



“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3:23-24

May
2023

The News

Table of Contents

M Is for May and MO 2
Finance Update..... 3
Children`s Ministry 4
Youth Ministry 6
Pentecost Offering 7
Monthly Food Bank 8
This Month 9
Prayer Ministry.....10

Newsletter Team

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The News is a publication of
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M Is for May and MO

One of the most spiritual formative places I experienced growing up was MO Ranch. I remember during 9th grade; my church friends were adamant – you’ve gotta go to MO! That summer I attended MO-TLC which was a smaller leadership camp then returned later that summer for senior high Youth Celebration. I never missed a summer conference while in high school. While in college, I attended College Connection and began to help with Junior High Jubilee. I was a small group leader several times. Towards the end of college, I was old enough to lead at Youth Celebration as a small group leader and also lead music. During my first call in Birmingham, Alabama, I drove some of our high school kids all the way to MO so they could experience it – along with other important landmarks such as Luckenbach. While serving as a solo pastor in Greenville, I attended the small church pastor’s retreat. So, I would like to think I have checked most of the boxes out at MO. But there are still a couple left.

That is one of the reasons I’m excited that nine of us will drive down there this month for the Men’s Conference. I have never attended this one before. FPCA has a tradition of sending a group down there, but it has been more than a few years since we have been able to organize a trip. We have a great group that is cross-generational, and I hope this year can be a rebirth of tradition.

This summer, Adrian will take some of our youth down for the multi-cultural conference (one of the few other conferences I haven’t been a part of). I can’t wait for some of our youth to experience MO for the first time! I hope they form lifelong friendships just like I have.

If you have never been to MO, I encourage you to look up the variety of conferences they offer year-round. In addition to those, you and your family, extended family, social group, can just go and rent rooms or a cabin and enjoy all that MO has to offer. If you want to see some humorous pictures of me and my college hair, pop in my office. I keep those pictures and other mementos in the front pocket of one of my Bibles 😊

Blessings,
Pastor Chris

Finance Update

For the month of March 2023:

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$72,114
Expense: (\$87,349)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$15,234)**

Income - Expense for 2023 Year to Date: **(\$635)**



Comments:

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

- continue the season of Lent by participating in the Lent Experience with challenges that help to enrich your faith during Lent and beyond.
- enjoy a great day at Group Dynamix with our youth - a day of fun and food, games, activities, and high-adventure courses, promoting teamwork and relationships.
- provide opportunities to serve our community and distribute food at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.
- have a great time at Kid's Night Out, a time for kids to have fun playing, eating pizza, connecting with one another, and have a short Bible lesson.
- provide professional security to our church on Sundays, enhancing the safety and security of our church, especially our children, which are our top priority.
- As of March, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,544,499.

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

When given the opportunity, preschoolers are ready and willing to help because it shows the world they are big and can do things that matter. Need help stirring in the kitchen? Preschoolers to the rescue! Need help carrying groceries? Preschoolers to the rescue! Need help entertaining a fussy baby? Preschoolers to the rescue!

Could it be that the real reason preschoolers want to help is that God made them to help? We think so! That is why we will be spending this month answering the question "Who made you to help?" God made me to help! That's who! After all, God is the ultimate helper, and we are all made in God's image.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37	STORY FOCUS God made me to help others.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY The Four Friends Mark 2:1-12	STORY FOCUS God made me to help my friends.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Timothy and Tabitha 1 Timothy 4:12; Acts 9:36-39	STORY FOCUS God made each of us to help in different ways.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Rebekah Helps Genesis 24:15-20	STORY FOCUS God made me to look for ways to help.

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

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY
MAY 2023

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

We might try to base our confidence on what we do well, or what someone might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something different. We think it's found in understanding how God is both big enough to create the universe, but also close enough to be right here with us. We know that we can trust God no matter what. We are created in God's image. And God loves us so much! Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when we trust Jesus with our life, the Holy Spirit is there to help us face whatever comes our way. We can respond to God's love and care with confidence!

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY

Great Commission and Ascension
Matthew 28:16-20,
Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11

BOTTOM LINE

Share God's love with others.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY

The Holy Spirit
Comes at Pentecost
Acts 2:1-41

BOTTOM LINE

God sent the Holy Spirit to help you.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY

Peter and John Are
Taken to the Sanhedrin
Acts 3:1-4:21

BOTTOM LINE

God is with you no matter what.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY

Philip and the Man from Ethiopia
Acts 8:26-40

BOTTOM LINE

God is with you even when you have questions.

MEMORY VERSE

"SO WE SAY WITH CONFIDENCE, 'THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT BE AFRAID.'" HEBREWS 13:6A, NIV

CONFIDENCE

LIVING LIKE YOU BELIEVE GOD IS WITH YOU.

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Upcoming Children's Ministry Activities

May 12: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

June 5-9: Vacation Bible School from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Youth Ministry

The Strategic Relationships All Kids Need

by Holly Crawshaw

I recently graduated from “regular kid” parenting to “teenage kid” parenting. If you aren’t aware of the differences between the two, that must mean you don’t have a teenager yet.

(And if you have a teenager who stays a “regular kid,” send notes STAT.)

My teenager is great, don’t get me wrong. There are so many things about this phase to celebrate: we like the same music now, we can share shoes, she’s involved in school sports that are fun to watch. And she’s even broadened the number of restaurants she’ll eat at from three to five.

We’re growing.

Recently, my friend Stacy texted me: *[Daughter’s Name] told me about winning the oratorical contest! So proud of her!*

Hub? I hadn’t heard anything about it. So, I knocked on my daughter’s door. “Hey, what’s Aunt Stacy talking about?”

She told me it was no big deal. And I’m not gonna lie: at first, I was hurt. Like, why wouldn’t that be the first thing you told me when you got in the car? Why am I hearing it secondhand? So, that’s what I asked her.

“I don’t know,” she said, which is one of her favorite answers right now.

Later on, after I’d cooled off a little, I thought about my daughter’s relationship with Stacy. Stacy is the parent of one of my kid’s best friends, and hers is one of the only houses my daughter has ever spent the night at. (She gets her homebody tendencies from her mama.)

My kid trusts Stacy. Stacy is a safe place. She wanted to share that win with Stacy, which should give me way more comfort than envy.

Our kids’ relationships with other adults matter more than we might think they do. Our kids’ relationships shape what they believe, who they become, and how they view the world around them. And, like it or not, there will come a point in every kid’s life when they need another adult . . . an adult who isn’t us.

Here at Orange, we believe in the principle of widening the circle—inviting other caring adults you trust to consistently show up in the life of your kid. Parenting is hard. And we were never meant to do it alone.

In fact, there are many cultures that don’t do parenting alone with such intentionality, some of their customs and practices may seem strange to us. Deep in the heart of Brazil are the indigenous Krahô people. Their parenting philosophy? Every child should have more than one mother. In fact, they use the word “inxé” for both their biological mother, their mother’s sisters, or even the women their mother considers sisters.^[i] The word “aunt” does not exist in their language. They’re all mothers.

In Western culture, we put so much pressure on ourselves to be the perfect parent. It feels like it’s all on our shoulders. And we don’t dare ask another adult for actual help. Advice, sure. But help in the way of spending time with our kid? No way. We read the books, the blogs (like this one!), and

we follow the parenting accounts. That's all well and good, but have you ever considered widening the circle as a strategy that might make you a better parent? Not to "lessen the load," but to afford your kid the opportunity to have another bank of wisdom and knowledge and experience to pull from.

You may be doing this already. If your kid spends quality time with their grandparents, that's widening the circle. If your kid has a small group leader, that's widening the circle. If you have a close friend who takes your kid to ice cream or asks them how they did at their oratorical contest, that counts, too.

If you're not sure how to widen the circle for your kids, check out this blog for a few ideas.

No parent feels like they're killing it. We all feel lost, frustrated, and inept at times. I'm not saying widening the circle will make any of those feelings go away completely, but it will help. It will also give you context for what your kid is thinking and feeling. And it will make you a better parent.

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

Pentecost Offering

This year our Pentecost Offering is received officially on the Day of Pentecost, May 28, 2023. As with all Special Offerings, times before and after this date are appropriate for donations also. On Pentecost Sunday, we join Christians around the world to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church.

The Pentecost Offering unites us to support young people in Christ. Forty percent of the offering stays locally and this year will go to HOPE Tutoring as decided by the Mission and Evangelism Team with Session approval. The other percentage will support General Assembly ministries for youth development.

Stay up to date on the Pentecost Offering on www.pcusa.org/pentecost, twitter.com/pcusa or facebook.com/spoecialofferings.

Offering envelopes are available outside the chapel and sanctuary several weeks before the offering and after for several weeks. Please use the Pentecost envelopes or designate on your check or other envelope if you are giving to the Pentecost Offering.

Please help aid youth programs in our church as well as our country and world. The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start and a solid foundation of faith from childhood through young adult. The theme this year is Building a Life of Faith. The Bible verse is from Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, to give you a future with Hope".

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, May 13, 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.



This Month



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 10:30a.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

Meets on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

Meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Youth Choir

Meets on Sundays, from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Children's Music Ministries*

Meets on Sundays, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting

Thursday, June 15, at 7:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, May 11, teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 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 June issue of The News is May 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Bill and Helen Moulton, Michael Njei and his family, Jo Ann Hanson, Lorna Snyder, the family of Elizabeth Harris, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Bunny Floyd, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Gary Lindley, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Jim L. Quick, Tonya Scrabeck, Jim and Jamee Shroyer, Esther Teboh, John and Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Danny Womble.

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

Prayers for our homebound members: Polly Baugh, Madge Casselman, Lucy Cleaver, Barbara Hughes, Charlene Miller, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, Mary Jane Wright.

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.

