

Park Cities Presbyterian Church exists to
extend the transforming presence of the
Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in Dallas
and to the world.

THISWEEK@PCPC
VOL. XXXIV, NO. 8 | AUGUST 2023
Park Cities Presbyterian Church
Shawn Davis, Editor
4124 Oak Lawn Avenue
Dallas, TX 75219-3152

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID
AT DALLAS,
TEXAS



pcpc.org | 214-224-2500
follow parkcitiesspca



SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.
24/7 PRAYER HOTLINE: 214-224-2680 or
24/7prayer@pcpc.org

THIS WEEK (007-362) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 4124 OAK LAWN, DALLAS, TX 75219.
PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT DALLAS, TEXAS, 75219. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THIS WEEK, 4124 OAK LAWN,
DALLAS, TX 75219-3152

I am the vine;
you are the
branches.
Whoever
abides in Me
and I in him,
he it is that
bears much
fruit...

John 15:5

PCPCNEWS
VOL. XXXIV, NO. 8 | AUGUST 2023



CONNECT, ABIDE, & EXTEND

SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

PCPC is hosting several end-of-summer youth hangouts! Middle School, join us for activities on August 2 and a pool party on August 9. High School, join us for pickleball on August 2 and come to The Gathering on August 9.

pcpc.org/events

CITY MISSIONS: PROJECT WORKDAY

AUGUST 5 | 8:30-11:30 A.M.

Looking for a service project to kick off the school year? Join PCPC's City Missions in serving West Dallas Community School and North Dallas High School. Volunteers of all ages are needed to clean, garden, help with teacher projects, pray, and perform other tasks. Sign up on the PCPC app or website today.

pcpc.org/events

HELPING HANDS

AUGUST 26 | 8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. | OAK LAWN WEST

Be the hands and feet of Jesus and join the deacons and other volunteers to help single moms, widows/ers, senior adults, and those with chronic illness by doing odd jobs (light repairs, maintenance, and minor jobs) around their homes. If you need assistance, please email jessica.fkkert@pcpc.org. If you would like to serve, please register on the PCPC app or website.

pcpc.org/events

COMMISSIONING LUNCHEON

AUGUST 27 | 12:30 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please join us for a Commissioning Luncheon for our newest Home Church Missionaries for RUF at SMU - Hannah Humphreys (Campus Staff) & Conrad Quiros (Campus Minister). Come hear about their Kingdom work at Southern Methodist University. Lunch will be provided, donations appreciated.

pcpc.org/events

SHARE: A NIGHT OF WORSHIP & PRAYER

AUGUST 30 | 7:00 P.M. | PCPC CHAPEL

PCPC Women, together we will dedicate our year to the Lord, pray for our church, city, and world, and share the hope that we have with one another. Elizabeth Robinson will lead our evening with a theme verse of 1 Thessalonians 2:8: "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

pcpc.org/women

PCPC FALL SEMESTER KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 10-17

Connect with one another this fall at PCPC! The semester kicks off with All-Church Prayer on Sunday, September 10. Then be sure to find a weekday care group or Bible study for couples, women, men, children, and youth beginning September 11-15. Vespers and Midweek Dinner will begin on Wednesday, September 13. Registration and more info will be available on the PCPC app and website.

pcpc.org/events

pcpcmissions

from the NEIGHBORHOOD to the NATIONS

As a church, Christ calls us to continue to grapple with His sending of us into the world. It was the last thing He said to us before He ascended into heaven. And as His disciples, wherever we go we can choose to embrace our identity as sent ones. In this posture, your workplace, a hard personal relationship, and a week spent across the globe are all mission. And, He sends us as a function of His love for us and for the world. What a great God we serve!



From the Neighborhood...

by Kevin Joseph
PCPC Director of Missions

How do you share the gospel under constant police surveillance? Your home is being watched. There are regular police

visits. Facial recognition cameras track your movement around the city. This was the Orwellian context where our family of six was called to be a witness for Christ for several turbulent years.

My solution to this conundrum was to pray, to go, and to sow. I would pray that God would lead me to people whose hearts He had prepared. I would go to places in my neighborhood where people congregated like bus stops, hospitals, markets, and parks. I would sow, trying to engage them in gospel conversations. And day after day, week after week, eventually God would show up in unusual ways, drawing others to Himself.

Eventually, the Lord closed the door for our family to continue serving that neighborhood and nation, but thankfully He has opened a new door for us. In April, I started my new job as the Director of Missions at PCPC. It's a different context, but I can't help but see the neighborhood through the same lens. It turns out that a few miles from PCPC, there's a boxing gym and an inner-city high school that would both welcome a weekly devotional for their athletes. There's also a Hispanic grocery store a couple miles to the west where the manager doesn't mind us engaging his patrons and inviting them to ESL classes.



God is at work drawing people to Himself in this neighborhood, too, but we need your help. How might your gifts or your story of rescue be used to reach the people in this area right where God has planted us? The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Would you like to join us and pray, go, and sow?



...To the Nations

by Will Washington
PCPC Director of Youth Ministry

One of the highlights of my year these past two summers has been serving alongside PCPC's ministry partners in West Africa as PCPC High School has had the privilege of putting on a VBS-style camp for children in a local village. Many of these children come from Muslim families, and the Lord has used the faithfulness of many people for many years to generate favor and interest among these families. Last summer, there were a few of these children I strongly felt the Lord leading me to pray for individually on a daily basis, so I committed to doing that.

One of my specific prayers each day over the past year was to be able to have the opportunity to see these kids again this summer and continue to build relationships and share the gospel with them. As I walked into the village this year, one of these particular children, Fallou, saw me and came running right up to me, which was a similar experience with others for many of the people who had been on this trip last year. It was so encouraging to see God allow people from two different nations and languages to experience such deep friendship. As I write this overlooking the water in West Africa, I am reminded of God's promise in Habakkuk 2:14 that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." That makes me sit in amazement at how good and faithful our God is, and it reminds me of what's truly worth living for. I invite you to join me in praying regularly for our friends in West Africa, that those who do not know Jesus would be brought to trust in Him for salvation, and that the Christians and church leaders would be strengthened and encouraged in their mission.

Want to know more about PCPC's missions initiatives? Visit our website - pcpc.org/missions/.

re|engage

a marriage enrichment ministry

Reconnect. Reignite. Resurrect.

by Katherine & Justin

In September, we will have been married for twelve years. In that short amount of time, we have had 7 job changes, 2 children (Sophia & Samuel), 4 moves, relocated cities twice (Austin to Dallas, and, just recently, Dallas back to Austin), lost 2 grandparents, started a business (Katherine), survived a global pandemic, and countless other life events, small and large.

In 2016, after relocating to Dallas, we jumped into re|engage at PCPC for the first time. We had just had our first child and we knew there was more to be desired in our marriage. We had incredible leaders (shout out to Dana & Worth Williams!) and had an immediate community with great couples in that group, something we desired as the new kids on the block. Out of that group, we were invited into a couples' community group that has been a rich community for us for over five years now. Some of our closest friends were built in that community.

Fast forward to 2022, we had just come out of the pandemic and, once again, we looked up and felt like we were miles apart. If you asked most people, they would have said we were doing great as a couple. But the reality is, we both had internalized many things over the past several years. We were both dealing with the pandemic and life in our own way. We, once again, felt that there was more to be desired for our marriage. The first night at re|engage, they asked us to rate our marriage on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best). I think we both wrote down something in the 6-7 range. We were doing "good, but not great". A few weeks into re|engage, we changed our answers to something in the 3-4 range. We realized we had ignored issues for several years, and as those issues came to the surface, we had to deal with them. And for that we are thankful. If we would have continued on that path, those issues would probably still be ignored, and our marriage worse for it. Through the re|engage course, we were able to strengthen our marriage and grow in intimacy.

A common theme for us, and for many couples, is what we call "The Slow Drift" in re|engage. It is the car tire that slowly loses air. You hardly know there is a leak, until one day, you can't back the car out of the garage. The Slow Drift is allowing ourselves to be distracted by the busyness of life. And there is plenty of that to go around. Even with good things, like children, work, hobbies, etc., we begin to place emphasis on things above our marriage.

We prioritize the wrong things, and our marriage suffers. And as the years pass, a lot of us who are married begin to find ourselves, maybe not unhappy with one another, but fighting the battle alone. Or maybe we are fighting a different battle altogether. Whatever the case, we find that we are not on the same team.



In the battlefield of life, it would be expected that you and your spouse are locking arms and marching forward together. But sadly, that is not the case. Take the pandemic as an example: how many marriages have failed during and after the pandemic? What about alcohol abuse and the mental health crises we find ourselves in? Wouldn't this be a good time to invest in your marriage?

When is it not a good time?

Just a few weeks ago, we moved back to Austin. And, even though we just rode in the re|engage rodeo a short time ago, we are considering going through re|engage again for the third time. How useful a move, a promotion, new schools, etc. can be in the devil's hands? Those good, and even great things, Satan can use to divide a marriage. Better to be on our guard, lest we drift apart once again. Who better to do those things with, than the Lord and the people of God?

We hope you'll consider re|engage. It is a "small" investment to make for your marriage. But the ROI will be tremendous. Your spouse will be blessed by it. You will be changed by it. And your marriage will be on a stronger foundation - one that the Lord will build upon.

If you are interested in learning more about re|engage, please visit pcpc.org/marriage/. Fall classes begin September 6



ESL @ PCPC

PCPC offers free English classes during the school year beginning August 28 to reach our neighbors for Christ. Consider serving our ESL students once a week by teaching from the Bible before or after class. Contact Celeste Tenpenny with questions: esl@pcpc.org or 214-224-2528.



UNION

Are you considering marriage? UNION is a nine-week course for seriously dating, engaged, and newly married couples. We will cover topics such as the Biblical meaning of marriage, expectations, communication, in-laws, Biblical roles of husband and wife, money and stewardship, conflict management, forgiveness, and intimacy. Visit pcpc.org/marriage/ to find out more. Fall semester meets on Tuesday nights beginning September 19.