

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11



January
2023

The News

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Newsletter Team

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On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. – Matthew 2:11

Happy New Year from the Campbells and all of our wonderful staff at FPCA! 2022 was a wonderful year in many ways and we will hear and read more about that at our annual meeting on January 22nd. But the year was capped off in a beautiful way on Christmas Eve. Immediately after a gutsy win by the Cowboys over the Eagles, there was an extra sense of joy and celebration in the air. We celebrated through the reading and singing of lessons and carols, led by some great youth and children of our church. As part of those readings, we include the visit of the Magi or Wise Men, even though we know their visit came shortly after his birth.

They brought gifts. And while none of us I am sure would turn down a Christmas gift of gold, I don't know how many of you had frankincense and myrrh on your Christmas list. I know that thought never crossed our boys' minds when putting together their wish list.

Around Christmas time you sometimes hear or ask yourself the question – what do you get someone who seemingly has everything? Maybe not everything. But some people are very hard to shop for. Can you imagine Christmas shopping for baby Jesus, who we know to be God incarnate? What do you give someone who is the capital “c” Creator? He has the whole world in his hands!

God does not need anything. There is no obvious stocking stuffer. So we have to think a little harder and dig a little deeper. Not in our pockets or wallets, but our very lives. This might sound like a New Year's resolution, but what more of yourself can give God this year? Maybe it's a more consistent presence in worship – glorifying God. Maybe it is more one-on-one time with him, or finding a discipleship group to grow with – following Jesus. Maybe it is taking more time to serve others or grow in your generosity of time, talents, and treasure – loving our neighbor. Maybe you are the ambitious type and know you can offer more in all three of those areas. Your gift for our Lord and King is you! And you come with free shipping – what a deal! How will you pay homage to the King this year?

Blessings,

Pastor Chris

Finance Update

For the month of November 2022:

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$73,937

Expense: (\$83,212)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$9,275)**

Income - Expense for 2022 Year to Date: **\$51,797**



Comments:

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

- conclude our Beyond preaching series as we offered up our hearts and lives to God.
- enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship at our annual Thanksgiving dinner.
- be a part of an exciting prayer ministry event called 12 Hours of Prayer.
- welcome in the season with our Women's Advent Kickoff Celebration, sponsored by our Women's Ministry Team.
- Have a fun fellowship time with our church family as we decorated the sanctuary for the Advent season.
- provide opportunities to serve our community and distribute food at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.
- As of November, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,463,780.

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, our preschoolers are going to step into their own wonderful workshop as we discover some of the amazing things Jesus did. Everything Jesus did – and the way He did them – showed everyone around Him that He was God's son, and that means that Jesus is amazing!

We are going to have a lot of fun with preschoolers as we tinker and create together. So, get your workshops ready! It's time for our preschoolers to discover how Jesus is amazing!

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Jesus Teaches at the Temple Luke 2:41-50	STORY FOCUS Jesus' teaching is amazing.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Water to Wine John 2:1-11	STORY FOCUS Jesus is amazing.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Calming the Storm Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41	STORY FOCUS Jesus' power is amazing.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Catching Fish Luke 5:1-10	STORY FOCUS Jesus' miracles are amazing.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY Healing a Man Born Blind John 9:1-12	STORY FOCUS Jesus' kindness is amazing.
MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"EVERYONE WHO HEARD HIM WAS AMAZED." LUKE 2:47, NIV	WHO IS AMAZING?	JESUS IS AMAZING.
JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.		

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Elementary and KFC



PUT YOUR
KNOWLEDGE
TO THE TEST

ELEMENTARY
JANUARY 2023

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

God is the author of knowledge. Everything we know to be true about the world is because of God. And while we may never know all there is to know ABOUT God, there are lots of ways we can get to KNOW God. We can know God best through Jesus, who showed us how much God loves us and showed why knowledge is so important. The more we know God, the better we can live God's way each day.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY The Wise Men Visit Jesus Matthew 2:1-12	BOTTOM LINE Never stop searching for what's true.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Boy Jesus at the Temple Luke 2:41-52	BOTTOM LINE Knowing God is the most important thing.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Jesus' Baptism John 1:19-42, John 3:22-36 (supporting: Matthew 3)	BOTTOM LINE When you discover something new, it can change you.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert Luke 4:1-13 (supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)	BOTTOM LINE Remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY John the Baptist in Prison Matthew 11:1-6 (supporting: James 1:5)	BOTTOM LINE If you don't understand something, ask.

MEMORY VERSE

"THE LORD GIVES WISDOM. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING COME FROM HIS MOUTH."

PROVERBS 2:6, NIRV

KNOWLEDGE

LEARNING SOMETHING NEW SO YOU CAN BE BETTER AT WHATEVER YOU DO

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Save the date:

January 13-Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

January 27-Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

January 29-Children's Ministry Luncheon for Families with Children in 6th Grade and Younger and YMM.

Youth Ministry

How Generosity Helps Kids Live Richer, Fuller Lives

By Parent Cue

Parents have a lot to think about. So much, in fact, we often leave ourselves very little time and energy to think about much else. How could we?

We've got our kids' academic success to think about.

We've got our family's schedule to keep running like a well-oiled machine.

We've got our kids' social lives to stress over.

We've got our kids' extracurricular activities to get them to on time.

We've got all the work inside and outside of the home to manage.

And if we're lucky, we'll use what's left to take care of ourselves.

Like we said, it's a lot.

And while it's easy to get caught up in life's more time sensitive issues, the more critical yet less visible matters often go overlooked. Generosity is one of those things. We know parents understand the value of raising kids who are generous with their time and resources to help others. However, our lives are so busy, teaching our kids about the power of giving is often seasonal and inconsistent. But raising generous kids should be higher on our list of priorities, because generous kids...

Are connected to a bigger story.

See beyond themselves with an expanded worldview.

Keep an unhealthy ego in check.

Learn to distinguish between what's important and what's not.

So, how do we raise the next generation to be intentionally generous? Here are a few practical ideas to incorporate generosity into your family's rhythm:

Make volunteering a regular part of your family's routine.

Serving others builds your kids' awareness of the needs of others and expands their view of the world. And in many cases, your kids will have the opportunity to experience the appreciation of those they're serving so they can feel firsthand the joy that comes with giving.

Require a portion of your kids' allowance/commission to go toward giving.

Beyond teaching your kids the value of spending less than they earn, requiring your kids to give a portion of what they earn will help them adopt a habit of giving. Encourage your kids to give to a church, community project, or a cause of their choosing.

Teach them the concept of get one, give one.

This is particularly impactful around holidays known for receiving gifts. For Christmas, birthdays, or any day worth celebrating, buy two of the same gift. Ask your kid who they believe would enjoy or

benefit from receiving the gift as much as they do. The goal here is to help prime their minds to notice the desires of those around them.

Commit to giving consistently to a cause.

When you commit to giving your time or resources over a period of time, your kids witness the impact of their generosity long term. Whether your family chooses to sponsor a child or donate money to a school scholarship fund, your kids will not only learn the importance of giving, they will also learn the power of patience and the impact even small deposits can have with consistency.

Most parents have one thing in common, and that's the desire for our kids to have the best future possible. Raising generous kids will have a profound effect on their future, and that starts with making the practice of generosity part of your everyday life at home.

Do you and your family want to put generosity in action? Begin modeling the value of generosity for your kids by showing them what it looks like to share kindness, time, and resources with others.

Blessings,

Adrian

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, January 14, starting at 8:30 a.m. to distribute food, or bring your neighbors to receive food, at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

2045 SE Green Oaks Blvd

Arlington, TX 76018

It's just east of New York Ave, so if you're coming from the west, make a U-turn at Sherry St. Volunteer parking is just south of the church and food is distributed on the west side of the church.



Gifts of Hope

Gifts of Hope 2022 was a great success! The following gifts were given this Christmas through this program: 20 medical kits, 8 ducks, 14 chickens, 10 fruit trees, 2 blankets for rescued slaves, 2 care kits for child victims, 8 care kits for persecuted Christians, 3 Bibles for believers in captive nations, food for 13 Arlington families for a week, 4 sets of winter items for the local homeless, 3 paperback books & 1 ream of paper for HOPE tutoring, toiletries for a month for 5 children in foster care, and 5 school backpacks for students in need. Donations will be given to World Vision, International Justice Mission, Voice of the Martyrs, Arlington Charities, HOPE tutoring, and Presbyterian Children's Home and Services totaling \$1204! Thanks so much to everyone who helped and contributed!

New Year New Beginnings



**NEW YEAR
NEW BEGINNINGS**

ATTENTION, LADIES!

Saturday, January 28
10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Parlor

It's said that a new year brings 365 opportunities to develop new habits. Join us for brunch, and start 2023 off right by learning how to develop the spiritual discipline of worship. Once again, our speaker will be Martita Lynch, a great favorite. Feel free to bring a friend!!

\$10 Registration Online

To register, visit the FPCA website (firstprestexas.org)
Our Ministries → Adult Ministries → Scroll to Women's Ministry

You can pay online, on the FPCA app, or by check.

Questions? Please call Jamie at 214-674-7821 or e-mail
womensministry@firstprestexas.org

Women's Ministry Team

This Month

Some activities are postponed until further notice. 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 Monday, September 19. The 2022-2023 study is *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. Questions? Contact Debbie Richardson at 817.675.2867 or Sheri Quick at sheriq@aol.com.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study *

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Brides Room every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m.

CWF Women's Bible Study*

Meet virtually every Wednesday at 7 p.m. EXCEPT the last Wednesday of the month they meet at FPCA in the Parlor.



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 Choir Room. *Nursery care is provided if requested.*

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble*

This handbell ensemble every on Wednesday, at 6 p.m.

Youth Choir*

The youth choir every Sunday, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Children's Music Ministries*

The children's choirs every Sunday, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting *

Thursday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night *

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

Session Meeting *

Thursday, January 26, 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.



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!

Senior Flexibility Class *

Come get fit with us! The Senior Flexibility Class will meet each week on Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

If interested, contact Mary Spencer at 817-689-0526 for more details.

First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Deadline for the February issue of The News is January 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: The family of Jeanne Malone, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Billie Jo Campbell, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Bunny Floyd, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Grady Herzog, the Hydock Family, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Jim L. Quick, Tonya Scrabeck, Esther Teboh, John and Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welbourne, and Danny Womble.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Amie Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Ryan Powell, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, and Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our homebound members: Esther Albright, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Barbara Hughes, Charlene Miller, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, Mary Jane Wright, Polly Baugh, Lucy Cleaver, Madge Casselman, Elizabeth Harris.

Pray for those who do not know Christ!

If you have any congregational care needs, please contact either Pastor Chris Campbell or Parish Pastor Jim Shroyer at 817-274-8286.

