



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

March 2018 newsletter

FBC Brady, TX  
325-597-2956  
<http://fbcbrady.org>  
Vol. 19, No. 2



**100%**

of your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering\* supports North American missionaries.

**Our goal: \$2000.00**

**NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 Million**



## Week of Prayer for North American Missions: March 11-18 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering now open

“Here & Now” is the theme for the Week of Prayer for North American Missions this year. We will be seeing videos and other reminders of this important missions emphasis. Giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds a wide variety of mission work around the United States. Please pray about your part and give generously, here and now.

## Pastor Search Committee Update

The PSC has met 3 times. The members are Becky Martin (chair), Jerry Caraway, George Matula, Karen Behrens, Welman Bauer, and alternate Toney Urban. On Feb. 4 we met with Keith Simpson, on the 11<sup>th</sup> with Chris Leibrum, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> with Scott Willingham.

Topics covered have included:

- Conducting a church survey as part of compiling a church profile

- Advertising the position, which we have not done yet

- Choosing a traditional interim or an “intentional Interim”

- Checking references and doing criminal and financial background checks, also checking statements about education

The time frame involved—that this process will take several months

The following men will fill the pulpit at FBC during the next 5 weeks:  
March 4: Jim Young, Texas Baptist Men prison ministries  
March 11: Ryan Buck, pastor of First Baptist Mason  
March 18: Dr. Randall Everett, a retired Baptist pastor, now leader of “Wilberforce,” an international organization to help persecuted Christians  
March 25: Dr. David Hardage, Executive Director of the BGCT  
April 1, Easter Sunday: Chuck Gartman, Howard Payne University professor

Asking candidates about their affiliation with BGCT or SBTC

Using internet resources for videos or audios of sermons

We have also discussed the need to evaluate/revise/communicate the Constitution and Bylaws; how to facilitate work and accountability of committees; the role of the deacon body; and the status of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. These things need attention before we call a pastor.

We are conducting a church survey of members’ opinions/preferences concerning a future pastor. We will compile the results on March 4 and later share the results with the church. If you need a copy of the survey, they are available in the sanctuary. They need to be returned by March 4.

We have planned a joint meeting with the deacons, the PSC, and Dr. Karl Fickling of BGCT by phone for the afternoon of March 11. Dr. Fickling works with churches who are needing interim pastors and who are in the pastor search process. He has already been of great help by phone and email.

We appreciate everyone’s prayers as we try our best to follow the Lord’s direction.

## Prayer Meeting change

Please come! Church-wide prayer meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday nights at 6:00 (instead of Wednesday nights, when many adults are involved with AWANA.) At this crucial time in our church’s life we need to pray together regularly and purposefully. The prayer group had been meeting in the library, but on the first Sunday of this change 16 folks came and the meeting relocated to Fellowship Hall.

## Music, music, music!

Beth Sparkman has graciously volunteered to be our worship leader. She has organized praise teams and is working with Karen Behrens, chair of the Music Committee, and Judye Oden, chair of the Technology Subcommittee, to make necessary changes. Thank you, Beth, and all who have stepped up to help with the

music ministry.  
Here is Beth’s testimony:

*Psalm 40:3 And He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.*

I grew up the Texas daughter and granddaughter of Southern Baptist ministers. Walked the aisle at age 6 & 12, thinking “I’m supposed to do this,” but not truly understanding the truth of Jesus life & death. Each year my dad and grandfather would lead trips to Israel, so the year I turned 16, I was able to go with them. As I walked in the footsteps of Jesus, following the path of his arrest, trial and crucifixion, I understood for the first time my deep need for forgiveness and salvation. Psalm 40:1-3 quickly became the verses that seemed to guide my heart and have continued to through the years.

32 years ago, the Lord brought my husband, Jerry into my life. He was in the USAF and we spent 8 years living in Texas, Colorado, Florida, Washington state, Germany & England. We then settled in Virginia and Jerry went to work for Target Corporation. Target transferred us to Iowa where we lived for 13 years, before returning to Texas in 2015. We have 8 children, Beverly, Kimberly, JD, Lydia, Victoria, James, Michael & Elizabeth, as well as 5 grandchildren.

While living in Virginia, I served as Director of Music for Westwood Baptist Church, and then I served as worship leader at two churches during our years in Iowa. In 2004, I returned to college and in May 2009, I received a BA in Education, Music, & Business. Then I returned to school for my BSN and MSN from Allen College in Iowa. Jerry & I moved to Brady this summer; he is retired from Target and I am a Nurse Practitioner at HOTHs. We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us here in Brady and at FBC.

I believe that every day in my life is a song to the Lord. Thank you for letting me share this verse of my song to Him with you as we worship each week.

*ElizaBeth J. Sparkman, ARNP*

*Keith's Konnections*  
by Keith Simpson, Lake Ivie Baptist Association Ministry Director

Some ancient manuscripts have Barabbas' full name as being Jesus Barabbas, which may have led Pilate to say, (as some have translated), "What shall I do then with THIS Jesus which is called Christ?" Isn't it also ironic that within the name Barabbas, we find the name Abba, which means Father. Here in this scripture, we see possibly two Jesuses, one named Father and the other the Christ. When Pilate asked the Jews which of the two he should release, the crowd responded by saying "Barabbas", the Father, not this "other" Jesus which is called "The Christ." We each must ask ourselves which of the two should we follow and which of the two DO we follow. I think even within this scene, we can draw an analogy between Satan and the true Jesus, the way, the truth and the life. On the one hand we have the one who is called an angel of light, but then on the other hand, we have the true light of the world, and we must continually ask ourselves which one do we truly follow? If we follow the false messiahs of the day, rest assured that we are headed into a deep, dark cavern to which there is no return. If we follow the true light of the world, then we can and will spend eternity in heaven with Christ and God, the TRUE Father.

I also feel that Pilate is saying to the crowd, "Which one of these men would you rather follow? The one who wants to overthrow the Roman government and set up an earthly kingdom, or the one who says that His kingdom is not of this world?" Oftentimes, we tend to look at the temporal and forget about the eternal. We tend to focus on the here and now, rather than focus on the end results and the ultimate reward. It is much easier to live in THIS world than the next, but Christ encourages us to prepare for the world to come, when HIS kingdom shall reign supreme and Satan is cast into the fiery pit.

If we choose to follow the REAL Jesus, then he requires something of us, while Satan is quite content to let us keep living our lives the way WE want to, because he knows that we are best left to our own vices. However, Jesus said, "Follow Me." (not a pastor, not a denomination, but ME.) Jesus said, "Take up your cross daily." Jesus said, "Make disciples." Jesus said, "In this world you will have trials and tribulations." He also said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." He also said, "If the world hated me, it will hate you." He also said, "Love one another." (yes, even those that we do not even like.) All of this sounds impossible, doesn't it? It almost seems that it is easier to follow the ways of the world than to do what Jesus asks of us because it seems too difficult. However, Jesus said in Matthew 19:26, "With men, this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Paul, writing to the church at Philippi said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

We need to look to the author and finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ, in order to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, because with men, it is impossible, but with God, we can accomplish what He wants us to do. That is why we have to rely on Him daily, moment by moment to accomplish His purpose in our life. We need to find where God is working and go join Him, rather than sitting by and saying, "God, we are about church business. Come and bless our endeavors." I hate to say it, but sometimes "church business" and "God business" are not the same, so we must strive to do what God has called each church, in their respective communities, to fulfill. Remember that everyone God used in the Bible was NOT a perfect person, nor does he expect perfection from us, only OBEDIENCE. Let us be about God's business in 2018 as never before, and may He bless your every effort to further His Kingdom.

In His love and service,  
Keith

**March 2018**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Brady Fellowship Breakfast,  
8:30 at El Flamingo's
- 12<sup>th</sup> Coleman Fellowship Breakfast,  
8:30 at Hideos
- 19<sup>th</sup> Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast,  
8:30 at Beefmaster's
- 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday

**April 2018**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Brady Fellowship Breakfast,  
8:30 at El Flamingo's
- 9<sup>th</sup> Coleman Fellowship Breakfast,  
8:30 at Hideos
- 16<sup>th</sup> Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast,  
8:30 at Beefmaster's



For event reminders, follow us on Facebook: Lake Ivie Baptist Association

**Please continue to  
pray for our pastorless  
churches:**

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



**Lake Ivie  
Baptist  
Association  
2018**

**Administrative  
Team Leaders**

**MISSIONS TEAM**

Charlie Winford  
[O2bntexas@aol.com](mailto:O2bntexas@aol.com)  
325-726-8343

**EVANGELISM TEAM**

Ryan Buck  
[ryan@fbmason.org](mailto:ryan@fbmason.org)  
325-805-0123

**DISCIPLESHIP TEAM**

**FELLOWSHIP TEAM**

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325-234-7601

**PRAYER TEAM**

Harold Fahrlander  
[harfah@aol.com](mailto:harfah@aol.com)  
325-348-3511

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Quincy Ellis  
[Qaellis3@gmail.com](mailto:Qaellis3@gmail.com)  
325-647-8441



# March 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Jackie Behrens	2	3
4 Darlene Friar Becky Martin Joy Jennings <i>Guest speaker:</i> <i>Jim Young, TBM</i> <i>PSC meeting, 2:00</i> <i>Deacons meeting</i>	5 Wanda Burns Shelly Bean <i>LIBA Fellow-</i> <i>ship breakfast,</i> <i>8:30, El Flamingo</i>	6	7 Gerald Nobles	8 Leanna Davis	9 <i>Food Pantry</i> <i>food distribution</i> <i>9:00-12:00</i>	10 Dillon Munden
11 <i>DST begins</i> <i>Guest speaker:</i> <i>Ryan Buck, FBC</i> <i>Mason</i> <i>Joint meeting of</i> <i>PSC and deacons,</i> <i>2:30</i>	12 Bobbie Williams Debbie Nobles <i>Triple S, noon</i>	13	14 <i>No AWANA</i>	15	16 Joel Jennings	17
<div>Spring Break, March 12-16 (Preschool closed this week)</div> <div>Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 11-18</div>						
18 <i>Guest speaker:</i> <i>Dr. Randall Everett</i> <i>Business meeting</i>	19	20 <i>First Day of</i> <i>Spring</i>	21 Paige Bauer	22 Jeanine Willis	23	24 Faith Bean Jerry Jordan
25 <i>Guest speaker:</i> <i>Dr. David Hardage,</i> <i>BGCT</i>	26 <i>Triple S, 5:30</i>	27 Bobby Williams	28	29 <i>Preschool Easter</i> <i>parties and egg</i> <i>hunts</i>	30 <i>Good Friday</i>	31

## Food Ministry Report

February 2018

- Adults 108
- Children: 29
- Adults over 65: 22



Food distribution day for this month is March 9 from 9:00-12:00. New volunteers are always needed and welcome!

Welcome New Member  
by baptism  
Laryha LaCoe



## Deacons on call in March

Kenneth Young  
597-2485, cell 456-8955  
Virgil Middleton  
597-2629, cell 456-7284

## Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

*Sunday morning:* live broadcast at 11:00 AM  
*Weekdays:* Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

March devotionals will be done by Jerry Caraway, Velma Hendley, Kenneth Young, and Misty Urban. Thank you!

## Weekly Events

<b>Sunday</b>	
9:45	Sunday School
10:50	Morning Worship
6:00	Church-wide prayer meeting
<b>Monday</b>	
4:00	Prayer/Bible study at Mary Ballew's
<b>Wednesday</b>	
7:00 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church
5:30-7:15	Awana, Missions organizations (not on 3-14)
6:30-8:00	Youth group
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:45-12:00	Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart, sorted, and stored
2:00-3:30	Dorcas quilting ministry

## Opportunities to serve

We need volunteers to serve in FBC ministries. Please pray about serving in one or more of these ways:

- The tech team needs a few more people to be trained to run the sound board, the computer and screen, and/or the radio transmission room. You would be one of several trained people and would not have this responsibility every Sunday. Contact Judy Oden at 325-347-7332 FMI.
- If you would like to sing on one of three praise teams, contact Beth at 210-422-6696 or Karen at 325-869-0121.
- Volunteers are needed on Wednesday nights to do devotionals and help in other ways with the youth meeting in the Family Life Center. Contact Welman Bauer at 325-347-2724.
- The Technology Sub-committee has a vacancy in one 2-year term. The Youth/Recreation committee has two vacancies, both 1-year terms. The Nursery committee has one 2-year term vacant. Contact RaNon in the church office if you can help with any of these.

## Encouragement Department

On February 11, Chris Leibrum of the BGCT presented our church with a certificate of appreciation for our missions giving over the last 10 years, over \$250,000 total. This includes Cooperative Program giving, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions.



Pray without  
ceasing. . .

May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.  
*2Thessalonians 3:5*

- our church
  - 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
- Terry and Serena Alexander  
Louise Baker  
Wendy Barley  
Deryl Bishop  
John David Bishop

Ethel Blackwell  
Doris Collins  
Melinda Cook  
Sherry Cox  
Sue Crow  
Fayrene Easley  
Mike Easley  
Dusty Evans  
Tomme Friar  
Charlie Garcia  
Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves  
Curtis and Genna Jennings  
Charles and Jerry Jordan  
Greg Jordan  
Janie Lowery  
Mike Lowery  
Betty McMillan  
Mike Pagett  
Lois Patton

Alton Roberts  
Edith Slaughter  
Tinsley Thompson  
Jackson Tijerina  
Jane Tomlinson  
Jack and Susan Turk  
Virginia Vinson  
Mackie Jo Walters  
Tess Warren  
Jane Whittemore  
Hayden Wilson  
Joyce Wilson  
Kay Dawn Wilson  
Tammy Wilson

*In military:*  
Jon Bradshaw  
Howard Brown  
Brandon Haymon

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.

We extend sympathy to Bill Soto in the loss of his wife.

The newsletter is available on the church website: [fbcbrady.org](http://fbcbrady.org). The newsletter is also sent to email addresses as requested. Just send your address to Becky Martin: [becky@scottmartin.net](mailto:becky@scottmartin.net).

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FIRST BAPTIST  
C H U R C H

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

*Be joyful always;  
pray continually; give  
thanks in all circum-  
stances, for this is  
God’s will for you in  
Christ Jesus.  
1 Thessalonians  
5:16-18*

So how about this weather we’re having? Wacky weather is the theme at Godly Impressions in March, and it definitely seems to be an appropriate one! We are all hoping for pretty spring-like temperatures during Spring Break (March 12-16), especially since we’ll be closed that week. We will also be closed on Good Friday, March 30. We will be celebrating Easter with parties and egg hunts on Thursday, March 29.

We will continue reading New Testament stories, including the resurrection story, throughout next month as we memorize the Bible verse, “This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24)

My assistant, Crystal Slaughter, and I are so thankful for the opportunity to touch children’s lives through Godly impressions.

If you would like to support this outreach ministry in any way, please come visit with me or email me at [godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com](mailto:godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com).

In His service,  
Holly Stewart, Director



A Special Thank You  
Thank you so much for the Christmas love gift. I appreciate your thinking of me. I do appreciate your giving me the opportunity to play the offertory each week.

The Lord has blessed me so by being a part of this wonderful church.

Norma  
Ridout

