

# First Baptist Church, Brady, Texas



**Our Mission:** *FBC Brady is a family that exists to*  
**Give**—by meeting real needs in our community  
**Grow**—by equipping people to become authentic  
Christ followers  
**Go**—by taking the gospel message to Brady and beyond

August 2024

newsletter

FBC Brady, TX

325-597-2956

<http://www.fbcbrady.org>

Vol. 25, No. 8

Welcome to our new pastor Christian Garcia and his family: Priscilla, Zoe, Liana, and Elijah!



Welcome to Brady and First Baptist Church!

## Are You Available?

*by Pastor Christian Garcia*

It is a complete honor to be able to step into the position as the Lead Pastor to First Baptist Church of Brady, Texas. My name is Christian Garcia, and I am accompanied by my beautiful wife, Priscilla Garcia, as well as my three amazing kids, Zoe, Liana, and Elijah. It is always filled with so many different emotions when God calls you into a new chapter of your life.

A little about myself and my family: we are originally from El Paso, Texas, where my wife and I were born and raised. Back in 2016, God led us to join the United States Air Force, where we served this great country for 6 years in Washington, D.C. I served my first 3 1/2 years as a member of the United States Air Force Honor Guard and finished my career in the Financial Management department. It was truly an honor and something that I will always carry with pride.

Back in 2022, we felt called to leave the military and pursue full-time ministry. Waterfront Church DC gave us the opportunity to start a Military Ministry. We saw God's hand all over the ministry as we baptized over 15 members and their families, saw professions of faith, and saw the ministry reach over 100 adults and over 40 kiddos. Praise be to God for what He did and will continue to do through this ministry.

With all that said, God has called us here to Brady, Texas, and we are excited to plant roots, get connected with the community, and are ready to work to continue to spread the hope we carry with those around us. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to serve you, your families, and this amazing community. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* (ESV) This is one of my favorite verses to read and think about when a new season of life begins. God's goal for our lives is not for us to have a comfortable life; instead, it's to do His good works through us who are available. At times, this will take you out of your comfort zone, challenge you and the plans you made for your life, and even stretch you in using new methods to share the Gospel with those around us. *"That we should walk in them"* is such an important part of that verse, because that is our responsibility: to respond to what He has called each one of us to do.

My question that I will leave you with is this: are you available to do what God is calling you to do? That's a hard question to answer, so I want to encourage you to read that question again and pause. Are you available? Church, it is my and my family's honor to stand with you, do life alongside you, and serve our community and proclaim Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. May you and I be willing; may you and I be available.

Pastor Christian Garcia

At a special called business meeting on July 7, the church voted unanimously to call Christian Garcia as pastor, and he accepted.

He and his family will be moving from Washington, D.C. the first part of August. He will preach his first Sunday on August 18.

The Pastor Search Committee consisting of George Matula, Janis Groves, Rusty Capps, Amy Tetens, Jason Behrens, Greg Torres, Laura Alsop and Vickie Roddie would like to say thank you for the prayers, trust and grace you afforded us in the process of searching for a pastor. Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

# Breaker Rock Beach VBS: An Amazing Week

*by Marsha Gainer, Honorary Children’s Ministry Director*

Reflecting back on the summer of 2024 is a sweet remembrance. Camp Triple J, held every Monday afternoon in June, presented Jesus to over 45 children in all. This was such a blessing to all involved.

The crowning event of the summer was Breaker Rock Beach VBS. Planning began as soon as Bev stepped foot back in Texas in January. VBS truly involves the entire church and each event spotlights Jesus.

Prior to VBS, Valerie Gonzalez, Mary Leamons, Laura Alsop, Bev Waisner, and Marsha decorated the sanctuary, hall, classrooms, and snack room. Laura and Bev made many of the decorations.

Registration is an important factor of VBS and is sometimes stressful, but Oralia Barrera, Bobbie Ann Williams, and Revrie Shelton made it a smooth process.

Greg and Shelly Torres led the groups during Rec in a pretty hot environment. However, not one child complained, and they really looked forward to the Rec session!

The music and opening and closing led by Valerie Gonzales and Rocky aka Bree were a time of great joy and celebration of Jesus.

Bev Waisner, Laura Alsop, and their team of Pete Barrera, Neysa Martin, Deanna Holloway, and Revrie Shelton created crafts to highlight and reinforce each day’s lesson. The wide range of children’s abilities makes this job very challenging.

RaNon Caraway in missions took the children on a visit to Japan to learn about missionary work being done there. She also led the children into an understanding of why we need Jesus and the ABCs of becoming a Christian.

We had an event called “Snack,” but Judy Mitzel, Linda Torres, Jeanagayle Behrens, and Linda Cox created full and delicious meals every night for around 60 to 70 people. All the children expressed their approval of the wonderful meals!!

The logistics of moving everything around for VBS is a huge task. We thank Vickie and Buz Roddie, Jerry Caraway, and all the guys who helped!

The teachers Mary Leamons, Janis Groves, and Marsha Gainer presented each night’s Bible truth and story spotlighting Jesus as Savior and God’s plan for each child. Teenagers Allie Penn, MJ Penn, Elena Ayala, and Ariana Ayala helped with the classes.

All of the children in grades 1-5 made commitments to Jesus: some to recognize Jesus as Savior, some to commit to a closer walk with Jesus, and some to choose Jesus and let God lead them to the next level. When we consider that around three fourths of Christian adults were actually saved as children, we begin to understand the awesome responsibility of First Baptist children’s program.



The week ended with Family Night, with a big crowd attending. The children sang their songs for their parents. Greg and Shelly got pies in their faces—to recognize the generous donations the children had given to a fund for McKenna Brandenberger, missionary in Africa. (McKenna grew up at FBC, attended VBS, then helped with VBS.) The total missions offering for McKenna from VBS and the church over two Sundays was \$1205.00. And then pizza –130 pieces! —was served to all, and everyone went outside to the water slides for more fun.

We have one paid staff member and VBS surely could not have happened without Vickie Roddie who had to help and facilitate every single moment of our summer events. Thank you, sweet lady!

Thank you to all who donated money or made cookies. Thank you for helping First Baptist to fulfill its desire to reach the precious children of Brady!

Fall will bring a new school year and flex day camps in the Family Life Center, then Family Fall Festival in October.

VBS Attendance: Sunday 20, Monday 25, Tuesday 28, Wednesday 35, Thursday 28

Total who attended 1 or more days: 35





Happy Birthday!

<b>August Birthdays</b>
2 DeAnna Holloway
3 Linda Wall
4 Destani Miller
7 Charlie Douglas
7 Steve Shelton
9 Glenda Middleton
13 Clifford Crouch
18 Jessica Medrano
20 Robert Malmstrom
21 Tony Groves
25 Scott Martin
25 Jackie Harper
27 Laura Alsop

<b>Guest Pastors</b>
August 4: Don Fawcett
August 11: Carlos Francis

<b>Deacons on call in August</b>
Jim Smith 325-456-4921
Jerry Caraway 325-792-8671

<b>Weekly Ministries</b>
<b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11:00
<b>Wednesday:</b> Men’s Bible study, 6:00, FLC. Women’s Bible study will resume on September 4.
<b>Thursday:</b> Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry, 10:00

<b>July Food Pantry:</b>
Adult Boxes: 67
Children Boxes: 18
Adult 60 & Over: 60
Adults under 60: 84
Children: 42
Total Clients: 186

<b>August radio spots</b>
5-9 Kay Holloway
12-16 Jeanagayle Behrens
19-23 Valerie Gonzalez
26-30 Greg Torres
On KNEL radio, 7:45 week-day mornings

<b>For your calendar</b>
<b>August 4:</b> Deacons meeting after church
<b>August 9:</b> Food pantry food distribution, 9-11
<b>August 11:</b> Nominating Committee meeting, 4:00; Fellowship Night, 6:00 in FLC
<b>August 18:</b> Pastor Christian’s first Sunday in pulpit, fellowship meal after service; Church Council, 5:00
<b>August 22:</b> Outreach meal at Royal Oaks, 5:00
<b>Saturday, August 24:</b> Deacon training in FLC with Don Fawcett and Christian Garcia, 8:30, breakfast
<b>August 25:</b> Business meeting, 5:00

For Bro. Carlos’ last Sunday with us, please bring something to add to a gift basket for him and his new bride. This could be a small food or other item—something regional, unusual, homemade, etc.
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There’s a sign-up sheet out for food for the fellowship meal with taco bar after church on the 18th. We will welcome our new pastor and celebrate “All Things New” in our church and the new school year. Bring a gift card for the Garcias if you’d like to.
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<b>Updates from July 28 business meeting</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vinyl floors have been put down in 3 small classrooms, and carpets have been cleaned in several rooms.</li><li>• NextLink technicians have upgraded and streamlined the Internet connection in both buildings.</li><li>• RaNon and Vickie are teaching a Christian Women’s Job Corps parenting class for two young women referred by CPS.</li><li>• Plans are in the works for a new TV in the sanctuary, new refrigerators in the main kitchen and the FLC kitchen, and a concrete drive/sidewalk to the pavilion.</li></ul>

Buddy and Linda Cox have moved to New Braunfels to be near family. We will miss you guys! You have been a huge blessing to this church. May the Lord use you mightily in this next chapter of your lives.
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<b>Fellowship Night</b>
August Fellowship Night will be Sunday, August 11, in the FLC. Y’all come!
Bring some food to share.
Greg & Shelly will organize something fun.

<b>Royal Oaks Outreach</b>
The Lord has been leading FBC to reach out to the residents and staff at nearby Royal Oaks Assisted Living.
The Missions Team and other volunteers have done Bible studies, crafts, 42 games, and a couple of special meals.
Three of the residents are members of FBC, and the rest are becoming our friends.
If you’d like to get involved, talk to Vickie, or just make a visit. You’ll be blessed.

<b>Youth News</b>
<i>by Vickie Roddie, Youth Director</i>
Youth Ministry, a place to cultivate joy, becomes centered on the story of scripture and the way that story plays out in our lives. Youth Ministry becomes a place where the youth should encounter God and be formed by dwelling in His presence. This kind of youth group is not going to make any headlines for being innovative because it is setting aside innovation in favor of being together, in prayer, scripture, and story. A vibrant youth group is about the people from the congregation that come out to spend time with the youth and sharing their experiences of dwelling with God, their experiences of joy. Youth ministry extends far beyond our scheduled youth meetings. It means that every interaction you have with youth, is a chance to share your story of experiencing the joy of God.
As we move into August may we be such people. People who have a heart for the youth of our community and share that life-changing experience with them. This month we will concentrate on prayer in our youth meetings. Colossians 4:2



*We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.  
In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy Name.  
May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord,  
Even as we put our hope in You. Psalm 33:20-22*

August Prayer List

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christian, Priscilla, Zoe, Liana, and Elijah Garcia</li><li>• our members in care facilities and our homebound members</li><li>• the lost and unchurched in our community</li><li>• the youth of Brady</li><li>• the homeless in Brady</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linda Flint</li><li>• Marsha Gainer</li><li>• Charlie &amp; Maria Garcia</li><li>• Holly Groves</li><li>• Janis Groves</li><li>• Melanie Groves</li><li>• Roy and Janet Guthrie</li><li>• Janabeth &amp; Charles Hanson</li><li>• Duwain &amp; Velma Hendley</li><li>• Curtis and Genna Jennings</li><li>• Colleen Laman</li><li>• Frankie Leamons</li><li>• Janie Lowery</li><li>• Johnstone &amp; Irene Magomana</li><li>• James Mallow</li><li>• Brenda Mennis</li><li>• Lois Patton</li><li>• Carrie Pearson</li><li>• Carole Ramsey</li><li>• James &amp; Norma Ridout</li><li>• Buz Roddie</li><li>• Joyce Scott</li><li>• Rhoda Shannon</li><li>• Jerlene Smith</li><li>• Wendy Smith</li><li>• Jack Timmerman</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jack and Susan Turk</li><li>• Billy Turner</li><li>• Harold Underwood</li><li>• Linda Wall</li><li>• Gene Walton</li><li>• Becky Weber</li><li>• Addie Jo Webster</li><li>• Bobby and Bobbie Williams</li><li>• Debbie Winkle</li><li>• Claudette Young</li></ul> |
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| <p>Rhonda Aguirre<br/>Rita Ash<br/>Jackie Behrens<br/>Holden Bedwell<br/>Beverly Bigby &amp;<br/>Stephanie Pyle<br/>McKenna Brandenberger<br/>Jerry &amp; RaNon Caraway<br/>Cristobal Castillo<br/>Buddy &amp; Linda Cox<br/>Sherry Cox<br/>Sue Crow<br/>Steve &amp; Kani Darden<br/>Carma Eary<br/>Mary Favoccia<br/>Nicole Fish &amp;<br/>Bruce Van Houten</p> | <p><i>In military:</i><br/>Jon Bradshaw<br/>C.J. Gonzalez<br/>Jennifer McAnally<br/>Brandon Pfannenstiel<br/>Christian Pittman<br/>Jace Telford<br/>Jonathan Torres<br/>Ricky Williams, Jr.</p> <p>Families of Mabel Jones, Johnnie Forcuier, and Eunice Day</p> |
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The newsletter is available on the church website: [fbc-brady.org](http://fbc-brady.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).  
Print copies are available at the church and can be mailed on request.

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