



**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

newsletter

FBC Brady, TX

325-597-2956

<http://www.fbcbrady.org>

Vol. 24, No. 1

## Message from the Pastor: **What can we learn from the Magi?**

One of my favorite parts of the Christmas story involves the Wise Men or Magi that we are introduced to in Matthew 2. Now, I must admit before I go any further is that one of my pet peeves about our nativity scenes we see at Christmas time is that many of them show the Magi at the manger. They were nowhere near the birth of Jesus, and in fact the Bible tells us in Matthew 2:11, “*entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother.....*” I need to make that point before I go on with this article.

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine the scene in Bethlehem. In Matthew 2, we are told that the Wise Men went to Herod to find out where the new king of the Jews had been born (Matthew 2:1-3). After this inquiry at Herod’s temple, the star that they had seen in the East appeared again, leading them to the house where Mary and Joseph and the infant Jesus were now living. Contrary to our present-day nativity scenes, pageants, and plays, Jesus was not a baby when the Magi came on the scene. We can also assume by the edict that Herod issued in Matthew 2:16 that Jesus was no more than two years old. Now, even though the Magi missed the birth, the shepherds, the angels, it does not make this long journey of worship any less significant.

The Magi knew the stars, and they would have poured over many ancient texts at their disposal. They would have slogged through deserts and made their way over mountains to reach their destination. These men had probably knocked on doors and tiptoed into temples. They and their entourage rode, walked, and climbed their way from their home to a place completely foreign to them. If you slow down and actually think about this part of the story, their journey will pale in comparison to the journey of the One they went to worship. Jesus, the Son of God had the longer trip, leaving His throne in heaven and coming to live among His people.

This is why the response of the Magi was one of worship and excitement of the Christ Child. Stop and think on this moment. The Magi were men of the world, wise, cultured, and sophisticated in every way thinkable. They may have been expecting to find a young boy on a throne surrounded by servants. What they found, instead, was a child in a modest, middle class family (if you can call Mary and Joseph that right now in the story) in a quiet neighborhood. To the average person on the street that is unfamiliar with many of the ancient prophecies and the guiding star, this was very uneventful.

But to those few whose hearts were open to God’s prompting and leading, who were truly seeking Jesus, they saw what the prophets had prophesied. They heard what the angels shouted. Mary understood that there in a humble tunic was the Son of God in the flesh. Imagine the scene: The Magi come to the house and knock on the door, Mary opens the door and these men drop everything and offer the only correct response to Jesus: worship. They offer the Child their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Think of the contradictions: a young child receiving the worship of royalty. The wealthy bowing before the penniless. The upside-down nature of the Kingdom of God. Do you see it, can you picture it? The Magi bow in worship of the Author of all wisdom. Remember what Solomon tells us in Proverbs 3:13, “*Happy is a man who finds wisdom and who acquires understanding.*”

What about you as we go into 2023? Will you humbly bow at the feet of Jesus this year? Will you go deeper with the Author of all wisdom in 2023?

Happy New Year!

Pastor Jeff

### **Memory Verses for January 2023**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

## A New Year with FBC kids

by Marsha Gainer

Children's Ministry Team Lead

The Children's team is looking forward to a great 2023. We begin BAM on January 4 with our focus on adoring Jesus as Savior and trusting Him completely with our lives.

We will be planning an Easter service and will be ordering VBS materials.

Thank you so much for the wonderful meals on Wednesday. The children have enjoyed them immensely.

The New Year brings opportunities for everyone to get involved. We have a strong children's program, but please get involved in some way. Thank you for your support and prayers.

## New Music Opportunities for the New Year

by Karen Behrens

Music Team Lead

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas. I know our month of December was packed full of things to do with our church family. It was a blessing to be able to have so many music events and ministries. We had a great time with our Christmas caroling and I hope that we can do it again next year.

The month of January the choir will sing on the 5th Sunday. We will practice on Wednesday prior to the 5th Sunday.

I will be here most Sunday's, but Jason will be out for stock show season with Gage. That brings me to us looking for folks to learn the PowerPoint. If you are interested in learning, get with Jason or Karen to train.

## Mission opportunities

Becky Martin, Missions Team Lead

Thanks to all who contributed to the Lottie Moon Offering. Our church goal was \$2500. As of 12-25 total giving was \$1609.

The Missions Team (using budgeted funds) purchased 13 WalMart gift cards as Christmas gifts of appreciation for the Godly Impressions Preschool and Child Care staff.

Betty and RaNon are currently teaching two parenting classes, in cooperation with Child Protective Services. They may be able to return to the jail for a class soon.

Plans are forming to host a ladies night out on Feb. 18. We want to invite the women from all the Baptist churches in McCulloch County. More information will come later.

## We welcome Vickie Roddie as our new Youth Director

by Jeanagayle Behrens,

Chair of Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee submitted a proposal to the FBC December 18 business meeting to consider hiring a part time Director of Youth Activities/Ministry. Mrs. Vickie Roddie made application for the part time position in November to the Personnel Committee. After due diligence and a background check, it was the decision of the committee to recommend Mrs. Roddie for the position. After a ballot vote Mrs. Roddie was approved to begin the responsibilities of Director of Youth Activities and Ministry beginning January 3, 2023.

## Youth happenings

by Vickie Roddie, our new Youth Director

In the coming year it will be fun to spend time highlighting God's movements at FBC and throughout the schools and towns. As we engage the communities' youth we will be reflecting in the newsletter and social media on what God is doing as the months of 2023 unfold. Pray that God would penetrate the hearts and minds of those He brings our way. How amazing is our God that He brings curiosity to the hearts of many.

by Greg Torres, Youth Sunday School teacher

Sunday School youth had a fun and festive time eating food, playing games, and doing a

Christmas gift exchange on December 18. It was nice to gather at our house for some quality fellowship.

## A December to Remember

Many thanks to everyone who participated in and/or prayed for these events that honored the Christ Child:

- On 12-5 we served a taco salad meal to the BHS band in the high school cafeteria. This was a fun time of fellowship with the very appreciative students.
- BAM visited Brady West on 12-7. The children and leaders went down each hall delivering Christmas crafts, cards, smiles, and hugs.
- The Food Pantry Christmas Reception on 12-9 was a blessed morning. Thanks to all our faithful bakers who supplied an abundance of cookies.
- FBC staffed the Sledding Hill at Christmas in the Heart on 12-10, a new and fun experience all around!
- The Secret Sister luncheon on 12-11 was lovely, with great food, décor, and fellowship.
- BAM kids celebrated Jesus's birthday on 12-14 with the Christmas story, then pizza, cake, and ice cream, and a few minutes of Bible Bingo.
- The Christmas Choir sang the musical *Come and Behold Him* on 12-18. The music was beautiful. Thank you, Karen, for leading this.
- A group went caroling around town on 12-20, riding on the Behrens' flat bed trailer and hay bales. A good group got to go. The youngest was Jameson Torres!
- The Christmas Eve service on 12-24 was another beautiful event, with the Advent candles, readings of the story from Luke and Matthew, carols, live nativity (thanks, Greg, Shelly, baby Elise, and the youth group), even a two-day old baby goat. And of course candles and Silent Night.
- On Christmas morning, families gathered at FBC for worship and the Lord's Supper.

*A blessed Christmas*

# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Oralia Barrera	2 LIBA break-fast, Sandy's Kitchen, 8:30 Bible study 6:00	3 Amelia Britteon	4 Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	5	6	7 Kay Holloway
8 Saylor Boydston Deacons Meeting, 4:00 Special Called Business Meeting 5:00	9 Bible study 6:00	10	11 Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	12	13 Food Distribution, 9:00-11:00	14 Janis Groves Work Day (weather permitting) 9:30-12:00
15 Church Council, 4:00; youth fellowship 6-8 FLC	16 Bible study 6:00	17	18 Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	19	20	21 Pat Matula
22 Marsha Gainer Business Meeting, 5:00	23 Bible study 6:00	24 Ashlee Shaw	25 choir 7:00 Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	26 Wylliam Boydston	27 Regan Quattlebaum	28 McKenna Brandenberger Albert Pearson
29 Lord's Supper James Williamson	30 Bible study 6:00	31				

<p><b>January 2023 Bible Readings</b></p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>(AM)</th> <th>(PM)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>GENESIS</b></td> <td><b>PSALMS</b></td> </tr> <tr><td>◇ 1-2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 3-5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 6-9</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 10-11</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 12-14</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 15-17</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 18-20</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 21-23</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 24-26</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 27-29</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 30-32</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 33-36</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 37-39</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 40-42</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 43-46</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 47-50</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"><b>MARK</b></td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 1-3</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 4-6</td><td>18:1-24</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 7-9</td><td>18:25-50</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 10-12</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 13-16</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"><b>EXODUS</b></td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 1-4</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 5-8</td><td>22:1-11</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 9-11</td><td>22:12-31</td></tr> <tr><td>◇ 12-14</td><td>23</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	(AM)	(PM)	<b>GENESIS</b>	<b>PSALMS</b>	◇ 1-2	1	◇ 3-5	2	◇ 6-9	3	◇ 10-11	4	◇ 12-14	5	◇ 15-17	6	◇ 18-20	7	◇ 21-23	8	◇ 24-26	9	◇ 27-29	10	◇ 30-32	11	◇ 33-36	12	◇ 37-39	13	◇ 40-42	14	◇ 43-46	15	◇ 47-50	16	<b>MARK</b>		◇ 1-3	17	◇ 4-6	18:1-24	◇ 7-9	18:25-50	◇ 10-12	19	◇ 13-16	20	<b>EXODUS</b>		◇ 1-4	21	◇ 5-8	22:1-11	◇ 9-11	22:12-31	◇ 12-14	23	<p><b>Deacons on call in January</b> Buz Roddie 325-213-5104 Buddy Cox 409-693-7916</p>	<p><b>Weekly Ministries</b> <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11:00. <b>Monday:</b> Bible study in library at 6:00 (begins Jan. 2) <b>Wednesday:</b> • Women's prayer group, 4:00 • BAM for children, 5:30-6:50 (resumes Jan. 4) <b>Thursday morning:</b> Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry</p>
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	<p><b>December Food Pantry Report</b> 38 adults ages 65 &amp; over 60 adults ages 19-64 23 children 18 &amp; under 121 individuals 60 families</p>	<p><b>January radio spots</b> 2-6 Becky Martin 9-13 Marsha Gainer 16-20 Betty Smith 23-27 Pat Matula 30-3 Misty Quattlebaum</p>																																																										
	<p>Note: a link to the complete Bible reading plan for 2023 is on the website. Print copies are also available at the church. (Used with permission from The Navigators. Adapted from The Discipleship Journal)</p>	<p><b>Congratulations, Saylor!</b> Saylor Boydston earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Event Planning with a minor in Psychology from Liberty University on December 16, 2022. We celebrate this milestone with you, Saylor!</p> 																																																										
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The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
*John 1:14 NIV*

- Bro. Jeff Quattlebaum, Misty, Regan, and Sam
- our church staff and pre-school
- Texas Baptist Men on mission
- McKenna Brandenberger on mission in Uganda (Copies of her latest missions letter are in the foyer.)
- our members in care facilities and our homebound members
- the lost and unchurched in our community
- Brady children & youth
- Brady Clergy Association

Ray and Rita Ash  
 Pete and Oralia Barrera  
 Holden Bedwell  
 Karen Bivens  
 Tiffani Bohannon  
 Allie Bradshaw  
 Amelia Britteon  
 Bill and Wanda Burns  
 Sherry Cox  
 Linda Flint  
 Charlie & Maria Garcia  
 Ronnie, Kay, & Cathy Holloway  
 Trey Holtzclaw  
 Curtis and Genna Jennings  
 Mabel Jones  
 Bobby and Colleen Laman  
 Terry Lange  
 Fay Lawler

Janie Lowery  
 James Mallow  
 Anita McBride  
 Mary Ann McCarver  
 Louise Morrow  
 Lois Patton  
 Charles & Carole Ramsey  
 Anna Richards  
 Donald & Margie Richardson  
 James and Norma Ridout  
 Richard Smith  
 Tommy & Kathy Stanley  
 Edith Slaughter  
 Jack and Susan Turk  
 Gene Walton  
 Virgil & Anita Webb  
 Addie Jo Webster  
 Bobby and Bobbie Williams  
 Angie Willis

Claudette Young  
 babies Thomas, Syntrie, Kalah, and Brynlee and their families

*In military:*  
 Jon Bradshaw  
 C.J. Gonzalez  
 Jennifer McAnally  
 Brandon Pfannenstiel  
 Christian Pittman  
 Jace Telford  
 Jonathan Torres  
 Ricky Williams, Jr.

We pray for comfort and guidance for the families of Ann Moseley and Sherrie Hodges.

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).  
 Print copies are available at the church and can be mailed on request.

# First Baptist Church Brady, Texas

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  
**Melanie Couvillion**, in training as Financial Secretary  
**Karen Behrens**, Music Ministry  
**Vickie Roddie**, Youth Director  
**Meredith Navarette**, Preschool and Child Care [godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com](mailto:godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com)  
**Norma Ridout and Carol Bedwell**,

## January at Godly Impressions Preschool

Happy New Year Everyone!

Theme: Sights and Sounds of Winter  
 Verse: *"For I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*  
*Psalm 139:14*  
 Shape: Diamond  
 Color: White  
 Letters: W, F, O  
 Numbers: 9, 10



This month we will be exploring all the fun things that winter has to offer and that God has made each child unique just like a snowflake!

Blessings,  
 Meredith Navarette  
 ~ Godly Impressions Preschool and Child Care ~

**Special called business meeting**  
 Sunday, Jan. 8, 5:00  
 Purpose: to vote on the way forward for the refurbishment of the parking lots. Several bids/estimates will be considered. A line item has been added in Designated Funds for contributions for this project.

Somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the year through,  
 The joy that you give others is the joy that comes back to you;  
 And the more you spend in blessing the poor and lonely and sad,  
 The more of your heart's possessing returns to make you glad.  
 —John Greenleaf Whittier