

First Baptist Church Newsletter

The reality of love this Valentine's Day

by Dr. Kevin McDonald fbcbrady.org@gmail.com

What is romance? If you are smart, it is whatever your wife or girl-friend tells you it is, right? But “romance” is a word that means much more than we think it does.

To romanticize something is to idealize it, to divorce it from reality--whether it is a person, an activity or an institution. Ultimately, the truth (or better, accuracy) suffers at the hands of romance. Camping, for example, can be thought of as “getting back to nature”, “learning self-reliance”, and “getting back to the essentials of life”. But sleeping on the ground, gathering firewood, eating smoke and feeding the mosquitoes quickly brings us back to reality.

We left caves and huts a long time ago for some very good reasons, two of them being running water and air conditioning. Reality and romance don't mix very well. A marriage or a family rarely looks like “Father Knows Best”, or “Ozzy and Harriet”, does it? (Sadly, you see how far back I had to go for that example.) The truth is, nothing is perfect. Marriages go through hard times. Some survive and some don't. Sometimes the kids or grandkids turn out and sometimes they don't. And that, as George Jones sang, is the cold, hard truth.

But there is value in romanticism.

We need to have in our mind a picture of what can be, what could be, what *might* be. We need a target to aim at, something that calls us to do and to become our best. I'm not the ideal husband or pastor, or anything else. So I look to others, I look *at* others, trying to find ways to improve who and what I am. I see Robert Young (the dad on Father Knows Best), and hope that I can do better, be better, at work and at home

And because I never have an ending in sight when I begin these articles, that just gave me ending for this article. The word hope. First Cor. 13:13 – faith, hope, and love. *Faith*: we rely on faith, because we know deep in our hearts that we are not ever going to be good enough. Our failures never stop whispering their condemnations unless faith silences them. *Hope*: of all the good things God gave us through Jesus, hope is one of the most precious to us as we struggle with the reality of our current and on-going imperfections. Hope lets us look forward - not back over our shoulder. And *love*: the greatest. We must not romanticize this love. It is love *because*. Because God created us. Because Jesus purchased us. Because it is God's nature to love. But it is also love *in spite of*. God loves us in spite of our sin, in spite of our rebellion, in spite of our love of sin. He loves us *anyway*.

This is love idealized, love perfect and being perfected in us. So I guess I have come full circle here, and romanticized love. Why not? God is in the process of romancing us, drawing us close to Him. He sees us as His perfect, righteous children. God is a romantic at heart after all, I guess. Don't forget the 14th. Someone loves you—because and anyway.

—Bro. Kevin

Day Camp planned for Spring Break week

Josh Collier is anxiously awaiting the day he will leave for China. His trip is June 11-July 7, 2016. He will be going to Kaili, Guizhou, China. Until June 11, he is focusing on praying for the people he will meet and share Jesus with in China. Fundraising for the trip is continuing.

Josh's next fundraising activity is going to be a Day Camp during Spring Break (March 14-18, 2016) for children in Kindergarten-5th grade. This Day Camp will run from 8-12 Monday-Friday. Cost will be \$50 if registered by March 11, 2016. Monday March 14 registration will be \$60. If a child can only attend a few days the cost will be \$15 per day. Enrollment will be limited so the earlier you register your child the better.

The theme of the Day Camp is “The Great Treasure Hunt.” Each day will include a Bible lesson, craft and games for

the treasure hunt. A snack will be provided each day and there will be other Bible games and activities to fill out the morning.

We are asking for help in staffing this camp. We will need Bible story/group leaders, craft people, game leaders, and snack makers. At this time we plan to having three groups, K - 1st, 2nd - 3rd, and 4th - 5th grades.

Welcome new members

Jeremy Couvillion

Melanie Couvillion

God at work

- **Children's Church** has had a great start, with several children and volunteers enjoying it each Sunday morning. Young children are invited to go with the group to the Family Life Center after the music service for a time of Bible stories, games, crafts, and snacks.

- Everyone is welcome to attend the **Associational Breakfast** at El Flamingo on Monday, February 1, at 8:30.
- You're invited to a **wedding shower** for Maddison Jurrius, daughter of Lisa Remini and granddaughter of Norma and Jim Ridout, on Sunday afternoon, February 7, at 3:00 in the home of Kristi Amyett, 804 Grand Ave.
- The Deacons are hosting a **Valentine's banquet** for all FBC widows and widowers on Saturday, February 13, at noon in Fellowship Hall.
- On February 14, the Women of Faith out of the Melvin area will be sponsoring their **quarterly singing at Millersview Baptist Church** at 4:00 followed by snacks. All are invited to attend.
- On February 18, there will be a **Senior Adult Rally** at 11:00-1:00 at FBC Coleman Family Life Center. There will be a meal, Gospel singing, and then Phillip Smith, who portrays Paul the Apostle, will be doing his performance Scripture.
- Anyone interested is invited to attend the **Diabetes Support Group** that meets monthly at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. This month's meeting will be Wed., Feb. 24, at 3:00. FMI call Charlotte Johnson, the Wesley nurse, at 597-1571.

News from LIBA

by Keith Simpson

I hope that you have all made it through January by now and that the weather has been to your liking so far, and if you are like me, I'm sure you are looking forward to spring. Only in Texas do you need to run the heater in the morning and the air conditioner in the afternoon. WOW! But seriously, January has been a rather busy month with breakfasts, deacon ordinations, associational meetings, Bible studies, and filling the pulpit at several of our churches. But what a wonderful month to be in our churches and see the love and the outreach that is going on. Each church is unique, but we all have one common goal, and that is to further the kingdom of God, by whatever means and methods we use. I encourage each of you to continue to “contend for the faith.”

February is shaping up to also be a busy month with several things going on. On February 2, we will have our first Administrative Team meeting of the year to outline programs, workshops, and seminars for the upcoming year. Our breakfasts are continuing to be held, our attendance has increased over the last few months and remember that these breakfasts are NOT just for pastors, but for anyone that would like to attend. As I have said before; you might not learn much but you will eat well and have great fellowship. We always have a topic of discussion on a current event/situation, and everyone seems to really enjoy that.

(Keith's article continues on page 2.)

Youth News

Hello to all the Brady and surrounding area youth (grades 6th-12th) and to your parents! The purpose of this section of the FBCB Newsletter is to let you know of upcoming events and the accomplishments of our youth. Kids are now allowed to begin arriving at the church/ Family Life Center right after school on Wednesdays! We open at 3:30pm so all kids, middle school and high school, are welcome to come and do homework, play in the gym, play outside, play games etc... At 6:30pm we eat a great meal together and around 7pm we will head back to the youth room for worship and a lesson. Youth group ends at 8pm, so please make the proper arrangements to get home and PLEASE invite your friends from school to come join us.

Food is taken care of by Stephanie McKay, Matt Popnoe, Lynn Munden, Austin Reeves, Jeanagayle Behrens, and Jerlene Smith and we are very grateful! If anyone is interested in helping out with the youth or special events call or text Gabe @ [830-391-4367](tel:830-391-4367).

Past Events

***Youth Room** - We have recently renovated our youth room. New paint, stage, screen and sound system, so come by and see how it looks.

Upcoming Events

***Sunday school** is ongoing every Sunday from 9:45 – 10:35am. The youth meet in the Family Life Center. We would like to have as many youth attend as possible. Youth Sunday School is currently taught by Francis Schmaltz, Sharon McDonald and Charlie Ellliott.

***Youth Lock-In** – I have been asked about having a lock-in by a ton of kids. A date will be announced very soon.

D-NOW retreat - March 4th-6th. This will be an amazing event we will be hosting at our church. This will be a weekend retreat with guest speaker Trey Talley from Team Impact. Information packets and registration are available now.

IMPORTANT – If a Wednesday is not listed here as a special event or as “no youth,” we are having a regular youth night.

If there are any concerns that you as students or parents may have please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless.

Gabe Rios, Minister of Youth and Music

News from Lake Ivie Baptist Association *(continued from page 1)*

On February 9 from 8:30-12:30, the Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment will be hosting a Church Safety Seminar with Brother Jimmy Meeks presenting topics related to, not only church safety, but concealed and open carry laws as they impact the local body of believers. The cost for the seminar is \$15 and if you would like to stay for lunch, there is a \$7 fee for that. You may contact the camp at info@heartoftexasencampment.com for further information and to register for the event. Then on February 14, the Women of Faith out of the Melvin area will again be sponsoring their quarterly singing at Millersview Baptist Church at 4:00 followed by snacks. All are invited to attend. On February 18, we will be having our Senior Adult Rally at 11:00-1:00 at FBC, Coleman Family Life Center with some good old Gospel singing, then Phillip Smith who portrays Paul the Apostle will be doing his performance Scripture at about 12:30ish. If you saw him at the annual meeting, you know what a tremendous performance he gives. Someone asked me recently what a “Senior” was, and I said “anyone that wants to come.” There will be good food, good fellowship and a wonderful program, so make plans now to attend.

As I think about a new year, I am reminded that every day, God gives us another opportunity to be about doing His will and His work. I want to challenge our churches in 2016 to think “outside the box” and come up with new and innovative ways to carry out YOUR mission and YOUR ministry within and outside of your local church. If we don’t get out of our comfort zones and our pews, we will never change the world. I recently read this: “We will never change the world by GOING to church. We will only change the world by BEING the church.” Truer words were never spoken. According to statistics, 75%-85% of churches across America are either plateaued or declining, and the number one reason for that is APATHY. We seem to be quite content in our own little world, and make no effort to affect those around us. What America needs today is a good chastening from God in order that we may truly have a revival across this nation. We don’t have a drug problem in America. We don’t have an abuse problem in America. We don’t have a societal problem in America. WE HAVE A SIN PROBLEM IN AMERICA, and only we, as Christians, have the answer to the ills of this world, and his name is JESUS CHRIST. Be blessed in His name as you venture into new territories in 2016. .

Keith Simpson, LIBA Ministry Director

February 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Charlie Bush <i>LIBA Brady breakfast, 8:30, El Flamingo</i>	2	3	4	5 Codi Walters	6 Deryl Bishop Kelli Medrano Janie Lowery
7 Mike Easley Shane Owens <i>Deacons meeting</i>	8 <i>Triple S, noon</i>	9 Betty Smith	10	11	12 <i>Food Pantry food distribution, 10:00 -12:00</i>	13 Carson Brandenberger Tiffany Garner <i>Widows and Widowers Valentine banquet, noon</i>
14 Ray Ash <i>Women of Faith event at Milersview, 4:00 Business meeting, 5:30</i>	15 Betty McMillan	16 Bracken Bean Kim Galindo	17	18 <i>Senior Adult Rally, FBC Coleman, 11:00-1:00</i>	19	20
21 David Hernandez	22 <i>Triple S. 5:30</i>	23 Justin Pierce	24 Bobbie Petty	25	26 <i>Food Pantry food distribution, 10:00 -12:00</i>	27 Annie Roberts
28	29 Virginia Vinson.					

Weekly Events

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
10:50 AM Morning Worship
6:00 PM Bible study

Monday

4:00 PM Ladies Bible study
home of Mary Ballew
6:30 PM CWJC, Building Men for Christ

Wednesday

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
Presbyterian Church
3:30 PM FLC opens for all youth
5:30 AWANA, missions organizations
6:00 Adult prayer meeting
6:30 Youth meal
7:00-8:00 Youth worship and Bible study

Thursday

9:30-11:00 Dorcas quilting ministry
9:45-12:00 Food Pantry: donated food
brought from Walmart to the Church

Greeters for February

East Door

Feb. 7 Welman and Becky Bauer
Feb. 14 Joyce Scott
Feb. 21 Ed and Becky Weber
Feb. 28 Velma Hendley
West Door: Youth

Deacons on call in February

Jerry Caraway 792-8749
George Matula 792-0430

Food Ministry Report

January 2016

- 142 families
- 167 adults under 65
- 73 children under 18
- 36 adults 65 and older



Food distribution days for February are the 12th and the 26th from 10:00 to noon. New volunteers are welcome! Help is also needed on Thursday mornings from 9:45 to noon to bring donated food from Walmart to the Food Pantry in the FLC.

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM

Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Becky Elliott, James Mallow, Jenny Powell, and Susan Turk for recording radio spots in January.

February devotionals will be done by Betty Smith, Shane Owens, Tina Young, George Matula, and Judy Oden.

Technology is wonderful but it is beginning to isolate us. We are in the process of developing a cell phone and e-mail directory for our church. If you haven't submitted your information, please fill out the form below and bring or send it to Ra-Non our church secretary. Thanks so much.

George Matula

Name _____
Address _____
Land line number _____
Cell phone number _____
e-mail address _____

Can we add your numbers to our directory?

(circle one) YES NO

Pray without
ceasing. . .

Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
I Corinthians 13:7

- our nation’s leaders
 - our members in the nursing homes
 - our homebound members
 - the lost and un-churched in our community
 - Brady children & youth
 - Our Sunday School
 - Our preschool
 - AWANA and missions organizations
- Richard Aguirre
Jerry Bean
Jackie Behrens
Jim Benson
David Bishop
Diane Bradshaw
Vickie Brown
April Carson
Misty Chandler
- Sherry Cox
Fayrene Easley
Charlie Elliott
Laurie Evans
Holly Groves
Roy Guthrie
Carol Henderson
Linda Hendley
Theda Henniger
Josh Hudson
Eva Little
Kelly Jenkins
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Bill Johnson
Jerry Jordan
Mary Beth Lewis
Janie Lowery
Mike Lowery
Louise Morrow
Carol Newport
Gerald Nobles

- Tracy Parsley
Bobbie Petty
Max Schmidt
Linda Seago
Edith Slaughter
Mike and Laurie Slone
Sherry Thomas
Tinsley Thompson
Elia Tibbetts
Jack and Susan Turk
Ernie Walker
Tess Warren
Kristan Wilson
Charlotte Wisdom
Claudette Young

In military:
Jon Bradshaw
Howard Brown
Brandon Haymon
Talisha Hendley
David Hernandez
Jose Lopez
Moses Marmolejo
Concho Moore
Brandon Pfannenstiel
Jace Telford
Jonathan Torres
Alisha Slone
Wes Stark
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the families of Sue Steelhammer, Jimmy Fields, and Peggy Owens.

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Christy McAnally, Nursery Director
Norma Ridout, Pianist
Deryl Bishop, Organist
Kim Coleman, Preschool Director
Sabrena Rushing, Assistant Preschool Director

The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. A link can also be sent to your email address each month; just send your address to Becky Martin: becky@scottmartin.net.

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.
I Corinthians 13:13



Dear Kevin, Gabe, and the sweet members of First Baptist,
We want to tell you what a sweet blessing it was to be with you all on Sunday. Thank you for the privilege of singing and praising our Lord with you. We look forward to what the Lord will do in the future.
Your church is so welcoming!
Much love and blessings!

Liza Proch
For the 4 Proches

Note: Beecher, Ezra, Liza, and Asa Proch from Fredericksburg led our worship one Sunday in January. See their website at www.4proches.com.

First Baptist Church membership,
Thank you all for the food basket that you delivered to me before Christmas. It was a very thoughtful gift.
I enjoyed the short visit from the people that delivered the package. It was very muchly appreciated. God bless you good and kind people.

Thank you all so much.
Alton Bradshaw

Godly Impressions Preschool will study Food and Fitness

The lesson theme for the month will be “Food & Fitness”. The children will be learning the color “red”, the shape of a “heart”, the numbers “11, & 12”, and the letters “J, L and G”.

The Bible lesson for the month is based on “God Cares About My Health” featuring Living Water and Bread of Life. The Bible verse is “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35

If you would like to donate snacks or juice, we would appreciate those items as well. The snacks can include: Any Cereal, Graham Crackers, Gold Fish Crackers, Nilla Wafers, Cheez-It Crackers, Pretzels, Ritz Crackers, Cube Cheese, String Cheese, etc. The juice must be 100% juice and we will also take gallon jugs of drinking water. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sabrena at 325-792-4675.

Thank you all for the prayers and support!
God bless,
Sabrena Rushing, Assistant Preschool Director