



## Message From The Pastor: *The Mirror*

by Jeff Quattlebaum, senior pastor

Of all the inventions that man has made over the fabric of time probably one of the most important or at least in the top 10 to 20 is the mirror. You find mirrors almost everywhere you go and as people walk by them, they almost always stop and look at themselves for different amounts of time. There are good things about mirrors and there are bad things about mirrors. The main problem with the mirror that everyone doesn't want to admit is that the mirror always tells the truth. If you have a few more gray hairs – the mirror won't be shy about telling you. If you have bags under your eyes – the mirror will show you them in all their glory. If you have gained some weight – the mirror doesn't beat around the bush and shows you the truth. The mirror does not cover up our defects and will tell us that we are better looking than we really are. In reality, the closer you get to a mirror, the more it will reveal the truth about what we are really like.

I am reminded of the story Robert Fulghum tells about one of his professors, a wise man named Alexander Papaderos. At the last session on the last morning of a two-week seminar on Greek culture, Dr. Papaderos turned and made the ritual gesture – “Are there any questions?” These two weeks had generated enough questions for a lifetime, but for now, there was only silence. “No questions?” Papaderos swept the room with his eyes. So, I asked. “Dr. Papaderos, what is the meaning of life?” The usual laughter followed, and people stirred to go. Papaderos held up his hand and stilled the room and looked at me for a long time, asking with his eyes if I was serious and seeing from my eyes that I was.

“I will answer your question.” Taking his wallet out of his hip pocket, he fished into a leather billfold and brought out a very small round mirror, about the size of a quarter. And he said something like this:

“When I was a small child, during the war, we were very poor, and we lived in a remote village. One day, on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. A German motorcycle has been wrecked in that place. I tried to find all the pieces and put them together, but it was not possible, so I kept only the largest piece. This one. And by scratching it on a stone, I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would never shine – in deep holes and crevices and dark closets. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find.

“I kept the little mirror, and as I went about my growing up, I would take it out in idle moments and continue the challenge of the game. As I became a man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child's game but a metaphor for what I might do with my life. I came to understand that I am not the light or the source of the light. But light – truth, understanding, knowledge – is there, and it will only shine in many dark places if I reflect it. I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of this world – into the black places in the hearts of men – and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise. That is what I am about. This is the meaning of life.”

And he took his small mirror and, holding it carefully, caught the bright rays of daylight streaming through the window and reflected them on my face and onto my hands folded on the desk.

*(From It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It by Robert Fulghum. Copyright 1988, 1989, by Robert Fulghum. Adapted by permission of Villard Books, a division of Random House, Inc.)*

The Bible is like a mirror because when we look at it and read the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we see ourselves for who we really are. We are sinners who have defied God and deserve eternal judgement from a Holy God. Like a mirror that reflects light that is shone on it, the Bible reflects the true light of Christ because it says in Romans 6:23 (NLT), “*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*” Through God's grace and mercy, we can humbly come to Christ, truly repent of our sins, cry out to Him as Lord and Savior and be saved (Romans 10:9-13). In John 9:5 Jesus says, “*I am the light of the world*” and as his disciples we are to be like a little mirror reflecting the light of Jesus in a dark world.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us into the image of Christ, I want to leave you with 5 helpful prayers:

God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

God, let any knowledge I gain serve to help me love You and others more, and not puff me up.

God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.

God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.

God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that you allow the Holy Spirit to transform you day after day and as we look at the mirror each day, we won't see us, we will start to see Jesus. As it says in Matthew 5:16, “*In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*”

Looking in the mirror,

Pastor Jeff!

## *February 2021 at First Baptist Brady*

—*from Marsha Gainer and the Children’s Ministry Team*

The Children’s Ministries will study and reflect on the amazing love of God in February. Our children are very bright and understand the place that Jesus should have in their lives. Please help us continue to instruct and love these precious little ones that God sends us because they are our future!

*Love, Marsha Gainer*

—*from Karen Behrens and the Music Team*

The Music Team met on January 21st and we are excited to announce we will be having an **Easter Choir**. We will begin practice on March 3rd at 7pm. Be in prayer about singing. We encourage anyone that wants to sing to join us.

The **new sound system** is here and we are waiting for the installer to give us a date for set up and training. We are looking for **volunteers** to help learn the system. Jason and Gage run the system currently and Robert Tetens has filled in for us. We will also need help with the **new camera system** that will help us do the live service. If this is something you can help with please let me or Pastor Jeff know. The new system is long overdue and I look forward to the better sound quality to help improve our services. I hope everyone had a great January.

*Blessings, Karen Behrens*

—*from Betty Smith and the Missions Team*

My thanks to all of you at FBC as we move forward with missions in mind. Continuing are items for The Haven and items for the Mexico Border. We surpassed our goal of \$2500 by about \$30 **for the Lottie Moon International Missions Offering**. The **Food Pantry** gave out food boxes to 87 families on January 8th and Laurie has given out to 2 additional families from the office. Our numbers there have gone down in the last several months because of the many food give out sources in our town. Our hope is that no one goes hungry in our county. We will continue on as always.

A new idea from the Team is that as FBC members, we send encouraging cards to folks in our hospital. Write a personal message on festive cards, sign them FBC Brady (not your name), and leave them in the church office occasionally. Just a way to show we care.

RaNon doesn't have any participant in the Parenting Class as of now.

If you have any safe (Covid-safe) ideas we could consider, let myself or a member of the Mission Team know. (Members are: Betty Smith, Marsha Gainer, Ra Non Caraway, Becky Martin, and Janis Groves). As our community opens up and more people get their shots, opportunities will also open up. We just need to have patience and be ready.

- **January Food Pantry numbers:** 87 families, 145 individuals, 67 under 65, 24 children, 54 over 65
- **February Food Pantry** will be Friday morning, February 12, drive-through only, 9:00-11:00.
- **February radio spots** will be done by Kay Holloway (1-5), Jason Behrens (8-12), Pat Matula (15-19), and Joyce Scott (22-26).
- **Deacons on call in February** are Jerry Caraway (325-240-9764) and George Matula (325-240-9791).

### **From Godly Impressions Preschool: *Loving your neighbor***

During February the teachers will be helping the children to learn the color pink, letters Vv-Yy, and the shape of a heart. I am excited to share that despite Covid we are continuing to gain more and more students each month and we are expecting 4 new babies throughout spring! The teachers and kids are looking forward to class Valentine’s parties on the 12<sup>th</sup> with lots of sweet treats and exchanging Valentine’s cards.

This is the month to reflect on all the people we love. God outlines very specifically what our love should look like and what His love looks like for us in 1 Corinthians 13:4 (*Love is patient...*). He also outlines who we should love in Matthew 22:37-40: *“Love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* So we know from this verse we are supposed to love God, others, and ourselves and when we do this we are keeping God’s commandments. Which means when we break one of his commandments we aren’t loving God, ourselves, or others the way we should.

I want to delve into one aspect of that verse just a little bit more: “Love your neighbor as yourself”. I don’t know about you but I love myself a lot, I make sure I’m fed, clothed, happy, have new and nice things, am entertained, and I’m gentle to myself when I mess up. The list is endless. And this is the way I am supposed to love my neighbor, my neighbor who is different from me in all aspects: race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, social standing, economic class, political affiliation, working or not, educated or not, immigrated illegally or not, local or across the world. We are supposed to love each and every person God created the way we love ourselves. The Church isn’t supposed to look like a uniform place of perfect people; it’s supposed to be filled with all those mentioned above. If we could figure out how to love others the way we so easily love ourselves, I know the Church would look a little more like God and a lot less like ourselves.

*Blessings,  
Ashlee Shaw,  
Godly Impressions Preschool Director*





Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

*Colossians 3:12*

- Bro. Jeff Quattlebaum, Misty, Regan, and Sam
- All health care workers; local, state, and national leaders; school administrators, teachers, and staff; and missionaries
- All who have Covid-19
- our church staff and ministries
- our members in the nursing homes and our homebound members
- the lost and unchurched in our community
- Brady children & youth
- the Navajo Nation

Wyatt & Francisca Anderson  
Marshall Armstrong

Don and Lucy Baughn  
Holden Bedwell  
Amelia Britteon  
Bill Burns  
Sherry Cox  
Glen Douglas  
Glenda Douglas  
Shelton & Chere Durst  
Barbara Fields  
Charlie and Maria Garcia  
Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves  
Nita Groves  
Roy Guthrie  
Betty Henderson  
Curtis and Genna Jennings  
Leslie Jones  
Rex Joslin  
Janie Lowery  
James Mallow  
Jennifer McAnally  
Ericka Moore  
Louise Morrow

Alisa & Brayden Morton  
Justin Norris  
Lois Patton  
Felix Ramirez  
Norma Ridout  
James & Anna Richards  
Tristan Rodriguez  
Kelly Rushfeldt  
Betty Sargent  
Mike and Tanzee Shedd  
Edith Slaughter  
Madison Slaughter  
Kathy Stanley  
Jack and Susan Turk  
Becky and Ed Weber  
Linda Wall  
Megan Wall  
Mackie Jo Walters  
Dale Webb  
Bobby Williams, Jr.  
Coleman Williams

*In military:*  
Jon Bradshaw  
Brandon Haymon  
David Hernandez  
Jose Lopez  
Moses Marmolejo  
Jennifer McAnally  
Concho Moore  
Brandon Pfannenstiel  
Jace Telford  
Joseph Telford  
Jonathan Torres  
Wes Stark  
Justin Williams  
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We pray for comfort for the families of Paul Sanders, Thomas Lara, Cindy Jaeger, Patricia Harris, and Mary Ballew.

## First Baptist Church Brady, Texas

The newsletter is available on the church website: [fbcbrady.org](http://fbcbrady.org). If you would like a reminder of when it is posted each month, send your email address to Becky Martin: [becky@scottmartin.net](mailto:becky@scottmartin.net). Paper copies are available at the church and can be mailed on request.

First Baptist Church  
(325) 597-2956  
1103 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
Brady, TX 76825  
Website: <http://www.fbcbrady.org>  
Office email: [bradyfbc@gmail.com](mailto:bradyfbc@gmail.com)  
**Rev. Jeff Quattlebaum**  
[fbcbradyrevjeff@gmail.com](mailto:fbcbradyrevjeff@gmail.com)  
325-240-9782  
**Laurie Morton**, Secretary  
**Kay Curry**, Financial Secretary  
**Karen Behrens**, Music Ministry  
**Christy McAnally**, Nursery Director  
**Ashlee Shaw**, Preschool Director  
[godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com](mailto:godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com)  
**Norma Ridout and Carol Bedwell**, Pianists  
**Becky Martin**, newsletter and website editor  
456-1256  
[becky@scottmartin.net](mailto:becky@scottmartin.net)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.  
*2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)*  
*Memory verse for February*

### For your calendar

Feb. 1: LIBA breakfast, Down Home Country Cooking, 8:30  
Feb. 12, 9-11: Food Pantry food distribution  
Feb. 21, 4:00: Church council meeting  
Feb. 21, 6:00: Kyle Idleman Bible study—"Not a Fan"—begins. Contact Bro. Jeff or Laurie if you want a book.  
Feb. 28, 5:00: Business meeting  
March 3, 7:00: first Easter choir rehearsal

### February birthdays

2-1 Charlie Bush  
2-6 Kelli Medrano, Janie Lowry  
2-7 Mike Easley, Shane Owens  
2-9 Betty Smith  
2-14 Ray Ash  
2-16 Bracken Bean  
2-24 Bobbye Petty, Matthew Poe  
2-27 Annie Roberts, Rusty Capps