



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2018 newsletter

FBC Brady, TX
325-597-2956
<http://fbcbrady.org>
Vol. 19, No. 4



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions

Our goal: \$2000.00
Our giving as of 3-28:
\$1,236.63 This offering will be open through April.

A Life Song

by ElizaBeth Sparkman, ARNP

I've been asked to write a little something for the newsletter each month. If you choose to read my mental wanderings, you will probably soon realize I speak, think and feel most often through songs and stories of life. As I write this, I'm listening to the song I plan to share on Easter Sunday when we gather to celebrate His resurrection.

But as I listen, I realize the agony of His death, the sacrifice for my sin, was required first. This is so true of many times we face in life. Hardship faces us, challenges arise, life seems too difficult. Even Jesus prayed in the garden to "let this cup pass" if it were possible. But it wasn't. Jesus had to face death on the cross and separation from the Father. Why? To pay the price for my sin.

Then He rose victorious from the grave. He overcame death! The song "Mercy Tree" says it beautifully:

*Hope went dark that violent day
The whole earth quaked at love's display*

*Three days silent in the ground
This body born for heaven's crown
On that bright and glorious day
When heaven opened up the grave
He's alive and risen indeed!*

Praise him for the mercy tree!

*Death has died, love has won
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

*Jesus Christ has overcome
He has risen from the dead*

This Easter, I pray that you will allow His resurrection to bring victory into your life. Whether that is through accepting His gift of salvation for the first time, or by allowing Him to reign victorious even through the difficult days we face. Praise Him for the Mercy Tree.

Pastor Search Committee Update

by Becky Martin, PSC Chair

The PSC met on March 4 and March 11. We compiled the results of the church survey (which had been returned by 53 people) on March 4 and have made copies available at the church to everyone. Here is a short summary:

Level of education: Graduate of Bible college (20); attended seminary, divinity school, or Bible college (18)

Experience required: More than 5 years of pastoral experience (27); more than 5 years prior church ministry experience such as church staff (7)

Acceptable age: 40-44 years (18);

No age preference (17)

Top 3 ministry priorities

- A person with a personal vision and a well-developed vision for the future of the church (34)
- An effective communicator of well-prepared sermons (27)
- A community volunteer who cooperates in community and interdenominational activities/programs (23)

On March 11 the PSC met jointly with the deacons. We heard a presentation by Dr. Karl Fickling of BGCT concerning the typical pastor search process and then the advantages and procedures of the Intentional Interim program. We then called Dr. Fickling with questions about this process.

The PSC and deacons agreed to invite Dr. Fickling to speak to the church in person on April 8, and he has agreed to come. Also a plan developed to have a fellowship meal after church that day, followed by a Q&A session with Dr. Fickling.

The decision on calling an Intentional Interim or a traditional interim will impact what the search committee can do next.

New lawn mower purchased and in service

Jerry Caraway reports that, thanks to several generous donations, a new Hustler lawn mower has been purchased from Brady Butane.

After mowing the grounds on Monday, March 26, Jerry says the new mower is "bigger, smoother, does a good job, is solid, and should last forever."

He is offering test drives to anyone who would like a turn.

Thanks to all who donated.

Easter Sunday at FBC



he is risen...

Come join your church family as we praise the Risen Lord this Easter.

The children will have an egg

hunt during the Sunday School hour.

The choir will sing two arrangements: "Crown Him King" and "Then Came the Morning." Beth Sparkman will sing a special solo, "Mercy Tree."

Guest preacher will be Chuck Gartman from Howard Payne.

Fellowship meal April 8

- Time: noon
- Place: Fellowship Hall
- What to bring: two covered

dishes: pinto beans, baked beans, potato salad, or dessert. The church will provide the meat.

- Q&A session with Dr. Fickling to follow the meal. He will answer any questions about the Intentional Interim program.



WMU annual meeting, FBC Georgetown, April 13-14

All FBC women are invited to attend the WMU annual meeting April 13-14. This important meeting focuses on missions—local, state, national, international.

First Baptist Georgetown is hosting this year. First Baptist Midland hosted last year, and a group from our church attended and were blessed and inspired.

The plan is to leave Friday morning, April 13, at 11:00, after the busiest part of Food Pantry is over. The group will stay the one night in a motel and come home Saturday following the closing session, about 1:00.

You can register on line at wmutx.org. Registration is \$25.

Please contact Betty Smith or Becky Martin if you would like to go.

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

In the third verse of the little book of Jude, verse 3, we read, “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to **CONTEND FOR THE FAITH** that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.” In this post-modern world in which we live with all the uncertainties and all the rhetoric about removing God from ALL aspects of our government, our schools, our communities, and yes, even from our churches, I feel that, as Christians, we must all the more so **CONTEND FOR THE FAITH**, because certainly, if Christians do not fight for the faith no one else will. Perhaps this would be an opportune time for each of us to read the seven letters to seven churches in Asia Minor in the book of Revelation, chapter 2 and following to see what the Lord Jesus had to say to these particular churches. Does this still apply to us today? What if **YOUR** church received a letter from Jesus? What might it say? What if you **PERSONALLY** received a letter from Jesus? What might it say? Scary thoughts, huh?

The church at Ephesus, Jesus said, had left its first love. Do you remember when you first came to Christ and how excited you were? How exciting church was? Do you still feel the same way? If not, what happened? Does your church reflect this? Have our churches left Christ out of their services? I read one time where we still need preachers that preach that Heaven is real, hell is hot, sin is sin, and that Jesus Christ is **STILL** the only way to salvation. Rekindling that love for Jesus cannot start in the church; it must start in each individual’s heart. Let’s not forget our first love.

The church at Smyrna was congratulated for recognizing the false teachers that were trying to infiltrate the church. Just turn the TV on any given Sunday, and you can hear false teachers speaking about how to become the best you, how to become your own god, how to prosper by giving to the church, and how to speak the correct words of faith to receive that which you desire. Jesus never did any of this. When you listen to some TV evangelists, you never hear them speak of sin, of salvation, of Jesus being the only way, nor do they speak of the impending judgment for those who do not believe. It is not popular, nor is it of economic benefit to them. We must be able to discern false teachings when we hear them. And the only way to do that is to study God’s word and see what the **TRUTH** is. People in financial institutions and in the FBI, etc. do not study counterfeit money; they study the **REAL** stuff, so that when they encounter counterfeit money, they recognize it immediately. We must do the same. The church at Pergamos followed this same pattern in that they had adopted false doctrines.

Thyatira had committed spiritual adultery, in that they welcomed other beliefs into their church. Is that happening in America today? I would dare say that it is. All religions are **NOT** the same, and Christianity is based upon a **PERSONAL** relationship with Christ. “It doesn’t matter which god you worship, just choose one and everything will be alright” is a common saying now days. The church at Sardis was encouraged to hold fast and repent for they were dead, but hadn’t yet realized it. Therefore, they needed to quit playing church and start being the church. The church at Philadelphia was told to keep on keeping on. They had not denied the awesome name of Jesus and were still proclaiming His good works.

The church at Laodicea may have had the biggest problem in that they were neither hot nor cold, but rather lukewarm, and because of their apathy and unconcern, Jesus said he would like to spew them out of His mouth. How many churches across America fit this mold? We are just getting by in church, just pretending to do church, so we see no results. We are neither hot nor cold, but just lukewarm. I hope and pray that this is not true of my own personal life. And I hope and pray that this description does not fit any of our churches.

Churches need to remember to “keep the main thing, the main thing.” Or as Paul said (may I paraphrase?), “I want to preach Christ and Him crucified.” That is the main thing, and we need to remember that we are called to be disciples, not program inventors. We are called to be evangelists, not program promoters. We are called to be on mission, not for our glory, but for **HIS** glory. So, upon reflection, what does your church letter say to the local body of believers? What does your personal letter say about what you are doing for the kingdom?

In His love and service,
Keith

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

April 2018
1st—Easter Sunday
2nd Brady Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at El Flamingo’s
9th Coleman Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Hidalgo’s
13th-14th State WMU Convention,
Georgetown, Tx
16th Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Beefmaster’s
19th Cowboy Church Bunch Gathering, San
Angelo Cowboy Church, 6:30 pm

El Cordero, Santa Anna
First Baptist Church, Brady
First Baptist Church, Winters
Millersview Baptist Church

May 2018
7th Brady Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at El Flamingo’s
14th Coleman Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Hidalgo’s
21st Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Beefmaster’s



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

April 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Guest Speaker:</i> <i>Churck Gartman,</i> <i>HPU</i> <i>Egg hunt during</i> <i>Sunday School</i> Bill Burns	2 <i>LIBA Fellow-</i> <i>ship breakfast,</i> <i>8:30, El Flamingo</i>	3	4 Sherry Cox Mabel Jones	5 Farion Morton	6 Robert Reeves	7 Austin Reeves
8 <i>Guest speaker:</i> <i>Dr. Karl Fickling,</i> <i>BGCT; fellowship</i> <i>ship meal; Q&A</i> <i>session</i> <i>Deacons meeting</i>	9 <i>Triple S, noon</i>	10 John David Bishop	11 Robby Paradise	12	13 <i>Food Pantry</i> <i>food distribution</i> <i>9:00-12:00</i> Becky Elliott	14 Margaret Mitchell
15 <i>Business meeting,</i> <i>5:00</i> Jonathan Torres	16	17	18	19	20	21 Billy Whitaker
22 Glenda Douglas	23 <i>Triple S, 5:30</i>	24 <i>HPU band con-</i> <i>cert, 7:30, Mims</i> <i>Auditorium, BWD</i> <i>(Josh Collier will</i> <i>play)</i>	25	26	27	28
29	30 Carrie Pearson Toney Urban		May 2: <i>Awana</i> <i>Family Night</i>			

Food Ministry Report

March 2018

- Adults 112
- Children: 33
- Adults over 65: 25



Food distribution day for this month is April 13 from 9:00-12:00. New volunteers are always needed and welcome!

Thank you to new member Laryha LaCoe and her family for their gift of a beautiful cross shadow box. It is on display in the sanctuary.

Deacons on call in April

Jerry Caraway
792-8671
Rod Young
456-1175

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

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

April devotionals will be done by Susan Turk, Betty Smith, Pat Matula, Bobbie Williams, and George Matula. Thank you!

Volunteers have stepped forward!

Since last month several people have volunteered to serve in FBC ministries. Here's an update:

- The tech team is well-staffed at the moment. These folks handle the radio room, the sound board, and the screen projection: Paige Bauer, Walker Bauer, Gage Behrens, Jason Behrens, Jerry Caraway, Becky Elliott, Judye Oden, Albert Pearson, Jerry Sparkman, and Bobbie Williams.
- Praise teams have come together, thanks to these folks who are sharing their talents in our worship services: Karen Behrens, Jeanagayle Behrens, Raymond Torres, Jerlene Smith, Pat Matula, George Matula, Janet Guthrie, Misty Urban, Amy Pearson, and RaNon Caraway.
- Welman Bauer, Victoria Norell, and Rod Young are working with the youth on Wednesday nights. More volunteers are still needed. Contact Welman Bauer at 325-347-2724.
- RA help is needed on Wednesday nights and for the RA Camp April 27-29. Please contact Jerry Caraway.

Weekly Events

Sunday

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:50 Morning Worship
- 6:00 Church-wide prayer meeting

Monday

- 4:00 Prayer/Bible study at Mary Ballew's

Wednesday

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
Presbyterian Church
- 5:30-7:15 Awana, (*last day will be May 2*)
Missions organizations
- 4:30-8:00 Youth group

Thursday

- 9:45-12:00 Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart, sorted, and stored
- 2:00-3:30 Dorcas quilting ministry

Summer ministry opportunities:

Day Camp at Richards Park: June 17-24

If you or your group would like to provide an evening meal for the Rec Team from Midland, please talk to RaNon.

VBS: July 8-12 (An army of volunteers is always needed!)

Dear church family,

There were so many kindnesses extended to our family after our loss of Sue Tucker, precious wife, Mama, and Mamaw. We are very grateful that you embraced us with your love and prayers and provided the meal so deliciously prepared.

Our most sincere thanks,
Melinda Cook, Marvin Tucker, and family

I want to express my appreciation for all phone calls, cards, and help given to me this past month or so. Prayers have helped more than you all will ever know. I love and thank you all.

Fayrene Easley

Pray without
ceasing. . .

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. . .
Philippians 1:4-5

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <p>Louise Baker
Wendy Barley
Ethel Blackwell
Doris Collins
Melinda Cook</p> | <p>Sherry Cox
Sue Crow
Fayrene Easley
Mike Easley
Dusty Evans
Charlie and Maria Garcia
Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves
Roy Guthrie
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Charles and Jerry Jordan
Greg Jordan
Mike Lowery
Grant Martin
Betty McMillan
Julie Palacio
Edith Slaughter
Tinsley Thompson
Jackson Tijerina
Jane Tomlinson</p> | <p>Jack and Susan Turk
Mackie Jo Walters
Jane Whittemore
Gloria Wilson
Kay Dawn Wilson
Kenneth Young</p> <p><i>In military:</i>
Jon Bradshaw
Howard Brown
Brandon Haymon
Talisha Hendley
David Hernandez
Jose Lopez
Moses Marmolejo
Concho Moore
Brandon Pfannenstiel
Jace Telford
Joseph Telford</p> | <p>Jonathan Torres
Alisha Slone
Wes Stark
Daniel Virdell
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.</p> <p>We extend sympathy to the families of Virginia Vinson and Tess Warren, to Carrie Pearson in the loss of her mother, to Darlene Friar in the loss of her niece, and to Bro. Ray Ash in the loss of his brother,</p> |
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The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. The newsletter is also sent to email addresses as requested. Just send your address to Becky Martin: 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*

. . .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 1:6

Godly Impressions Preschool and Child Care

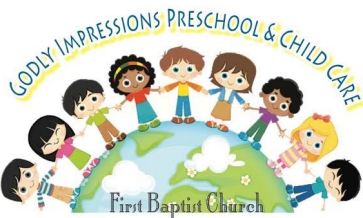
Spring is in the air, and all is well at Godly Impressions. The best news is that our playground is officially finished, and the weather is actually nice enough for us to enjoy it! A big shout out to Dave West and all his helpers for doing such an *amazing* job!

In April, besides enjoying playing outside, we will be focusing on life cycles, bugs, flowers and more. We’ll even be “growing” our own butterflies. Our letters will be E, B, Q, F and I. Our color of the month will be purple and our shape will be an oval.

We will be memorizing the Bible verse: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength,” Deuteronomy 6:5.

It’s amazing to think that our school year is quickly coming to a close. Registration for the summer for current students has begun, and we’ll be registering for the fall before we know it. Open registration for summer daycare will begin April 23, so if you know someone needing child care, please send them our way. We’re in the business of making Godly impressions on our future generations!

Blessings,
Holly Stewart, Director
If you would like to support this outreach ministry in any way, please come visit with me or email me
at godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com.



The new playground is completed on the east side of the Family Life Center. This will be enjoyed by children for many years to come!