

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**



September  
2024

# The News

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## Newsletter Team

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# Husbands, love your wives...- Ephesians 5:25



On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Chelsea and I celebrated our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary by having routine workdays and going to a middle school football game. That is one aspect of our shared life we celebrated. But don't worry, the next night on the 30<sup>th</sup>, we were able to

get away to enjoy a delicious dinner, just the two of us.

There is a wise saying, "Never stop dating your spouse." Every couple I marry must go through premarital counseling with me. I use a course called SYMBIS (Save Your Marriage Before It Starts)

developed by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott.

Based on personalities, families, history, and all kinds of other contexts, a unique report is generated for each couple. It is not a predictor on how long or successful a marriage will be. But



it highlights areas of life where spouses and it makes each person aware of potential areas for conflict.

Each section of the report is unique except for the end. From their research and experience, they have determined that men need to have shared activities with their wives. Doing things together, having experiences with one another helps the husband feel loved and grow stronger in the marriage. Women on the other hand need to feel cherished. In our counseling session, I will ask the bride-to-be, “What are some activities you could join your husband-to-be in that at the minimum you can tolerate, and at best enjoy along with him?” Then I will ask the husband-to-be, “What are things you can do to make sure your bride-to-be feels cherished?”



Similarly, Dr. Emerson Eggrichs wrote a great book called *Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs*. They are not exactly the same but you can see some similarities between the two.

Throughout out 15 years, Chelsea and I continue to learn how to put this advice best into practice. I love the shared activity of traveling with Chelsea and I respect her choices of where she decides we should go – ha! Thankfully, it has not been too difficult for us to agree on where to next. I also love that we have shared the travel bug with our boys Colton and Hudson. They are excellent travelers, and I know having the privilege to see other areas of the world has expanded their horizons as well as grow their

appreciation for home. One trip to an NIH emergency room was an (not literally) eye opening experience for Colton.

While discovering more about each other and discovering new parts of the world, it is fun establishing new favorite places together: Portstewart, Northern Ireland; Edinburgh; Playa del Carmen; Fort Worth (hey, we’re both native Dallasites!). Can’t wait to see what roads the next 15 years (and many more) take us. Never stop dating your spouse!

Pastor Chris

[chris@firstprestexas.org](mailto:chris@firstprestexas.org)

# Finance Update

## General Fund for July 2024:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	69,707	568,658
Expenses:	(93,364)	(629,548)
Variance	(23,657)	(60,891)
Donors Income:	48,778	493,404
Budget:	75,817	530,719
Variance	(27,039)	(37,315)

## Comments:

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

- begin our summer sermon series tying into the summer Olympic Games as we look at different characters in the Bible.
- host a Lunch and Learn, featuring Heather Hogue, a Christian counselor and former public school teacher, to help parents or grandparents as they help children grow up and follow Jesus.
- launch a New Member Class to learn what it means to be a part of the Presbyterian tradition and connect with the ministries of FPCA.
- provide opportunities to serve our community by donating needed items to Arlington Charities, and by distributing food at the mobile food bank.
- As of July, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$433,499.

We are doing well, and, because of you, we can 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

In 1967, a new toy was introduced to the world, and on the box were these words:

*Create Beautiful Pictures With . . . Light.*

It was the LiteBrite®! The LiteBrite was an instant hit and has remained such a favorite for all these years that families are still having fun making pictures with light.

This month, we're talking about a different kind of bright light. We're talking about THE light that God sent into the world to shine bright for all the world to see. And THIS light has a name. His name is Jesus! Each time we choose to love like Jesus, we become a bright light. Just like each LiteBrite peg lights up to make a picture, each and every act of love is a bright light that makes a beautiful picture for the world to see Jesus.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Jesus is the Light John 1:4-5, 8:12, 9:5	STORY FOCUS Jesus is the light of the world.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY The Man at the Pool John 5:1-9	STORY FOCUS Jesus is a light for everyone.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Jesus Gives a New Command John 13:34-35; Luke 18:15-16, 19:1-10; John 4:1-30	STORY FOCUS Jesus said to love one another.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY We Are the Light Matthew 5:14-16; Acts 8:26-35	STORY FOCUS I am a light when I love like Jesus.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY Tabitha Helps* Acts 9:36-42	STORY FOCUS I love like Jesus when I help others.

*\*Monthly Story for Toddler Curriculum*

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." MATTHEW 5:14, NIV	WHO CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS?	I CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS.

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

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**ELEMENTARY**  
SEPTEMBER 2024

**MONTHLY OVERVIEW**

**GOD VIEW:**

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

Think back to a time when someone made time for you. Maybe that looked like caring for you when you were sick, or teaching you how to tie your shoe, making food for you, or teaching you how to read or learn a new skill. No matter what it is, when people make time for us, it can bring us joy. It's like a light shining on a dark day. Caring for one another isn't always the easy thing to do, but it certainly is what Jesus asks of us. When Jesus gave the command in Matthew 5 to let our light shine, it wasn't just to bring joy into each other's lives, but also to bring glory to God. We are reflections of Who God is, and as we "Live Bright" this month, we'll discover exactly how we can shine God's light.

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> You Are the Light of the World Matthew 5:14-16	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> You can shine God's light.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Feeds 5,000 John 6:1-13	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Use what you have to help others.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Heals Bartimaeus Mark 10:46-52	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Make time to help others.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Sharing God's Comfort 2 Corinthians 1:3-4	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Comfort others the way God comforts you.
<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Is the Light of the World John 8:12	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Jesus is the light of the world.

<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>	<b>"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE SO OTHERS CAN SEE IT. THEN THEY WILL SEE THE GOOD THINGS YOU DO. AND THEY WILL BRING GLORY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN."</b> MATTHEW 5:16, NIRV
<b>COMPASSION</b>	<b>CARING ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S NEEDS</b>

# Youth Ministry

## *Sometimes We Need to Hear What We're Doing Right*

by Autumn Ward

“Well, I guess I can’t do anything right.”

I stopped loading the dishwasher and looked at my daughter when I heard her say that. I knew immediately I was the reason she had said it. I had been picking her apart since she got home from school. I had corrected her for at least five different things before we even had dinner.

*Well, why didn't you talk to your teacher about it? You have got to stop being so quiet and ask more questions.*

*You have got to start reading more if you are ever going to do better in that class.*

*That is not where your backpack goes.*

*The stack of clothes I put on your dresser is still sitting there. I told you to put them away this morning.*

*Please put your phone down. You are on that thing way too much!*

Yes, kids need correcting. But on this day, I began to understand two things:

Sometimes the heart needs to hear what it’s doing right.

And, correcting is better received in small doses.

Basically, I asked myself this question:

How would you feel if you were told everything you did wrong today all at once?

Ouch.

I would feel like a total failure and probably want to give up on life. If I thought people only saw the bad, I would feel completely defeated.

Is this how I was making my daughter feel?

Maybe that’s the reason God reveals things to us a little at a time. We would become quickly discouraged and overwhelmed if our eyes were opened to everything that is not right in our lives all at once.

I knew I needed a different plan for helping my daughter. After a brief moment alone seeking how God would want me to respond, this is what I came up with. As always, His way is working much better than mine.

1. **Encourage** – Point out something specific that she is doing well before correcting her. I’m finding that encouragement opens my daughter’s heart and helps her be more accepting of correction.
2. **Focus** – Correct what’s most important in that moment, and let the other things go temporarily. Yes, I choose to ignore some behaviors or choices and focus on one thing. I may decide the backpack can wait until later and choose to address her phone usage now.
3. **Ask** -Turn statements into questions. Rather than saying, *You have got to stop being so quiet and ask more questions*, I am asking questions like, *What do you think would happen if you asked your teacher about that?*

After nineteen years of parenting, I'm still discovering the kind of parent I want to be to my kids and learning how I can do better.

At the end of the day, I want our home to be a place my children want to run to, not away from—a place where they feel loved and encouraged while they learn and grow. The best part is I don't have to do it alone. God promises to help me every step of the way if I will ask Him.

Blessings,

Adrian

## Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, September 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 is 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.



## Welcome Team – help us welcome guests!

We want to make sure that guests are always welcomed when they enter our church, and that someone is available to answer any questions they may have. They may need help finding the nursery, the restrooms, etc. We have two Welcome Team members each Sunday currently, but soon will need four, when the current phase of construction is complete. Beginning June 30, there will be a Welcome Team poster and sign-up sheet in the Narthex where you can sign up to be part of the team for a particular date. Welcome Team members arrive at 10:30am and are available at a designated entrance. One team member will need to remain in the narthex for the entire service and the others can join the congregation in the sanctuary approximately 10 minutes after the service starts at 11:00am.

Help us show guests that we are glad they are here! Help us make guests feel welcome! Help us show God's love to guests by greeting them warmly and answering any questions they may have.



# 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 resume on September meeting 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](mailto: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

Meet on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Chancel Choir.

### Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

Will resume on Wednesdays September 4th, at 6 p.m. in room 106.

### Youth Choir

Will resume on September 7th Sunday, from 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (lunch for participants 12:15 p.m.).

### Children's Music Ministries

Will resume on September 7th on Sunday, from 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (lunch for participants 12:15 p.m.).



## Church Leadership

### Deacon Meeting

Thursday, , the Diaconate meets.

### Team Meeting Night

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

### Session Meeting

Monday, September 26, 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  
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**Deadline for the October issue of The News is September 15!**

## Prayer Ministry

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** Mia Navarro and her family, Billie Jo Campbell, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Charlie Nieman, Tina Paulk, Sheri Quick, Aileigh Rodriguez, Eleanor Schernbeck, Tonya Scrabeck, Lorna Snyder, David Spencer, Larry Spencer, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Sherry and Shelby Wolfe, Danny Womble.

**Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces:** 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, 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.

