endurance and energy for those beginning their terms.

I also want to thank everyone who made their Enter In commitment. We received an increase in the total number of cards received as compared to our previous generosity campaign which is always great to see. We received a good number of first-time pledgers which is also great to see! And a good number increased their commitment from their previous pledge. While obviously there are people who care a lot about the dollar numbers, I am more concerned with the number of commitments, first time commitments, and growth in commitments. These are signs of spiritual growth as more and more people come to fully trust God in all areas of our lives including our finances.

The pandemic really delayed getting the Transform renovation underway but the pause enabled us to improve our initial plan. We have found ways to do more for less money! When does that ever happen?! This month, the Transform Team will be interviewing general contractors and if things stay on track, then hopefully we will see some activity around here late spring.

Last, but definitely not least, we have welcomed Rev. Jim Shroyer on staff as our Parish Associate for Connection and Care. Jim is such a great guy and has tremendous gifts. He must if he has been serving as an ordained pastor for 51 years! We are so thankful God brought Jim and Jamee to FPCA and I am thankful for the opportunity to partner with him in ministry here. We have much to be grateful for and we have much to be excited about!

Pastor Chris

# Finance Update

For the month of **November 2021:**

### Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 67,354

Expense: (\$72,127)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$ 4,773)**

Income - Expense for 2021 Year to Date: **(\$46,447)****Comments:**

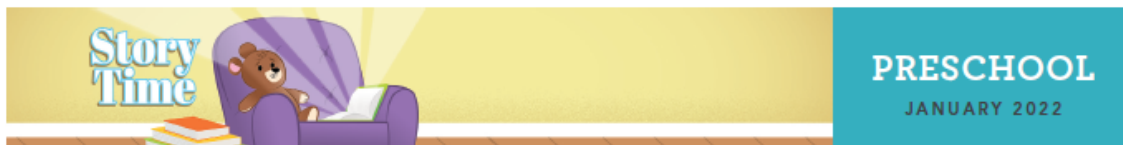
We are always so grateful for your generous donations. Because of your support we were able to:

- learn much from the “Parable of the Talents” as we Enter In to the joy of our Lord.
- support the teachers and staff at McNutt Elementary with notes of appreciation and encouragement.
- provide ways to serve our community through HOPE Tutoring, and by helping to distribute Thanksgiving bags to the clients of Arlington Charities.
- enjoy 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.
- share a great time together at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, along with a meaningful, guided prayer walk at the church.
- As of November, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,190,174.

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

A great storyteller can pull you in and make you forget everything else that is going on around you. They make you feel empathy and conviction for things that really matter. Life lessons are revealed with each word, and you walk away wanting to change and just be a better human.

Jesus is that kind of storyteller.

Jesus is indeed the master storyteller and there is nothing better than Story Time with Him. When Jesus starts talking, it's time to listen. Because, Jesus teaches me important things.

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-24	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus teaches us God loves us no matter what.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> The Lost Sheep Luke 15:3-7	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus teaches us we are important to God.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Bigger Barns Acts 2:45; Luke 12:16-21	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus teaches us we can share our stuff.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus teaches us to help others.
<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> House on a Rock Matthew 7:24-27	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus teaches us how to live.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"THE CROWDS WERE AMAZED AT HIS TEACHING." MATTHEW 7:28, NIV	WHO TEACHES YOU IMPORTANT THINGS?	JESUS TEACHES ME IMPORTANT THINGS.
JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.		

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## Elementary and KFC



### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

#### GOD VIEW:

**THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SELF-CONTROL AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY**

We trust God no matter what. Even when we face unexpected circumstances, we can respond to them with self-control. We can trust that we don't need to rush in or take matters into our own hands. We can trust that God is working.

Self-control is a Fruit of the Spirit. As we follow Jesus throughout our lives, the Holy Spirit transforms us and helps us live more like Jesus. We can follow His example and choose to do what we should do—instead of what we want to do. The Holy Spirit can give us the power and wisdom to show self-control.

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert Luke 4:1-13 (Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Be ready to do the right thing.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Broken-Down Walls Proverbs 25:28	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> When you lose control, it can cause trouble.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> David Spares Saul's Life 1 Samuel 24	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Don't be controlled by your anger.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Choose Your Words Carefully Proverbs 12:18	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Think before you speak.
<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Too Much of a Good Thing Proverbs 25:16	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Know when to stop.

<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>	<b>"GOD'S POWER HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED TO LEAD A GODLY LIFE."</b> 2 PETER 1:3A, NIRV
<b>SELF-CONTROL</b>	Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

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## Save the date

January 14: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 for children 6<sup>th</sup> grade and younger.

January 28: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 for children 6<sup>th</sup> grade and younger.

# Youth Ministry

## Setting and Keeping Technology Boundaries

by Parent Cue

Technology—it's a blessing and a curse for many parents.

What can provide ten minutes of entertainment for a crying toddler, and the resulting quiet that comes with it, can eventually turn harmful to an iPad-addicted ten-year-old. And, these days, it's not a matter of if your kid will be using technology in school. It's simply a matter of when.

iPads and laptops are everywhere, and for parents who want to put limits on their kids' screen time, it can be difficult to find a healthy balance. So what should a parent do?

### **1. Make a plan.**

School homework is a given. But when it comes to the more “fun” screen time, sit down with your child and set specific guidelines. Be clear and consistent with them—and follow through. Too many times, it's easy to stick to it for a few weeks, then fall back into old habits. Whether it's hours per week, specific times of the day, or even certain rooms where iPads aren't allowed (like bedrooms), make sure your kid knows exactly what's okay and what isn't, when it comes to screen time.

### **2. Use parental controls.**

This is just a basic, practical way to make sure your kid isn't overdoing it. Go into the settings and set limits on what your child can see and for how long they can use the device. This is an easy way to start putting limits on screen time outside of school work.

### **3. Set an example.**

It's hard to enforce screen time rules when you don't have any for yourself. If you're constantly binging on Netflix or Hulu in front of the kids, then it's much more difficult to preach about screen time balance. Give yourself certain parameters—like no screen time in bed or after a certain time of day—and then stick to it.

### **4. Keep screens off the dinner menu.**

This one is so important! After long days at school and work, dinner time should be family time—the one part of the day where you can all sit down and engage with each other. Screens not only take away from that opportunity, but they limit your child's ability to use and grow in their social skills.

### **5. Limit online capabilities for safety.**

Screen time is one thing, but screen time with access to online functions within an app is an entirely different thing. You need to be aware of what apps your kid is using and what online features they have. If one particular app is popular with kids, you can be sure that predators will be on there as well—especially if it allows them to interact with kids. Know who your kids are talking to and disable communication features if necessary.

### **6. Have fun!**

It's so easy to get worried, as parents, about the dangers of technology that we forget to have fun with it as well! iPads and the like offer so many exciting features that can benefit our kids in their intellectual and emotional growth. Let's use those to our benefit and enjoy them, while also simply

being aware of the negatives that are out there. As long as we're plugged in to what our kids are doing, we can be confident that we're using technology in a positive way.

Like all the generations before us, new forms of technology (radios to TVs to game consoles to iPads) will always present both pros and cons. And just like our parents and their parents, we'll need to navigate through these new forms of entertainment to learn how to best use them with our kids.

These days, schools are using iPads to teach our kids in completely new ways—and that's amazing! As long as we're balancing the way our kids use screens when they get home, there's no reason we can't help them develop a healthy relationship with technology for years to come.

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

## Financial Peace University Returns Sunday School!

Join the millions who never have to worry about money again! Financial Peace University (FPU) is the proven plan that helps you pay off debt fast and save more money for your future. FPU is the nine-lesson class that teaches you the step-by-step plan to win with money.

FPU helped us (i.e., Katina and James Gifford) renew our minds and repent as a married couple in our spiritual journey. It taught us how to steward God's resources, how to put Him first in our lives, and how to leave a legacy to our children. This Bible-inspired way of handling money is a life-changing and saving course that every person will benefit from, regardless of how much money you have saved, debt you still have, or how old you are. We all can learn something new, so come join us!

**When:** Sundays, Jan. 23, 2022 - Mar. 27, 2022 from 9:45-10 45am

**Where:** FPCA chapel

**Cost:**

- 14-day free trial available
- \$130: 1-year Ramsey+ membership\* (**four scholarships available and need to be used: contact leaders, first come first serve**)
- \$100: 6-month Ramsey+ membership\*
- \$60: 3-month Ramsey+ membership\*

\*all memberships include workbook

**Questions:** talk to James or Katina Gifford, email [crystalpoolfw@gmail.com](mailto:crystalpoolfw@gmail.com), or call/text 817-725-5653 or 817-565-3835.

**Sign Up:** at [fpu.com/1143036](http://fpu.com/1143036) or ask a Gifford to help or come to first gathering (Jan. 23rd) to sign up



# Seen around the Church

## Advent Festival



## Youth Christmas Party





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

### Team Meeting Night\*

Thursday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

### Session Meeting\*

Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in person in the Parlor 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  
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**Deadline for the February issue of The News is January 15!**

## Prayer Ministry

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

