



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>

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For and about our youth as we look to the new year

by Vickie Roddie, Youth Director

A new year is right around the corner. And with it comes an opportunity for students and adults to make a difference – in their homes, schools, and in their world. They need our encouragement and prayers to help them push through the obstacles around them and become the person God wants them to be.

There is something refreshing about the month of January, specifically the date of Jan 1. The New Year is like a built-in do-over that we get to enjoy annually. It's also a fitting analogy for the spiritual life in that one of God's favorite things to do is make things new.

In the book of Corinthians one verse speaks to the Corinthians of no longer needing to live in the corrupt atmosphere, but to live a new life: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

When we say yes to Jesus, we are doing more than acknowledging His existence. Which best describes our youth's relationship with Jesus: Him in parts of your world or you in His?

The new creation has come... Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that belief in Him is so transforming that it is best described as being born again. Our entire existence gets a new start.

The old has gone! We are born with things that are opposite of Jesus, things that are part of our sinful nature. When we say yes to Jesus, these things no longer define us. However, sometimes they don't know they are gone, and they try to creep back into our lives. As adults it is good for us to help our youth understand God's redemptive power over our sinful nature.

The new is here! Let the celebration begin! Help our youth create something that expresses this idea that they are a new creation. Youth express themselves best in drawing it, writing it, composing it, getting crafty with it, building it. Then let them send it, snap it, post it, tweet it.

Children's Ministry plans a full year

by Marsha Gainer

The Children's ministry will begin to plan and focus on the 2024 activities with a meeting on Wednesday, January the 10th at 5:30. We will plan the very successful mini-camps, the Easter activities, VBS, the Fall Festival, and the Sunday School program. This meeting is just to define our goals and direction, so everyone is invited to participate. We greatly appreciate your valuable input.

We have a tremendous responsibility to present Jesus as Lord and Savior to these precious children! We are so grateful for the amazing blessings bestowed on us by our ever-present God in 2023.

A look back at a blessed December

FBC celebrated Christmas all month long. It was blessed time to be a part of our beloved church.

On December 2 a group gathered to decorate the main building: 3 large trees at the east and west entrances and in Fellowship Hall, small trees with lights in the sanctuary, more lights and greenery, several wreaths, the Lottie Moon mailboxes in the hall, nativities here and there. The sanctuary is always beautiful, especially so at Christmas.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was emphasized all month with videos from the In-

ternational Mission Board highlighting Baptist mission work around the world—including on the Texas border. By Christmas Eve \$1,552.00 had been given to this important offering.

On the 8th we hosted a Christmas reception for our friends/clients at Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who brought cookies or served and made this possible. It was a sweet time in every way!

On the 12th we went caroling, with a good group riding in Jason and Karen's hay-filled trailer. The weather was just right, and the timing for people we sang to was clearly God's direction. The singers joined others in Fellowship Hall for pizza, snacks, salad, and desserts.

December 17 was the Christmas Cantata, with 14 singers under Karen's direction sharing carols and hymns of joy and praise.

Christmas Eve service Sunday morning included special music by the Gonzalez children and the Boydston family. Weldon Griffith's Christmas sermon focused on "Mary, Did You Know?" The children had a birthday party for Jesus during Sunday School and Children's Church.

News from McKenna

McKenna Brandenberger has been on mission in Uganda for several months, serving refugees. In January she will begin a new work in southern Africa. In her words:

"Beginning in January, I will be doing a program with Wide Awake Missions. I will be a part of a team of others traveling to different countries in southern Africa, partnering and serving with different ministries that are working to bring Jesus to the nations."

Pick up a copy of McKenna's newsletter at church, or use the link on our website.

Keith's Konnections...

I realize that by the time you receive our newsletter, Christmas will have come and gone for another year, and we are anxiously (maybe even fearfully) awaiting a new year, new opportunities to serve our Lord, and new challenges. First, may I encourage each church and each member thereof to continue to further the kingdom in whatever ways your church has outlined, but mostly to encourage us all to follow the Great Commission and remember the Great Commandment. As we mingle with others during this time of the year, let us remember the SOLE reason for this season and that is Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Have you ever really pondered the impact of that ONE SOLITARY LIFE? His birth changed ALL of history, re-wrote history, and fulfilled history all at the same time. Have you ever heard or read the terms BCE and CE? Because of this ONE SOLITARY LIFE, our calendar changed, because of Jesus' birth. We went from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar and restarted the calendar basically back to 1 with the birth of Christ.

I found this several years ago and would like to pass it on to you: *Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family.*

He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that contemporary society would consider a sign of greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing of this world, only the power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him.

His friends ran away. One of them denied Him; another betrayed Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth—His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Why Did Jesus Die?

Why would the Lord of the universe, God in the flesh, allow Himself to be captured, falsely accused, tried and condemned, whipped, stripped, and nailed to a cross like a common criminal? The answer is simple: Because He loved you and me! All of us at times have done wrong and been unloving and unkind to others. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The worst thing about our sins is that they separate us from God, who is absolutely sinless and perfect. In order to bring us to God, Jesus, the sinless Son of God, took the sins of all mankind upon Himself. He took the punishment for our sins and suffered the horrible pain of death by crucifixion. He died the death of a sinner that through His sacrifice, we might find forgiveness and freedom from our sins.

Keith Simpson, Ministry Director
Linda Maynard, Ministry Assistant
Lake Ivie Baptist Association
P.O. Box 639, Ballinger, TX 76821
106 S. 8th St.
lakeiviebaptist@yahoo.com
325-365-2585
Facebook: Lake Ivie Baptist Association

Important Dates in January

Jan. 8, 5:00: Associational meeting at FBC Santa Anna; Dr. David Hardage of Texas Baptist Men will be the speaker.

Jan. 15, 8:30: Lake Ivie Baptist Association Brady breakfast, Sandy's Kitchen

Happy New Year!

January birthdays

- 1 Oralia Barrera
- 8 Saylor Boydston
- 3 Amelia Britteon*
- 7 Kay Holloway
- 14 Janis Groves
- 21 Pat Matula
- 22 Marsha Gainer
- 24 Ashlee Shaw
- 26 Wylliam Boydston
- 28 McKenna Brandenberger
- 28 Albert Pearson

*Amelia Britteon will celebrate her 100th birthday on Jan. 3! We love you, Amelia!

Weekly Ministries

- Sunday:** Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11:00
- Wednesday:** Women’s prayer group, 4:00; Men’s Bible study, 6:00, resumes Jan. 10
- Thursday morning:** Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry

December Food Pantry

- Total boxes: 89
- Adult boxes: 73
- Children’s boxes: 16
- Adults over 65: 42
- Adults under 65: 69
- Children: 29

January radio spots

- 1-5 Valerie Gonzalez
- 8-12 Kay Holloway
- 15-19 Bobbie Williams
- 22-26 Becky Martin
- 29-2 Vickie Roddie

Guest Preachers in January

- Jan. 7: Dr. David Hardage
- Jan. 14: Don Fawcett
- Jan. 21: Kurt Gross
- Jan. 28: Carlos Francis

Welcome, new members!

by promise of letter from First Baptist Church, Pasadena, TX
 Steve Darden
 Kani Darden



Our goal: \$2000
 Giving as of Dec. 24: \$1,552

Deacons on call in January

- Buz Roddie 325-213-5104
- Greg Torres 325-220-2755

Welcome, Allie Penn!

The Personnel Committee has hired Allie Penn, a high school student, to work in the church nursery and we are so happy to have her. She loves children and is doing a wonderful job. At the moment there is no pending business to be addressed by our committee, so the next meeting will be announced when needed. May the New Year be a blessed one for all.

from Janis Groves, Chair

For your calendar

Jan. 6: Two things! 1. “Un-decorating” event, 9:00-noon, to take down, organize, and store all the Christmas decorations. **2.** Major work day at FLC. Lunch (salad/potato bar) will be provided for all. Bring something to add to the menu if you’d like.

Jan. 7: Deacons meeting right after church

Jan. 8, 5:00: Associational meeting at FBC Santa Anna; Dr. David Hardage of Texas Baptist Men will be the speaker.

Jan. 10, 5:30: Children’s Team, plus all volunteers, will meet to make plans. **6:00:** Men’s Bible Study resumes

Jan. 15, 8:30: Lake Ivie Baptist Association Brady breakfast, Sandy’s Kitchen

Jan. 21, 5:00: Church Council
Jan. 28, 5:00: Business meeting



Pastor Search Committee update

from Vickie Roddie, Chair

The Pastor Search Committee met on December 10 to review a bi-vocational application and discuss said application.

Twenty-five years. Three hundred months. One thousand three hundred weeks. Nine thousand one hundred twenty-five days. That’s how long Abraham waited between hearing God’s promise and holding his son. Abraham was a waiting man, his faith, a waiting faith.

Jeremiah 42:3 – *Pray that the Lord your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do.*

FBC agrees to be a polling place in 2024

On Wednesday, November 29, 2023, Buz Roddie, Deacon Chair, notified the church by email that a special called business meeting would be held after the morning service on Sunday, December 3. The meeting would consider a request from the McCulloch County Clerk's office to use the Family Life Center as a polling place in the 2024 election cycle.

The meeting was held after church on December 3, with Buz Roddie as moderator. He called on Greg Torres to explain the request and answer any questions. The Family Life Center would be used as a polling place for Precincts 101 and 301 for the primary election, the general election, and any run-off election. The floor was opened for any member to voice opinions in favor of the proposal or opposed. Four members shared opinions or information.

A vote was taken by show of hands. The vote was 20 in favor of the proposal and 4 against.

The use of the building will be subject to approval from the Secretary of State.



*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV*

- Our church in a season of change
- our members in care facilities and our home-bound members
- the lost and unchurched in our community

Rhonda Aguirre
Everett Andrews
Ray and Rita Ash
Beverly Bigby
Karen Bivens
Jenny Brady
Amelia Britteon
Sonny & Judy Brooks
Bill Burns
Sherry Cox
Sue Crow

Mary Favoccia
Linda Flint
Marsha Gainer
Charlie & Maria Garcia
Holly Groves
Melanie Groves
Roy and Janet Guthrie
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Mabel Jones
Janabeth & Charles Hanson
Colleen Laman
Janie Lowery
James Mallow
Lois Patton
Carrie Pearson
Carole Ramsey
James & Norma Ridout
Joyce Scott

Keith Simpson
Jerlene Smith
Jim Smith
Richard Smith
Wendy Smith
Kathy Stanley
Edith Slaughter
Jack and Susan Turk
Harold Underwood
Linda Wall
Gene Walton
Virgil & Anita Webb
Addie Jo Webster
Bobby and Bobbie Williams
Debbie Winkle
Claudette Young

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

We extend Christian sympathy to the families of Steve Hendley, Jim Quinn, Gregg Woerner, and Bill Robinett.

The newsletter is available on the church website: fcbbrady.org. If you would like a reminder of when it is posted each month, send your email address to Becky Martin: 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. 17th St.
Brady, TX 76825
Website: <http://www.fcbbrady.org>
Office email: bradyfbc@gmail.com
Karen Behrens, Music Leader
Vickie Roddie, Youth Director;
Acting Financial Secretary
Becky Martin, newsletter
and website editor
325-456-1256
becky@scottmartin.net

Marsha Gainer named Honorary Children's Ministry Director

On December 10 Marsha Gainer was presented a certificate and love offering to honor her for her ministry to the children of FBC and Brady.

Marsha is a devoted, tireless minister to children, leading them to know Christ. On Sundays she teaches the children's Sunday School class and works in the nursery and Children's Church as needed. Her leadership is invaluable in VBS and the new ministry of mini-camps. She was the BAM director as well.

We love you, Marsha, and appreciate everything you do for the Lord by serving His children.

Congratulations, Karen!

In December Karen Behrens completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Care from the University of Texas Science Center at San Antonio, School of Health Professions. She graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors.

We're proud of you, Karen!

