



Defining, serving, and saying thanks

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

Max De Pree was a business man who recently passed away. He was CEO of a large and successful company, Herman Miller Office Furniture. He also wrote *Leadership is an Art*, a very influential book in the business world. His association with Fuller Theological Seminary should also tell you a little about the kind of man he was.

De Pree is best known for a quote he made in his book. **“The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant.”** I would like to leave you with some thoughts on this quote.

The first is to remind you of what I have told you for six years—the greatest power is the power to define. I have tried to do that during my time here, to show you the present we live and minister in. I have not tried to define you or this church. That has already been done by Christ. I have tried to move you to embrace and live within that definition, both as individuals and as a body. I pray that this church can leave behind the definition it fashioned for itself years ago, and with faith and courage move to the new life Christ has envisioned for it. Get across the Jordan.

The second aspect of leadership is service. This is a big topic. Leadership can have many expressions. The best, I think, is servant leadership. That is the model Jesus left us. Was he in charge? Absolutely. There was never any doubt, was there? Yet how did he lead the disciples? By serving them. He rebuked them when necessary, but it was always for their growth and well-being. Everything Jesus did: all that he commanded came out of his mission to serve the Father and mankind. Jesus gave all of us the example of a leader doing what was best for his followers, not using his disciples to further his own agenda. I have always tried to serve you by doing what was best for you. I am sure there have been times I did not. I ask your forgiveness in those matters, and take this opportunity to encourage you in the strongest words possible, to offer and accept nothing less than servant leadership in this church. John 13 should be the model for you, your deacons and your next pastor. Do not confuse force of personality with leadership. I urge you with all my heart to reject the CEO model and methodology as a leader for this church. Matthew 20:27-28 should be your guide: “. . . and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Last of all, De Pree tells leaders to say “thank you.” I am reminded of the story of a grandpa and his son walking to town one day, and they saw a turtle on top of a fence post. They stopped and pondered the sight. Finally, the grandpa said “Boy, tell me one thing you know about that turtle.” The boy had no idea, no answer, and just shrugged his shoulders. As the grandpa took the turtle off of the fence post and let him go, he said “You can know this for sure: he didn’t get on that fence post by himself.” We are all like that turtle. We didn’t get where we are all by ourselves.

Saying “thank you” is recognizing the people who have invested in you, and allowed you get somewhere you could never have reached on your own. I will not do that here on a person-by-person basis. I will simply say “thank you”. Thank you to the pastor search committee that brought us here. Thank you for letting me complete my doctorate. Thank you for laughing at my jokes. Thank you for listening to my sermons. Thank you for coming to Sunday night Bible study. Thank you for being kind to my wife and for asking about my kids and my parents. Thank you for your encouragement and your friendship. Thank you for your many acts of service. You are at your best when you care.

May God guide you,
Bro. Kevin

Issues brought to light at December business meeting

Brother Kevin has submitted his resignation from FBC effective January 31, 2018.

Following morning worship on December 17, Randy Bedwell, chair of the deacons, told the members that over the last several weeks the deacons have been in discussion with Paden Behrens of Redeemer Church about the possibility of merging the two churches.

At the business meeting that evening, this matter was presented and discussed. Many questions were asked and comments made. No motion concerning this possibility was made, and no vote was taken.

Since the business meeting, Randy has resigned as deacon chair. Rod Young has resigned as chair of the budget/finance committee.

The pastor search process can begin in February.



National Goal: \$160 million
Local Goal: \$3,000
Our giving as of Dec. 27: \$2218.00
This offering opportunity will remain open for the first two weeks in January.

Youth News

by Gabe Rios, Youth Minister

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.

YOUTH GROUP WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Kids are allowed to begin arriving at the church/ family life building right after school! We will open at 3:30pm so all kids, middle school and high school, are welcome to come and do homework, play video games, play in the gym, outside, or play board 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 on time and PLEASE invite your friends from school to come join us.

Food is taken care of by Stephanie McKay, Matt Popnoe, Lynn Munden, Jeanagayle Behrens, Victoria Norrell, 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).

Recurring events:

*Sunday Night Hoops - every Sunday night starting at 7:00pm the gym will be open to high school age and up, to come fellowship and play some basketball. We have been averaging 20-25 a Sunday and would love to have you! Occasionally we will also play during the week on a Tuesday or Thursday at 7pm. Text Gabe to get updates on when the gym will be open.

Upcoming Events

New Years theme dinner will be January 24th this month!

HOT Hearts is a retreat we did last year, it is \$20 to go and is January 27th.

Summer Camp - July 1st-July 6th

The dates have just been announced. \$50 dollars to hold your spot. Nick Gainey will be the worship band and Mike Satterfield will be the speaker.

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

Godly Impressions

Connecting children to the love of Christ through Godly impressions.

Happy New Year! Our little astronauts will be “blasting off” into the new year at Godly Impressions with our study of outer space. We will be learning about the letters S, G, O, and L as well as the color blue and the star shape. All preschoolers will be culminating the study by going with me on a “Moon Walk.”



Our Christmas program, “The Good News Flash” was complete glorious chaos! Thanks again to everyone who was involved, including my staff, my board of directors and my own family.

Here’s hoping your 2018 is filled with much love and happiness.

In His service,
Holly Stewart, director



Keith's Corner

by Keith Simpson, Lake Ivie Baptist Association Ministry Director

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the food and fellowship of family and friends this past week. Let us at the office be the first to say "Happy New Year" to all of our churches, members, pastors, and friends. Each year, many people tend to make resolutions for the upcoming year: to lost weight, to be a better person, to spend more time with family and friends, to study more, or to be more financially stable. All these are wonderful ideas and not impossible to achieve, but rather than those sorts of resolutions, how about if we started treating others the way that we want to be treated? (Kinda sounds Biblical, doesn't it?) How about being more forgiving? How about being more loving to the unlovable? How about being more tolerant? How about keeping the main thing the main thing, and the main thing is what we call the "Great Commission." We, as Christians are called to further God's kingdom, to make disciples, and to teach others the Good News of Jesus Christ and His offer of eternal life.

I would dare say that churches across America and from all denominations have missed the mission of the Great Commission. We become bogged down in the color of the carpet or what style of music to have, or what is best for ME, rather than what God wants us to be about doing. When we help others, when we witness to others, when we disciple others, we tend to forget about self, and I believe that is exactly what Jesus did. We need to offer forgiveness to one another, we need to be reconciled to one another and we need to truly LOVE one another as Christ loved/loves us. When we look at others, we need to realize that all of us are fighting a battle that no one knows about. Each of us struggles with the issues of life, the busy-ness of a hectic world, and the day-to-day struggles of life. But each of us should be a support for others.

Again, we have some events upcoming that you may be interested in, so beginning on January 8, we will have our first Executive Board/Associational meeting at FBC, Paint Rock, with Dr. David Hardage from the Baptist General Convention of Texas as our keynote speaker. Dr. Hardage will inform us as to what is going on with Texas Baptists, and how each church can share in the vision and mission of BGCT. The Executive Board will convene at 5 pm, with a meal following at 6, then Dr. Hardage will be speaking around 6:45. Please plan to attend this meeting. Also, on January 17, FBC Santa Anna and LIBA will be hosting a three hour mini-seminar over church security/safety with Jimmy Meeks from 6-9 pm. Cost for the seminar is \$25 per person to help offset costs. Believe me, you do not want to miss Jimmy's presentation, and the information that he will share can help your church set up a church security/safety team to prevent what happened at Sutherland Springs a few months ago. (*More information is available on the LIBA website: lakeiviebaptist@yahoo.com*)

And, as has been mentioned before, our teams are in place and ready to help you facilitate programs dealing with leadership training, discipleship training, evangelism outreach, strategic planning for your church and other ideas to help your church grow and flourish. Please call the office if you are interested and we will put you in touch with the correct team leader. If you would like to serve on some of these teams, please call the office. We want to HELP our churches to further the kingdom of God, and we truly believe that we can be of assistance to all of our churches to prevent some of the problems that all churches will encounter. Please call the office anytime that we can help you in any way or call me at 325-456-0928. I don't have the answers, but when we sit down together in meaningful dialog, it is my belief that YOU will come up with your own solutions to the problems faced. The team leaders are listed in the Newsletter, so please give these guys a call if you need anything.

Look forward to seeing you all on January 8 at FBC, Paint Rock and again, may we wish you a very "Happy and God-Filled New Year."

In His love and service,
Keith

Upcoming Events!

January 2018

Dec. 29th - Jan 2nd LIBA Office Closed
8th Coleman Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Hidalgo's
8th Association Meeting, at Paint Rock
5pm Executive Board
6pm Meal
6:45 Dr. David Hardage
14th Retirement Reception for
Bro. John Stanislaw
1:30-3pm at FBC Coleman
15th Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Beefmaster's
17th Church Safety & Security Seminar
6-9pm at FBC Santa Anna \$25
22nd Brady Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at El Flamingo's
27th & 28th Revival at FBC Santa Anna
Dinner at 5pm
Services to follow at 6pm
28th Singing at Melvin - 4pm

February 2018

5th Brady Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at El Flamingo's
6th Admin Team Meeting
7pm FBC Eden
12th Coleman Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Hidalgo's
19th Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Beefmaster's
21st Senior Adult Rally,
11-1:30 at First Baptist - Eden

**Please continue to be in prayer
for our pastor-less churches:**

El Cordero, Santa Anna
First Baptist Church, Winters
First Baptist Church, Eden
Hords Creek Cowboy Church,
Coleman



Revival at FBC Santa Anna

January 27th & 28th
Dinner at 5pm
Revival Services to follow at 6pm
Everyone is welcome to attend.
If you cannot attend, please be in
prayer for our revival services.
Thank you

Uganda Mission Report from McKenna

Let me start my letter by saying thank you to everyone who gave towards my internship in Uganda, even when it wasn't asked of you. Only God knows how many lives you touched by listening to Him and giving with a joyful heart.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
Luke 6:38

I also want to thank each and everyone of you for praying for me. You have no idea how much your prayers were needed every moment of everyday.

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."
Hebrews 4:16

Every week in Uganda provided different challenges and joys... My first week there I had to completely surrender myself and my expectations to God. I was fully aware that I was unworthy and imperfect but praised Jesus that He still chose to use me.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..."
Ephesians 3:20

In the following weeks I served and loved on children in a small orphanage, a primary school and a high school. My days were filled with laughing children that loved to play with my hair, visiting homes and praying with families, teaching (I taught a small class in the high school where we learned about and planned outreaches and I helped homeschool a few days a week), and whatever other random things God used me for. I was blessed with all kinds of wonderful people. I even became sweet friends with another intern, Lee, from Arkansas. We got each through many difficult days and sicknesses. I miss her and all of the other kind people and children so much. I can't praise God enough for my time in Uganda and every single person He allowed me to love on and every hardship He used for good. Although the following verses might not be what some of us are physically going through, I still think they are very important and comforting. They certainly helped me in Uganda...

"We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything."
2 Corinthians 6:3-10

To Yahweh be the glory,

McKenna Brandenberger



January 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---------------------|---|-----------------|--|---|
| | 1 Betty Daugherty Oralia Barrera | 2 Stefanie McKay | 3 Amelia Britteon | 4 | 5 Avery Virdell | 6 |
| 7 <i>Deacons meeting</i> Kay Holloway | 8 <i>Association meet- ing at Paint Rock, 5:00</i> Jaelyn McKay | 9 | 10 AWANA re- sumes, 5:30 | 11 | 12 <i>Food Pantry food distribution 9:00- 12:00</i> Weston Bauer | 13 David Munden |
| 14 Janis Groves | 15 <i>Triple S, noon</i> | 16 | 17 <i>Church Safety & Security Seminar 6-9pm at FBC Santa Anna \$25</i> Joyce Hollingsworth | 18 Ida Owens | 19 | 20 |
| 21 <i>Business meeting</i> Kathy Branden- berger Pat Matula | 22 <i>LIBA Fellowship breakfast, 8:30, El Flamingo</i> Marsha Gainer | 23 | 24 <i>Youth theme din- ner</i> Fayrene Easley Ashlee Shaw Sharon Poe | 25 | 26 | 27 <i>HOT Hearts youth retreat</i> |
| 28 McKenna Branden- berger Albert Pearson | 29 Nadine Hinshaw | 30 | 31 Doris Collins | | | |
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Food Ministry Report

December 2017

- Adults 118
- Children: 37
- Adults over 65: 29



Food distribution day for this month is January 12 from 9:00-12:00

New volunteers are always needed and welcome!

Ethel Blackwell recently moved to a nursing home in Menard.
We miss you, Ethel!
Here is her address:
Ethel Blackwell
Menard Manor Nursing Home
100 Gay St.
Menard, TX 76859
Please pray—and send her a card!

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM
Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM
Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

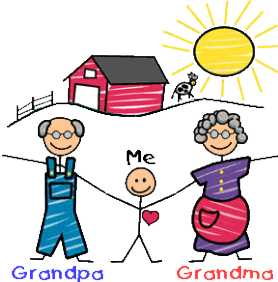
January devotionals will be done by Janis Groves, Norma Ridout, Becky Martin, Becky Bauer, and Joyce Hollingsworth. Thank you!

Deacons on call in January
Bobby Williams
456-4735
Brad Woodard
325-226-9124

Weekly Events

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday | |
| 9:45 | Sunday School |
| 10:50 | Morning Worship |
| 6:00 | Bible study |
| 7:30 | Sunday Night Hoops, FLC |
| Monday | |
| 4:00 | Prayer/devotions at Mary Ballew's |
| Wednesday | |
| 7:00 AM | Men's Prayer Breakfast |
| 5:30-7:15 | Presbyterian Church Awana, Missions Organizations (resumes January 10) |
| 6:00 | Adult prayer meeting |
| 6:30-8:00 | Youth group |
| Thursday | |
| 9:45-12:00 | Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart, sorted, and stored |
| 2:00-3:30 | Dorcas quilting ministry |

Congratulations to Dillon Roberts, who recently completed all requirements for his high school diploma.



Congratulations to Jerry and RaNon Caraway, who became first-time great-grandparents on December 28.

Pray without
ceasing. . .

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe your-
selves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
Colossians 3:12

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <p>Terry and Serena Alexander Louise Baker Wendy Barley Deryl Bishop John David Bishop Ethel Blackwell Larry Collier</p> | <p>Frieda Chew Melinda Cook Sherry Cox Fayrene Easley Mike Easley Linda Granberry Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves Curtis and Genna Jennings Charles and Jerry Jordan Leroy and Jo Keese Janie Lowery Mike Lowery Betty McMillan Harry Mitchell Betty Nash Mike Pagett Lois Patton Edith Slaughter Tinsley Thompson</p> | <p>Jackson Tijerina Jane Tomlinson Marvin and Sue Tucker Jack and Susan Turk Mackie Jo Walters Tess Warren Ed Weber Kendyl White Jane Whittemore Hayden Wilson Joyce Wilson Kay Dawn Wilson Tammy Wilson Jane Wortham</p> <p><i>In military:</i> Jon Bradshaw Howard Brown Brandon Haymon</p> | <p>Talisha Hendley David Hernandez Jose Lopez Moses Marmolejo Concho Moore Brandon Pfannenstiel Jace Telford Joseph Telford Jonathan Torres Alisha Slone Wes Stark Daniel Virdell Justin Williams Ricky Williams, Jr.</p> <p>We extend sympathy to the families of Linda Granberry and Carol Newport.</p> |
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The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. A link can be sent to your email address each month; just send your address to Becky Martin: becky@scottmartin.net.

First Baptist Church
(325) 597-2956
1103 W. 17th St.
Brady, TX 76825
Website: <http://www.fbcbrady.org>
Office email: bradyfbc@gmail.com
Dr. Kevin McDonald, Pastor
597-1926
RaNon Caraway, Secretary
mrc48nona@yahoo.com
Gabe Rios, Minister of Music and Youth
rios_gabe@yahoo.com
830-391-4367
Kay Curry, Financial Secretary
Jerry Caraway, Maintenance Supervisor
Christy McAnally, Nursery Director
Holly Stewart, Preschool Director
godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com
325-240-0708
Norma Ridout, Pianist
Deryl Bishop, Organist
Becky Martin, newsletter and website editor
456-1256



FIRST BAPTIST
C H U R C H

*Be knit together
by strong ties of love.
Colossians 2:2*

Because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:5-6

Christmas thank-you’s

- Thank you to all who brought homemade cookies and other treats for our Food Pantry friends at the Christmas reception. We had plenty for the party and some to send home. Thanks to Mary Ann McCarver, Norma Ridout, and Deryl Bishop for providing live music. It was a very festive morning and enjoyed by everyone.
- Thank you to Gabe Rios for his leadership of the Christmas Choir, to Norma Ridout for her expert accompaniment, to Beth Sparkman for her help in rehearsals, and to the singers.
- Thank you to Deryl Bishop for organizing the Christmas Eve candlelight service and to all who had a part in it. It was a beautiful service.
- Thank you to all who have contributed to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Our giving as of December 27 is \$2218.00.

Happy
New Year!