



ROOSTER TRACKS

NEW ST. PETER'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUME 25 – SUMMER 2021

Acknowledgements

With mask-optional now arriving for Sunday mornings and continuing progress in the right direction for Dallas County, it seems like we can see some light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Lord willing it is so! Too much has been written and said about this strange Covid season, so let's not belabor that point, but it has required some extra and unique "hands-on deck" and we'd like to acknowledge some of those here.

There is not adequate space here to express our gratitude to the many in our congregation who have labored so well to keep our church going over the past 15 months. However, we sincerely give thanks to God for several who have blessed us all in unseen ways. To **Steve Chambers**, who has coordinated the deacons' efforts on Sunday mornings: thank you for your faithful and diligent service. To **Clayton Hagan**, who took on the scheduling of the audio crew, an essential part of ministry each Sunday: thank you for shouldering that burden for us all. To **Robert** and **Deborah Waterman**, who continue to lead and coordinate our Table Guild: thank you for ensuring that this means of grace is attended to with great care. To **Kelly Meyer** and **Noah Wiersema**, who found ways to keep our children and youth connected against all odds: we are amazed and grateful for your heart to love and serve our covenant kids and youth. To **Josh** and **Kate Kimmis**, along with **Harry May** and **Jay Horne**, who have labored for over a year to provide a consistent and high-quality live stream for those unable to attend worship: thank you for using your gifts, skills, and knowledge, and thank you for serving with joy. To the ministry staff: **Noah**,

Kelly, **Carly**, and **Jan** (the glue who holds us all together): thank you for drawing strength from the Lord and continuing to minister to our body in so many ways over the past year. To the **deacons**, who have continued to collect and distribute alms and served as Sunday set-up crew: may the Lord be glorified and His mercy magnified because of your ministry. To the home group leaders, bible study leaders, and other community-minded people: thank you for laboring to keep one another connected. And surely we've missed some names here – thanks to you none the less! May the Lord continue to be exalted in our midst through the many who serve among us.

- Alex & Colin and the NsP Session



NsP Diaconate Spotlight on Service and Giving

Over the last year, the deacons of New St. Peter's have had a problem. A good problem! Because of the generosity of givers to the Alms Fund, no matter how much we give, there is more left to give. Like the widow's oil in 2 Kings 4, the alms gifts just keep coming. This abundance has led the diaconate to ask ourselves old questions, but in a new light. Our denomination's Book of Church Order tells us it is the deacons' duty *"to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church."* What might it look like *now* to lead the people of NsP in service and liberality? We've been challenged by Jesus's words in Matthew 25 in the Parable of the Talents. What does it mean *at this time* for us to invest what God has given us, and to be *"good and faithful servants"* of our Master?



After much discussion and prayer, we have created a plan for service and almsgiving in 2021, and **we encourage you to join us!** Every three months, we will feature a specific ministry outside the walls of NsP as an opportunity for purposeful giving and service. During that period, we will devote all almsgiving from one month toward that ministry, and deacons will take the lead in organizing opportunities for the congregation to get involved by serving with their hands and feet.



In our May 23 Alms Announcement, you already heard of one such opportunity with New City Fellowship, a sister PCA church in East Dallas. It is made up of and serves people from all over the world, especially the refugee and immigrant communities right here in our city. NCF is piloting a new ministry this summer called the New City Fellows Program. Through discipleship, fellowship, and mentorship, this program aims to help young adults (especially 2nd generation refugees and immigrants) grow in faith, responsibility, confidence, and preparedness for the workplace and world.

You can help in three different ways:

- 1. Give.** New City needs to purchase a van to transport their people, many of whom do not have access to reliable transportation.
- 2. Mentor.** Join New City as a mentor to a Fellow. Over a guided period of time, you can meet one-on-one with one young adult (17-25) to provide basic discipleship and guidance.
- 3. Provide Work.** The Fellows program is set up for students to commit to the program part-time, and to work part-time. If you are able to offer part-time employment, then you can help.

If you have any questions about this opportunity at New City, please feel free to contact NCF pastor Robbie Mills (Robbie.mills@gmail.com) or myself (brfranklin4@gmail.com), and I'll put you in touch. As the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 12, we all have gifts to share according to the grace given to us. Some lead and teach. Some serve and encourage. Some give. We hope these quarterly spotlights become a practical way for the deacons to help each member of our congregation utilize the gifts God has given them, for His glory, and for our neighbors' good.

- Brian Franklin for the Deacons

Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

We have a handful of graduates this year. Six are graduating from high school and making plans for college. **Anna Grace Barns** will attend Kilgore College with dancing aspirations. **Nicolas Horne** will enroll in the Baylor University Scholars program focusing on philosophy and theater. **Carson Jackson** will stay close at UT Dallas for mechanical engineering. **Jimmy Johnson** will “Gig ‘em!” at Texas A&M in mechanical engineering. **Harry May** will “Hook ‘em!” at UT Austin in the Computer Science department. And **Macy Temple** will go to Hardin Simmons University in Abilene for Social Studies Education.



Also, three are graduating from their respective universities. **Ellie Ratliff** finished at Hardin Simmons University and will start law school at UT Austin this fall. **Erin Wilhelm** finished at Abilene Christian University and will pursue a Masters in Occupational Therapy. And **Abigail Horne** finished at UT Austin and will begin a consulting job in Dallas. Remember all 9 of these young folks as you pray and encourage them in what God surely has in store for them as they move through an important life milestone.

May the LORD bless them and keep them! May the LORD make His face shine upon them and be gracious to them! May the LORD turn His face towards them and give them peace! Amen.

CALENDAR

JUNE

Women’s Summer Bible Study June 1
Study of Proverbs Meyer’s backyard 7:00-9:00 p.m.

College/Post-Grad Ladies Lunch June 6
Meet in lobby after church 12:00-2:00 p.m.

High School RYM Colorado June 13-19
Youth trip to Estes Park, CO for summer conference.

Women’s Summer Bible Study June 22
Study of Proverbs Dean’s backyard 7:00-9:00 p.m.

PCA General Assembly June 28-July 1
Annual national gathering of churches (St. Louis)

JULY

Women’s Summer Bible Study July 6
Study of Proverbs Lee’s home 7:00-9:00 p.m.

HS Global Kingdom Weekend July 21-25
In-town cross cultural ministry experience.

Women’s Summer Bible Study July 27
Study of Proverbs Location TBD 7:00-9:00 p.m.

AUGUST

Middle School RYM Texas August 3-7
Youth trip to Allaso Ranch for summer conference.

North Texas Presbytery August 13-14
Location TBD Friday at 7:00 p.m.

School of Life & Doctrine August 22
After more than a year away we will resume SoLD at Scofield Church at 5:00 p.m. Details to come!

ONGOING

Session Meetings First Wednesdays
Elders shepherding discussion and prayer.

Deacon Meetings Second Tuesdays
Deacons gather to discuss and pray for needs of active mercy and encouragement.

Men’s Fellowship Third Wednesdays
Location TBD 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Home Groups
See website under “Connect” for details.