

January 2013

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Brady, Texas

<http://fbcbrady.org/>

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Great endings

by Bro. Kevin McDonald

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Which do you think is more important: beginning well, or ending well? Getting off to a good start is certainly vital to success. A poor start is often impossible to overcome, whether it is in a relationship, a race, a project, or in life. Once you get behind, it is difficult to make up the time, distance, and opportunities lost. You just can't catch up. On the other hand, how sad is it to see something that started well and had so much promise end in failure?

I am thinking as I write this, so I don't have an ending (good or bad) in mind. But as I think, I have to go with the poor finish as being the great tragedy. Riches-to-rags stories often become cautionary tales, reminding us that it doesn't matter who wins half-time; it's the score at the end of the game that goes in the record book. But we love rags-to-riches stories: they give us encouragement and remind us that adversity and mistakes can be overcome, if only we will persevere, have faith and work hard.

As you read this, 2012 is over. Everyone is talking about new beginnings, resolutions, and fresh starts; everything that goes against what I am writing here. So, in order to make sense out of this little article, and more importantly, to try something *really* new, why not do this: instead of planning a new beginning in January, look farther ahead and imagine the end of 2013 right now. How will you end 2013 – with regrets, sadness, feelings of failure and life left unlived, or will it have been one of the most memorable years of your life? If we stretch that one year out to the end of your days, how will your life have been lived? Will it be a fast start that fizzled out as time went by, or a powerful and inspiring crescendo of faith, hope and love?

Great endings don't happen by accident. They are planned out in advance, worked toward, not worked out along the way. Many mystery writers plan the end of their book first, and then write the story to fit the ending. Why don't you try that this year? Who do you want to be at the end of 2013? What kind of a man or woman, husband, wife, father, mother, student, brother or sister do you want to be a year from now? What kind of Christ-follower do you want to be? It won't happen by luck or chance. Jesus didn't get to the manger or the cross by accident. He went there deliberately, moving toward an ending the Father wrote in the eternal past.

I don't know how Handel's *Messiah* or Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* begins, but I know and love their grand and powerful endings. Your life can be like that too, if you will live it looking ahead, guided to a great finish by the Author and Finisher of your faith.

Tyler Cooper hired as Minister of Music

At the December business meeting the church voted to hire Tyler Cooper as Minister of Music. This came as a recommendation from the Music Committee and the Personnel Committee.

Tyler is a senior at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, pursuing a degree in Music Education. He is originally from Grand Prairie but moved to the Brownwood area during high school and graduated from Bangs High School in 2009.

Tyler has served on the praise team for about a year and served as interim music minister for a few months in 2012 when Rob Tucker was teaching in London.

As a senior in college, Tyler is naturally looking to the future. He said, "My plans for the future are still being made, and I am trying very hard to listen to what God is telling me is the right path for me to be on. But, as Jeff Johnson told me last year, as long as your heart is in the right place and centered on Christ, then no decision will be the wrong one."

Welcome, Tyler, to the FBC Brady staff and our church fellowship!

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Our giving for the 2012 offering was \$6072.28.

Thanks to everyone for their gifts. You can be sure that your donations will go to further the Lord's Kingdom.



Be His heart, His hands, His voice.

Godly Impressions Preschool to open January 4

by Kim Coleman

Godly Impressions Preschool passed the state inspection! We are officially licensed with the State of Texas as a preschool facility. There will be an "Open House" on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the church. This will be a time for the parents and the children to visit their classroom, meet the director (myself), and their teacher, Mrs. Kimberly Galindo. Class will begin on Friday, January 4, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. Currently, we have 7 children registered for the class; this leaves only 3 openings.

We are looking for outdoor toys to be donated for children ages 3 – 4 years old; anything nicely used or new would be greatly appreciated. For those of you that would like to help out with the snacks that we will be serving, please call me, Kim Coleman, at 325-792-6529. I look forward to working for the preschool program and sharing God's love with the precious children. I would like to express a very special thank you to everyone for their support and prayers.

WMU winter outreach project

by Becky Weber

WMU will be starting off the New Year with our winter outreach project beginning Sunday, January 20th and ending Sunday, February 17th. LOVE & CARE MINISTRIES located in Abilene are asking for assistance to provide hygiene kits for the many poor and homeless that they minister to in the Abilene area. The following TRAVEL SIZED items are needed to make the kits:

Shampoos and Conditioners
Toothbrushes and Toothpastes
Deodorants
Combs
Soap bars
Razors and Shaving Creams
Quart or Gallon sized zip lock baggies.
Baggies must have the zipper style closing.

Any of the above listed items that you can donate will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for helping with this very worthwhile project, and God bless you.

LIBA quarterly business meeting

by Becky Weber

The Lake Ivie Baptist Association will hold their first quarterly business meeting of 2013 on Monday evening, January 14th at the First Baptist Church in Ballinger. Both the Associational business meeting and WMU (Women's Missionary Union) meeting will begin at 5:00 P.M. A meal will be served at 6:00 P.M. and the Associational program will begin at 6:45.

For many years the churches of Brady/Coleman/Runnels and Lake Ivie have supported a river ministry located in Eagle Pass, Texas. Brother Bill Finley and his wife Patsy have faithfully carried food, clothing and other essential items to help pastors from Old Mexico minister to their churches and communities. Brother Frank Banda and his wife Isabella, as well as Brother Bill Finley will be our special guest speakers for the evening's mission program.

The Lord works through Fields of Faith, outreach efforts

Skylar Maley, Youth Minister

skylermaley@gmail.com

The youth group has had many new faces the past month and a half. The Lord worked in the lives of many youth at the area wide Fields of Faith in Brownwood in October. At that life-changing event, many of the youth made decisions of accepting Christ into their lives. Many wrote that they attend church, while others said that they did not have a church home.

With help from Charlie Elliott, Terry Bean, Corde Morris, and many other members of the church, we have contacted and started bringing many youth to Wednesday night youth group and Sunday morning Sunday School. These men have been using the church vans to go out and pick up youth from their homes and bring them. They have been picking up between 8-14 youth on a regular basis, giving us a constant 20-35 youth on Wednesdays and up to 20 on Sunday morning.

As an extra incentive, we have told the youth that if we can get three rows filled on Sunday morning, then we will have a pizza party for them. We want to encourage them to bring their family and friends, in turn helping grow our church and the family of Christ.

We hope to also bring some youth to our church through our Disciple Now weekend in February. We are still in need of help for that weekend. If anyone is interested, please contact me or the church office.

Women's Ministries: December events, looking ahead to new year

A big thank you to everyone who baked cookies for the **Food Pantry Christmas reception**. We prepared 125 gift bags of cookies for the people to take home, plus we had more than enough cookies to serve everyone during the reception. Both the preparation time—including the soup supper—and the reception itself were festive and meaningful.

The **Lottie Moon dinner** was a big success also. The tables in the FLC were decorated with Christmas dishes and centerpieces. The food was delicious—a special thanks to all who cooked and served, and to everyone who donated something to the silent auction or bought one of the items. Tyler Cooper and Brendan Weatherman provided Christmas music. Proceeds from the meal and auction totaled \$740, all going to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

“Sassy Sisters” will meet on Sunday afternoon, January 13, at 3:00 in the FLC to make plans for another Girls Night Out and possibly a retreat or social event in February.

Mary Ballew's weekly Bible study will resume on Monday, January 7, at 4:00 in her home. The group will be studying Zechariah.

A new ladies Bible study will begin on Tuesday, January 8, at 6:00 in the library. This will be a study by Lisa Harper called “Malachi: a love that never lets go.”

AWANA will begin again on Wednesday, January 9.

We thank the kitchen crew so much for the warm, hearty meals they provide to our kids, workers and youth! Some of our children may not have an evening meal without the help of Lynn Munden, Matt Popnoe, Carrah Sparks, Ruthie Garcia, Nelda Martin, Joyce Scott, Bryan Sparks and floaters that have helped when needed! Kudos for the hard work!



Cynthia Reeves



Mission Friends

Peanut butter blessings



Angelina Deans, a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and a volunteer with our Food Pantry, recently put donation boxes in several Brady businesses and churches to collect jars of peanut butter to add to the food staples given through our Food Pantry to people in need. The response was huge. Thank you, Angelina and all who donated. Participating businesses and churches were the following:

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Stormi Gray's | Moreno's Auto and Transmission | McCulloch County Clerk's Office |
| Texas Treasures | Service | Brady Health Care Services |
| Flutterbuys | McCulloch County Appraisal Dis- | Dollar General |
| Pecan Valley Chiropractic | trict | Brady Community Church |
| Deer Barn | Christian Motorcycle Association | St. Paul's Episcopal Church |
| Damuth Taxidermy | Hickory UWCD | |
| Secrets Salon | Brady Dental Group | |

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Oralia Barrera Betty Daugherty	2 <i>No Awana</i> Stephanie McKay	3 Amelia Britteon	4	5 Letha Benoit Laura Spence Carl Lohn
6 <i>Deacons meeting, Evening worship, 6:00</i>	7 <i>Mary Ballew's Bible study resumes, 4:00</i> Ann Roberts Kay Holloway	8 <i>Ladies' Bible study begins, library, 6:00</i> Jaelyn McKay	9 Bryan Sparks	10 Terri Virdell Donna Kent	11 <i>Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00</i> Damian Everett	12 Weston Bauer Pete Barrera
13 <i>Sassy Sisters, 3:00, FLC Business Meeting, 6:00</i> David Munden	14 <i>Triple S lunch, noon, Fellowship Hall</i> <i>LIBA quarterly meeting, FBC Ballinger, 5:00</i>	15	16	17 Joyce Hollingsworth	18 Jud Poe Ida Owens	19
20 <i>All-church fellowship, 6:00.</i>	21 David Bishop Kathy Brandenberger Pat Matula	22 Ashlie Davee Marsha Gainer	23	24 Fayrene Easley Ashlee Aguirre Sharon Poe	25 Braden Kolb	26
27 <i>Visitation, 6:00</i> Linda Crawford	28 <i>Triple S meal and game night, 6:00</i> McKenna Brandenberger	29 Nadine Hinshaw	30	31 Doris Collins Pam Hernandez		

Weekly Events

Sunday

- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 10:50 AM Morning Worship
- 6:00 PM Evening Services/Events

Monday

- 4:00 PM Ladies Bible study home of Mary Ballew

Tuesday

- 6:00 PM Ladies Bible study, library

Wednesday

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church
- 5:30 AWANA, mission groups
- 6:00 Prayer meeting/Bible study
- 5:45-6:30 Middle School Youth
- 6:30-7:00 Youth snack time
- 7:00-8:15 High School Youth

Thursday

- 9:30-11:00 Quilting ministry , Grace Class
Sunday School room

Deacons on call for January

- Jim Smith 597-0740
- Jerry Caraway 792-1299

Greeters for January

- East Door
- Jan. 6 Pete and Oralia Barrera
- Jan. 13 Kenneth and Claudette Young
- Jan. 20 Robert and Cynthia Reeves
- Jan. 27 James and Maurice Mallow

West Door: Youth

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 10:55 AM

Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Betty Smith, Norma Ridout, Kevin McDonald, and Carrah Sparks for recording radio devotionals in December.

January devotionals will be done by Pat Matula, George Matula, Becky Martin, Claudette Young, and Maurice Mallow.

Food Ministry Report

December 2012

- 98 families
- 173 adults
- 75 children under 12
- 40 adults 65 and older

January food distribution will be Friday, January 11, from 10:00 to 12:00.



Pray without ceasing. . .

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

- our nation’s leaders
- our members in the nursing homes
- our homebound members
- the lost and un-churched in our community
- Brady children & youth
- Our Sunday School
- Godly Impressions Pre-school

Catherine Adams
Pam Beasley
Joyce Blackwell
Melissa Burkhart
Dariel and Glenda Carson
Doris Collins

Brianna Danford
E.L. Dossey
Fayrene Easley
Bill Finley
Louise Hammett
Lloyd Harris
Gail Hodges
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Tammy Kirkland
Mike Lowery
Wadena McAlister
Tommy Moorman
David Murrah
Edna Myers
Paul and Connie Nix
Tracy Parsley
Bobbye and Jerry Petty
Sharon Pickett

Cruz Ramirez
Dorothy Reeves
Alton and Destani Roberts
Ann Roberts
Betty Schaffner
Jim and Rose Sherer
Mike and Laurie Slone
Opal Smyrl
Patrick Tingle
Joyce Torres
Jack and Susan Turk
Richard Valdez
Tess Warren
Billy and Doris Whitaker
Skylyn Whitaker

In military:
Daryl Booth
Jon Bradshaw
Brandon Haymon
Talisha Hendley
David Hernandez
Concho Moore
Tyler Remini
Jace Telford
Jonathan Torres
Alisha Slone
Wes Stark
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.

Please remember the family of Elmer Ray in your prayers.

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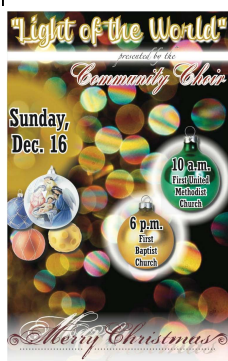
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The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. It can also be sent to your email address each month; just send your address to becky@scottmartin.net.

This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.
1 John 2:5b-6



Christmas thank-you's



Thank you to the combined choirs of FBC and FUMC for the beautiful Christmas musical. Thanks to Holly Stewart for serving as director and to Norma Ridout for organizing the FBC group. The musical was a blessing to everyone.



Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias for the sanctuary and to our Flower Committee — Cynthia Reeves, Jeanagayle Behrens, and Jackie Maxcey—for decorating. The sanctuary is especially beautiful at Christmas!

Ten Biblical New Year's Resolutions

1. *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*
Deuteronomy 6:5
2. *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*
Ephesians 4:32
3. *Do to others what you would have them do to you.*
Matthew 7:12a
4. *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*
Philippians 1:27a
5. *Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
Colossians 3:17
6. *Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
7. *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*
1 Peter 4:10
8. *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*
Romans 12:18
9. *Serve one another in love.*
Galatians 5:13b
10. *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*
Galatians 6:10