

The News

The monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church Arlington



“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.”

- Ecclesiastes 3

October 2025

Table of Contents

Prayer Ministry.....3
October news.....4
September joys.....5
Bible studies
and groups.....6-7
Build
connections.....8
Community
events.....9
Finance update.....10
Children’s
Ministry.....11
Prayer list.....12

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Deadline for the November
newsletter is October 15.

Next step

This fall, our preaching series has focused on qualities of being disciples of Jesus Christ. One of the key take-aways for me is that discipleship is more about taking action than just learning. To be merciful, you must show mercy. To be neighborly, you must love your neighbor and so on.

But I know it can be difficult sometimes knowing what to do next. At the end of October, we will begin our annual generosity campaign and this year it is called, “Next Step.” This will provide an accessible opportunity to go from learning about different qualities of discipleship and help each of us put them into daily action.

No one masters discipleship in one big leap. Actually, we never master discipleship ever. It is a lifelong journey that is eventually perfected through our resurrection. So we are called to grow little by little, step by step.

This campaign will hone in on four spiritual practices: prayer, discipleship, service, and giving. With each of these practices, we will be given little steps we can take each day of the week and build on each one. By the end of the series, all of those little steps present an opportunity to make a great stride in personal and spiritual growth.

Our primary passage for this campaign is Proverbs 3:5-6. In these verses, we learn how discipleship is actually a partnership between God and us. We have a part to play, and God promises to do his part as well. Thankfully, it’s not all up to us! I’m looking forward to this opportunity for us as individuals taking a next step, but collectively, FPCA taking our next step!

Live Forever,

Pastor Chris

Prayer ministry



Hearing his voice: “Here I am. I will be with you.”

We are largely in the aftermath of the tragic events that happened in the Hill Country in early July, as massive flooding occurred claiming the lives of many, including a number of young people at a Christian encampment near the banks of the Guadalupe River.

The ripples of tragedy spread far beyond the riverbanks. Each day, though the waters have receded, so many people still feel the waves of grief that continue to affect their prayers, plans, and hope of recovery.

For some, life may be regaining some normality; for others, there will be a new normality.

For all of us, there is a wake-up to be prepared for when the storms of life come and the foundations are being destroyed. When floodwaters rise and foundations begin to shake, consistent engagement with God’s Word grounds us in His presence. By daily presenting ourselves to the great I AM, pausing for praise, and walking incessantly in the light, we ensure that no ripple of trial drowns our ability to hear, “I will be with you.”

This disciplined pursuit isn’t a burden. It’s the lifeline that sustains faith, hope and joy in every circumstance – even when the floods come.

“Here am I.” “I will be with you.”

October news

Nominate members for FPCA leadership roles



We're looking for members who have vision, values, and energy to serve in leadership positions at FPCA. Consider nominating someone (or yourself) for an Elder, Deacon, Congregational Nominating Team member, or Trustee.

You can submit nominations in the box in the Narthex, email your nominations to info@firstprestexas.org, or reach out to Matt Annen at mattannen@yahoo.com.

Fundraisers benefit Internship in Church Music Ministry

This Fall's fundraising efforts for the Internship in Church Music Ministry have begun paying off. The silent and live auctions Sept. 14 raised almost \$4,000. With the additions of the spirit nights at Jason's Deli and Panera, as well as generous donations, FPCA has raised almost \$7,000 for the program.

It's not too late to make a difference, though. J. Gilligans will donate a portion of proceeds from dine-in or take-out orders Sunday, Oct. 5.

Sign up for daily devotional texts



Start your day with uplifting, encouraging words. Sign up to receive daily devotional texts from FPCA and the Next Step generosity series, beginning Oct. 20 through Nov. 16.

The texts will include spiritual reflections and practices related to prayer, service, giving, and discipleship. To sign up, scan the QR code below or fill in your cell number in the Friendship Pad in the pew.

Invite friends and family members who may want a daily dose of fulfilling spirituality, too.

Mobile Food Market dates

Arlington Charities is hosting mobile food markets three times in October.

Distribution lines form early and distribution ends when the food is gone.

- Oct. 11 at 8:30 a.m. - St. Andrews United Methodist Church at 2045 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd.
- Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. - TCC Southeast at 2100 Southeast Parkway
- Oct. 23 at 9 a.m. - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 1500 California Ln.

September joys



1. Rev. Chris Campbell baptized Aurora Marie McWalters Sunday, Sept. 21 during worship. Aurora's parents are Dannielle and Brendan McWalters.

2. Director of Children's Ministry Kyle Terwilliger and his wife Diane hosted a magic show and pizza evening Sept. 6 for the church and community.



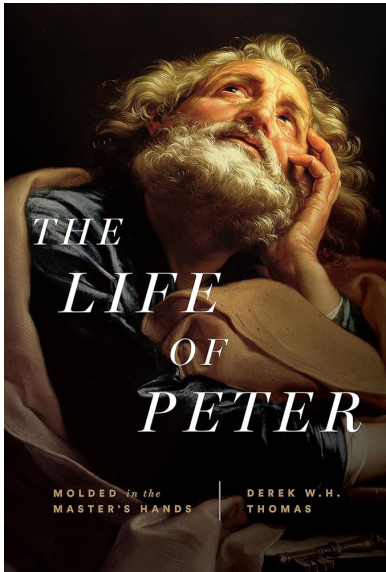
3. The Sept. 28 Saints Alive potluck lunch featured a wide array of foods. Everyone is invited to these luncheons, which are held the last Thursday of each month in Fellowship Hall.



4. Music interns perform at the Fall Festival Luncheon Sept. 14.

Bible studies and groups

Tuesday Morning Bible Study for Men and Women
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Hall



The new study is *The Life of Peter: Molded in the Master's Hands*. In this teaching series, Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas offers an encouraging portrait of Peter from the Gospels and the book of Acts, with insights from Peter's own writings later in

life. Understanding Peter's transformation from the brash fisherman into the bold Apostle can guide us in pursuit of our own growth in grace.

The study is written by Derek W. H. Thomas who served as a senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C. He is Chancellor's Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary.

Study guides are provided. If you wish to buy one, the price is \$15.

Tuesday Evening Zoom Bible Study for Women
Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom - Sept. 23 through Oct. 28

As we continue to learn the importance of building community, Women's Ministry would like to invite our ladies to the 2025 Fall Study, where we will dive into one essential element of this discipline: forgiveness.

Forgiving What

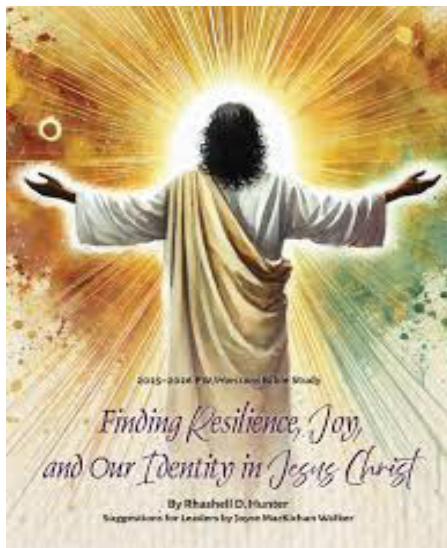
You Can't Forget, by Lysa TerKeurst, is a six-session study that offers a step-by-step process to find freedom, peace, and healing by understanding what the Bible teaches about this topic. God commands us to forgive, but we'll learn about how it works, why it's important, and many other topics.

To join us, please sign up on the FPCA website under Adult Ministries. (A Zoom meeting link will be emailed prior to the first session.) Attendance is free, but attendees will want to bring a copy of the *Forgiving What You Can't Forget Study Guide*, which can be purchased wherever books are sold. For questions, please email womensministry@firsprestexas.org.



Bible studies and groups

Wednesday Women's Bible Study Second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



The Wednesday Women's Bible Study resumes their Bible Study meetings.

The study is the Horizon's Presbyterian Women's study Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity

in Jesus Christ. In this Bible study, we will explore resilience modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, and Jesus. The Bible study is also about finding joy in a chaotic world. Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We will also seek to rediscover our identity in Jesus Christ.

For those who ordered a book, they are in the Church Workroom (next to the office of Jane, Jeanne and Shina). We welcome all women. The group meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please reply to Debbie Richardson (817.675.2867) or der817@gmail.com or Sheri Quick (sheriq@aol.com).

Men's Bible Study Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8 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.

CWF Women's Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m. online/ last Wednesday of the month in the Parlor

The CWF Women's Bible Study group meets virtually every Wednesday at 7 p.m. except for the last Wednesday of the month when the group meets at FPCA in the parlor.

Saints Alive Luncheons Last Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Come one, come all: Please come and join with us for Saints Alive! Saints Alive is a bring-your-favorite-dish luncheon on the last Thursday of the month at 11:30 or earlier to visit before lunch. Our next date will be Thursday, Oct. 30. We're looking forward to a great year ahead!

Build connections

Bible and book studies

(see full descriptions of studies on pages 6-7)

Tuesday Morning Bible Study for Men and Women

- Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Bible Study for Women

- Tuesdays at 7 p.m. online

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

- Second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Men's Bible Study

- Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in room 204

CWF Women's Bible Study

- Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Church leadership

Prayer Ministry Council meeting

Oct. 2 at 1 p.m.

Team meetings

Oct. 9 at 7 p.m.

All teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session meeting

Oct. 23 at 7 p.m.

the Session meets to oversee the ministry of the church, worship, budget, Generis, and other matters.

Music Ministries

Chancel choir

- Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

- Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Youth Choir

- Sundays 12:45 p.m. with lunch provided at 12:15

Children's Music Ministries

- Sundays 12:45 p.m. with lunch provided at 12:15

Fellowship and community groups

- **Senior Flexibility Class**
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Come get fit with us! We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you're interested, contact Mary Spencer at 817.689.0526 for more details.

- **Quilting group -**
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

This group meets on Wednesdays 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.

- **Fundraiser at J. Gilligan's**

Oct. 5 - all day

See page 9 for details

- **Saints Alive Luncheon**
Oct. 30 at 11:30 a.m.
See page 7 for details

- **HOPE Tutoring**
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.




Community events

J. Gilligan's Spirit Day Sunday, Oct. 5 all day

Grab some Irish nachos or burgers after church or for dinner Sunday, Oct. 5 when J. Gilligan's is hosting an all-day fundraising event benefiting FPCA. From 11 a.m. to close, J. Gilligan's will donate a percentage of your food and drink purchase to our Internship in Church Music Ministry.

Support Arlington Life Shelter Thursday, Oct. 9 at noon at North Davis Church of Christ



FPCA was the beginning of what became the Arlington Life Shelter. In Fellowship Hall we provided shelter for homeless individuals when the nights were freezing. Let's fill two tables at the Road Home Luncheon Thursday, Oct. 9 to hear empowering stories and learn how you can help those in need. Sign up by contacting Marge or Bob Dawson (214.415.5396), the church office, or visit arlingtonlifeshelter.org.



Join us for this year's luncheon event!
Be inspired by powerful stories and help pave the
'Road Home' for those in need.

Thursday, October 9, 2025
North Davis Church of Christ | 1601 North Davis Dr., Arlington | Noon - 1pm
Please RSVP by 10/3

Use the QR code below to register online or visit
arlingtonlifeshelter.org





Join us
FOR OUR

ANNUAL NIGHT OF HOPE

Celebrating 29 Years!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
Reyes Ballroom
3273 W Pioneer Pkwy. Arlington TX 76013
6-8 PM

WWW.HOPETUTORING.ORG/NOH

Support our educational camps and tutoring programs!
Join us for food, fun, entertainment, awards,
a cash bar, and a silent auction in
support of our free programs!



Annual Night of Hope Gala Sunday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. at the Reyes Ballroom

HOPE Tutoring is hosting its annual Night of Hope Gala Sunday, Oct. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Reyes Ballroom in Arlington. The event will feature dinner, an awards banquet, a silent auction, and the presentation of the inspiring Heart of Hope Award. HOPE provides tutoring and summer camps to empower elementary and junior high students to reach their full potential. Visit hopetutoring.org or reach out to Bob Dawson for tickets.

Finance update



FINANCE UPDATE

General Fund for August 2025:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	85,792	811,940
Expenses:	(79,295)	(764,660)
Variance	6,497	47,280
Donors Income:	76,805	635,769
Budget:	75,085	600,680
Variance	1,720	35,089

Comments:

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

- begin a new sermon series called Qualities of Discipleship where we are looking at characteristics or qualities of discipleship as shown in parables of Jesus.
- support, encourage, and pray for our students as they begin their school year, with the Blessing of the Backpacks.
- enjoy a luncheon and meeting, hosted by our Children's Ministry, for families with children or youth, as we connected and talked about prayer partners, some calendar items, and some overall thoughts for the school year.
- provide opportunities to serve our community by distributing food, or bringing our neighbors to receive food, at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.

As of August, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$116,439.

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



The community-wide magic show on Saturday, Sept. 6 was a success as our Director of Children's Ministry Kyle Terwilliger captivated the audience as Choo Choo the Magical Train Conductor. Kids, families, and community members turned out for fun, fellowship, and pizza.

friends needed to make: to listen to God or follow a king's command. Their trust in God throughout this incredible story reminds us that when we face difficult decisions, God helps us choose wisely.

- This week, the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego reveals how God rescued them from a fiery furnace. Some of the most memorable illusions amaze us with impossible escapes that we just can't understand. This week, we'll hear how God rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from a fiery furnace—and it wasn't an illusion. Their incredible story reminds us that when we need help facing the challenges in our lives, God is ready to rescue us.

- This week, the story of Daniel interpreting the writing on the wall reveals how to follow God's words. Illusions are designed to be mysterious, and illusionists swear never to reveal their secrets. This week, we'll hear how Daniel used the wisdom God gave him to reveal the meaning behind some mysterious writing. By uncovering what no one else could, Daniel's story helps us see how God's words show us what to do and help guide us through every challenge we face.
- This week, the story of Daniel in the lions' den reveals how to stand up for God. Every illusion takes courage, whether trusting an assistant with a saw or performing in front of a crowd. This week, we'll hear about the time Daniel showed courage by praying to God, even though he knew it would put him in danger. His bravery revealed God's power to the whole kingdom and reminds us that our courage can help others see God.

October KFC overview

Magic tricks and illusions have a way of sparking wonder and curiosity. But long before today's magicians, Daniel and his friends stood out during the Babylonian exile. They were wiser than the magicians and astrologers of their time because they looked to God for wisdom.

Through their brave actions and wise choices, they showed God's power to everyone around them—no tricks needed!

In this four-week series, kids will learn that God helps us choose wisely, God is ready to rescue us, God's words show us what to do, and our courage can help others see God.

Big ideas and Bible stories

- God helps us choose wisely. (Daniel's Training in Babylon: Daniel 1; 2 Timothy 1:7–14)
- God is ready to rescue us. (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: Daniel 3; 2 Timothy 2:8–15)
- God's words show us what to do. (The Writing on the Wall: Daniel 5; 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5)
- Our courage can help others see God. (Daniel in the Lions' Den: Daniel 6; 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18)

Weekly curriculum summaries

- This week, the story of Daniel's training in Babylon reveals how to choose God. Whether it's a card, a number, or a cup, some of the best illusions ask us to make difficult choices. This week, we'll hear about a difficult choice Daniel and his

Memory verse:

"For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods." — 1 Chronicles 16:25 (NIV)

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

Prayer ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Charles Arnold, Carol Browning, Judy Crowell, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Jay Graham, Nancy Guerry, Bob and Beverly Koch, Margaret Landolt, Shawn LeBlanc, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Judy Reck, Lisa Scrabeck, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Drew Stephenson, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Sherry and Shelby Wolfe, Danny Womble

Prayers for family in the armed forces:

Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Wolfgang Van Wie, Christopher Young

Prayers for our home-bound members:

Bettye Burdett, Madge Casselman, Margaret Fite, Ann Scarr, Leonard and Mary Jane Tibbetts, Dee Uhri

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.