

# *The News*

The monthly newsletter of  
First Presbyterian Church Arlington



*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”  
- 2 Corinthians 5:17*

January 2026

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## Newsletter Team

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Deadline for the February newsletter is January 15.

# Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."*

*- Matthew 2:1-2*

I really enjoyed our Advent and Christmas series which took us deeper into Scripture through the work of Handel's *Messiah*. This leads us into the next season of the church: Epiphany. Not every church season can be as festive as Christmas. And while it may feel like a little bit of a letdown, Epiphany can be a fascinating time of year.

In this season, we traditionally look at Scriptures where Jesus reveals something unique about him and his character. For the first seven Sundays of 2026, we are going to examine some of his "I Am" statements.

I looked and it was about eight years ago since a similar series was preached. And I recall hearing that this series was preached when the windows were installed in the sanctuary.

Obviously these will not be the same sermons. But this is a wonderful time to return to these texts to see what epiphanies God will reveal to us anew.

We have also received new members since 2018 who may not know about the connection between these statements and our beautiful windows.

This is the season we can emulate the magi, seeking the living Christ, paying him homage, and worshiping him.

I'm excited to see what God will reveal to all of us through these beloved Scriptures, and to see what God has in store for FPCA in 2026!

Happy New Year, y'all!

Live Forever,

- Pastor Chris

# Prayer ministry



## God is in the Details

As the calendar year turns and we step into a new year, we find ourselves not at an ending, but in the middle of a sacred unfolding. The world may call this a time for new resolutions, but we are learning a different rhythm – one not driven by striving, but by surrender.

The Little Man has already shown us much: how to listen; to respond; to walk with justice, kindness, and humility. And now, as we enter January, we find him – and ourselves – standing before the risen Christ, who gently reminds us that the commandments

are not burdens to bear, but blessings to live. They are not relics of the past, but invitations into a future shaped by love.

This is not a “new year, new you” moment. It is a “same Christ, deeper yes” moment. And so, we continue in the coming weeks as are confronted, not by The Little Man, but by Jesus.

This is no accident. The weeks ahead are preparation.

Let’s not tie a bow on the journey too soon. Let’s stand before the One who confronts us with open arms, calling us not to resolutions, but to relationship.

## The Little Man

Beginning Oct. 26, our Prayer Ministry unveiled *The Little Man* – a 16-week visual storytelling experience to inspire reflection on the choices we make and the paths we follow. Each week, a new image will be added to the unfolding story along the east wall of the Fellowship Hall hallway.

To deepen the experience, our weekly E-News will feature a short devotional insight drawn from the previous week’s image – an invitation to pause, reflect, and engage with the journey in your own life.

Watch for the E-News each week, and join us as we walk alongside *The Little Man*, exploring the quiet courage of decision-making and the grace that meets us along the way.

# January news



## Women's Ministry invites you to a New Year, New Beginnings Brunch

The Women's Ministry Team invites you to help us launch 2026 with our "New Year, New Beginnings" event Saturday, Jan. 17 at 10 a.m.

We'll enjoy brunch and teaching from a treasured guest speaker, Martita Lynch, as we seek to learn about the discipline of service. Since a new year brings 365 opportunities to develop new habits, let's walk this journey together. Feel free bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there! Registration is \$15. To register, click on the Ministries page on the [firstprestexas.org](http://firstprestexas.org) site. You can pay online, on the FPCA app, or by check.

## Annual Reports Due Jan. 1

It's that most wonderful time of year when our teams and groups submit their reports for the year. Team leaders and staff are asked to please send your reports to [info@firstprestexas.org](mailto:info@firstprestexas.org).

## Mobile Food Market dates

Arlington Charities is hosting mobile food markets twice in December.

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

- Jan. 10 at 8:30 a.m. - St. Andrews United Methodist Church at 2045 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd.
- Jan. 15 at 9 a.m. - Tarrant County College at 2100 Southeast Parkway.
- Jan. 22 at 9 a.m. - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 1500 California Lane.

## 2026 Officers Approved

During a Congregational Meeting Dec. 14, FPCA approved the following officer candidates who'd been nominated by the congregation for leadership, service, and spiritual oversight.

New officer training will be held after worship on Jan. 4 in the Parlor, and Ordination and Installation will take place Jan. 11 during worship.

- Trustee - Dave Humphry
- Elder - Gala Dubois
- Elder - Clara Formusoh
- Elder - Oziel Garza
- Elder - Judy Northrup
- Deacon - Sandy Cathro
- Deacon - Sonia Ellis
- Deacon - Genoveva Herrera
- Deacon - Mason Kirbie
- Deacon - Michael Njei
- Deacon - Juanice Young
- Congregational Nominating Team - Beckie Briggs
- Congregational Nominating Team - Diana Young

# 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

### 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.

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

## Church leadership

- **New Officer Training**  
Jan. 4 at noon in the Parlor

- **Prayer Ministry Council**  
Jan. 8 at 1 p.m.

- **New Officer Ordination and Installation**  
Jan. 11

### Team meetings

Jan. 15 at 4:30 and 7 p.m.  
All teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

- **Session meeting**  
Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.  
in the Parlor

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

## Music Ministries

### Chancel choir

- Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

### Children and Youth Music Ministries

- Resumes Sunday, Jan. 11 at 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.

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.

- **Women's Ministry New Year, New Beginnings Event**

- Jan. 17 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor

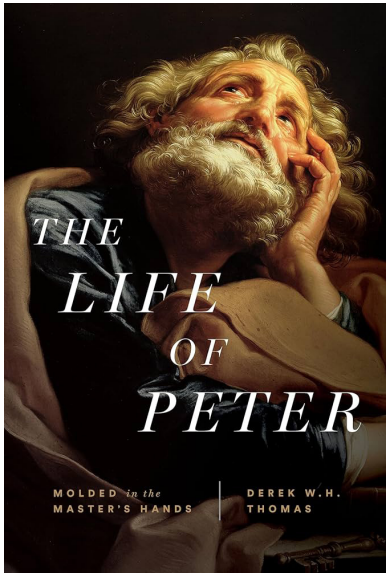
See page 4 for details

- **Saints Alive Luncheon**  
We will meet Thursday, Jan. 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.  
See page 7 for details

# 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.

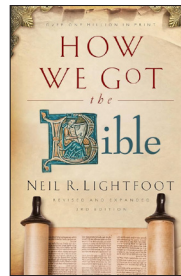
Study guides are provided. If you wish to buy one, the price is \$15.

## Book studies coming to a Sunday School class near you soon



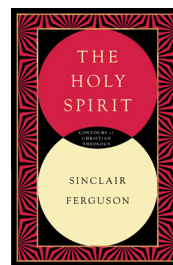
- ***Basic Christianity***  
by John Stott

Basic Christianity is a classic introduction to the Christian faith and a refresher course in Christianity's essentials. Stott explains Christian beginnings, beliefs, and behavior.



- ***How We Got the Bible***  
by Neil R. Lightfoot

A factual account of how the Bible has been preserved and handed down to our generation, including discussions on recent Bible translations.

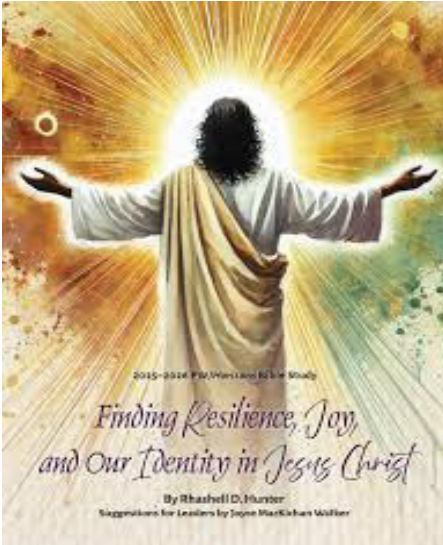


- ***Who Is the Holy Spirit?***  
by Sinclair B. Ferguson

A theological work that explores the identity and role of the Holy Spirit, focusing on the "who" of the Spirit as much as the "what" and "how" of His work. It aims to help readers understand the Holy Spirit as a person, tracing His presence and work throughout scripture from creation to the redemption of believers today.

# 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.

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 room 204

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. in room 204. Men of all ages meet and enjoy a time of fellowship, study, and prayer. The group is currently studying *The History of Israel: Deuteronomy to Kings*. All men are invited to join this study.

## CWF Women's Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m. online

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 Luncheon Thursday, Jan. 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Come one, come all: Please come and join with us for Saints Alive! We will have a Saints Alive potluck lunch and fellowship Thursday, Jan. 29. Saints Alive is a bring-your-favorite-dish luncheon at 11:30. (Come early if you'd like to visit before lunch.)

# December joys



1. The Christmas Eve service featured music, scripture, and a candlelight "Silent Night" hymn.

1.



2.

2. Sarah Rabb and Cindy Polk prepared for a festive holiday Saints Alive Dec. 11.



3.

3. Youth Music Ministry members Mathew Arredondo, Ben Williams, and Jotham Talemwa sing at the Dec. 7 Advent Festival.

4. The Gottmann family is all smiles after the baptism of Clark Gustav Gottman Dec. 14.



4.

5. Susan Malone announces the payoff of FPCA's loan. The church is now debt-free.



5.



6.



7.



8.

6. The Children and Youth Christmas Party Dec. 7 after worship in the Fellowship Hall included food, crafts, games and music.

7. Children's Music Ministry singers perform at the Dec. 7 Advent Festival.

8. Maintenance Director Reggie Manuel celebrates his birthday at the FPCA Staff Family party Dec. 14.

# Finance update



## FINANCE UPDATE

### General Fund for November 2025:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	77,260	1,039,990
Expenses:	(88,943)	(1,023,724)
Variance	(11,683)	16,266
Donors Income:	62,443	818,403
Budget:	75,085	825,935
Variance	(12,642)	(7,532)

### Comments:

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

- commemorate our beloved and faithful departed on All Saints' Sunday.
- have an exciting Commitment Sunday, concluding our annual generosity campaign, Next Step.
- fellowship with our church family during our annual Thanksgiving Dinner.
- celebrate a very special Festival of Hymns proclaiming Christ the King.
- begin Advent - a four-week time of preparation for Christmas, marked by reflection, prayer, and anticipation for the coming of Jesus.
- support the Arlington Life Shelter and Arlington Charities during Homelessness Awareness Month (November) by serving the community with donations of time, supplies, food, and/or funds.
- enjoy a fun time with our church family as we decorated the sanctuary for the Advent season.

As of November, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$34,994. Preview of next month - we were able to pay off the PILP loan in December, funded by donations. We are debt-free!

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](mailto:jeanne@firstprestexas.org).

# Children's Ministry



## January KFC overview

During KFC in January we will be learning about Jesus' early life and ministry.

## Weekly Curriculum Summaries:

**Jan. 4:** The Bible passages will be Luke 2:41-52 and John 1:10-14. We'll hear about the time Jesus' family accidentally left him behind and how they found him in the temple, listening, learning, and asking questions. This amazing story of Jesus as a boy helps remind us that Jesus is one of a kind.

**Jan. 11:** The Bible passages will be Matthew 3:13-17 and Philippians 2:5-11. We'll hear about how Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, which felt a bit backward to John the Baptist. Even still, Jesus stayed faithful to God's plan, and this story helps us see how Jesus is humble.

**Jan. 18:** The Bible passages will be Luke 4:1-13 and Psalm 40:1-4. We'll see how Jesus was tested in the wilderness and stayed true to God despite the temptations around him. Even when his relationship with God was under pressure, Jesus trusted God, and showed us that we can, too.

**Jan. 25:** The Bible passages will be Matthew 4:13-23 and Ephesians 5:1-2. We'll see how Jesus invited ordinary people to be his first disciples, following him and doing extraordinary things alongside him. Their story shows us the amazing things that can happen in our lives because Jesus calls us to follow.

## January Memory Verse:

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name." – Philippians 2:9 (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, Jimmy Chefor, Judy Crowell, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Marshall Gesner, Jay and Susan Graham, Nancy Guerry, Elaine Keefer, Bob and Beverly Koch, Lisa Landolt, Margaret Landolt, Shawn LeBlanc, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Richard Price, Carole Ray, Judy Reck, Debbie Richardson, 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, Judy Crowell, Margaret Fite, Bobbie Fowler, Lila Glenn, Jay and Susan Graham, Teresa Hanson, Ann Scarr, Becky Speck, Leonard and Mary Jane Tibbetts, Dee Uhri, Biddie Walker

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.