



*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

**John 3:16-17**

March  
2024

# The News

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### Newsletter Team

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# Spring Training

The Campbells made it to the Rangers' spring training, and it has been an amazing time – just like several of y'all told us it would be. We're hoping this might become a new family tradition. Most of the attention is on the games. I've sat in minor league stadiums larger than Surprise Stadium which actually means we're much closer to the action than we have ever been. We watched our boys beat both the Dodgers and the Brewers. An incredibly friendly usher came down and gave the boys several used game balls for souvenirs. Centerfield has a massive world champion flag that waves proudly. Fantastic stuff all around.

The best part has been going to practice – again, like several of y'all told us it would be. Autographs and brief interactions with the players continue to form those positive core sports memories. But there was something so simple yet profound watching the best of the best practice their craft. Over and over and over we watched gold glove winners field infield ground balls, turn double plays, and make routine throws to first.



Then we could hop over to another field and watch pitchers work on their defense – picking up bunts and slow rollers, or practicing backing up the catcher on a play at the plate. And then there are the silver sluggers taking batting practice swing after swing.

It makes you wonder, how many of these exact reps have these guys taken through their career? And yet, here they are, doing it over and over and over again each day at camp. Does Marcus Semien really need to work on his fielding? I may not think so, but he sure does. Baseball is a humbling sport and without the proper preparation, that humbling comes quickly.

Isn't the season of Lent like our own spring trainings? During these forty days, we talk about doing some of the basics. And in

our sermon series on the wilderness, we have looked at what to do while in it, but maybe more importantly, how to prepare for when the wilderness will come. Our daily spiritual practices are our reps. Did Jesus need to spend time with God each day? I may not think so, but he sure did.

During the game against the Dodgers, the Rangers turned two or three double plays. We saw pitchers covering first on ground balls for outs. And I could look over to our boys and say, “That’s exactly what we just saw them practicing.” Life can be mighty humbling too. Keep putting in that spiritual work. Keep getting those daily reps with the Father. Be prepared. And of course, Let’s Go Rangers!

Pastor Chris

## Prayer Request Cards



Greetings from FPCA’s Prayer Ministry Team!

Exciting things are happening in the church as our Team prayerfully considers the paths that are opening to encourage prayer in the lives of us all and the church as a whole.

You’ve heard and seen (and we hope you have used) the prayer cards that are included in the friendship pads that are passed each Sunday. Those little cards are a way to notify the team and staff of any prayer needs that you or a friend or a loved one might have. Drop your card in either of the two prayer card stations that are in the lobby of the Fellowship Hall or in an offering plate to notify the team. You want it to remain confidential? Not to worry. Any confidential requests are handled in a special way. Want to notify a Pastor? Your request is directed to one of the pastors on staff.

Many more plans are on the horizon for our Prayer Ministry, and you will hear about them in upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned!

Meanwhile, the team wanted to leave you with several powerful scripture verses that we hope will encourage you on your own prayer journey:

Philippians 4:6 – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Romans 8:26 – “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 – “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

# Finance Update

**For the month of January 2024:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 93,837

Expense: (\$100,664)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$6,827)**

Income - Expense for 2024 Year to Date: **(\$6,827)**



## Comments:

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

- journey through our sermon series on great prayers from the Bible along with powerful testimonies.
- take joy in the ordination and installation of new officers - an exciting moment in the church's life, and exciting for the kingdom.
- recognize our confirmation class and celebrate them becoming the newest members of FPCA.
- enjoy fellowship with our sisters in Christ in a Women's Ministry-sponsored event called New Year, New Beginnings exploring how to begin the new year right and learning about the discipline of Sabbath and rest.
- have a great time at Kid's Night Out, a time for kids to have fun playing, eating pizza, connecting, and having a short Bible lesson.
- celebrate 2023 which was an excellent year in many ways as we heard and read more about that at our annual meeting.
- As of January, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,274,422.

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

Waiting to be picked by a team in grade school is agonizing. If you're some of the last people chosen by a team, it means while everyone else is cheering, "Go team!" you're probably thinking something like, "They don't want me, and I don't want to be here."

The truth is, we don't all have the skills to hit home runs or run really fast. And that's okay. What's not okay is being unwanted. Thankfully, for all of us, Jesus wants everyone on His team! Jesus wants everyone everywhere to follow Him and be His friend forever. No matter what we can or can't do, what we have done, what we look like, or where we live, Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend...forever! And that kind of Good News makes us all want to say, "GO TEAM!"

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Woman at the Well John 4:1-30	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus wants to be friends with everyone, everywhere.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Follow Me Matthew 9:9-12; Luke 5:1-11	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus wants everyone to follow Him.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Washing Feet John 13:3-17	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus is a good friend.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11,15-16	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> We can celebrate Jesus.
<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Easter * Matthew 26:26-28:10	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus is alive!

*\*Monthly Story for Toddler Curriculum*

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS." JOHN 15:15, NIV	WHO WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND FOREVER?	JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.
GOD LOVES ME.		

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## Elementary and KFC



**ELEMENTARY**

MARCH 2024

### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

#### GOD VIEW:

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

Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God's image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well. That's why we're taking the first three weeks of March to highlight some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world.

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Live in Peace with Everyone Romans 12:18	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Make peace whenever you can.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Abram and Lot Genesis 13:5-18	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> You can show you care by letting go of what's fair.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Abigail Intervenes 1 Samuel 25:1-35	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> You can help others make peace.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Jesus came to be our Savior.
<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Easter Luke 24:1-12, 36-49	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Jesus is alive.

<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>	<b>"IF POSSIBLE, LIVE IN PEACE WITH EVERYONE. DO THAT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN." ROMANS 12:18, NIRV</b>
<b>PEACE</b>	<b>PROVING YOU CARE MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER THAN WINNING AN ARGUMENT</b>

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### Save the date.

**March 8:** Kids Night Out from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**March 22:** Kids Night Out from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**March 30:** Spring Festival from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**June 3-7:** Vacation Bible School from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

# Youth Ministry

## *Three Things You Need to Know About Your Teen and Dating*

by Holly Crawshaw

We've all heard someone joke (or not joke), "My kid isn't dating 'til they're 30!"

I've always wanted to respond with, "LOL, good luck with that!"

I'm not about to set my four-year-old up on a date with Zach from preschool, but I also know that I can only control so much when it comes to my kids and dating.

I can control who they're with and where they go (to a certain degree), but I cannot control their feelings. And in a culture that glamorizes romantic relationships to a near-fairy-tale degree, I must accept that my teenage daughter will sooner-than-later want to date.

As a protective mama, of course I want to guard my three girls against any form of hurt, pain, or regret. I'd feel that way if I had boys too. They're no less vulnerable.

Romantic relationships at any age are a challenge. Factor in an undeveloped frontal lobe and you've got the recipe for massive emotional destruction.

But that's why living in the reality of what is likely is a far healthier headspace than coming up with ways to avoid the inevitable.

Here are a few things I'm keeping in mind as my kids enter the "dating" years.

**Dating is an ongoing conversation between you and your kid, and it's a conversation that needs to start early.**

Notice I didn't say dating needs to start early. Just the conversation about dating. I went through a book series with my older girls about their bodies and how they're meant to be taken care of and treated. So yes, we had "the talk." But talking about dating isn't the same thing as talking about sex.

Dating is different now than it was when we were growing up. Since the dawn of the digital age, kids and teens are finding ways to "hang out" without ever leaving their bedroom. Unless you're checking your kid's phone every day, it's impossible to know who they're spending time with online/over the phone unless you ask.

And not in an interrogative kind of way. In fact, definitely not. But in a, "Hey, you've been glued to your phone all afternoon. You talking to someone new?" way. Ask questions about their school day. "Who did you sit with at lunch today? What were you guys talking about?"

And, yes. Ask who is dating. My seventh grader puts TMZ to absolute shame with the middle school tea. She knows it all. But she also knows if she spills, she can trust me with the information. (Unless someone is in danger of hurting themselves or others, my lips are sealed.)

Ask questions. Listen without overreacting. Be someone your kid trusts with the topic of dating.

**Your language around dating matters.**

As parents, we have always been careful not to glamorize dating or relationships.

As my girls were growing up, they'd often bring up a boy at school or church they thought was cute. Their dad and I have always responded with, "Cool! Is he a good friend? Having good friends is important."

We set the boundary early that having crushes wasn't the goal, but having a good friend was.

In fact, when everyone else had "boyfriends" on the playground in elementary school, we told our girls, "Nah, having a boyfriend at your age isn't nearly as cool as being friends with everyone!"

Watch what you say about dating. Especially if you're a single parent on the dating scene. Your kids are watching you. As a single parent, I've definitely had to take a look in the mirror and ask myself some tough questions. Am I holding myself to the same standards I'll hold my daughters to when they start dating?

### **Dating isn't necessarily bad.**

Too often, we associate our kids dating with our kids being sexually active. I think this posture does more harm than good. Because any time they bring up dating, we shut it down immediately for fear of where their dating could lead. Then, we become the last person they want to talk to about it.

Like any relationship dynamic, talking takes work and experience. Some of our personal weaknesses are never more evident than they are when we're in a dating relationship. Learning about yourself is a critical step to self-reflection and improvement.

Under the right circumstances, our kids being in a healthy dating relationship could actually be beneficial to their growth. But, of course, under the right circumstances.

Dating requires open and honest communication, boundaries, and mutual respect between you and your kid. And you have to be prepared for what might happen if (when) things don't go your kid's way. As we discussed in a recent blog post, having a teenager with a broken heart is tough—on both of you.

It's important that as parents we honor their emotions—especially the big ones involved with dating.

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

## **Music Ministry**

### **Music Ministry**

Interested in leading worship through music?  
Join the Chancel Choir,  
Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble,  
Agape Youth Choir, or Children's Music Ministries!

Contact Russell Farnell for information:  
817-274-8286 or  
[russell@firstprestexas.org](mailto:russell@firstprestexas.org)



# Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, March 9, 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.



## Did you know?

Did you know that we have an abundance of medical items that you can borrow or have if you need them either for a little while or a longer time?

Below are listed what items are available:

1. tray table
2. wheel chair (s)
3. shower chair (s)
4. crutches
5. canes
6. reachers or grabbers
7. wedge pillow
8. bedside commode
9. forearm crutch
10. tripod cane with seat

Please let me know how we can help you.

Thanks,  
Marge Dawson  
mdawsonarltx@gmail.com 817-980-6825

# One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering is received during the season of Lent at FPCA. This is one of four special offerings collected during our church year. Offering envelopes are provided outside the chapel and Fellowship Hall or designate OGHS on the memo portion of your check. Posters are located around the church halls. The children will be receiving Fish Boxes for their contributions which can be returned on Palm Sunday.

Presbyterians worldwide have participated in this offering for over 60 years and give about as much as all other denominations put together. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

The offering gifts are divided between three programs- Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. For a list of how these gifts were used in previous years or for more information, see [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs).

# 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 Women's Bible Study will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 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 10:30 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**

Meets on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble**

Meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in room 106.

### **Youth Choir**

Meets on Sundays, from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. (lunch for participants 12:15).

### **Children's Music Ministries**

Meets on Sundays, from 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (lunch for participants 12:15)



## *Church Leadership*

### **Deacon Meeting**

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

### **Team Meeting Night**

Thursday, Mar 14, teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

### **Session Meeting**

Thursday, Mar 21, at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets 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 on 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 April issue of The News is March 15!**

## Prayer Ministry

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** The family of Polly Baugh, the family of Alicia Street, the family of Bud Smith, Eleanor Schernbeck, Ken Floyd, Jerry Tees, Harold Thomlinson, Sherry Wolfe, Sheri Quick, Charlie Nieman, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ivone Franzolin, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Tina Paulk, Aileigh Rodriguez, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Danny Womble, Carlos and Jennyfer Zamora.

**Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces:** Amie Murtha, Colin A. Peden, Christopher Young  
If you are a member with a family member who is on active duty in the armed services, please contact the church office at [info@firstprestexas.org](mailto:info@firstprestexas.org) with the name and their relationship to you.

**Prayers for our homebound members:** Madge Casselman, Lucy Cleaver, Barbara Hughes, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight.

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.

