

May
2025

The News



*This is the day that the Lord
has made; we will rejoice and
be glad in it.*

Psalm 118:24

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Newsletter Team

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The News is a publication of
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Spring and Easter and Our Church Home

It has been an extremely active spring already at FPCA. One week before Palm Sunday , we held our Gather commitment Sunday. For calendaring purposes, this was necessary but still ambitious. I am so grateful to our steering team and our staff whose loads increased more than the usual Holy Week responsibilities. But on this end of it all, I can say it was definitely worth the hard work. Our Holy Week services and Easter Sunday were powerful and wonderful times of worship. As a pastor, it was nice to stop thinking about the campaign (briefly!) and focus on what was most important.

On April 27, we announced the results of our campaign so far and we are significantly ahead of where we were at this point during the Transform Campaign. Now, nothing is guaranteed to repeat. But we ended Transform with much higher commitments and gifts than we first announced then. I believe the same should happen with Gather. I can promise that the letters and emails have ceased asking for commitments, but people will have the opportunity to commit and give throughout our three-year giving phase. I can't wait to start sharing and celebrating our accomplishments very soon.



In the meantime, we continue to be the church. We are enjoying a burst of babies being born and baptisms. Members have joined the Church triumphant. And the rest of us are in that in-between of everything else on life's spectrum. While it may feel like things are winding down a bit once the school year ends, make sure you remain connected whether that's through a Sunday school class, Bible study, or other group within our church. These relationships are important. As we have responded boldly to invest in the future of our church facilities, we all need to invest deeply in meaningful relationships with others. Thanks for being you!

Pastor Chris

chris@firstprestexas.org

National Day of Prayer

The FPCA Prayer Ministry invites you to join us for the National Day of Prayer service on May 1, 12 noon to 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel. We gather to pray for our nation: its leadership; its military; its businesses; the media; the education of its children; and its churches.

What is the National Day of Prayer?

The National Day of Prayer is held on the first Thursday of May each year (Thursday, May 1, 2025), and is meant to anchor us to the true source of liberty—Jesus Christ. The history of the National Day of Prayer is rich, and teaches us this one abiding truth:

We are a nation forged and fought for through prayer:



July 1775—Cannons were firing in the air. The United States was not yet its own as the Revolutionary War was being fought. The Continental Congress issued a proclamation of fasting and prayer to ask God for favor and freedom.



February 1795—We were a new nation. George Washington, as one of his first acts as the leader of our infant country, proclaimed a day of thanksgiving and prayer for the nation.



May 1798—The nation was in flux, and its future uncertain. John Adams declared a day of “solemn humility, fasting, and prayer.”



March 1863—The Civil War was ravaging our divided nation. Abraham Lincoln signed a Congressional resolution that called for a day of fasting and prayer.



February 1950—Billy Graham led services on the Capitol's steps, leading President Harry Truman to establish the first National Day of Prayer.



May 1983—The heart of our nation was being reignited toward God, and Ronald Reagan and the conservative evangelical Christian organization called the "National Prayer Committee" coordinated and implemented a fixed annual day of prayer for the nation.

Finance Update



General Fund for March 2025:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	64,206	269,185
Expenses:	(109,657)	(292,943)
Variance	(45,451)	(23,758)
Donors Income:	56,700	256,254
Budget:	75,085	225,255
Variance	(18,385)	30,999

Comments:

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

- begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday services, enriching our faith this season and beyond.
- introduce our new Prayer Room, a private place of personal prayer for one or two people to quiet your mind as you kneel, stand, or sit with the Lord in prayer.
- participate in the YouthCUE choral festival - a life-changing weekend for our youth, who were learning how our faith applies to real life through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
- launch our Gather capital campaign, and the excitement is real! We began our sermon series teaching how we Gather in His name, to worship, connect, and grow.
- celebrate International Women's Day of Prayer, inviting us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God.

As of March, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$33,836.

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

There was a time when learning how to tie our shoes was a big thing. Walking into a new preschool class was a big thing. And sleeping in our own bedroom by ourselves, that was a really big thing—like SO BIG! And now that we're all grown up, the big things keep coming.

God is going to give our preschoolers big things to do. God is going to give them little things to do. And whether it's a big thing or a little thing, we want our preschoolers to know that they have the Lord our God to help them. God helps me do big things!

WEEK	BIBLE STORY	STORY FOCUS
ONE	Noah's Ark* Genesis 6:8-9:17	God gives us big things to do.
TWO	Aaron and Hur Help Moses Exodus 17:8-13	God gives us people to help us do big things.
THREE	Deborah Judges 4:1-10, 14; 5:1-31	God helps us do big things.
FOUR	Nehemiah Asks for Help Nehemiah 1-4; 6:1, 15	We can do big things when we work together.

**Monthly Story for Toddler Curriculum*

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"I KNOW THAT GOD HELPS ME." PSALM 54:4, NIV	WHO HELPS YOU DO BIG THINGS?	GOD HELPS ME DO BIG THINGS.
GOD LOVES ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

MAY 2025

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

Getting started can sometimes seem like the hardest part of meeting a need. But it actually starts before then. First we have to see the needs around us. Initiative isn't just some practical principle; it's really a spiritual principle that starts with God. God took initiative on our behalf by seeing that our relationship was broken and needed to be fixed. So God sent Jesus to make it right. And because we are made in God's image, we are wired to be able to take initiative and get things done too.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY God So Loved the World John 3:16-17	BOTTOM LINE God took care of our greatest need..
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Miriam Takes Initiative Exodus 2:1-10	BOTTOM LINE Look for ways to help the people you love.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Parable of the Talents Matthew 25:14-30	BOTTOM LINE Look for ways to use what you've been given.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY John's Disciples Follow Jesus John 1:35-45	BOTTOM LINE Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE	"NONE OF YOU SHOULD LOOK OUT JUST FOR YOUR OWN GOOD. EACH OF YOU SHOULD ALSO LOOK OUT FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS." PHILIPPIANS 2:4, NIRV
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INITIATIVE	SEEING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND DOING IT
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Save the Date

- May 25** Luncheon for Families with Children or Youth
- June 2-6** Vacation Bible School for children 4 years old to sixth grade from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Youth Ministry



BBQ Dinner & FUNDRAISER

**\$20 per
Ticket**



Purchase your tickets on the Church website under "GIVE" and select Hendersonville Fundraiser Dinner

MAY 17, 2025 | 5:30 - 7:30PM

All funds raised will go towards Hendersonville, N.C. Mission Trip!

Includes Brisket Dinner and yummy sides

Silent Auction

Live Dessert Auction

Live Entertainment from our own FPCA Youth!

↓ WANT TO DO MORE THAN JUST ATTEND THE EVENT? ↓

Brisket Smoke-Off!

Think you have what it takes to have FPCA's BEST brisket? Smoke a brisket (or two)--we'll vote on the best tasting brisket at the event! Win FPCA bragging rights!

Live Dessert Auction!

Bring your best tasting dessert to be auctioned off LIVE during the event! One of our youth will be our live auctioneer for the night!

Silent Auction Items!

We are looking for items for our silent auction! New Gift cards, gift baskets, quilts, homemade keepsakes or goods--please donate!

PLEASE EMAIL STEPHANIE@FIRSTPRETEXAS.ORG IF YOU PLAN TO BRING A BRISKET OR DESSERT, OR HAVE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS TO DONATE

Monthly Food Bank



Join us Saturday, May 10, 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.

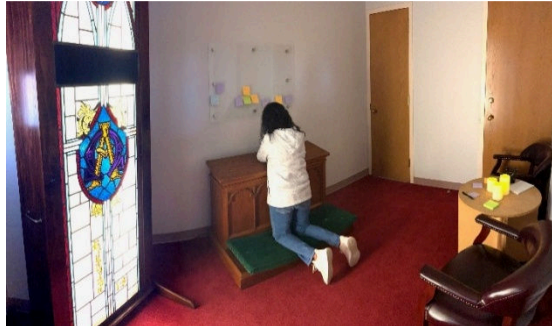
Leave a Lasting Legacy



On Sunday, June 1, following the 11:00 service, the Fellowship Team will serve lunch and welcome you to hear from Stefanie Marsden of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation. She will educate FPCA members on legacy and planned gifts.

Now is the time to create a lasting legacy that can inspire future generations, support the ministry of our church, and remain steadfastly woven into the hearts of others. YOU can make a difference.

Come to the Prayer Room!



(Located off the Chapel)

What will I find there?

- *A quiet place*
- *Peace*
- *A kneeling bench*
- *A board for prayer requests*
- *Soft lighting*
- *Chairs, Bibles, books on prayer*
- *Guides to help with prayers*
- *You will find answers*
- *You will find Jesus*
- *You will find God's immaculate love*

Close the door; be alone with Him. Want music? Sing to the Lord!

A Big Thank-You

To the Fellowship Team for all their hard work on an amazing Easter brunch!



Pentecost Offering – June 8



This year our Pentecost Offering is received officially on the Day of Pentecost, June 8, 2025. As with all Special Offerings, times before and after this date are appropriate for donations also. On Pentecost Sunday, we join Christians around the world to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.

The Pentecost Offering unites us to support young people in Christ. Forty percent of the offering stays locally, and this year will go to H.O.P.E. Tutoring as decided by the Mission and Evangelism Team with Session approval. The other percentage will support General Assembly ministries for youth development.

Stay up to date on the Pentecost Offering on www.pcusa.org/pentecost, www.x.com/pcusa, or www.facebook.com/specialofferings/.

Offering envelopes are available outside the sanctuary several weeks before and after the offering. Please use the Pentecost envelopes or designate on your check or other envelope if you are giving to the Pentecost Offering.

Please help aid youth programs in our church as well as our country and world. The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start and a solid foundation of faith from childhood through young adult.

A Cup of Connection

Celebrating the Blessings of Community

The Women's Ministry Team invites you to enjoy lunch with your sisters in Christ as we treasure our time together. Space is limited, so please be sure to register early!

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2025

Time: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Rose Garden Tea Room at Gracie Lane
4720 South Cooper

Registration: \$20 Online

- FPCA Website (www.firstprestexas.org) → Ministries → Adult Ministries
- Scroll down to Women's Ministry and register



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 meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 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

The CWF Women's Bible Study group meets virtually every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. EXCEPT the last Wednesday of the month when the group meets 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 6:00 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 8, the Diaconate meets.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m., all teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 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 to May; and September to 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 June issue of The News is May 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Margaret Landolt, Charlie Laney, Kathy Moore, Judy Crowell, the family of Bob Hanson, Charles Arnold, Nancy Brown, Carol Browning, Billie Jo Campbell, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Joe and Lila Glenn, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Jo Ann Nichols, Tina Paulk, Judy Reck, Lisa Scrabeck, 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 and 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.

