



"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1-2

January
2025

The News

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Newsletter Team

Talita Gottmann, Editor

The News is a publication of
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
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Happy New Year!

A little New Year's scattershooting while wondering whatever happened to Steve Pelluer...

I've heard from several close friends that this year's Christmas just didn't feel like Christmas. And I can relate somewhat. I can't say it was the weather. Mild Decembers are the norm. The music was everywhere. Commercials were the same. I can't explain it. I can be very thankful that our Christmas Eve service definitely felt like Christmas Eve. Whether it was the readings and carols sung, the candlelit sanctuary, the Advent wreath and decorations in the sanctuary, for at least one hour on December 24th, it felt like Christmas. Thank you to the adults and youth who helped make that a special moment during a hectic and unusual feeling season! December also brought a couple staff changes. We had the privilege of hosting the ordination service for the now Rev. Adrian Rodriguez. That also meant saying goodbye on his final Sunday, December 29th, as he and his family move to Virginia so he can begin his ordained career. That obviously left an opening in our staff and ministry and we're grateful that Stephanie Arredondo has stepped up to answer the call to serve as our Interim Youth Director. In addition, we commissioned Bob Watkins to serve as our Prayer Coordinator. Bob has been instrumental in organizing our prayer ministry. With the support of a Prayer Council, he will partner with our congregation and staff to follow God's leading in transforming FPCA into a house of prayer. Thank you Adrian, Stephanie, and Bob!

Lastly, go ahead and save the date for Saturday, February 1st. More details will be coming but I want to get this date on your

calendar. This will be our first event to lay out the vision and next steps for our facility and coming capital campaign.

Looking back, we have much to be grateful for. Looking ahead, we have much to be excited about. God is leading us and all we have to do is be faithful to his leading!

Pastor Chris

chris@firstprestexas.org

Finance Update

General Fund for November 2024:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	64,366	890,082
Expenses:	(84,691)	(981,238)
Variance	(20,325)	(91,156)
Donors Income:	55,419	775,514
Budget:	75,817	833,987
Variance	(20,398)	(58,473)

Comments:

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

- have an exciting Commitment Sunday, concluding our annual generosity campaign, ALIGN.
- celebrate and fellowship with our church family with our annual Thanksgiving Dinner.
- conclude our annual Thanksgiving Basket program joining Arlington Charities in feeding those who, otherwise, may not be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner.
- have a fun fellowship time with our church family as we decorated the sanctuary for the Advent season.

As of November, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$22,797.

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

Have you ever seen a bunch of preschoolers jumping in rain puddles? So many giggles! So much excitement! And do you know that feeling you get when you step outside and feel the sunshine on your face for the first time in a week? Pure happiness! Our preschoolers experience a wide range of emotions every day. They feel sad, happy, afraid, nervous, excited—sometimes all in the same hour!

Our preschoolers will grow up and experience a lot of different situations and emotions. We want children to know that Jesus is a friend that loves them at ALL times. A friend that will never leave them. That's why, this month, we are talking about THE best friend—the One who is ALWAYS a good friend. Rain or shine, **Jesus is always a good friend of mine!**

WEEK	BIBLE STORY	STORY FOCUS
ONE	Peter Walks on Water Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus is a good friend when I am afraid.
TWO	Jesus Heals Ten Men Luke 17:11-16	Jesus is a good friend when I am excited.
THREE	Mary, Martha, and Lazarus John 11:1-3, 20, 28-36	Jesus is a good friend when I am sad.
FOUR	Zacchaeus* Luke 19:1-10	Jesus is a good friend when I am happy.

*Monthly Story for Toddler Curriculum

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"A FRIEND LOVES YOU ALL THE TIME." PROVERBS 17:17, NCV	WHO IS ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND?	JESUS IS ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND.
JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.		

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The Spring

Children's ministry is starting something new on January 12-The Spring. We will have The Spring on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:00 for children 4 years old to 6th grade. We will still have Sunday School and KFC on Sunday mornings. The Spring will be a time of games/activities and a Bible lesson that is different from Sunday School and KFC. The Spring will be a great time to invite your friends and kids in the community. It will be a time to have fellowship, build community, and share the love of Jesus.

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

JANUARY 2025

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

With every season comes new and different challenges but also the chance to experience incredible joy. Through sunshine or rain, storms, and blue skies, seasons and weather are important to growth, but not just for flowers and trees. How we respond to each season of life helps us grow in maturity and can spur us to a deeper faith in God. This is especially true when it comes to our emotions.

Just as seasons come and go, so do our emotions. And how we choose to handle those emotions can shape us and teach us a lot about how God cares for us. No matter what emotion we may be feeling or what we may face, because of Jesus, we can learn to trust that God knows how we feel. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience, and because of it, we can trust God no matter what.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Wept
John 11:1-45

BOTTOM LINE

When you're sad, remember you're not alone.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY

Do Not Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

BOTTOM LINE

When you're worried, trust God.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to God.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY

Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

BOTTOM LINE

God can help you choose joy.

MEMORY VERSE

BE STRONG, ALL YOU WHO PUT YOUR HOPE IN THE LORD. NEVER GIVE UP.
PSALM 31:24, NIRV

RESILIENCE

GETTING BACK UP WHEN SOMETHING GETS YOU DOWN

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Save the Date

January 12: The Spring from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for children 4 years old to 6th grade

January 19: The Spring from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for children 4 years old to 6th grade

January 26: Luncheon for Families with Children or Youth and CMM/YMM

January 26: The Spring from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for children 4 years old to 6th grade

Youth Ministry

WINTER 2024	High School		High School ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER
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The Happy Days

High schoolers are constantly chasing happiness. In friends, status, talents, grades, stuff, or their futures—they're constantly in the pursuit of happiness and constantly coming up short. That means your teen feels different emotions all the time! As we'll see in this series, those emotions aren't bad. In fact, the way of Jesus means they are free to feel it all. God shows up in all our feelings to give us space to feel, and that is real happiness!

MEMORY VERSE

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Matthew 7:24, NLT

Week One

Matthew 5:4, Psalm 30

You are free to feel

Week Two

Psalm 139:7-12, John 11:35, John 15:33-34, Luke 22:44

God shows up in all feelings

Week Three

Matthew 5:6, Romans 12:15-16

Give others the space to feel



Morning Time

As your teen starts their day, assure them that they are never a burden to you. Life can be burdensome, yes, but they are not a burden!



Their Time

Ask your teen to teach you something they are good at or enjoy. Then, try it! You don't have to be great at it or even like it to put in the effort with your kid.



Meal Time

At a meal this week, have everyone respond to this: "On a scale of 1 to 10, how easily would you say you trust God to provide what you need?"



Bed Time

Pray that you and your teen will be as close to Jesus in the good times as you are to Him in the not-so-good times.



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AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES

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The Well Youth Group

We are excited to announce a new program for FPCA Youth in 2025!

Starting January 12, 2025, we will begin hosting Sunday evening Youth Group at the church. These new groups will not replace Youth Sunday school class, which is held every Sunday at 9:45AM, before worship service. The Youth groups will be from 4:30-6PM every Sunday evening.

We invite all youth to join us every Sunday evening, starting on January 12th. We will send a notification for canceled dates (for example, we will not meet Super Bowl Sunday, or Easter Sunday).

Youth group will be 6th to 12th grade. 6th graders and their parents can choose if they prefer to attend the children's ministry group, or youth group...whichever may be the best fit. We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions, email Stephanie Arredondo at stephanie@firstprestexas.org.

Upcoming Important Dates:

Youth Sunday School class: Sunday, weekly, from 9:45-10:45AM

Youth Group: Sunday, weekly, from 4:30-6PM

January 20: Youth Mission Serving Day & lunch (more details to follow)

January 26: Luncheon for Families with Children and Youth and CMM/YMM

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, January 11, 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.



Women's Ministry

ATTENTION, LADIES!

Saturday, January 25th

10:00 a.m. to Noon

FPCA Parlor

It's said that a new year brings 365 opportunities to develop new habits. Join us for brunch and start 2025 off right by learning how to develop the spiritual discipline of fellowship and building community. Once again, our speaker will be Martita Lynch, a great favorite. Please feel free to bring a friend... we look forward to seeing you there!!

\$10 Registration Online

To register, visit the FPCA website (firstprestexas.org) Ministries > Adult Ministries > Scroll to Women's Ministry.

You can pay online, on the FPCA app, or by check.

Questions? Please call Jamie at 214-674-7821 or e-mail womensministry@firstprestexas.org

Women's Ministry Team



Prayer Ministry

This December several of us have celebrated two years in active involvement in Prayer Ministry. Our activities have not been that visible as we have prayed over your prayer requests and prayed specifically for our worship services and all participants, including those of us present in person or online. Our pastor has now challenged us to increase our activities with the vision of encouraging a culture of prayer in the total life of the church. What exactly does that mean? Pray with us expectantly as we each listen and respond as God gives direction in 2025.

Bob Watkins, Prayer Coordinator FPCA



Family Living Class Project - Arlington Life Shelter

Our church was a founding site and support for Arlington Life Shelter. In addition to the church's regular financial support, the Family Living Class continues to find ways to serve them with donated items from their need lists. Recent items delivered to them have been gently used towels, bleach, and large trash bags.



"Coming soon...Saints Alive is back!

Saints Alive for those who might not know is a bring a dish luncheon and time of fellowship open to all church members! Our first luncheon will be Thursday, January 30th at 11:30. This will be a recurring luncheon on the last Thursday of each month- January - May; and September -December. We will take the months of June, July and August off. We will from time to time have guest speakers or entertainment. Please plan to join us on Thursday, January 30th at 11:30 and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

We look forward to seeing you in Fellowship Hall."

This Month



Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in room 204. 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 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

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

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

Meet on Wednesdays, at 6 p.m. in the Handbell room.

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, January 9th, the Diaconate meets.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, January 16th, at 7:00 p.m., all teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 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.

Saints Alive

Our first luncheon will be Thursday, January 30th at 11:30. This will be a recurring luncheon on the last Thursday of each month - January - May; and September - December. We will take the months of June, July and August off.

We look forward to seeing you in Fellowship Hall."

Jodie Schenck and Becki Briggs Co Chairs.

First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Deadline for the February issue of The News is January 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.

