

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Tire kits, lost sons, and joy

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

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The worst thing about moving is not the packing, not the loading, not the unloading, and not the unpacking. The worst part of moving is not being able to find stuff that you know you own. You need a simple item, like in my case, a plug to fix a hole in a tire. I have a kit made up of all my tire-fixing stuff, so I can find it all in the same place.

Well, you know what happened. I have a flat tire. I dig through all my junk, box after box, no luck. So after an hour, I break down and go to Wal-Mart, pay my eight bucks for yet another tire plug kit, and go home and fix my tire. The next day, I am moving stuff and there is my tire fixing kit. All I could do was add the new stuff to the old, (I can now plug 167 tires, by the way), and go back to what I was doing.

Here is the lesson, the immutable law of the universe that I knew would be enforced at my expense: "The surest way to find what you lost is to go buy its replacement." If you like, since Murphy has a law named after him, you can name the one I mentioned after me.

The worst of all of this is not the losing, it's the finding. I wasn't happy I found my lost stuff, I was re-aggravated at remembering the searching, the inconvenience, and the unnecessary expenses of my time and money.

Jesus talked about losing and finding - the expense and trouble of looking for a lost coin, the difficulty and danger of searching for a lost sheep, and a father's patient longing for a lost son. In all of these parables, the reaction to finding that which was lost was joy. Not irritation, not resignation, not fussing and griping. Just joy. No recrimination, no blame, just joy. The relief, the end of the lostness, brought only joy.

I think there's a lesson in this, maybe several. The lost don't get lost on purpose. The lost don't get lost just to inconvenience me. The lost can't get found unless someone looks for them.

And this: there is joy in the finding. The woman, the shepherd and the father rejoiced. And just as there is joy for the finder, we need to remember there is also joy for the found. I don't know how the coin and the sheep felt, but the prodigal son was pretty happy he had a home to come back to. Maybe the reason we often have so little joy is that we are not finding that which was lost. We talk about the Master's business, but are we doing any of it? It is not our joy that is lost, it is our love for the lost, our remembrance "that I once was lost, but now am found." It seems that is where there is some joy to be found. We wait for the Lord to give us joy, when maybe we ought to be out finding it.

—Bro. Kevin.

Branson gospel singer/songwriter in concert here

by Becky Weber

Mark your calendars now for a wonderful night of Gospel music on Sunday, March 16th at 6:00 pm. Coming to bless you with their God given talents through inspirational music are **Becky Mayes** - BGSSA Female Vocalist of The Year 2013, **Megan Mayes** - BGSSA Young Artist of the Year and **Mark Dean** - BGSSA Artist of The Year.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear God's word shared through music and song. Don't miss out on your blessing.

Community choir organizational meeting February 6

All singers in the Brady community are invited to participate in a community choir beginning Thursday, February 6, at 6:30 in the choir room at FBC.

Tyler Cooper, Kathleen Gray, and Norma Ridout can provide more information. This is an effort to build on the success of the combined choirs during the Christmas season over the past few years.

Come and be a part of this time of blessing and fellowship.



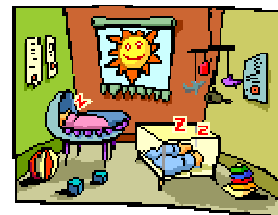
Shawntè Virdell on staff as nursery director

Shawntè Virdell was recently hired as nursery director. She is in charge of the nursery on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings as needed, and Wednesday nights.

Shawntè is also a child care worker with Godly Impressions Preschool during the week.

Shawntè replaces Kim Galindo, who recently resigned after several years of loving service to our children.

Welcome, Shawntè!



GA's active in missions

by Betty Smith

Every week we have between 20 and 25 girls studying about missions, praying about missions, and doing missions. They raised \$35 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and will soon start saving for The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

In November the GA's along with the RAs gathered food for our Food Pantry. Donated were 64 items of food which included 28 jars of peanut butter, 33 canned goods, 2 Mac and Cheese, and 1 box of Pasta.

Thank you to all who helped in this endeavor. We ask that you would keep our mission organizations in your prayers. Who knows - maybe a future missionary will come from this precious group.

Soup lunch on Super Bowl Sunday

Josh Collier and his family are hosting a fundraiser meal after church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2. They will be serving homemade vegetable/beef and potato soup, plus homemade desserts made by some of our church family.

The meal will be by donation only. Josh is very close to achieving his fundraising goal for his mission trip to Spain.

Josh is available to do yard work and other odd jobs. Call Joyce Collier at 792-4848 to arrange a time.



Youth events

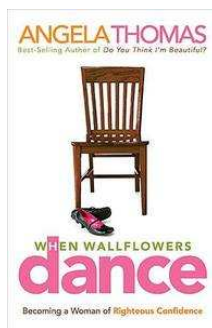
January was a great month for the youth!

- February 7th the youth will be meeting in the FLC building for a game night. This is a great opportunity for the youth to hang out and get to know each other better. The youth will be playing different games and having lots of fun. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

- February 12th the junior high class will be starting small group discussions. This is where the entire group of junior high will be broken down into smaller groups. There will be a leader, who is in college, in each group. This gives the youth more opportunities to ask questions that they may have. Every group will be discussing the same scripture. After the groups have met, everyone will meet back in the youth room to discuss what they learned that night! Contact the youth minister if you would like to know more about small groups or if you have any questions.

- Come and Join us on Wednesday nights at 5:15!!! The junior high service starts at 5:30 and the senior high service starts at 7:15. Come get challenged and encouraged as we dig into God's Word for strength to make it through our busy and difficult weeks. We need each other to stay focused on our mission in life as followers of Jesus Christ, and what that should look like in our everyday lives. We are so easily distracted, and this is one tool to keep us on track! Don't miss this opportunity!

- Jack Wells, Youth Minister



Women's ministries

Report from "Sassy Sisters":

- The February planning meeting will be at 5:00 on Sunday, February 9.
- Please save your Campbell's Soup labels for the Preschool Labels for Education project. See Kim's article below.
- The 7-week Bible study "When Wallflowers Dance" continues this month on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Mary's Bible study:

The Bible study at Mary Ballew's meets each Monday at 4:00. Everyone is welcome to participate in "A word from the Word," as we read Scriptures and discuss key words from the Bible. A new word is chosen each week. On February 3 the group will study *forgiveness*.

Preschool plans Valentine party

For the month of February the children will be learning about "Nursery Rhymes", the letters "I", "R", "J", the numbers "6", "16", the colors "pink" and "purple", and the shape of a "heart". On Friday, February 14th, we will have a Valentine Party in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30a.m. and we are asking for people to bring a party food item. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those that would like to donate an item.

The Bible lesson for the month is "God Asks me to Read the Bible," featuring the story of "The Wise and Foolish Builders." Our monthly Bible verse is "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

We still have 7 youth small Godly Impressions Preschool T-Shirts and 1 youth medium T-Shirt for sale for only \$15.00. Just let me know if you would like one!

The Sassy Sisters are helping us collect Labels for Education that can be found on Campbell's Soup Cans, Pepperidge Farm Products, Prego Spaghetti Sauce, Goldfish Crackers, and other products. Please place the labels in the RED box on the table in the narthex. These labels will help the preschool receive free educational materials.

Thank you all for your continued support!

We are asking for snack donations: (We have plenty of Animal Crackers)

Cheerios, Graham Crackers, Gold Fish Crackers, Nilla Wafers, Chex Cereal, Kix Cereal, Whales Crackers, Strawberry Pop-tarts, Nutrigrain Bars, Cheez-It Crackers, Pretzels, Ritz Crackers, Cube Cheese, Cheese Sticks, Bananas, Apples, Oranges, Grapes, etc.

—Kim Coleman, Preschool Director



We are so very thankful for our mission leaders who give so much time to the children on Wednesday nights.

- Rick and Donna Kent lead the RAs. The boys have learned a lot about missions—along with rocks and rock polishing!
- Betty Smith, Claudette Young and Joyce Hollingsworth lead the Gas, and they bring in special programs at times for the girls.
- RaNon leads Mission Friends with the gracious help of Deryl Bishop and Melissa Burkhart. They have some wonderful mission stories and art work! Mission Friends are the youngest group of boys and girls.

Our mission leaders all lead with encouragement, kind words and example, and the children love them!! The children learn about missions around the world and in our own back yard.

—Cynthia Reeves



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



Mission Friends

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1
Charlie Bush

2 Mildred Seward Kim Howard <i>No evening worship today</i>	3	4 Rick Kent	5 Codi Walters	6 Deryl Bishop	7 Mike Easley Shane Owens <i>Youth game night</i>	8
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9 Betty Smith <i>Sassy Sisters, 5:00; business meeting, 6:00; deacons meeting 7:00</i>	10 <i>Triple S lunch, noon, Fellowship Hall</i>	11 <i>Grace Class meeting, 3:00</i>	12	13 Carson Brandenberger Tiffany Garner	14 Ray Ash <i>Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00</i>	15 Betty McMillan
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16 Bracken Bean Kim Hemphill <i>Church fellowship, 6:00</i>	17	18	19	20	21 David Hernandez	22
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23 Justin Pierce <i>Visitation, 6:00</i>	24 Bobbie Petty <i>Triple S meal and game night, 6:00</i>	25	26 Joe Remini	27 Annie Roberts	28 Virginia Vinson (29th)
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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
 6:30 PM CWJC, Building Men for Christ

Tuesday
 6:00 PM *When Wallflowers Dance* Bible study

Wednesday
 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church
 5:15 Youth group: middle school at 5:45, high school at 7:15
 5:30-7:15 AWANA, missions organizations
 6:00 Prayer meeting/Bible study

Thursday
 9:30-11:00 Dorcas quilting ministry

Deacons on call for February
 Virgil Middleton 597-2629
 Terry Bean 792-6399

Greeters for February
 East Door
 Feb. 2 Roy and Janet Guthrie
 Feb. 9 Tim and Ida Owens
 Feb. 16 Pete and Oralia Barrera
 Feb. 23 Charlie and Gwen Bush
 West Door: Youth

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM
Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Charlie Elliott, Pat Matula, and George Matula for recording radio devotionals in January. February devotionals will be done by Joyce Hollingsworth, Debbie Nobles, Gerald Nobles, and Karen Behrens.

Food Ministry Report

January 2014

- 107 families
- 124 adults
- 55 children under 12
- 43 adults 65 and older

February food distribution will be Friday, February 14, from 10:00 to 12:00.

Food Ministry Report (from its first month)

May 2006

- 19 families
- 26 adults
- 5 children under 12
- 4 adults 65 and older

We thank God for blessing and using this ministry to feed people in need in McCulloch County..

Christian Women's Job Corps/Building Men for Christ has begun a new term. Bible study, nutrition, and parenting classes are being offered. The program is in need of a man to teach the Bible study. Please contact RaNon if you are interested.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.
Philippians 1:9

Pray without ceasing. . .

- 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
- Josh Collier’s mission trip to Spain
- Navajo mission trip

Catherine Adams
Jamie Akins
Dale Anderson
Don Ash
Pam Beasley
Maggie Behrens
Ricky Bentley
David Bishop

Dorothy Bishop
Joyce Blackwell
Helga Bonetti
Marcus Burell
Karla Burleson
Amelia Britteon
Alan Brown
April Carson
Sandra Carson
Sherry Cox
Sue Crow
Fayrene Easley
Patsy Finley
Clarence Friar
Jimmy Hodges
Kenneth House
Wesley Hyatt
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Mike Lowery
Joe Mallow
Paul and Connie Nix

Brian Owen
Caroline Parks
Tracy Parsley
James Patton
Patrick Petersen
Ann Roberts
Betty Schaffner
Jerry Slaughter
Mike and Laurie Slone-
Marcell Smith
Opal Smyrl
Jim Spurgin
Jack and Susan Turk
Jim Underwood
Richard Valdez
Chelsea Watts
Billy and Doris Whitaker
Lilly Williams
Margaret Woodall
Alice 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.

We extend sympathy to the families of Brenda McBee, Kathy McAda, Louise Hammett, Tootsie Williamson, Jerry Estes., and Jay Goodgion.

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Shawntè Virdell, Nursery Director
Kim Coleman, Preschool Director
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Norma Ridout, Pianist
Deryl Bishop, Organist

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.

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:19b-20



Church family,

Thank you so much for your faithful support of your camp ministry. Your investment will give many the opportunity to come apart from their daily lives. Camp provides a wonderful setting to meet with God and let Him speak to their heart.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Rhonda Roberts
Executive Director
HOT Baptist Camp and
Conference Center
Brownwood, TX

Note: Our church donates \$100 a month to the camp in Brownwood.



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13: 4-7, 13

