



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions: Goal met!

Our goal: \$2000.00
Our giving as of 4-22:
\$2025.00

A Life Song

by ElizaBeth Sparkman, ARNP

Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear not; for I am with you; be not dismayed; for I will strengthen you; yes, I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness."

Do you ever wonder where God is? Why are things happening the way they are? How can this circumstance be a good thing? I know I do. But as I look back over my life, I realize the truth that He has always been there with me. He has always been holding me, helping me. I have not always been faithful to Him, but He is always faithful to me.

Micah Taylor says it best in his song, "Never Been a Moment":

*There's never been a moment
I was not held inside your arms
And there's never been a day when
You were not who You say You are
Yours forever, it don't matter
What I'm walking through
Cause no matter where I'm going
There's never been a moment
I was not loved by You*

Trust Him. You are loved by Him. He holds you every day, every moment, without fail.

Open door to our neighbors at Trails of Brady Apartments

The Missions Committee and others have been praying about opportunities for ministry at Trails at Brady Apartments since construction began.

With donations from many FBC members, welcome bags were put together and taken to the complex office to be given to the new residents when they move in.

The apartment manager has given us an open door to do Backyard Bible Club this summer. She has welcomed us to use the common room and the playground behind that building and will help get the word out to the children.

Start date is June 6 at 5:30, with plans to meet most Wednesdays through the summer for Bible stories, crafts, music, games, and refreshments.

If you would like to help in any way, there will be a sign-up sheet soon.

Welcome home, Daniel!

Daniel Virdell returned home April 11 after a deployment to Afghanistan that began in May of 2017.

This was Daniel's seventh deployment, with four of them being in combat.

Daniel enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2001.

Daniel rejoins his wife Shawnte and his daughters Layla, Avery, and Reagan.

We all love you, Daniel, and are so thankful you are back safely.

FBC to enter Intentional Interim program

On April 8 Dr. Karl Fickling of BGCT spoke to the church about the Intentional Interim program. After a fellowship meal, he answered questions about the program. He then met with the deacons for more discussion.

The deacons voted unanimously to recommend to the church that we enter the Intentional Interim program. At the business meeting on April 15, their recommendation was approved by the church with a vote of 33-3.

The deacons, with input from the Pastor Search Committee and Dr. Fickling, will recommend an Intentional Interim candidate to the church. They are choosing from a short list of qualified men.

The Intentional Interim will probably be hired as part-time. He will work with a Transition Team in five focus areas:

- Heritage
- Leadership
- Mission
- Connections
- Future

Pastor Search Committee Update

by Becky Martin, PSC Chair

The Pastor Search Committee met on April 22. The deacons had requested our assistance with the Intentional Interim Pastor search process. At 3:00 we consulted with Karl Fickling by phone.

We listed some possible "absolute duties" for the Intentional Interim:

Preach

Work with the transition team to evaluate and revise the Constitution and Bylaws, reducing the number of committees and possibly setting up ministry teams.

Do visitation of the sick, those in nursing homes, newcomers, etc.

Coordinate with worship leaders on music and with RaNon on the order of worship in the bulletin.

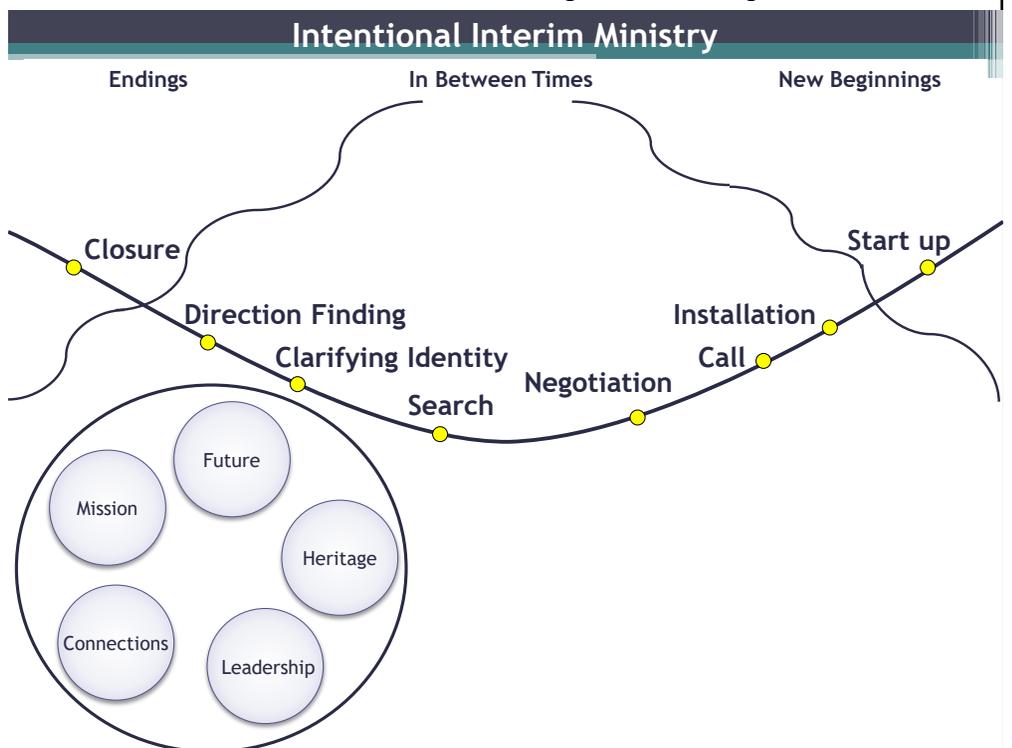
Supervise/mentor a possible interim youth minister.

We also discussed possible housing arrangements and worked out a possible schedule for a half time arrangement: Sunday, Monday, and until noon on Tuesday.

Dr. Fickling gave us more information about the available Intentional Interims.

Wednesday, April 25:

The deacons, Personnel Committee, and Finance Committee met to determine an appropriate amount to offer a prospective interim. They agreed on \$500 a week. He will need a place to stay. If you have a guest house, RV, or other possible accommodation, you could have a vital part of this step forward.



Find out where God is working and join Him there.

--Henry Blackaby



Family Night

End-of-year program and fellowship

Wednesday, May 2, 5:30

Come and meet the children and their parents!

You're invited. . .

To attend. . . To fellowship

To reach out. . . To help

To pray



Godly Impressions Preschool Graduation, May 25 at 11:00 in the sanctuary. Come enjoy the celebration with the children, their teachers, and their families!



The Blessing of the Quilts, at Mary Ballew's, Monday, May 21 at 4:00. Enjoy seeing the quilts made for our pre-school graduates by our quilting ministry. Pray for the soon-to-be kindergarteners.

Backyard Bible Club begins June 6 at Trails of Brady Apartments, for children 4 years old through 5th grade, 5:30-7:00 in the clubhouse and the playground, most Wednesdays through the summer. Volunteers are needed to help with crafts, music, games, and refreshments.



First two weekends in June Work with volunteers from across Brady to repair exterior of homes for qualifying individuals and families. Contact Rod Young FMI or to volunteer. Skilled and unskilled workers are needed, as well as donations of homemade cookies and bottled water for the workers.



Day Camp at Richards Park, led by Rec Team from FBC Midland and our youth, mornings, June 17-24. Meals are needed for the Rec Team in the evenings, and volunteers are welcome at the park.



Vacation Bible School, July 8-12, in the evenings, for preschool through 5th grade. Come be a part of the VBS team! There is a place for everyone to serve.

Keith's Konnections

by Keith Simpson, Lake Ivie Baptist Association Ministry Director

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Lake Ivie's Administrative Team, along with our team leaders and with input from our churches, met last August and formulated a Strategic Plan to re-direct our focus to the perceived needs of the churches in our Association. As a result of all this, we recently held two meetings, one in Brady and one in Ballinger to address some of these needs. In the fall, (probably September) we will be hosting a Pastor/Deacon Training for the churches of the association, and possibly have a breakout session in conjunction with this for wives of pastors and deacons. We are planning this event for a Saturday, possibly from 9 am until approximately 3 pm, with lunch provided at a somewhat central location. More information will follow as we get the details in order. We **WANT and Need** your input and your attendance to this vitally important meeting.

I am oftentimes asked, "What does Christianity stand for and what do Baptists believe?" Let me address this for a moment if I may. As far as most mainstream denominations, there are at least 8 main tenets of the Christian faith, and I like to use the acronym of D O C T R I N E to help explain this. The D stands for the deity of Christ. The fact that Christ was and is both man and God at the same time, and most mainstream denominations hold to this. The O in the acronym stands for original sin. Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, and because of our inherited sin, we also are sinners in need of salvation. C stands for the canon of the Bible, how the Bible was put together, what books were included, and which we excluded and why. The letter T stands for the Trinity, God being one in 3 persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. R stands for the resurrection of Christ, the founding principle of the Christian faith. The letter I stands for the incarnation of Christ, the fact that God came to earth in the form of man to better connect with us. N stands for the new birth. As Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born again." To experience a relationship with God, we must be born of the Spirit. Finally the E stands for eschatology, or the end times. It refers to the fact that Christ WILL come again in the last days. This is just a quick synopsis of the tenets held by most mainstream churches today. It is not an exhaustive list, but it sums it up neatly.

So, that leads to the next question: "What do Baptists really believe?" Again, this will not be an exhaustive list, but here are some basic Baptist beliefs. We believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, that He is the head of the church. We believe that the Bible is an inspired book and is without error. We believe the only way to salvation is through Jesus Christ. We believe in the priesthood of ALL believers. We believe in believer's baptism by immersion. We also believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are important ordinances of the church. We believe in religious freedom and the autonomy of the local church guided only by the Holy Spirit. We believe in congregational church governance under the lordship of the Holy Spirit. We, because of these tenets, have some related practices, such as evangelism, missions, discipleship, social concerns and others.

Because we are Baptists, we want to be able to fulfill, first, the Great Commandment, "To love God with all our heart, all our mind, and all our soul." We also want to fulfill the Great Commission which says in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (KJV)

Because of these tenets and beliefs and because we see a need within our churches for evangelism and discipleship, this is the reason we are looking for a new vision within our association, and want to offer services, workshops, seminars and meetings to benefit ALL OF OUR LOCAL CHURCHES to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, and to further the work of the Kingdom where we are.

In His love and service,
Keith

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

May 2018

1st—Planning meeting for Heaven's Gate, Hell's Flames, 6 pm, FBC

Brady

6th—Quarterly Singing, Melvin BC, 4 pm

7th Brady Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 at El Flamingo's

8th—Admin Team meeting, 7 pm, FBC, Eden

13th—MOTHERS' DAY

14th Coleman Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 at Hidalgo's

21st Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 at Beefmaster's

28th—MEMORIAL DAY (office will be closed)

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

HAPPY 
MOTHER'S
DAY! 



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

June, 2018

17th—FATHERS' DAY

WMU annual meeting, FBC Georgetown, April 13-14

Becky Elliott, Pat Matula, Betty Smith, Donna Simpson, and Becky Martin attended the WMU annual meeting in Georgetown April 13-14. Here are their impressions:

WMU has a world vision. What a blessing to join Christian women and see that the TV news of the world is in God's hands, and He wants us to be a part of it! The men and ladies who gathered at the annual meeting represented all ages and many nationalities. The political conflicts we listen to on the news take on faces and call Christians to pray more specifically. The sessions that open our eyes to "God at work" are led by capable men and women: Texas Baptist Men, Ministers to the poor and the orphans, compassionate ministries to legal refugees all over the U. S., and even the needs right here in Brady. When we see these needs through the heart of God and His power to heal, we have new goals and become eager to join Him in reaching the world for Christ.

My prayer is that FBC Brady will have a world vision--"**For God so loved the world.**"

—*Becky Elliott*

The singing is enough reason to go to this conference. It lifts me up to the highest of feelings. But I went to a session about refugees and their challenges. It was interesting, but I thought, we don't have any refugees in Brady that I know of. How can I relate to this. It occurred to me that our large Hispanic population here may have some undocumented folks, and their plight may be similar to refugees. That brought it home for me.

—*Betty Smith*

One of the most inspiring things about the State WMU Convention was the closing prayer. A family had come as refugees from Sudan and settled in Amarillo. Years later, the daughter has finished her education and has been called by God as a missionary to return to Africa. The mother prayed for her daughter and our other missionaries in her native language.

—*Pat Matula*

The most meaningful part of the Texas WMU Conference for me was the Karen Children's Choir from Austin Karen Baptist Church. These 19 precious children, whose second language is English, belted out the lyrics of six worship songs they had memorized. They brought smiles to everyone's face.

—*Donna Simpson*

Anyri Cano in a breakout session spoke of what Jesus did in response to the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. He was focused on His mission of the Kingdom. He went to the unwanted and sinful. He got uncomfortable. He broke the paradigms of how things had always been done. As His disciples, we must listen and empathize, offer hope and freedom and mercy, do advocacy, be humble, and cross cultural lines to build relationships. We need to be saying things like "I'll go with you." "I'll give you a ride." "Come to my house for lunch."

—*Becky Martin*

Sunday Night Hoops

A group of young men come to the Family Life Center on Sunday nights to play basketball. Most are unchurched.

All are very polite, respectful, and appreciative of the facility, and make a donation every month to pay their part.

A local minister comes with them, and Jerry and RaNon and Bobby Williams keep the building open for them and befriend them.

Please pray that God will bless the relationships and bring these young men to Himself.

The Constitution/Bylaws committee is looking over our documents for needed clarification. If you have any questions or concerns about any part of our Constitution and Bylaws, please contact Joyce Scott, Mabel Jones, or Albert Pearson.

The Intentional Interim will be consulted in updating and revising this document. Any changes will be presented to the church for approval.



May 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
April 29 <i>Guest speaker:</i> Dwight Reagan		1 <i>Planning meeting for Heaven's Gate, Hell's Flames at 6:00</i>	2 <i>AWANA Family Night, 5:30</i> Tim Owens	3 Ethel Blackwell	4 Matthew Bishop	5
6 <i>Guest speaker:</i> Harold "Bud" Ritzmann of Clifton, TX <i>Deacons meeting</i> Alton Roberts	7 <i>LIBA Fellowship breakfast, 8:30, El Flamingo</i> Daniel Virdell	8 Edith Slaughter	9	10 <i>National Music Week concert at Methodist Church, 7:00</i>	11 <i>Food Pantry food distribution 9:00-12:00</i> Josh Collier	12 Crockett Jurius Layla Virdell Emily Spurgin Jack Jennings Jett Jennings
13 <i>Mother's Day</i> Pat Gary	14 <i>Triple S, noon</i> Wesley Virdell	15 Norma Ridout	16	17 Lynn Munden	18	19
20 <i>Business meeting, 5:00</i>	21 <i>Blessing of the Quilts, at Mary Ballew's, 4:00</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Preschool graduation, 11:00</i>	26 Jeanagayle Behrens
27	28 <i>Triple S, 5:30</i>	29	30	31		

Food Ministry Report
April 2018

- Adults 86
- Children: 37
- Adults over 65: 24

Food distribution day for this month is May 11 from 9:00-12:00. New volunteers are always needed and welcome!



Thank you to our guest speakers in April: Chuck Gartman of Howard Payne, Dr. Karl Fickling of BGCT, Bro. Bill Butts of San Angelo, Lee Floyd, Baptist Student Ministries director at ASU, and Dwight Reagan, retired pastor and missionary from Del Valle.

Deacons on call in May
Virgil Middleton
597-2629, cell 456-7284
Charles Ramsey
792-7955

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM
Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM
Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM
May devotionals will be done by Jeanagayle Behrens, Rod Young, Tony Groves, and Karen Behrens. Thank you!

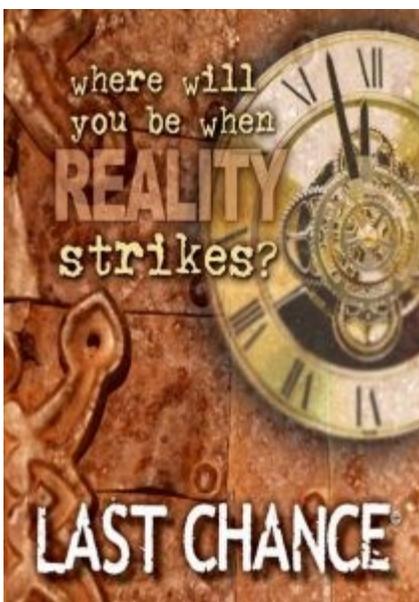
Weekly Events

Sunday
9:45 Sunday School
10:50 Morning Worship
6:00 Church-wide prayer meeting
8:00-10:00 Sunday Night Hoops, FLC

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, (Family Night 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



Heaven's Gate, Hell's Flames

A planning meeting for *Heaven's Gate, Hell's Flames*, will be held in our church on May 1 at 6 pm.

This is a live drama staged in churches by Reality Outreach Ministries as an evangelism event. A production of it was held at FBC Mason last year, with a number of people accepting Christ as a result.

Volunteers will be needed as members of the cast and in other capacities. Other churches in our association will be involved as well.

From the online handbook of this ministry:

Reality Outreach Ministries is looking forward to partnering with you to impact your community with the love of Jesus Christ. You will enjoy working with one of our Ministry Team Directors as they prepare your volunteers through prayer, Bible devotions, and rehearsals to present the drama, "Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames©". Our team directors are equipped with new HD videos and music, LED lighting, costumes, and sets. You will discover "Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames©" is a powerful presentation of the reality of Jesus Christ and eternal life.

Go to www.realityoutreach.org/info/ for more details.

Pray without ceasing. . .

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.
Romans 8:26

- 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 Family Night

Louise Baker
Wendy Barley
Marjorie Barnhill
Ethel Blackwell
Sissy Blunck

Andrea Clements
Doris Collins
Melinda Cook
Sherry Cox
Sue Crow
Fayrene Easley
Mike Easley
Dusty Evans
Charlie and Maria Garcia
Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves
Roy Guthrie
Robin Hill
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Cutter Johnson
Vernon Jones
Charles and Jerry Jordan
Greg Jordan
Mike Lowery
Michelle McCartney

Betty McMillan
Noah Palacio
Brandalyn Paradise
Edith Slaughter
Tinsley Thompson
Jackson Tijerina
Jane Tomlinson
Jack and Susan Turk
Mackie Jo Walters
Jane Whittemore
Gloria Wilson
Kay Dawn Wilson
Jewel Jones Yarbrough
Kenneth Young

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 the families of Delma Crawford, Cathy Neal Baker, and Virginia Napper,

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.

First Baptist Church
(325) 597-2956
1103 W. 17th St.
Brady, TX 76825
Website: <http://www.fbcbrady.org>
Office email: bradyfbc@gmail.com

RaNon Caraway, Secretary
mrc48nona@yahoo.com

Kay Curry, Financial Secretary
Christy McAnally, Nursery Director

Holly Stewart, Preschool Director
godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com
325-240-0708

Beth Sparkman, Worship Leader
Norma Ridout, Pianist
Deryl Bishop, Organist
Becky Martin, newsletter and website editor
456-1256



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
I Corinthians 12:27

Godly Impressions Preschool and Child Care

In April the students of Godly Impressions learned about life cycles. We even “grew” our own butterflies and watched seeds turn into plants. In May we’ll get “onboard” with lessons about transportation. Big events will include Muffins for Moms and Preschool Graduation which will be on Friday, May 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Unfortunately, we will be losing Ms. Crystal in June. She and her family will be relocating to the Dallas area. We will really miss her!

We will continue to operate the child care portion of our program throughout the summer months. Open enrollment for the 2018-'19 school year will take place starting July 1.

Thank you for supporting this mission with your prayers!

In His service,
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 Damrosch Music Club spring concert to celebrate National Music Week will be held Thursday, May 10, at 7:00 at the First United Methodist Church.

Performing musicians include these from our FBC family:

- ♦ Beth Sparkman
- ♦ Karen Behrens
- ♦ Layla Virdell
- ♦ Avery Virdell
- ♦ Norma Ridout
- ♦ Deryl Bishop

The concert is free and open to the public. Please come!

