



"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."

Philippians 3:10-11

March
2025

The News

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Newsletter Team

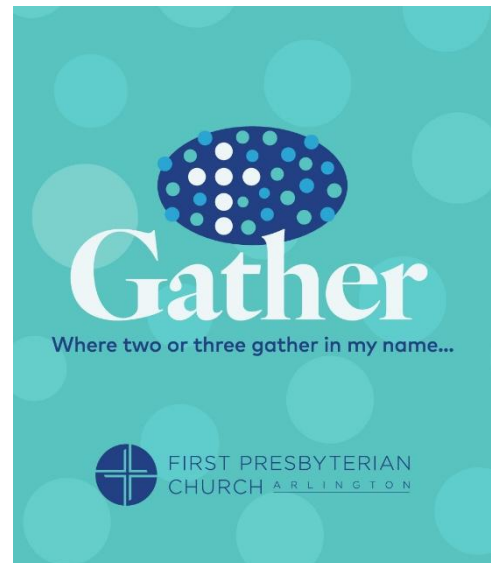
Talita Gottmann, Editor

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First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
1200 South Collins
Arlington, TX 76010

Contact us at
thenews@firstprestexas.org

It's Time to Gather

March begins our public phase of our Gather Capital Campaign leading up to commitment Sunday on April 6th. I greatly appreciate our steering team and everyone else working hard behind the scenes that have made this already a great success. I'm excited to see our churchwide response come April!



I did want to take a moment and share a conversation and action taken by our session during the February meeting. This is a conversation that could have been had with previous session classes, but being that this group of elders will be the one overseeing the campaign and the use of our gifts, I felt it was appropriate for this group to answer this question. It's a question that came up during our stakeholder event, in-home events, and plenty of conversations elsewhere. And that revolves around the debt portion of the campaign.

Roughly 1/3 of the Gather Campaign project cost is to eliminate our debt from the roof loan, the second roof loan, and campaign expenses that are being carried by the 2025 budget. Eliminating the debt is one of four overall goals of the campaign. However, the session had a long and productive discussion about what kind of strategy we should employ once gifts are received.

An underlying tension exists in two areas. The longer we wait to pay off the debt, the more interest we will pay. At the same time,

the longer we wait to start the process of the construction piece, the cost of work will likely increase. The motion approved by session was not a matter of trying to please everybody all of the time, but an effort to achieve our goals with minimizing those costs.

Therefore, the session approved the first \$70,000 to be used to begin the schematic design phase of work. This takes time on its own and the expense goes towards the overall project cost. It is not beyond the projected project cost. The next portions of gifts would then eliminate the roof loan. Once that is paid off, we will celebrate like crazy and then the next gifts will retire our remaining debt obligations, primarily the second PILP loan.

We had several goals for the Transform Campaign which included retiring the roof loan. Clearly that objective (and several others) was not completed. The session recognizes we need to take care of that in an extremely timely manner. The session also believes it is prudent to release our architect to begin his work so that when our debt is fully retired, we can move quickly without that dark cloud looming over us.

The session and I do not know if this is the perfect plan. But we are confident that it is a good plan that has been wrapped in prayer. And our hope is this will increase the enthusiasm of the overall Gather Campaign. As always, I always welcome your feedback and questions. With this question resolved, I pray we can all move forward with confidence and excitement for our next steps.

Pastor Chris

chris@firstprestexas.org

Finance Update

General Fund for January 2025:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	141,884	141,884
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(107,264)</u>	<u>(107,264)</u>
Variance	34,620	34,620
Donors Income:	138,946	138,946
<u>Budget:</u>	<u>75,085</u>	<u>75,085</u>
Variance	63,861	63,861

Comments:

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

- begin a journey through our sermon series looking at some of the names of God.
- enjoy fellowship with our sisters in Christ in a Women's Ministry-sponsored event called New Year, New Beginnings exploring how to begin the new year right and learning about the discipline of fellowship and building community.
- start hosting Sunday evening Children and Youth groups at the church.
- take joy in the ordination and installation of new officers - an exciting moment in the church's life, and exciting for the kingdom.
- restart Saints Alive - a bring-a-dish luncheon and time of fellowship and sometimes guest speakers each month, open to all church members.
- spend time with Michelle Craig who shared with us about her recent and upcoming mission trips.
- celebrate 2024 which was an excellent year in many ways as we heard and read more about that at our annual meeting.

*As of January, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$21,100.

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

One common phrase we hear children repeat is, "Watch this!" They want us to watch their spins and cartwheels, their dance routines, and what their toys can do. It's fun to pretend to be amazed and say, "Wow," no matter what it is.

This month, we are teaching our preschoolers to watch the One who can do anything. The One who has shown that the power of the Lord is with Him. Who is this One? Jesus, of course! Yes, this month is all about Jesus and how Jesus can do anything!

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Calming the Storm Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25	STORY FOCUS Jesus can calm a storm.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Healing a Man Born Blind John 9:1-11	STORY FOCUS Jesus can help people.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Catching Fish* Matthew 4:18; Luke 5:1-7	STORY FOCUS Jesus' power is amazing.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Jesus Feeds the 5,000 John 6:1-14	STORY FOCUS Jesus can do amazing things.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law Matthew 8:14-15	STORY FOCUS Jesus can do anything.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"AND THE POWER OF THE LORD WAS WITH JESUS." LUKE 5:17, NIV	WHO CAN DO ANYTHING?	JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY
MARCH 2025

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Jesus and His Followers Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16; 8:1-3	BOTTOM LINE Jesus wants us to work together.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Joshua Wins the Battle Over the Amalekites Exodus 17:8-13	BOTTOM LINE Work together to help someone succeed.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15	BOTTOM LINE Work together to solve problems.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Four Friends Work Together Luke 5:17-26	BOTTOM LINE Work together to help someone.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY One Body, Many Parts 1 Corinthians 12:12-27	BOTTOM LINE Work together to point people to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE	TWO PEOPLE ARE BETTER THAN ONE. THEY CAN HELP EACH OTHER IN EVERYTHING THEY DO. ECCLESIASTES 4:9, NIRV
COOPERATION	WORKING TOGETHER TO DO MORE THAN YOU CAN DO ALONE

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Save the Date

- March 2: The Spring for children 4 years old to 6th grade from 4:30-6:00 p.m..
- March 9: The Spring for children 4 years old to 6th grade from 4:30-6:00 p.m..
- March 23: The Spring for children 4 years old to 6th grade from 4:30-6:00 p.m..
- March 30: Luncheon for Families with Children or Youth and CMM/YMM:
- March 30: The Spring for children 4 years old to 6th grade from 4:30-6:00 p.m..

Youth Ministry

Youth Cue 2025 was a success!



Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, March 8, 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.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering is received during the season of Lent at FPCA.



This is one of four special offerings collected during our church year. Offering envelopes are provided outside the sanctuary or designate OGHS on the memo portion of your check. Posters are located around the church halls.

Presbyterians worldwide have participated in this offering for over 60 years and give about as much as all other denominations put together. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

The offering gifts are divided between three programs- Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. For a list of how these gifts were used in previous years or for more information, see www.pcusa.org/oghs.

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, May 8th, the Diaconate meets.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, March 13th, at 7:00 p.m., all teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, March 27, 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

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 April issue of The News is March 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Joe Glenn, the family of Carol Boone, Marie George, Richard Whitenight, Judy Reck, Charles Arnold, Nancy Brown, Carol Browning, Billie Jo Campbell, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Joe and Lila Glenn, Bob Hanson and his family, Jack and Dottie Liwai, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Mia Navarro and her family, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Jo Ann Nichols, Tina Paulk, 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: Bettye Burdett, Madge Casselman, Lucy Cleaver, Cyprain Engwenyi, Mary Lou Garrison, Ann Scarr, Betty Snowden, Leonard & Mary Jane Tibbetts, 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.