



*Train up a child in
the way they should go,
and when they grow old,
they will not depart from it.*
Proverbs 22:6

August
2025

The News

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Newsletter Team

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The News is a publication of
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
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Arlington, TX 76010

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Qualities of Discipleship

It's August which means for our household, and plenty of others, soon there will be plenty of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Back to school. Honestly, I know our boys are looking forward to some things that come along with going back to school – reuniting with friends, fall sports, it's just all that school stuff that spoils the fun.

I'm really excited about our Blessing of the Backpacks on August 10th. Our Prayer Ministry came up with that and it's just such an obvious thing we can do for our students!

Starting in mid-August, I'll begin a new sermon series called Qualities of Discipleship which is not a "back to school" series. But it's a great time for all of us to refocus our attention and energy as we head into the fall.

And just so you know, some great things are being prepared in the background, especially within Prayer Ministry, that will bear fruit later this fall. You'll be impressed and inspired by its creativity. And hopefully, you'll be called into a deeper and more purposeful prayer life as well.

And so, after our teams, deacons, and session enjoyed a month away from meetings, things are about to ramp up again. Those breaks are important, and I hope you have found some moments of peace and quiet this summer. Those times help prepare us for what's next!

An Unprepared Heart

Beginning in July, the Prayer Ministry began a series of additions to the e-news and, with this August edition, to the Newsletter. Please be watching each week and month as the Prayer Ministry continues to provide encouragement toward a culture of prayer.



AN UNPREPARED HEART

Picture an awe-inspiring moment. Maybe it is an enormous wave crashing off the rocks on the coast of NW California or Maine. It could be a beautiful sunset reflecting off the slightly rippling waters of a favorite lake at the end of an exquisite day. For some it might be the majesty of a snow-capped mountain in the northern Rockies. Or maybe it is the birth of a child. Some things in life inspire us more than others. If we allow it, all of these things should remind us of a great God who rules supreme and makes all these things come into being.

Where is that image when we come to pray? Do we come to prayer with awe for the God who creates such things? What do we bring to our praying? Are we ready to receive so great a God? We should never pray from a place of helplessness that transforms God into a powerless god. From prepared hearts we can pray with power to the God of all power and majesty!

“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10 “Lord, O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Psalm 8:1

Prayer ministry

prayer@firstprestexas.org



Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, August 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.

Finance Update

General Fund for June 2025:

| | Monthly | YTD |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Income & Funds Released: | 210,126 | 675,095 |
| Expenses: | (95,107) | (603,721) |
| Variance | 115,019 | 71,374 |
| | | |
| Donors Income: | 123,226 | 510,300 |
| Budget: | 75,085 | 450,510 |
| Variance | 48,141 | 59,790 |



Comments:

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

- join Christians around the world to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church on Pentecost Sunday.
- finish a great week of VBS! The theme this year was Ready, Set, Move: Follow Jesus Here, There, and Everywhere.
- attend FPCA's youth and children's musical, "Judge Julie Truly" based on the biblical story about the friends who lowered their friend through the roof to be healed by Jesus.
- have a Spring Festival Luncheon hosted by the Fellowship Team with Stephanie Marsden of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation who educated us on legacy and planned gifts.
- journey to Hendersonville N.C. on our Mission Trip serving to help rebuild from the damage caused from the Hurricane Helene flooding.
- enjoy "A Cup of Connection" luncheon, hosted by the Women's Ministry Team, with our sisters in Christ as we treasure our time together at the Rose Garden Tea Room.
- join the Summertime Literary and Potato Chip Snack Society, hosted by our Women's Ministry Team, to explore the award-winning book, Find Your People.

As of June, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$128,324.

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, Elementary, and KFC

Timeless: a 5-Week Teaching Series for Children's Ministry

Time travel is such an exciting concept to imagine! If we could hop into a time machine and visit the past, we might be surprised by how much has changed—and how some things stay exactly the same. One thing we'd discover is that God's love and faithfulness are timeless. In this 5-week series, kids will explore how God's messages to us never change, no matter the time or place. They'll learn that **God's love is timeless, we can seek God any time, God is good all the time, God takes the time to forgive, and God is with us at all times.**

Week 1: God's love is timeless (Hosea 11:1-11 and Hebrews 10:19-25) This week, kids learn about how much God's people are loved through the prophet Hosea. If we could time-travel, a lot of us would go back in time to send ourselves messages to avoid making mistakes. This week, we'll hear how a prophet named Hosea shared an important message about God's unfailing love—even when they turned away. Throughout his life, Hosea helped everyone see that **God's love is timeless.**

Week 2: We can seek God any time (Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 and Hebrews 11:1-3, 6) This week, kids hear God's message to the prophet Isaiah about how to worship. Don't you sometimes want a time machine to skip past all the chores and routines? This week, we'll hear how God's message to the prophet Isaiah showed people that their acts of worship were more like empty routines. Isaiah reminded them that loving God wasn't about just going through the motions but rather daily actions because **we can seek God any time.**

Week 3: God is good all the time (Micah 6:1-8 and Hebrews 12:1-3) This week, kids learn about how God shows us what is good in a message to the prophet Micah. With time travel, we'd never need to worry about losing what's important because we could just jump back to the moment we lost it. This week, we'll hear how the prophet Micah helped his community remember how God rescued them and showed them compassion. His words not only helped people reflect on powerful stories, but they showed an important truth—**God is good all the time.**

Week 4: God takes the time to forgive (Jeremiah 18:1-10 and Hebrews 12:18-29) This week, kids learn about how God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah at the potter's house. Have you ever wanted to speed up time to get to the good parts? This week, we'll hear God's message to the prophet Jeremiah about a challenging time that would help Israel and Judah like clay pots. While they might have wished they could fast-forward through their discomfort, God used this story to shape them and to show us that **God takes the time to forgive.**

Week 5: God is with us at all times (Ezekiel 37:1 -14 and Hebrews 13:6 -8) This week, kids learn about God's message to the prophet Ezekiel at the valley of dry bones. If you could time-travel, wouldn't you be tempted to jump ahead and catch a glimpse of your future? This week, we'll hear about how Ezekiel's vision of a valley filled with dry bones helped him understand God's incredible power and presence. Through this vision, God reminded Ezekiel—and us—that we don't need to see the future to face difficult moments because **God is with us at all times.**

MEMORY VERSE: “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart.” — Ecclesiastes 3:11a (NIV)

The Blessing of the Backpacks

August 13th will be the first day of school for most of our students and youth. During our 11:00 a.m. worship service on August 10th, we want to bless this important tool in their school journey: their backpack. This is something they take to school every day. It holds important papers (like homework), holds tools they need (pencils, pens, rulers, etc.), and holds items they need like water bottles and lunches.

We are encouraging parents to help remind your student to bring their backpack to worship on August 10th. Youth? College students? You are invited to bring yours, too!

And, of course, we'll pray for our students, too. Join us as we recognize this important time in the life of our kiddos.

Prayer ministry prayer@firstprestexas.org



Fall Women's Bible Study

September 10

The Women's Wednesday Bible Study will begin their new study September 10, 2025. This group meets the second Wednesday of each month, September - May at 1 p.m. At FPCA. Currently meeting in the Fellowship Hall, but this could change. Members volunteer to lead a lesson and/or bring a snack.

This will be the 25th anniversary of this group meeting. It is open to all women. The Study guides will be ordered on July 15, so if you would like to join and have a book, please reply to Debbie Richardson (der817@gmail.com) or Sheri Quick (sheriq@aol.com). Cost is \$14 plus \$1 to help defray the cost of shipping. When the order arrives, an email will be sent on where to pick up your book and make payment (a check or cash).

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

by Rhashell D. Hunter

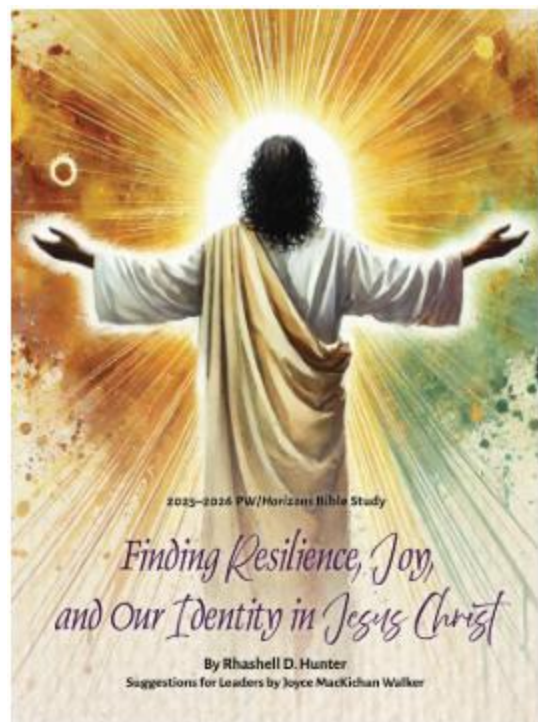
In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. So, what exactly is resilience?

Resilience is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress—such as from family, relationships, health, workplace, and financial stressors. People who survive and thrive well in change are resilient.

The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy.

Joy is sometimes confused with happiness. For Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, preceded by love and followed by peace (Gal 5:22-23). Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We have joy in our suffering, because ultimately our joy is found in Jesus Christ.

We will also seek to rediscover our identity. Identity is more than who we are or who we show ourselves to be. At its core, it points to our humanity. Our core identity is not found in our titles, our positions, our spouses, our partners, or our possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ.



Questions about the little Prayer Room

Here are answers to some of the questions that have come to Prayer Ministry:

- Where is the Prayer Room located?
Enter the Chapel; move to the front left corner to enter the Prayer Room.
- When is the Prayer Room open?
Anytime the church is open.
- Do I need to contact someone to ask to use the Prayer Room?
No, you may use it whenever you choose.
- Are there any rules for using the Prayer Room?
We only ask that you leave it as you found it.
- For what reason would someone need a “Prayer Room”?
It is a nice quiet room away from the noise of the day to focus. Come and enjoy! You can close the door and be alone with God.
- Can I ask a person to pray with me inside the Prayer Room?
Yes, with some restrictions for security reasons. See posting in the Prayer Room.
- Is there someone available to pray with me?
Of course, we can arrange for someone from staff or Prayer Ministry Team to pray with you. Send your request to prayer@firstprestexas.org and you will be contacted to set a time suitable to you.
- Is there a restroom in the Prayer Room?
Yes, this assures your total privacy until you are ready to leave.
- May I bring a Bible or books on prayer to the room to use?
Of course! There are also Bibles and books to help with prayer, along with pens and notepads for your time of meditation.
- May I burn a candle?
No, for safety reasons, flames are not allowed, however, there are battery operated candles for your use in creating environment. Please turn them off when you leave the room.

The Prayer Ministry hopes that many of the questions you have asked are answered here. Please feel free to reach out on any subject. Our hope is that this uniquely wonderful Sacred Space will serve all of our members seeking a quiet place for an intimate time with our Lord and to intercede for the needs you will find posted there.

The Prayer Council

prayer@firstprestexas.org

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 resumes on the second Wednesday of September at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 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 Fellowship Hall 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

Resume August 6th Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Chancel Choir.

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

Resume September 3rd Wednesdays, at 6:00 p.m. in the Handbell room.

Youth Choir

Resume September 7th Sunday, from 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (lunch for participants 12:15 p.m.).

Children's Music Ministries

Resume September 7th Sunday, from 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (lunch for participants 12:15 p.m.).



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting

Thursday, September 4, the Diaconate meets.

Team Meeting Night

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

Session Meeting

Thursday, August 28 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 Thursday 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 September issue of The News is August 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: The family of Joe Glenn, Nancy Guerry, Drew Stephenson, Charles Arnold, Nancy Brown, Carol Browning, Judy Crowell, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Margaret Landolt, Shawn LeBlanc, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Judy Reck, Lisa Scrabeck, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Sherry and Shelby Wolfe, Danny Womble.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: 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, 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.

