



"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

November
2024

The News

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Newsletter Team

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The News is a publication of
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“Experiencing Christmas”

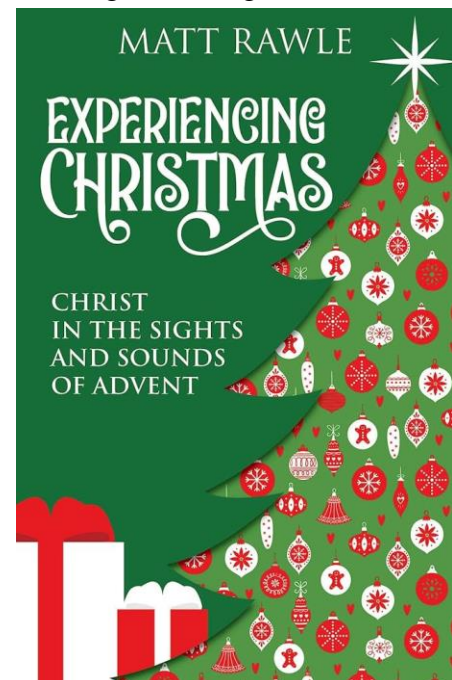
I wanted to share a book with you that I will be drawing from for our Advent worship services. While designed for a group or class study, the subject of Matt Rawle’s book *Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent* really struck me.

Advent and Christmas are incredibly wonderful seasons for our senses: the decorations we put up, the songs we sing, the tactile things we feel, and of course, the wonderful foods and beverages we taste.

Christ is present in all of those, and I wanted to share this resource with you in the chance you would like to go deeper in that study throughout Advent. When December rolls around, the 1st will mark the first Sunday in Advent. The sights and sounds will be noticeably different. Musical choices will change. (Not to mention the radio stations that have gone to full Christmas programming well in advance. And of course the Hallmark Channel Christmas movies will be in full force!) Advent will be impossible to miss. And our senses of sight, hearing, touch, and taste provide the opportunity to not only enjoy the season, but to go deeper in our faith and traditions. I’m looking forward to experiencing Christmas with you!

Pastor Chris

chris@firstprestexas.org



Finance Update

General Fund for September 2024:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	83,428	732,717
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(87,233)</u>	<u>(805,595)</u>
Variance	(3,805)	(72,878)
Donors Income:	67,640	635,145
<u>Budget:</u>	<u>75,817</u>	<u>682,353</u>
Variance	(8,177)	(47,208)

Comments:

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

- continue our summer sermon series on the armor of God found in Ephesians.
- welcome this year's recipient of the Kurz Scholarship.
- resume our Fall Music Ministries with Ring of Praise handbells, and Youth and Children Music Ministries.
- enjoy a "Fall Festival" luncheon, hosted by our Fellowship Team.
- thank our youth for helping lead our service on the 5th Sunday.
- As of September, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$246,546.

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

Puzzles are a lot of fun. Who doesn't love a good peg puzzle? The cow goes in the cow shape. The pig goes in the pig shape. Easy, peasy! But as we get older, puzzles can become a lot more difficult, and it can be hard to know where each piece goes.

We all face difficult circumstances that are way bigger than what we can handle. It's in those times that God wants us to trust Him with all our hearts and say, "God's got it!"

We don't have to have all the pieces or know where they all go. All we need to know is that God sees the big picture and God's got it. Our job is to trust God and take it one piece at a time. So, whether it's needing help with a big job, knowing which way to go, not having what we need, or talking to God about anything . . . God can handle it, because God's got it!

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Burning Bush Exodus 3:1-18, 6:11; Psalm 118:7	STORY FOCUS I can trust God.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Pillars of Cloud and Fire Exodus 13:3-4, 21-22	STORY FOCUS I can trust God will show me the way.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Elijah and the Widow* 1 Kings 17:1-16	STORY FOCUS I can trust God no matter what.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY King Hezekiah Prays to God Isaiah 37:14-20, 35; 38:1-6, 20	STORY FOCUS I can talk to God about anything.

**Monthly Story for Toddler Curriculum*

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART." PROVERBS 3:5, NIV	WHO'S GOT IT?	GOD'S GOT IT.
GOD LOVES ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY
NOVEMBER 2024

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35, NIRV) However, sometimes generosity doesn't come naturally to us. We want the newest and best things, or we want everyone to notice what we have. When we really enjoy the things we have, sometimes that makes it harder for us to be willing to share with others. However, with the help of God's Spirit, we can learn that HOW we give is more important than even WHAT we give. It's about our hearts. God showed us the ultimate example of generosity by sending Jesus. This month, we'll take a look at how we can respond by being generous to others.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
Every Good and Perfect Gift
James 1:17a

BOTTOM LINE
God gives us good things.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
Widow of Zarephath
1 Kings 17:7-16

BOTTOM LINE
You always have something to give.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
God Loves a Cheerful Giver
2 Corinthians 9:7

BOTTOM LINE
Give with a good attitude.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
Love in Action
1 John 3:16-18

BOTTOM LINE
Jesus showed us how to give.

MEMORY VERSE

EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM GOD.
JAMES 1:17A, NIRV

GENEROSITY

MAKING SOMEONE'S DAY BY GIVING SOMETHING AWAY

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Save the Date

November 8: Kids Night Out from 6-8 p.m.

November 24: Luncheon for families with children or youth and cmm/ymm

December 6: Kids Night Out from 6-8 p.m.

December 8: Christmas Party after the Worship Service.

June 2-6: Vacation Bible School

Youth Ministry

Fighting Fear in the Tone of Our Homes

by Sarah Anderson

The best thing someone told me as a new mom, was this: “Your baby can pick up on the emotional temperature of the house.” In other words, babies are way more astute than you think.

This little nugget of truth explained a lot. Like, why my babies were more fussy around my anxious self and behaved like angelic dreams for my easy-going husband.

I still remember this—even though my boys are now six and four. Because I think the same principle applies. There is an emotional tone in our home, one we, as parents, are largely responsible for setting, and our kids are watching for. More than watching, they are taking cues.

I don’t know about you, but lately, it’s been hard to keep tabs on the tone of our home. Sure, there’s the typical busyness of the season—where we want to feel like everything is manageable, but the endless to-do lists and constant juggling make it feel more overwhelming instead. But I think it’s more than that. **I think the emotional tone of our homes feels a little iffy these days because, let’s be honest, the world feels a little iffy these days.**

It’s the jarring and volatile state of international affairs. It’s the uncertainty of our country’s own political affairs. It’s the seemingly endless stream of news headlines involving terror and guns, discrimination and fear. It’s the sense that things feel out of control. It’s enough to want to run away and hide in an effort to soothe ourselves . . . *and we’re the grown-ups here.*

What do we do when our own fears keep us up at night?

What do we do when our own anxieties drive us inward?

What do we do when the big questions we find looming seem too large for us to tackle for our own peace of mind—let alone our children?

Three years ago I was home on a Sunday morning and watched our church’s message online. In the message, Andy Stanley made the point that as followers of Jesus we are called to live our lives *fearlessly*. Not because there aren’t things to be afraid of. But because we are invited to a faith in Jesus so strong and so secure in our Father’s love, that fear does not get the final word. Not because scary things won’t happen. They will happen, but who God is and His love trumps my greatest fear becoming reality.

When the message was over I sat there, watching my computer screen for a few minutes, lost in thought. As a person who often has fear as my default mode, it gave me a lot to think about. And then I noticed, at the bottom of the screen were scrolling tweets from people responding to the message.

Three years ago, North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong Un, had made a series of provocative and confrontational remarks regarding their neighbors, South Korea, and the United States. At the time it created concern over a potential nuclear situation, dominating the national, and international, news. And as I sat there, I watched a tweet come across the screen.

“We are in South Korea” it said, *“and we are not afraid.”*

If anyone had reason to allow fear to dominate their lives and their minds, it would have been them. But they didn't let fear write their story.

The world is scary.

Things are volatile.

We are learning over and over again how little control we really have.

But fear, in the face of things worth being afraid of, does not have to be our response—in us, or in our kids.

Imagine if our kids looked at us, and didn't see us cowering in the face of the fear. Imagine if our kids looked at us and didn't see us burying our heads in the sand either.

Imagine if our kids looked at us and saw us living unafraid—in light of the chaos, we sometimes feel in the world around us in the uncertainty that dominates our headlines? **Imagine if our kids looked at us and saw parents fully cognizant of all that's going on in the world, but whose trust in God did not waver?**

That's the tone I want in my home. But that's the tone I have to have in my heart first. And I have to believe my kids have a better chance of warring fear and winning when they watch their mom and dad do it first.

So today, what if we faced our fears? What if we allowed our unwavering trust in who God is to set the tone in our hearts? And ultimately our homes? I think it's a big ask. But I think it's possible. And I think if we did it, we would handle these days, and the next couple of months, with a lot more grace. And that's the kind of win I want.

Blessings,

Adrian

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, November 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 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.

- **Thank you FPCA members**

Thank you FPCA members. We collected 1831 books, so every child took 1-2 books home. They were excited to find a “free” special book for just themselves. Your giving hearts touched hundreds of families! Many thanks.

Wednesday women’s Bible Study



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, November 4th, the Diaconate meets.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, November 14th, at 7:00 p.m., all teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Monday, November 21st, 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 December issue of The News is November 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Ann Scarr, 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, Wolfgang Van Wie.

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.

