



"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

Mathew 28:5-6

April
2024

The News

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Newsletter Team

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The News is a publication of
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"Easter Homecoming"

Easter Sunday was just incredible! First things first, thank you to the Fellowship Team for that great breakfast. The message on Maundy Thursday was “The way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.” I cited a poll that said 62% of men believe this applies to them, but so do 57% of women. Our hearts (and stomachs) were truly won over.

That set us up perfectly for our first worship service in the sanctuary since July of last year. Speaking of Lenten wildernesses, none of us expected to be displaced from the sanctuary for that long. Like the Israelites, several wondered aloud if we would ever make it back. Easter was a packed house! I mentioned several groups that deserve our thanks. They are: our Transform Team (AJ Baker, Ross Dill, Tina Hanson, Melina Pena, and Larry Stephenson); the décor sub-team; our Wednesday quilters who customized some of our pew cushions to fit the front row; the Worship Team and all those who gave up their Saturday morning to get the sanctuary ready for us; and not the least, the workers who busted their rears to deliver a usable space for us on time.

Originally, the sanctuary was not included in the scope of work for this phase of the project. However, when the fire suppression system became a necessity, and many of our available funds were claimed by that, we discovered some opportunities along the way. The Transform Team asked permission from the session to explore some different areas of scope for them to bring back their recommendations. The session approved. This provided the opportunity to remove the flooring in the sanctuary that contained asbestos. That has been replaced with LVT flooring that is much easier to clean and maintain than carpet. Plus, the acoustics they provide for our choir and anyone speaking is just incredible. The color also brightens the sanctuary.

When the pews were put back, code required them to be slightly spread apart more. The Team decided to go a little above and beyond code requirement to give us vertically blessed folk a little more knee room. The front row was shortened to aid our communion servers. For the rows next to the support beams, half-pews were put back to allow ample seating for those with mobility challenges. These areas are accessible from the center aisle and there are more of those spaces than before. All of this did necessitate the removal of a couple pews but that was inevitable with code requirements.

Of course, the greatest visual change is the chancel. Steps extend the entire width of the chancel. And when the handrails are installed, this will be a much safer way to access the chancel from the floor. During memorial services, I had become accustomed to helping people up and down the narrow center steps because no handrails were present. The steps are deep enough for choirs to stand on as risers. The children already showed how handy they are during the children's moment. Kids can kick away on those steps and they will not make noise like before. Those steps have metal framing and insulation to dampen any sound. A couple of feet were added to the chancel to extend further out. This provides more usable space for groups like our handbell choir. That space was also opened up by the removal of the walls that previously enclosed the organ and piano. We are trying out a central pulpit which in my opinion fits our space very well.

Those are the very practical why's and how's for what we decided to do. (And when I say "we," that includes the Transform Team as well as the 2023 and 2024 sessions.) After our first Sunday of worship in the Fellowship Hall, people commented on the intimacy of the service. We did not have the luxury to spread out in our seats. On some of the packed Sundays in there, we were all elbow to elbow with our neighbors. And for the most part, we loved it. We knew we could not recreate that sense of intimacy in a much larger sanctuary. But we felt we could try to connect our spaces better. The pulpit, being centered, feels closer to the pews. The steps provide a softer transition to enhance the flow from one area to the other. This was a major emphasis when the Reformers would build a sanctuary. It was to be one room, one space. Clergy were not to be separated from lay people. Theologically, I see our chancel expressing that more clearly.

I know we will have some annoyances here and there as we settle back in, resume some old routines, and perhaps create some new ones. But I am most grateful for everyone who was there on Easter to dedicated all of these elements to God's service and glorification. We look forward to worshipping in this beautiful space for many, many, many years to come!

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.

Pray, pray, pray! On the third Sunday of each month, our worship will include a brief witness to prayer from one of our church family. We're all enriched to learn how God has blessed a brother or sister at some time of need. If you would like to make such a witness to prayer from your own life, please contact Ron MacLeod or Jim Shroyer.

Finance Update

For the month of February 2024:

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$117,793

Expense: (\$77,277)

Income - Expense for month: **\$40,516**

Income - Expense for 2024 Year to Date: **\$23,598**



Comments:

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

- journey through our sermon series on the wilderness which include challenges and learning experiences.
- begin the season of Lent with two meaningful Ash Wednesday services, which hopefully enrich your faith this season and beyond.
- partner with the Souper Bowl of Caring organization, through our youth ministry, to "tackle" hunger in our city.
- participate in the Youth CUE choral festival - truly a life-changing weekend for our youth, who were learning lessons of how our faith applies to real life and "teaching and admonishing each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs."
- launch a New Member Class learning what it means to be a part of the Presbyterian tradition and connecting with the ministries of FPCA.
- As of February, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,184,510.

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

Have you ever been somewhere where it was so dark you couldn't even see your hand in front of your face? No light shining under the door. No stars in the sky. No screen glaring back at you. Just darkness. So much darkness that you have to shuffle slowly, stumbling your way across the room with arms stretched out, hoping, searching . . . and then finally, with the flip of a switch, LIGHT! Light changes everything.

This month, we're talking about light, but not just any light. We're talking about Jesus—the light of the WORLD—and how when we do what Jesus says, we shine. We shine the light of Jesus! After this month, we hope every time you and your preschoolers see a lamp or a star-filled sky, you remember that people were made to shine, and we have Jesus—the light of the world—to show us how. So let's not hide our light. Let's SHINE and light up the dark so others can see their way to Jesus.

| WEEK | BIBLE STORY | STORY FOCUS |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ONE | Light of the World * Matthew 5:1-2, 14-16 | Jesus says to let my light shine. |
| TWO | Great Commission Matthew 28:18-20 | Jesus says to tell others about Him. |
| THREE | Early Church Acts 2:42-47; John 15:12; Hebrews 10:24 | Jesus says to love like Him. |
| FOUR | Shine Like the Stars Philippians 2:14-16 | I shine when I do what Jesus says. |

*Monthly Story for Toddler Curriculum

| MEMORY VERSE | KEY QUESTION | BOTTOM LINE |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE." MATTHEW 5:16, NIV | WHO CAN DO WHAT JESUS SAYS? | I CAN DO WHAT JESUS SAYS. |
| JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER. | | |

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Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY
APRIL 2024

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don't have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what's best for us. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus. Because we're created in God's image, we can reflect God's patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. We can lean on God's Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
A Patience Proverb
Proverbs 14:29

BOTTOM LINE
Waiting can make you wise.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
Esau's Impatience
Genesis 25:24-34

BOTTOM LINE
When you think you can't wait,
think twice.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
Golden Calf
Exodus 32:1-35

BOTTOM LINE
When you have to wait, remember
what's true.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
Simeon Waits for the Messiah
Luke 2:25-35

BOTTOM LINE
God is with you while you wait.

MEMORY VERSE

"WAIT FOR THE LORD. BE STRONG AND DON'T LOSE HOPE. WAIT FOR THE LORD."

PSALM 27:14, NIRV

PATIENCE

WAITING UNTIL LATER FOR WHAT YOU WANT NOW.

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Save the date.

April 5: Kids Night Out from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

April 19: Kids Night Out from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

April 28: Luncheon for families with children or youth.

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

Youth Ministry

The Other Side of Comparison

by Jon Acuff

As parents, we know to teach our kids not to compare.

With social media it's easy for teenagers to compare their lives against the lives of their friends. For elementary school kids it's easy to compare their summer vacation to the summer vacation of a friend. For kindergarteners, it's easy to compare their portion of the cookie to the one their sister got.

Comparison seems hardwired into us and as adults we can be just as guilty of it. But today, I'm not focusing on that type of comparison, the type where you feel worse about yourself. That type has been covered a thousand times. Today I want to talk about the other side of comparison.

Sometimes, in order to feel better about themselves, kids will compare themselves to other people who are less fortunate. (The first type of comparison is about finding people who are more fortunate.) Kids will say, "I did so much better on that test than Tim." Or, "Our seats at the concert were better than Amy's seats." It's an attempt to improve their lot in life by criticizing someone else's. Doing this has a few bad effects:

It blinds kids to good things.

I don't want my kids to need to compare against someone else to enjoy something. Your B+ in algebra is great regardless of if someone else didn't get a C+. Someone doesn't have to lose in order for you to feel like you won.

It kills empathy.

It's almost impossible to have empathy for someone else when you get stuck in comparison.

I want my kids to encourage the kid who did badly on a test, not feel better about themselves because of his grade. I want them to empathize not keep score.

It makes everything a competition.

Some things are competitions. Fifty people aren't going to be valedictorian. I understand that and support that, but not everything is a competition. If you went Disney World on Spring Break, you haven't "beaten" another family who stayed home for Spring Break. It wasn't a contest, it was just vacation, but if you start comparing you lose sight of that.

I want the best for my kids. I want them to have big, full lives that are free of comparison.

That's not always easy, but I do think part of my job is to discuss it, to explain it and to foster it.

It's the only way you have a shot at ending up with adults who don't compare.

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

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, April 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.



Family Living Food, Fellowship, and Fun

The Family Living Class and friends gathered at Roma's Trattoria for an evening of great food and fellowship. The class continues to collect goods for Arlington Charities, funds for New Day, and support one another as we study the ways to practice faith and love.



Luncheon Presbyterian Children's Home and Services



Did you know?

Did you know that we have an abundance of medical items

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

Women's Ministry



Spring 2024 Bible Study for Women

**Tuesday, April 9, to Tuesday, May 21
6:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

The spiritual discipline we are highlighting this year is rest. This Tuesday evening study will trace the theme of rest from Genesis to Revelation, show us how to truly find rest in Jesus Christ, and help us discover how God brings His people everlasting rest.

The study guide is \$10, and if you register and pay by April 1, we will order yours for you. You can register later if you wish to order your own study guide.

Online registration:

- FPCA Website (firstprestexas.org) → Our Ministries → Adult Ministries
- Scroll down to Women's Ministry and register

Women's Ministry Team

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

Team Meeting Night

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

Session Meeting

Thursday, Apr 25, 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: Betty Burdette, 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 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.

