

March 2013

# First Baptist Church Newsletter

Brady, Texas

<http://fbcbrady.org/>

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## West Texas wind and other wonders

by Bro. Kevin McDonald

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The wind has been blowing through Brady like a freight train for quite a while, it seems. As it roars through this area, I wondered how much wind, how many cubic feet of air, has passed through the area during this windy season? It must be thousands of cubic feet per second, if not more. That got me to thinking about other big numbers in nature.

Niagara Falls sees 600,000 gallons of water flow over it every second. The Mississippi River flows about 4.5 million gallons into the Gulf of Mexico every second, and the Amazon River discharges 55 million gallons per second. Think of that: every second, every day, all day and all night, the water flows. Right now, even as you read this. And that's just three rivers. God moves a lot of water, doesn't He?

This got me to wondering about other big numbers found in nature, so I looked up a little information. At one time, there were 60-75 million head of buffalo in the United States. Before the Passenger Pigeon was hunted into extinction, scientists estimate their population was close to 5 billion. They made up 40% of ALL the birds in North America, and a single flock could be a mile wide and three miles long. A single flock could block out the sun for hours, even days when it was on the move.

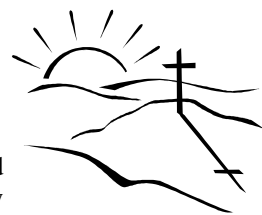
It is staggering to make some of these large numbers make sense, isn't it? Yet how do we quantify the love of God? Just how do you measure love, anyway? Think of the **7,068,552,625 (7 billion)** people in the world today. (This number is current as I write this, but it will be larger when you read it). God knows and loves every single one of them. Jesus willingly gave his life for each person who makes up that number. But dig a little deeper. It is estimated that somewhere between 69 and 110 billion people have existed over the course of human history. God loved them too. Even without contemplating the **quality** of God's love, we are clearly incapable of comprehending the **quantity** of God's love. But just because you can't understand it, it can still be true, can't it? God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. When you figure out the why and the how of that, call me, please.

God's excess is humbling. The expression of His creativity in nature is amazing. The abundance we see in nature is a revelation of how much He loves us. God reveals Himself in nature, and I believe we see the scope of His love in the extravagance, the incomprehensible numbers His creation produces. So as you marvel at how the wind blows, as you ponder the number of leaves on the trees, blades of grass, grains of sand and stars in the sky, remember this: the God who never runs out of anything will never run out of love for any of us. Blow, Spirit, blow.

## Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Beginning Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and ending Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> is the National Week of Prayer for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering for North American missions. This year's national goal is 70 million dollars. First Baptist Church Brady has set a personal goal of \$2,500.00. Please be in prayer this week not only for the missionaries that serve in North America, but also about how God is leading you to help support them financially as they serve the Lord. Thank you and God Bless. —Becky Weber

## Special Easter events



- G o o d F r i d a y community service, place and time TBA
- Sunrise service at Richard's Park, time TBA
- Children's egg hunt during Sunday School for nursery through 5th grade
- Easter morning worship, 10:50

## Auxiliary ministries through FBC

The Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Agent **Jacque Behrens** and Program Assistant **Sheila Van Zant** provide part of our Food Pantry ministry every second Friday. They teach small group nutrition classes called "Three Easy Bites." The three segments are Start with Breakfast, Snack Right, and Build a Healthy Plate, with one segment being presented each month. The classes include a recipe demonstration, with samples offered to the Food Pantry clients as they wait in Fellowship Hall.

**Linda Alastuey**, the local Wesley Nurse for Methodist Healthcare Ministries, facilitates a Diaper Pantry and parenting program on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 in our building. The focus is on health and safety issues, child development, and various health topics such as dental health. Jacque Behrens presents part of the class. Dr. Susan Delk was a guest presenter for the session on dental health. Each participant receives a free package of diapers, provided by a grant from Wal-Mart.

Mrs. Alastuey also presents a program each month on health and wellness for the children in the Godly Impressions Pre-School. At the Food Pantry food distribution, she provides information to the clients on health and safety issues.

For more information about this and other ministries by the Wesley Nurse, call 325-597-1571 or email [lalastuey@mhm.org](mailto:lalastuey@mhm.org).

## Godly Impressions Pre-school to celebrate Easter

by Kim Coleman

For the month of March, the children will be learning about "Bees and Butterflies" and "The Easter Story". Some of the basic concepts that will be taught are the letters: Bb, Qq, Nn, numbers: 14, 15, 16, colors: black, yellow, shape: hexagon, and sign language for butterfly and please. Along with the "Easter Story", the children will learn the Bible verse, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The children will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 on the playground. Immediately after the egg hunt, they will have a little party in the Fellowship Hall.

We are in need of 108 empty plastic Easter eggs and 9 one dozen egg cartons. The children will be making their very own Resurrection Story Eggs Kit. We will be putting the kits together on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, so if we could have everything by then, it would be greatly appreciated!

Also, we will be selling "Godly Impressions Preschool" t-shirts as a fund raiser, so be on the look out for order forms!

## Welcome new members

By baptism

Javier Torres

Pablo Torres

## How about a trip!

by Betty Smith

YOU! YES, YOU! You are encouraged to join us on a mission trip to the Navajo Reservation. We will leave Brady on Friday, June 21, and return home on Sunday, June 30. The cost is \$150 plus a motel stay going and coming. It will be an experience you will cherish for the rest of your life.

We will camp out in the most beautiful mountain campground ever. Don't worry if you aren't an experienced camper. Jobs to do are teaching in VBS, cooking for the group, working on the work crew doing various jobs like carpentry, painting, roofing, and putting in windows and doors.

Other possibilities are teaching a ladies Bible study, evangelism, and visitation. Any talent you have can be used, like juggling, throwing your voice, standing on your head, singing, playing an instrument, touching your nose with your tongue, art, and most anything.

Talk to Betty Smith, Lynn Munden, or Becky Martin if you have questions.



# Youth Disciple Now 2013

Skylar Maley, Youth Minister

[skylermaley@gmail.com](mailto:skylermaley@gmail.com)



In February First Baptist hosted a weekend-long Disciple Now for the youth of our church. We had nine youth participate in the weekend. This weekend was full of activities, Bible study, and service projects in the community. For this weekend we had the help of four Howard Payne students to be our small group leaders. We also had a guest speaker and worship leader for our youth.

On Thursday, February 7, 2013 the youth of FBC kicked off their first Disciple Now with a dinner for parents and students. This time was for students and parents to ask questions and also get to know some people of our church. Then on Friday February

8 the students arrived at the Family Life Center. We started the evening with dinner, provided by our church family. Then the students split into small groups to get to know their leaders. We then had worship and lesson. The students then went to their host homes to stay for the weekend.

Saturday the students continued their small group Bible studies and relaxation time. They then met at the church for lunch prepared and served by members of our church and worship time in the youth room. From there we split up our groups to begin our service project of collecting canned foods for the food pantry. Our youth of nine and four leaders were able to collect 265 cans. After our service project we met in the gym to enjoy some activities and fun for awhile. After this the youth enjoyed pizza for dinner. Our youth then had time to worship in music and Bible study. After this they returned to the host homes and had small group time. Sunday morning we had our guest worship leader lead us in service.

Thank you to our church for providing funds for youth to attend, food to eat, homes to sleep in, transportation, and prayers for everyone involved. God has blessed us and the youth with this weekend, and we hope to continue this in the future for our youth.

## Finance workshop March 23



Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2-5pm, Stewardship Financial Coaching is offering a financial workshop that will bring a fresh start to your finances. It is based on Biblical financial principals, and it will be presented using concepts found in Financial Peace University (Dave Ramsey). Whether your finances are barely surviving, thriving or somewhere in between, this is for you. Come ready to work hard and learn much! Bring a calculator, pencil and a big eraser, and paper for additional note taking.

Some of the topics will be Biblical Financial Compass, Stewardship, Baby Steps, Cash Flow Management, and the Debt Snowball. Lydia Brady, founder and owner of Stewardship Financial Coaching will be leading the workshop (her website is [www.stewardshipfinancialcoaching.com](http://www.stewardshipfinancialcoaching.com)). Lydia is doing the workshop at no cost so admission is free (We plan to have a basket there if anyone would like to give a love offering.)

Contact Brad or Linsey Woodard for more information: 325-597-1953, [lewood34@verizon.net](mailto:lewood34@verizon.net). We will have a sign up sheet so we know how many to expect and can prepare accordingly! We hope to see you at the Family Life Center March 23<sup>rd</sup> !

## Music ministry Tyler Cooper, Minister of Music

[tyler.cooper@hputx.edu](mailto:tyler.cooper@hputx.edu)



This month has been a wonderful time! Along with me getting the flu and a lot of bed rest, I have been able to spend a lot of much needed time in my Bible. Though I could not do much, I made sure to spend as much time as I could with the Lord and ponder the mysteries of Life... or the mysteries of how much of each medicine to take (Bad Joke).

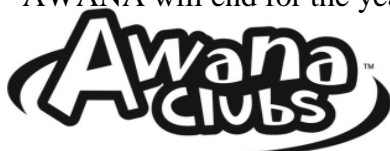
This month I would like to thank the praise team and everyone involved in the Music Ministry at FBC Brady. Even those who do not think that you help, you do! Every smiling, singing face each Sunday is as much help as being up with the team helping! This month has made me think of all the little things, the little things that we do not think of, but always do. A smile is one of the BEST little things that you can do for someone, for you never know how it will affect their life that day... So smile, and make someone's day that much brighter with the love of Christ!

The AWANA year is flying by so fast it's March! We will not be having class during spring break, March 11 to 15, so the children and workers can have family time. Please pray for this group of children; there are several that have some major issues going on and your prayers would be appreciated.

RaNon and I want to say thank you so much to all the volunteers, teachers and helpers that work with this program. It's a huge undertaking and your time is of great value!

AWANA will end for the year with Family Night on May 8.

Cynthia Reeves



Mission Friends

Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors make a great pair! Find ways to bring your groups together this fall.

# March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Jackie Behrens	2
3 <i>Deacons meeting, 5:00</i> Roger Villarreal	4 Mike Slone Darlene Friar Becky Martin Joy Jennings Carol Johnson	5 Wanda Burns Shelly Bean	6	7 Gerald Nobles	8 <i>Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00</i> Leanna Davis	9 Emily Burkhart
10 <i>Sassy Sisters, 4:30, Fellowship Hall</i> <i>Business Meeting, 6:00</i> Dillon Munden	11 <i>Triple S lunch, noon, Fellowship Hall</i> Tessa Moreno	12 Bobbie Williams Debbie Nobles	13 <i>No AWANA</i>	14	15	16 Louise Hammett Joel Jennings
17 <i>All-church fellowship, 6:00.</i>	18	19	20	21 Paige Bauer	22 Jeanine Willis Brannan Kolb	23 <i>Financial workshop, 2:00-5:00, FLC</i>
24 <i>Visitation, 6:00</i> Faith Bean Jerry Jordan	25 <i>Triple S meal and game night, 6:00</i>	26	27 Bobby Williams	28 Kasen Roberts	29 Liam Burkhart Pat Sellers	30

**31**  
*Easter Sunday Sunrise service*  
*Egg hunt during Sunday School*  
J.H. Slaughter

## 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

**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 March

Ed Weber 325-475-3471  
George Matula 792-0430

### Greeters for March

East Door  
March 3 Charlie and Gwen Bush  
March 10 Shane and Denise Owens  
March 17 Gary and Judy Mitzel  
March 24 Joyce Hollingsworth and Velma Hendley  
March 31 Travis and Pat Gary  
West Door: Youth

### Women's ministries: a place for everyone

"Sassy Sisters" will meet on Sunday afternoon, March 10, at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall for a planning meeting. Plans are being made for a Ladies Retreat and a "Spring Fling" luncheon. All women at FBC are encouraged to participate!



### Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

*Sunday morning:* live broadcast at 11:00 AM

*Weekdays:* Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Bobbie Williams, Becky Elliott, Charlie Elliott, and Maurice Mallow for recording radio devotionals in February.

March devotionals will be done by Oralía Barrera, Tess Warren, Karen Behrens, and Joyce Hollingsworth.

### Food Ministry Report

#### February 2013

- 119 adults
- 41 children under 12
- 33 adults 65 and older

March food distribution will be Friday, March 8, from 10:00 to 12:00.



Congratulations to **Kenneth Young** for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent Chamber of Commerce banquet.

### New carpet in sanctuary

Spring Crest Drapery and Carpet Center of Brownwood has completed the installation of new carpet in the sanctuary and library and is currently putting tile in the entryway and the rooms behind the baptistery.

Food and drink—even bottled water—are no longer allowed in the sanctuary. Please help take care of the new carpet!

Thanks to our Properties and Services committee for coordinating this project: Jerry Caraway (Chair), Joyce Scott, Robert Reeves, Charlie Elliott, Kenneth Young, and Jackie Maxcey.



*Pray without ceasing. . .*

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself  
And became obedient to death—even death on a cross!  
Philippians 2:8

- 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 Preschool
- Charlie and Becky Elliott on mission to China

Catherine Adams  
Pam Beasley  
Joyce Blackwell

Marcus Burell  
Brienne Danford  
Bill and Patsy Finley  
Polly and E.W. Frost  
Louise Hammett  
Jimmy Hodges  
Curtis and Genna Jennings  
Doris Jones  
Tammy Kirkland  
George Louterback  
Mike Lowery  
Edna Myers  
Paul and Connie Nix  
Brian Owen  
Tracy Parsley  
Bobbye and Jerry Petty  
Cruz Ramirez

Dorothy Reeves  
Alton and Destani Roberts  
Ann Roberts  
Red and Kay Simpson  
Jerry Slaughter  
Mike and Laurie Slone  
Opal Smyrl  
Joyce Torres  
Jack and Susan Turk  
Richard Valdez  
Billy and Doris Whitaker  
Skylyn Whitaker  
Kaelie Dawn Young

*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 in your prayers the families of Glenda Carson, Margaret Custer, Willie McBee, and Rector Jacoby.

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Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . .  
*Philippians 2:9-10a*



**Congratulations to the BHS Power Lifting Regional Qualifiers and Coach Heath Regeon**

**Girls Regional Qualifiers**

Taytum Morris	97.5
Connor Willberg	105.5
Angel Galindo	105.5
Raquel Morado	114.5
Destiny Carlson	114.5
Nicole Hodges	132.5
Sara Estes	148.5
Lora Weaver (Alt.)	105.5
Hailey Murray (Alt.)	114.5
Ana Trejo (Alt.)	148.5
Sophie Salas (Alt.)	165.5
Arleth Fraga (Alt.)	165.5

**Boys Regional Qualifiers**

Dakota Murray	148.5
Devin Keese	132.5
Dorian Jimenez	132.5
Derrick McBee	114.5

**Love and Care Ministries update**  
*by Becky Weber*

The WMU outreach project to help Love & Care Ministries in Abilene by providing “Hygiene Kits for the Homeless” has ended. Thousands of donated items will soon be finding new homes and sharing the love of God, as they are put into the hands of the poor and homeless in the Abilene area. Once again the Lake Ivie Baptist Association, which includes our wonderful church, outdid themselves with donations of personal care items.

I can’t help but wonder what the stores must think when WMU has outreach projects like this that literally clean their shelves of items needed for the projects. It just goes to show that we have a very loving and caring church and churches within the association who have very big hearts. Thank you again to everyone who donated to this very worthwhile outreach project. God Bless you.

Dear FBC members,  
Thank you so much for the prayers and for the wonderful food the Bereavement Ladies brought to the house when Glenda went to be with the Lord. I can’t thank you enough for such a great church family.  
Dariel Carson  
Family of Glenda Carson

**FBC Family:**  
Words are not enough to express how we feel about this church; thank you for welcoming us and allowing us to be a part of this family. Many of you are dear to our hearts and will be missed greatly. We covet your prayers as we head into this next chapter of our lives. Love and hugs to all.  
Your friends,  
Bryan, Carrah, Zane and Zoey Sparks