



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

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<http://www.fbcbrady.org>

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Reflection

by Pastor Christian Garcia

What a year this has been for First Baptist Church of Brady! A year full of so many victories that we could truly dwell in. There are times in life when pressing the pause button to reflect on what has transpired this year is important. Our lives seem to be on *go* all the time as if we are keeping our foot on the gas pedal. Many times, we get so caught up in the busyness of life that we miss out on so many different blessings. Sometimes, we could focus on the bad things instead of focusing on the blessings that have come instead. This is why it's important for us all to press the pause button and reflect.

When I was in Washington, D.C., we loved to go and walk through the monuments, especially during the nights. To see the history of the United States, to be able to walk on different memorials that reflected hard times that we overcame as a country, was always a reminder to me that seasons, whether good or bad, will pass. I would say to some of us, 2024 was a hard year. I am here to say to you, this too shall pass. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 gives us hope in how we could face these types of season by focusing on the unseen, rather than the seen.

As I walked in the monuments, I specifically was always awestruck by the reflection pool. On one end, you could see the Washington Monument, while on the other end, you could see the Lincoln Memorial. A side view will give you a glimpse of the National Mall's trees, and another angle will give you a view of the beauty in the sky. All this to say, there are so many things you can see in this reflection pool depending on where you stand. Some views are more beautiful than others. As you reflect on this past year, the same might be true in your story: some parts of 2024 are more beautiful than others. However, all different angles will give you a different perspective of the beauty all around.

There is so much beauty in each of our stories, in the good and in the bad. Coming to Brady, Texas, will always be part of the view in my 2024 reflection pool. I am so blessed to be your pastor, I am blessed to do life with you, and I am blessed to serve alongside you. As we look forward to 2025, my prayer is that we become more intentional in all we do, as we strive to become the very person God has made us out to be. Although we can't see 2025, 2 Corinthians 4:18 rings true: let us focus on the things unseen and let that fill our hearts with everlasting hope. First Baptist Church of Brady, 2025 has great things in store; let's go out and be part of what God is doing here in Brady, Texas! Happy New Year!

New Year, Same Prayer!

by Priscilla Garcia, Youth Team Lead

As we get ready to jump into 2025, continue to be in prayer for us as we plan on how we could serve the youth in Brady, Texas. God has started to develop vision for this, which is why I am excited to share with you that we are going to start a discipleship class with the youth on Wednesdays. Our hope is that they come in, feel welcomed and loved, and leave knowing more about Christ! As we launch this, pray that God provides excitement, pray that He provides students, and pray that He provides volunteers. If you feel the nudge in your heart to help in the youth ministry, we need you! Church, these are exciting times and times that should make you see that God's hand is all over this. Pray with us, pray for us, and pray for our youth.

**Vision statement for 2025:
Move together, grow together.**

The Ministry of Hospitality

by Judy Mitzel, Church Hostess

December was a busy month for our church; however, it was very rewarding. We started with a day to decorate the church. I believe we had 14 trees along with many ornaments, lights, and décor. Thank you, church, to all who pitched in to make this event successful. Even families who were visiting worked to make our church so beautiful. A special “thank you” for that. We heard compliments from many on how beautiful everything looked.

Mid-month after the Christmas Cantata we had Christmas Casserole lunch. The variety was splendid, delicious, and, well, if you left feeling stuffed you weren’t alone. We have excellent cooks. It was just lip-smacker good.

After Christmas caroling, several brought snacks that were appreciated and enjoyed by those singing. A big “thank you” to Priscilla Garcia for furnishing Mexican hot chocolate and cookies at the Christmas Eve service.

What a wonderful memory we now share of Christmas 2024 at First Baptist Church in Brady.

So it’s onward to 2025. The Hospitality team is looking forward and so excited to begin a new chapter.

Speaking of new things: New Creation Lunch is on the calendar for after church on January 12. New year, new recipes. Do you have a new recipe that you’d like to try out? Well, here’s your chance. Bring your dish along with the recipe so we can all share this new creation.

More Christmas memories

On Dec. 13th this was a festive place, with the Food Pantry food distribution and Christmas reception in the morning and Camp Christmas in the afternoon. Our cookie-bakers came through once again; our FP friends enjoyed cookies and drinks, and took some cookies home for their families. Camp Christmas was inadvertently scheduled for the same day as the stock show, and we were afraid we’d have no kids—but at 1:00 they started coming and we had 32!

Sunday the 15th was Cantata Sunday, with our 9 singers singing the musical *Peace Has Come*. This was followed by the wonderful fellowship meal that Judy described in her article. On Thursday of that week, we went caroling, first at Brady West and Royal Oaks, then around in several neighborhoods. There were around 20 folks on Jason’s trailer. It was a beautiful night, and such fun.

Sunday the 22nd was Sweater Sunday, with some rather impressive sweaters worn by church leadership, just saying. Our children sang carols during worship service: cuteness overload for sure.

Finally was the beautiful Christmas Eve service with carols, Bro. Christian’s message, and candle-light.

Thanks to all who planned, decorated, baked, cooked, served, cleaned up, sang, ran the soundboard, drove, wore the sweaters, taught the children, prayed, and preached.

Thank You, Lord, for letting us all be a part of FBC Brady this Christmas.

—Becky Martin

Children’s Ministry blessings

by Marsha Gainer, Honorary Children’s Ministry Director

What a wonderful year 2024 was for our church and the Children’s ministry. On December 22, Shelly Torres led the children in three beautiful Christmas carols. What an amazing sight to see so many children in our choir!

We have had so many special helpers this year, but Deanna Holloway has been an outstanding addition to our team.

Camp Christmas was held on December 13 with 32 in attendance! A great time of cookie decorating, the Christmas story, stuffing 46 candy jars for the senior citizens, creating ornament keepsakes, songs, and games filled the three hours!

There is really no adequate way to say thank you to all of the faithful workers in the Children’s Ministry for their time, but we are praising God for each one of you!!! We will begin planning for next year very soon. Everyone is invited to be a part in any way that works for you!!

Decisions from Special Called Business Meeting, 12-29-24

The church voted at a special called business meeting on December 29 to approve the following recommendations from the Personnel Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee:

- To outsource the financial secretary position.
- To use StartChurch on-line bookkeeping service beginning in January
- To adopt January-December as the fiscal year (instead of October-September.)
- To allow Little Dribblers to use the Family Life Center gym for practices and games January-March, Monday-Thursday, 5:30 -8:30. The one-time rental fee will be \$2000. Church volunteers will be on site for practices and games.

These four proposals were approved by unanimous vote.

Blessings and milestones for the Behrens family

Gage Behrens participated in the McCulloch County Livestock show in December. Gage was awarded Grand Champion in the Ag Mechanics show with his Trommel Screen. He also showed lambs and was awarded Reserve Champion South-down. Gage will continue to show his Trommel Screen and Lambs in San Angelo, San Antonio, Austin and Houston.

Gage finished up his senior year football season 10-1. He was named honorable mention all- state as a spread rusher. He recorded 52 tackles, 11 sacks, four fumble recoveries, a safety and an interception, and he scored three defensive touchdowns.

Karen graduated in December 2024 from Western Govern University. She received a Master of Science in Business Management and Leadership. Karen continues to work for the USDA and Methodist Hill Country Hospital in Fredericksburg.

Jason served as Precinct 3 County Commissioner for McCulloch County for the last 8 years and completed his term in December. He now operates the family-owned business Behrens Construction where he has heavy equipment and his Rock Crusher.

Welcome new member by letter on December 1, 2024

David McCarver



And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God."

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

(from the poem “The Gate of the Year” by Minnie Louise Haskins)

From our youth group

Riley Eckert, senior at Richland Springs High School, placed 6th in the State cross country meet in the fall. Well done, Riley! We’re proud of you!





Happy Birthday!

<div>December 29 James Mallow</div> <div>January 1 Oralia Barrera 7 Kay Holloway 14 Janis Groves 21 Pat Matula 22 Marsha Gainer 24 Ashlee Shaw 28 McKenna Brandenberger Forney 28 Albert Pearson</div>	<div>Weekly Ministries Sunday: Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11:00 Tuesday and Thursday: Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry, 10:00 Wednesday beginning January 15: The Strand discipleship study for men, women, and youth, childcare provided for children, meal for everyone at 6:00</div>	
	<div>December Food Pantry Adult boxes 78 Children’s boxes 16 Adults over 65 51 Adults under 65 71 Children 36 Total Clients: 158</div>	<div>For your calendar Jan. 4: Gather to take down and put away Christmas trees and decorations, 9:00 till noon. We’ll have soup and salad for lunch. Bring something to help with the meal if you’d like. Jan. 5: Deacons meeting after church Jan. 6: LIBA breakfast, 8:30, Sandy’s Kitchen Jan. 7: Music team meeting, 5:30, for team members and volunteers Jan. 10: Food pantry food distribution, 9:00-11:00 Jan. 12: “New Creations” fellowship meal after church; Nominating committee meeting, 3:00 Jan. 15: First night of new Wednesday night meal and The Strand study, 6:00 Jan. 19: Church council, 5:00; business meeting, 6:00</div>
	<div>January radio spots On KNEL radio, 7:45 weekday mornings 6-10 Bobbie Williams 13-17 Janis Groves 20-24 Shelly Torres 27-31 Becky Martin</div>	

VISION SUNDAY

VISION STATEMENT

*"Move Together
Grow Together"*

EVEN THOUGH I AM A FREE MAN WITH NO MASTER, I HAVE BECOME A SLAVE TO ALL PEOPLE TO BRING MANY TO CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 9:19

1. GIVE IT YOUR ALL. BECOME THE PERSON GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO BECOME.
2. GET COMFORTABLE, WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE.
3. CHALLENGES AND PUSHBACKS WILL COME.

VERSE OF THE YEAR

BIG PICTURE & OVERALL GOAL:

Ephesians 2:19-22

1. WE WANT TO BE A CHURCH WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS.
2. THERE ARE NO SECOND-CLASS MEMBERS HERE.
3. PEOPLE NEED TO FEEL WELCOME AND LOVED AND FEEL THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN THEY COME HERE.

VALUES OF OUR CHURCH:

1. ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE US JOHN 14:26.
2. BUILD A FAMILIAL COMMUNITY.
3. SIMPLIFY THE BUSINESS SIDE OF CHURCH AND EXAGGERATE THE BIBLICAL SIDE OF CHURCH. ACTS 2:42-47
4. BE PEOPLE UNDER AUTHORITY.

FBC Brady 2025



¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.
1 Corinthians 9:19

January Prayer List

- Christian, Priscilla, Zoe, Liana, and Elijah Garcia
 - T.J. & Katie Beth Stroudt, Harlem Community Church in NY
 - Johnstone & Irene` Magomana
 - Britton and McKenna Forney
 - our members in care facilities and our homebound members
 - the lost and unchurched in our community
 - the youth of Brady and worldwide
 - the homeless in Brady

Rhonda Aguirre
Jackie & Jeanagayle Behrens
Holden Bedwell
Kent Beckett
Beverly Bigby & Stephanie Pyle
Tom and Karen Bishop
Shaunna Blair
Eerry Boggs
Jerry & RaNon Caraway
Cristobal Castillo
Frieda Chew
Sherry Cox
Sue Crow
George & Carma Eary
- Nicole Fish & Bruce Van Houten
Linda Flint
Darlene Friar
Charlie & Maria Garcia
Elias Garcia
Holly Groves
Janis Groves
Jewel Groves
Melanie Groves
Roy and Janet Guthrie
Debra Karnes
Janabeth & Charles Hanson
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Jenny, Chris, Luke, & Elle Jones
Frankie Leamons
Janie Lowery
James Mallow
Brenda Mennis
Glenda Middleton
Gary and Judy Mitzel
Sam & Aby Navarro
Lois Patton
Carole Ramsey
James & Norma Ridout
Joyce Scott
Rhoda Shannon
Avanell Siler
- Jerlene Smith
Wendy Smith
Jake Trevino
Jack and Susan Turk
Harold Underwood
Josie Waldron
Linda Wall
Gene Walton
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.

families of L.D. Henderson, Rex Tucker, Loeta Wise, Nancy Lane, Mary Helen Ramirez, and Marcie Holt

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The newsletter is available on the church website: 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.
Print copies are always available at the church and can be mailed on request.

We don't need to fear the unknown or worry about what tomorrow holds. God has already seen tomorrow, and nothing is unknown to Him. We just need to follow Him one day at a time.
Billy Graham



**The Great Pursuit:
Reaching the Nations.
Together.**

*Lottie Moon Christmas
Offering*

Our goal: \$2000

Our giving as of 12-29-24: \$1225.00

First Baptist Church
Brady, Texas