



Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

August
2023

The News

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Newsletter Team

Talita Gottmann, Editor

The News is a publication of
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
1200 South Collins
Arlington, TX 76010

Contact us at
thenews@firstprestexas.org

It has been a busy summer here at FPCA. The most obvious has been all the work to prepare our building for these opening stages of our renovation. There simply are not enough thank you's to go around for everyone who put in some true sweat equity. While I did not know quite what to expect holding Sunday worship in the Fellowship Hall, I will say it has been a special couple of weeks. Think where we were three years ago. We were not worshipping at all in person and when we eventually did, we had to spread out and all that. Look at us now. Crammed in, elbow to elbow, practically standing room only. And the feedback I am hearing is that (for now at least!) y'all love it! I do too. The word "intimate" has been used to describe the feeling and I won't argue with that.

Part of that preparation included donating many of the items left from our preschool to existing preschools, homeschool parents, and families whose children will benefit from those items. While it is hard to let go of those, we must rejoice that as much is being put to good and further use than they were sitting in rooms and on the Fellowship Hall stage.

This summer saw two groups take the pilgrimage to MO Ranch. First was the men's retreat which was fantastic. Second, Adrian took our youth to the Intercultural Conference. If you missed that report, you can hear youth and adult sponsors give their report in our worship service on July 16th.

Kyle and our children's ministries hosted VBS and are preparing to launch Kids Hope USA. I'm really excited to see how FPCA will have a positive kingdom impact through this program.

Our prayer ministry has begun to take form and while you may not even know, a portion of that team has been praying for you during our worship services. That group prays for everyone leading in worship, those hearing the Gospel maybe for the first time, and that God is glorified through our worship. If this is something you feel led to participate in, you can contact Ron MacLeod.

Friends, it is a busy but exciting time. Prayers are needed not just during worship, and not from a designated prayer team, but all of us, all the time. Thank you again for your patience, dedication, and love for the Lord and FPCA!

Pastor Chris

Finance Update

For the month of June 2023:

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 68,305

Expense: (\$104,231)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$35,926)**

Income - Expense for 2023 Year to Date: **(\$18,780)**



Comments:

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

- enjoy our Vacation Bible School where children 4 years old to 6th grade enjoyed games, arts and crafts, a Bible lesson, snacks, and spending time with friends. The theme this year was Ready, Set, Move: Follow Jesus Here, There, and Everywhere.
- have a great time at our musical "A Technicolor Promise" based on the story of Noah and the flood, prepared and performed by our children and youth musicians of FPCA.
- provide opportunities to serve our community and distribute food at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.
- As of June, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,552,246.

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

Which would mean more to you? Something made by a stranger, or something made by your child? Your child's creation would be the clear winner because knowing who made something can add value to the thing that has been made.

That is why we want our preschoolers to know that God made everything because knowing God made everything makes everything very good! And since God made SO many good things, we are going to *Stack It Up* this month — ALL OF IT — from day one through day seven. So, let's get ready for a whole lot of stacking!

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Light and Dark; Sky Above Water Genesis 1:3-8	STORY FOCUS On days one and two, God made the light and dark and the sky above the water.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Land, Plants, and Seas; Sun, Moon, and Stars Genesis 1:9-19	STORY FOCUS On days three and four, God made the land, plants, and seas, and the sun, moon, and stars.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Sea Animals and Birds Genesis 1:20-23	STORY FOCUS On day five, God made the sea animals and birds.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Land Animals and People Genesis 1:24-2:3	STORY FOCUS On days six and seven, God made the land animals and people, and then He rested.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GOD SAW EVERYTHING HE HAD MADE. AND IT WAS VERY GOOD." GENESIS 1:31, NIRV	WHO MADE EVERYTHING?	GOD MADE EVERYTHING.
GOD MADE ME.		

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Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY
AUGUST 2023

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

When we look outside and see the beautiful world around us, we're reminded that God is great, powerful, and creative. From the birds flying high in the sky, to the planets orbiting the sun, to animals scampering around the earth, everything we see points to God's immense creativity. Jesus used creativity in the way He told parables, performed miracles, and helped His followers understand more about what it means to be part of God's kingdom. On top of that, we're created in God's image. We can solve problems, create art and music, and design skyscrapers high into the sky. When we create, we reflect the image of God to the world around us.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
Creation
Genesis 1-2:3

BOTTOM LINE
God created you so you can be creative.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
We Are God's Creation
Ephesians 2:10

BOTTOM LINE
God created you for a purpose.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
Joseph and the Plan to Save Egypt
Genesis 40-41

BOTTOM LINE
You can use what God gave you to solve problems.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
The Tabernacle
Exodus 25:8-9; 28:1,3; 31:1-11, 35:21,25,34; 39:42-43

BOTTOM LINE
Use your imagination to honor God.

MEMORY VERSE

"WE ARE GOD'S CREATION. HE CREATED US TO BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS. NOW WE CAN DO GOOD WORKS. LONG AGO GOD PREPARED THESE WORKS FOR US TO DO." EPHESIANS 2:10, NIRV

CREATIVITY

USING YOUR IMAGINATION TO DO SOMETHING NEW.

Youth Ministry

Whenever Possible: Avoid Arguing with Your Kids

by Dr. Jim Burns

You can't effectively discipline your kid or teenager if you continually find yourself in the middle of an argument with him. When disciplining, conversations may become heated, so use good communication skills and agree to walk away until you've both calmed down. The best way to avoid an argument is by refusing to engage in one.

When she was younger, one of our daughters could win most arguments in our home. She was dynamic and articulate and could argue either side of an issue. Sometimes I think she would argue simply for the sake of arguing. There were times when she was just exhausting. One day a counselor friend of mine gave me two words of advice: quit arguing. He encouraged me to hold my ground and refuse to argue with my daughter.

Learning to resist arguing with a child who is pushing your buttons isn't easy, but here are three sayings I've found are helpful to diffuse potential arguments with kids:

“I feel your pain.”

If your child knows your expectations and they break them, or if they suffer consequences from their poor decisions, let them know you care and that you feel their pain. You have empowered your child to make healthy decisions, but when he doesn't do that, you can show him empathy while holding him accountable. In a HomeWord parent podcast, John Rosemond shared what he told his own kids: “If I was your age, I'd feel the same way. The answer is still no, but you are doing a great job expressing yourself.”

“Nevertheless.”

This might be the most important word in the English language to show our kids who really is the leader in your home. Yes, we do feel their pain and we are listening; nevertheless, the consequences are going to stay. Adapting John's words to his kids, a parent might say, “I can understand how you feel, and I might have felt the same way when I was your age. Nevertheless...”

“Life isn't fair.”

The sooner your child understands that life isn't fair, and that whining and complaining won't get her what she wants, she will quit trying to play the ‘make-it-fair’ game. Whenever you can, let reality be the teacher for your kids. If whining and manipulating works for a child even some of the time, it is the parent who has to live with the consequences.

Here are some more wise words John Rosemond shared in one of our parent podcasts: “Parents should not agonize over what a child fails to do or does if the child is perfectly capable of agonizing over it himself.” [i] Whatever your teen's age, it's about time he learns the truth that life isn't always fair, but it sure can be good.”

Blessings,

Adrian

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, August 12, 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.



Preschool Giveaway Event

On Saturday, July 29th, First Presbyterian Church hosted a giveaway event for teachers and families in our community to help us find new homes for preschool items that were no longer needed. Volunteers from FPCA sorted and organized items prior to the giveaway, and we also had volunteers who welcomed and assisted our visitors on the day of the event. A special thank you to everyone who helped in some way including (but not limited to) Bonnie Daniel, Bob and Marge Dawon, Sonia Ellis, Russell and Laura Farnell, Will Farnell, Shawn LeBlanc, Melina Pena, Sheri Quick, Jodie Schenck, Joyce Stephenson, Kyle Terwilliger, and Shelby and Sherry Wolfe.



We had around 35 teachers and families attend the event, and they were incredibly thankful for the items and the warm welcome provided by our church. We know these items will be a blessing to children, teachers, and families in our community!

In the photos, you can see some pictures of the event, as well as a "before" photo of one room and a photo shared by a teacher showing how she was able to incorporate FPCA items into her classroom.



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 Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study will resume September 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor. 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 parlor 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

Will resume on Wednesdays August 9 at 6 p.m.

Youth Choir

Meets on Sundays, from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. (starting Sept 10)

Children's Music Ministries*

Meets on Sundays, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (starting Sept 10)



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting

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

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, Aug 10, teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, Aug 24, 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 10:30 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in! Bring a sack lunch and join the ladies for lunch at noon.

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 September issue of The News is August 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Aileigh Rodriguez, Ivone Franzolin, Carlos Zamora, Jennyfer Delgado, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Alecia Street, Matt Annen, David Spencer, Sue Lavender, Grace Broekhuizen, Bonnie Daniel, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jo Ann Hanson, Gary Lindley, Angela Macleod, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Bill and Helen Moulton, Tonya Scrabeck, Esther Teboh, Susie Thurston, 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, 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.

