### 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 bevond

June 2025
newsletter
FBC Brady, TX
325-597-2956
http://www.fbcbrady.org
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#### Looking at the Blessing

by Pastor Christian Garcia

I remember when I was in high school, I was one of the most competitive people. I mean you talk about the will to win, I had it. I did whatever it took to accomplish my goals and dreams. I was so dedicated that I would even run before and after school. I tried to get into as many extracurricular activities as possible. I was running and there was no way of slowing me down.

As you might be reading this, you might start to wonder if this is supposed to be a good or bad thing, and to you, I would say it's both. There is some good and there is some bad. After all, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 9 to run the race to win. He tells us to run with purpose, to run with an aim towards the goal. However, when we get into a mentality of just running and not slowing down to look at everything going on, then we tend to miss the blessing of the journey.

In high school, I achieved so much more than I ever thought I would, but I never enjoyed it. I never took a step back to see how far I had come. In the same way, I want this to serve you as a reminder to slow down and look for the blessing. Whatever state in life you are in, there is a blessing; you just must search for it. In Philippians 4, Paul tells the church to switch the focus of their thoughts. Philippians 4:8-9 says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

In other words, focus your eyes and see the good all around you. In our church, God's hand has been all over it. We are gearing up for an amazing Spirit-filled summer, but before getting there, may we focus and look for the blessing of the journey so far. Being able to hire an intern, being able to have peace in our church, seeing new families come to our church, the Wednesday night activities happening, the children who are consistently coming to our camps, the youth, the way we are moving together and growing together. I want to leave you with this: see what in your life right now is worthy of praise to God. Start with one thing, in your personal life or at church, and thank God for the blessing.

Pastor Christian Garcia

#### FBC Youth: The Excitement is Real!

by Priscilla Garcia, Youth Team Lead

You can sense the excitement in the air every time you walk through the FLC on Wednesday nights! It has truly become the day we look forward to each week. The youth had its first worship service on Wednesday being led by Gabriel and Monique Gonzalez while Pastor Christian has been going through a series called "How to see God." We held our second fundraiser for youth camp which brought in a total of \$1077 getting us close to having raise almost \$4500! Praise God and to Him be ALL the glory! Thank you for everyone who has supported us

We are seeing the change, we are seeing the excitement, we are seeing the growth in each student. We want to challenge you to join us in prayer for the 12 students and 4 adult leaders who will be going to camp this month. We are praying for life transformation and praying in the next steps of these students' spiritual lives. Thank you, FBC Brady, for your endless support and for the investment into reaching the next generation.







Vision statement for 2025: Move together, grow together.

#### The Ministry of Hospitality

Praise report by Judy Mitzel, Church Hostess

Getting ready for summer activities has been the buzz lately. But to retrace a few days. . .

The Easter cook-out hosted by Bro. Christian and Priscilla was a hit. Thank you so much.

We had a baby shower for the Gonzalez family that was exceptional, leaving lifetime memories.

Mother's Day—how special it was to give our special ladies a tote bag with a coffee mug embellished with Scripture.

Now, next up is a graduation picnic June 1 at 6:30. Bring a summer dish or dessert, or just come join us. Either way we look forward to celebrating this milestone in our young people's lives. (Bring your lawn chair.)

We're looking forward to Hats Off to Father's Day along our journey in June.

These busy times remind me of Romans 8:28:And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. We so look forward to your joining us in our next adventures as we celebrate God's purpose that He has called each of us to do.

## FBC welcomes Gabriel and Monique Gonzalez

At a special called business meeting on May 4, the church voted to call Gabriel Gonzalez as a ministry intern to serve from May 9 through August 9. Gabriel and his wife Monique are here and hard at work! Here is a message from Gabriel:

Hello! My name is Gabriel T. Gonzalez, and I'm a 23-year-old from El Paso, recently moved to Brady to serve as an intern at First Baptist Church of Brady. I assist as the Minister of Worship and support various areas of ministry, including leading worship practice, cleaning and maintaining church facilities, helping with kids and youth ministries, and working alongside Pastor Christian Garcia, Ms. Becky Martin, and others to plan for the church's future. I'm passionate about serving the community and sharing the love of Christ through music and ministry. We invite you to join us for "Worship Around the Fire" on Friday, June 13th—a special evening of worship, fellowship, s'mores, and encouragement at First Baptist Church of Brady.

# Children's Ministry blessings & opportunities

Praise report by Marsha Gainer, Honorary Children's Ministry Director

The children are all set for a great summer. Mini-camps start June 2 and will be held every Monday in June from 1-4 p.m. as we take a "Walk in the Wild," focusing our eyes on Jesus.

Our last flex day was a huge success with 29 children attending and many expressing a desire to know Jesus. Our kite experience was fun--but difficult for some! Thank you to all the adults who helped us manage this enormous adventure! Gabriel and Monique provided a great time in music and wor-The children lovingly ship. made a Mother's Day gift. We appreciate the wonderful pizza party Priscilla and Christian provided!



VBS is just around the corner beginning July 13th through the 18th from 5:00 to 8:15. We will have our final planning meeting for VBS on Tuesday, June 10, at 5:30. Everyone is invited to come and be a part of this wonderful time to present Jesus to the children of Brady. Daily workdays will begin on July 1 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm for all who are available!

There is a spot for *you* on this team! Just let us know where you want to help!

### Godly Impressions Preschool moving to new building

Godly Impressions Preschool had an important inspection on their new facility on Tuesday, May 27. According to Staci Norvelle, on-site director, the inspection went well, and they will be moving beginning Saturday, May 31. They have to have everything in place in the new building by Tuesday, June 3, for the final inspection. They will be closed the week of June 2-6.

Godly Impressions is a ministry of Vision Heights Church, pastor Devin Taylor.

#### **Missions & Ministries**

Praise report by Bev Waisner, Missions Team Lead

Praise the Lord and thank you to our congregation! We have reached our \$2000 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Total giving as of May 25 is \$2102. It will be open a few more days if anyone wants to add to it. All money will be used for our North American missionaries to help tell others about Jesus.

#### Royal Oaks Fellowship Meal, May 22

Praise Report by Mary Leamons
Thursday's meal up at Royal
Oaks was a big hit! The residents
were delighted to eat homecooked lasagna, fresh sourdough
bread, a delightful salad, and a
strawberry cake which completed
the meal in such a delicious way.
They expressed appreciation for
the home-cooked meals that are
shared each month--and especially for the delightful desserts
which are enjoyed by all!

We enjoyed an evening filled full of laughs and connecting with each other. It was a blessing to visit and spend the evening with each of the sweet people there. Such a treasure those evenings are, as we spend time reflecting and sharing life together.

#### Wednesday nights at FBC

Praise report by Greg Torres

Thank you to everyone who has attended our Wednesday night Bible study. Shelly and I have been overwhelmed with all of your support and encouragement. We are diving deep into the story of Paul and the other disciples of the early church, approaching it with both a historical and Bibliperspective. Most portantly, we discuss how we can use the examples of our early church forefathers and apply them to our lives today.

Note: All adults are welcome to join this Bible study in the FLC. The meal for everyone starts at 6:00 with the study to follow. There's also youth group and Kids Club. Come and be a part!



#### June

- 1 George Matula
- 6 Jeff Quattlebaum
- 6 Monique Gonzalez
- 9 Whitney Gainer
- 9 Karen Behrens
- 13 Addyson Wilton
- 14 Shirley Nelson
- 15 Alma Lyon
- 19 Jason Behrens
- 20 Bill Butts
- 22 Joyce Scott
- 23 Madison Lyon
- 25 Valerie Gonzalez
- 26 Daniel Gainer

### Deacons on call in June

George Matula 325-792-8611 Rusty Capps 325-347-4974 **Weekly Ministries** 

Sunday: Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11:00

**Tuesday and Thursday:** Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry, 10:00 **Wednesday:** Kids Club for children; youth group; adult Bible study FLC, meal for all at 6:00.

#### **May Food Pantry**

81 families

167 individuals

71 adults over 60

55 adults under 60

41 children

#### radio spots for June

On KNEL radio, 7:45 weekday mornings

2-6 Valerie Gonzalez

9-13 Kay Holloway 16-20 Judy Mitzel

23-27 Marsha Gainer

30-July 4 Karen Behrens

Welcome new members by statement Gabriel Gonzalez Monique Gonzalez

#### For your calendar

**Jun 1:** Graduation celebration at the pavilion, 6:30

**June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30:** Mini-camps for kids, FLC, 1:00-4:00

June 10: VBS planning meeting, 5:30

**June 13:** Food Pantry, 9:00-11:00; Worship around the Fire, time and place TBA

June 14: bake sale (youth fundraiser)

June 15: Father's Day

June 26: Royal Oaks meal, 5:00

**June 19-23:** Youth camp at Highland Lakes Camp

June 22: Dr. West will preach

June 29: Membership & baptism

class, time TBA

July 13-18, Sunday-Friday: Vacation Bible School, 5:00-8:15

#### FBC Food Pantry celebrates 19 years of ministry to our community

by George Matula

Here is a bit of insight into what goes on with our First Baptist Food Pantry. First off, in the month of April we provided food assistance to 81 families which included 167 individuals. This included 71 adults over 60 years of age, 55 adults under 60, and 41 children. Most important for our food pantry are the dedicated volunteers we have and have had over the last 19 years. We have volunteers from our church as well as from other churches. We have volunteers who drive from Lohn, Rochelle, and Pontotoc. The young Mormon Elders are also volunteers during their missionary time in Brady.

We give out food that has been donated by our local Walmart and food purchased from the San Antonio Food Bank. In April we re-established the ability to purchase food from Concho Valley Regional Food Bank in San Angelo. The money used to purchase food has always been donated and does not come out of the church budget.

On Tuesday and Thursday donated food is picked up from Walmart. Travis Gary and George and Pat Matula show up to read and document freezer and refrigerator temperatures and get ready for the food pickup. Two pickup trucks are usually taken to Walmart. Other guys that come for this are Pete Barrera, Virgil Middleton, Tony Groves, Lonnie Medford, and Billy McBee. DeAnna Holloway and Barbara Kristoff are there to help separate and store the various food items. We typically get chicken, pork, beef, fish, and pizza as well as bread and various sweets which are stored in freezers and refrigerators. We also receive shipments on the first Thursday of the month from San Antonio Food Bank that have to be organized and stored.

Food is distributed on the second Friday of each month. The Thursday before distribution we generally prepare at least 80 food boxes by putting the canned food and non-perishable food items in the boxes. The meat, bread, and sweets are added on Friday morning just before the boxes go out the door. We also prepare around 20 children's boxes on Thursday with food items for children. Vicky May is there on Friday to help fill the boxes. The Mormon Elders are there on Thursdays and on distribution Friday.

On Friday, another group of volunteers at the church building welcome and process the clients coming for food. They sign in Fellowship Hall and provide information to Oralia Barrera and Charla May. Joyce Scott and Linda Torres check records and eligibility. The client's file is given to Judy Mitzel, Kay Holloway, Marsha Gainer, Gabriel Gonzalez, Jeanagayle Behrens, or Becky Martin who check the file for accuracy and offer to pray with the client. Accepting prayer is not a requirement for receiving food. The file is then returned and a ticket is given to the client by Linda or Joyce. The client takes the ticket and drives over to the Family Life Center where the guys put the boxes in the client's vehicle.

Data from the sign-in sheets are compiled and a monthly report is generated and submitted to San Antonio Food Bank each month by George Matula. He also reports the quantity of food picked up twice a week to Feeding America. So there you have it! We always welcome new volunteers and are grateful for all those who have gone before us.





## Proclaim the Lord's greatness with me; let us exalt his name together.

Psalm 34:3 VBS theme verse, 2025

#### **June Prayer List**

• Christian, Priscilla, Zoe, Liana, and Elijah Garcia

• Gabriel and Monique Gonzalez

• Nuevo Amanecer Church in Brady

• 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

• VBS, July 13-18

• our youth at summer camp June 19-23

• the homeless in Brady

Paisley (injured child in Cook

Children's Hospital—now home Janie Lowery and doing well) Wendy Lower

Rhonda Aguirre
Oralia and Pete 1

Oralia and Pete Barrera Jackie & Jeanagayle Behrens

Holden Bedwell

Ronnie and Kent Beckett Mike & Beverly Bigby & Stephanie Pyle

Perry Boggs

Jerry & RaNon Caraway

Cristobal Castillo Frieda Chew Sherry Cox Linda Flint Darlene Friar

Charlie & Maria Garcia

Elias Garcia
Holly Groves
Janis Groves
Melanie Groves
Roy and Janet Guthrie

Janabeth & Charles Hanson

Bruce Van Houten

Curtis and Genna Jennings Jenny, Chris, Luke, & Elle Jones

Frankie Leamons Mary Leamons Janie Lowery Wendy Lowery James Mallow

Virgil and Glenda Middleton

Gary and Judy Mitzel

Kash Nelson Lois Patton

Victor & Carmen Ramirez

Carole Ramsey

James & Norma Ridout

Joyce Scott

Rhoda Shannon Steve Shelton

Avanell and David Siler

Wendy Smith
Frank Torres
Jake Trevino
Harold Underwood
Bev Waisner
Linda Wall

Bobby and Bobbie Williams

Debbie Winkle Claudette Young

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

Please pray for Frieda Chew in the loss of her sister Edna, and for Linda Wall and family in the loss of her son

Braden.

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The newsletter will soon be available on the new church website: fbc-brady.church. If you don't find it there, it will also be on the old website for now: 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.

Print copies are always

available at the church

and can be mailed on

request.

More spring graduates: Congratulations! from BISD Kindergarten: Kahlila Gonzalez

Parents: William and Valerie Gonzalez Grandparents: Juan and Teresa Gonzalez

Cristobal and Ethel Castillo Kindergarten teacher: Mary Leamons

from Texas A&M University: Ty Gary

Degree in construction science Parents: Steve and Jane Gary

Grandfathers: Travis Gary, Ron Passmore

from Texas A&M University: Whitley Middleton

Degree in marketing

Parents: Paul and Jennifer Middleton

Grandparents: Virgil and Glenda Middleton

Bob and Mary Tichner

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