

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12



October
2024

The News

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Newsletter Team

Talita Gottmann, Editor

The News is a publication of
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“What’s My Response when I Sense God Speaking?”

There has been a wonderful and intentional effort to better equip our leaders to develop a stronger culture of prayer within FPCA. I recently shared with the leaders of our Prayer Ministry Team that our goal should be that Jesus would recognize our church first and foremost as a house of prayer (Matthew 23:13). That will take a lot of time and even experimentation as we discern how that will continue to look, sound, even feel like here. That of course begins with our individual prayer lives. One of my former mentors is Alex Absalom who helped us with Family on Mission B.C. (before Covid). He and his wife run Dandelion Resourcing and they have been sending out teachings on prophecy. They provide a pretty simple (not simplistic) definition of prophecy - hearing from the Holy Spirit and sharing what He said. They identify three parts to the prophetic word which are revelation (What is God saying?), interpretation (What does it mean?), and application (What’s my response?).

In the area of application, they shared some solid teaching that perhaps some of us might struggle with. We sense God shares something with us either through prayer, scripture, worship, nature, and then we ask, now what? They provide four options. The first appropriate response could be to share it now. You might be praying with or for someone and the Spirit leads you to share something immediately. The second one, however, might be to share it later. Maybe it’s not the right time and place. Maybe you are not with the person and need to keep it private for a while. Third, you should act but not say anything. Just go be a calm

presence with someone in a stressful situation. Go encourage someone who is down. Help someone financially who needs it. And fourth, sometimes you just need to pray more. While we are a society and culture of doing and action, we cannot minimize the power of prayer for someone. Maybe this is for an unbeliever. Maybe it's an area of temptation or vulnerability of someone and instead of sharing and embarrassing them, you pray for them.

Navigating and maturing in this requires time and practice. But there are two mistakes we should avoid. First, don't chicken out and do nothing. Second, don't be in a rush to speak. There is a happy medium between those and if ever in doubt, go with #4 and pray. Pray for that person, that situation, but also for yourself to sense how God wants you to respond.

Pastor Chris

chris@firstprestexas.org

Finance Update

General Fund for August 2024:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	80,831	649,289
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(88,827)</u>	<u>(718,343)</u>
Variance	(7,996)	(69,054)
Donors Income:	74,402	567,806
<u>Budget:</u>	<u>75,817</u>	<u>606,536</u>
Variance	(1,415)	(38,730)

Comments:

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

- begin our summer sermon series on the armor of God.
- enjoy a luncheon and training, hosted by our Children's Ministry, for volunteers and everyone interested in becoming a children's ministry volunteer.
- offer ways to serve our church by welcoming guests when they enter our church on Sunday and ensuring someone is available to answer any questions.
- provide opportunities to serve our community by donating needed items to Arlington Charities, and by distributing food at the mobile food bank.
- As of August, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$382,913.

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.

Children`s Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

If you've ever been near a playground when an airplane flies by, you know the sound of the airplane is quickly followed by the sound of kids shouting with excitement! Their innate sense of wonder is immediately turned up as they ask questions like: Where do you think that plane is going? How big is that plane? How can it fly so high in the sky?

Today, our preschoolers will go to places like school, daycare, church, and grandparents' houses. We know God has plans for each of them, and as they grow, they will go to even more places that might be even further away. We want to make sure that wherever they go, they can look to God with a trusting heart and say, "Let's fly!" because they know **God is always with me.**

WEEK	BIBLE STORY	STORY FOCUS
ONE	Daniel and the Lions Daniel 6:1-23	God is always with me.
TWO	Hagar and Ishmael Genesis 21:14-20	God always hears me.
THREE	Joseph* Genesis 37, 39-47	God has plans for me.
FOUR	Jonah Jonah 1-3:3	God is with me wherever I go.

**Monthly Story for Toddler Curriculum*

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO." JOSHUA 1:9, NLT	WHO IS ALWAYS WITH YOU?	GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME.
GOD LOVES ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

OCTOBER 2024

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SELF-CONTROL AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

There are a lot of choices that we need to make in life. Some of those choices can help us grow and shape us positively. Others can pull us in different directions, leaving us struggling to figure out which choice is best. What do we do when we're confronted with all of these choices? Do we rush ahead? Or do we pause and let God lead us toward the best way to act? Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. It's one of the ways we can tell that God is transforming our lives and that we're growing in our faith. Thankfully, we don't have to find self-control on our own. When we follow Jesus, God's Spirit is with us and helps us make the wise choice.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

BOTTOM LINE

Think before you act.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY

Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MEMORY VERSE

GOD'S POWER HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED TO LEAD A GODLY LIFE.
2 PETER 1:3A, NIRV

SELF-CONTROL

CHOOSING TO DO WHAT'S BEST EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO

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Save the Date

October 19: Trunk or Treat from 3-5 p.m.

October 27: Luncheon for families with children or youth and cmm/ymm

June 2-6: Vacation Bible School

Youth Ministry

Be Kind to Yourself

by Sarah Bragg

It doesn't take long to realize that we tend to develop our identity based on our behavior. That's true for your life and for your kid's life. If we have gold stars for behavior, then we believe we have a good identity. And if we mess up or fail, then we believe those behaviors define our identity, too. We hear statements from our kids and in our own heads, like . . .

"I'm a failure."

"I'm a screw-up."

"I'll never get it right."

"I'm unlovable."

These are statements we would never say to someone we love, yet we freely say them to ourselves. And our kids do, too.

Kids think about themselves and their identity a lot. Besides their appearance, nothing shapes their identity more than their performance. They believe that how they perform determines their identity.

When a performance falls flat or even fails, self-abasement tends to follow.

Kids may tend to blame themselves, taking on the identity of being a failure, or they may tend to blame others for their failures. But either way, performance, and appearance tend to define their identity.

We need to help our kids to learn how to speak to themselves like they would to a close friend. We need to help them learn compassionate self-talk.

So how do you teach self-compassion? It begins by retraining the voice in your kid's head, which honestly, may begin with you retraining the voice in your own head. Just like other emotional intelligence qualities, self-compassion can be learned and developed over time.

I want you to start with a simple phrase:

"Be kind to yourself."

When you look in the mirror and don't like what you see, say "Be kind to yourself."

When you are passed by for the promotion, say "Be kind to yourself."

When you mess up, burn dinner again, fail to close the deal, or miss the event, say, "Be kind to yourself."

Start with you. Let your kids watch you show yourself kindness.

And when they mess up, fail the test, go another Friday without a date say,

“Be kind to yourself. We all make mistakes or we all have moments where we aren’t chosen. But that doesn’t change our identity. It doesn’t define who we are. Don’t let that determine how you see yourself. What would you say to a good friend in the same situation?”

Start there. And continue to beat that drum of self-compassion.

I began saying the phrase “Be kind to yourself” in January of 2017 to my girls after watching their response to “failure.” When they failed something, they cried. They quit. They didn’t want to try again. So every time they messed up, I came behind them and said, “Be kind to yourself.” One night after I burned dinner, I felt the frustration rise in me. I reacted towards myself with shame, but behind me I heard a voice say, “Be kind to yourself, Mama. We all make mistakes. It will be okay.” And there it was. Truth. Self-Compassion.

The months of retraining the voice was beginning to show through. We are all humans who are bound to mess up or not get it right every time, but that doesn’t mean we are less than.

Henry James said, “Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.”

Let’s make kindness a key building block to our kids’ and our own identity. When we live out of a place of kindness towards ourselves, where we truly believe that our identity isn’t based on our behavior, then we can pass that kindness on to others.

Blessings,

Adrian

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, October 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 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.

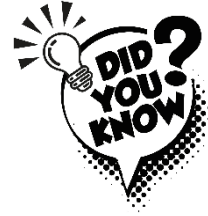


Welcome Team – help us welcome guests!

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.

• FPCA has an active Prayer Ministry Team?



That a volunteer is given the opportunity to pray with Pastor Chris and the Lay Leader before every Sunday service? Interested? Contact Jim Shroyer at jimokok4@gmail.com

That every third Sunday of the month, a Prayer Witness is given in the morning service? Perhaps, you have experienced the power of prayer in your life and would like to share that story. Remember, it's God's story and to share His story with others is an encouragement to the church family. It's also a powerful form of praise for His work in your life. Do you feel led to share? Contact Jim Shroyer at jimokok4@gmail.com,

That prayer request cards are in the pews for you to give the team your prayer request? Drop it in the offering plate or in the box in the Narthex for pickup by one of the Prayer Ministry Team members. Your request is prayed for by members of the team.

That we need you? You can help by volunteering to be an Intercessor – praying for the requests that are received. We'd love to have you! Contact Jamee at jameeshroyer@gmail.com

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I Thessalonians 5: 16-18

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.

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.

b

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

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

Youth Choir

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

Children's Music Ministries

Meet 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, October 10, at 7:00 p.m., all teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Monday, October 24, 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 November issue of The News is October 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: The family of Trevor Henry, Jennifer Meyer, Charles Arnold, Jo Ann Nichols, Bob Hanson and his family, 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, Jim and 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 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.

