

March 2014

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Brady, Texas

<http://fbcbrady.org/>

Vol.15., No. 3

Pray for God's direction in "Vital Church"

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

fbcbrady.org@gmail.com

FBC Brady (that's you) has begun the Vital Church process. It is a time of examination, evaluation, planning, setting goals and then pursuing those goals. It is a time of preparing for and then bringing about change. But it is more than that. Vital Church recognizes the need for spiritual awakening and spiritual formation as a church seeks to fulfill its mission. That is why the first month of this process will be devoted as a time of prayer, not planning and doing. We will be seeking the Lord's guidance BEFORE we ask for His blessing. Nothing will be planned until we have prepared.

Charles Dudley Warner said "Everybody talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it." Sadly, prayer is usually treated the same way. We talk about it, we know we should be doing it, but we rarely make it a consistent part of our lives. Prayer is too often treated as a part of our spiritual first-aid kit, rather than as a staple of our Christian life.

A spiritually awakened and spiritually formed church is made up of spiritually awakened and spiritually formed people. Prayer is absolutely essential if we are to be aware of God's presence among us and hear what He has to say to us. You, I, and we will go no further in our spiritual lives than we pray. Read that again, please.

Pray. Pray for God to guide us, to challenge us, to give us faith and direction. Pray for unity as we seek God's will and for more unity as we act upon what God has shown us. If you would like to be a part of this most important part of the Vital Church process, call Claudette, Ranon, Bobby, or Mary.

I believe this process will bring good and great things to FBC Brady (again, that's you). The goals we set, their pursuit and accomplishment will do great thing and produce results that I hope we will see for many years. But the greatest thing we will do, whether it is seen or not, whether people talk about it or not, is this: we will have prayed. So pray. Pray like you mean it, pray as if it matters, pray as if God Himself is listening, because He is. Your prayers will set the tone for, provide the foundation for and ultimately determine not just the success of a program/process, but the spiritual health of FBC Brady. (and you know who that is). Pray.

Three new deacons ordained

Charlie Elliott, Rick Kent, and Gerald Nobles were ordained as deacons in a special service on February 16.

The men had been nominated by church members and approved by vote in business meeting on Feb. 9.

Please pray for these and our other deacons as they serve as servant/leaders in our congregation.

From Samaritan's Purse

Our RA's received the following letter thanking them for their donation to Samaritan's Purse:

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Franklin Graham, thank you for your generous gift to Samaritan's Purse. Your idea to sell rocks that you have tumbled is great! We so appreciate your creative fundraising and desire to help others through your many catalog gifts!

It is a blessing to hear of your group's heart to serve God by serving others. We encourage you to keep growing in your love for Jesus. As Christ teaches us in matthew 22:37-39, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." You have set a wonderful example for others by living out this command.

May the Lord continue to bless you all.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lipe

Donor Ministries, Samaritan's Purse

Branson gospel concert canceled

by Becky Weber

Due to medical issues with one of the singers, and a scheduling conflict, their engagement at First Baptist Church in Brady scheduled for March 16th has been canceled.

Charlie and Becky Elliott ask for prayer for trip

Charlie and Becky will be leaving soon on their 7th trip to QJ China, hoping to focus on discipling new believers. They will meet with young Chinese adults whom they have taught and prayed with on earlier trips. They will be open to the Holy Spirit's leading to share the Word with others, in their apartment, in tea rooms, and in other settings.

Becky writes: "Pray for China. There are over 100 million Christians in China. But they live under a Communist regime. Pray the words of the hymn, 'Change My Heart, o God.' But pray it for China like this:

Change their hearts, O God.

Help them know the Truth.

Change their hearts, O God.

Make them more like you.

"Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one gets to the Father in heaven except through me.' Pray that we may be bold and look for open doors to say these words. Pray that God will

prepare the hearts of the ones to whom we proclaim this message."

We also need to pray for safe travel for the Elliotts on their 24-hr. plane journey, and for God's timing for the trip.

Josh Collier meets fundraising goal

Fundraising is complete for Josh Collier's mission trip to Spain. The soup lunch on February 2 raised \$660. He has met and surpassed his fundraising goal of \$4000.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this effort. Please pray that God will use Josh in a tremendous way on this trip. Also pray for the people he will encounter in Madrid. The trip will be July 12-22.

Welcome new members

By letter

Jack Wells

By baptism

Shawntè Virdell

Food Ministry Report

February 2014

- 102 families
- 120 adults
- 46 children under 12
- 43 adults 65 and older

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



Youth events

February was a great month for the youth!

- On February 7th the youth had tons of fun at the game night that was in the FLC building, where we played different games and ate snacks. There will be more activities like this one in the future.

Upcoming events

-March 28th the youth will be having a lock-in in the FLC building. The cost is only \$12 per person. Youth can show up as early as 7:00 p.m. on Friday, and the doors will lock at 9:30 p.m. that night. We will be playing a variety of games and will be having lots of fun!!!Bring a friend and be prepared to have a good time!!

Summer events

- June 9-13 youth will be going to the Dallas Baptist University campus for Super summer!

- June 27-28 youth will be going to Y.E.C.!

- July 6-10 the youth will be going to church camp this year at the Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment in Brownwood!

- All these events are going to be extremely fun, and most importantly are going to challenge the youth to grow in their walk with God. I ask that you pray for these summer events and that God will work in the lives of the youth through these events.

- Come and join us on Wednesday nights at 5:15!!! The junior high service starts at 5:45 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

"Sassy Sisters":

- The March planning meeting will be at 5:00 on Sunday, March 9.
- The Bible study "When Wallflowers Dance" has concluded and was well-attended. A Beth Moore study is being considered for later this year.

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 March 3 the group will study *love*.

Godly Impressions Preschool update

For the month of March the children will be learning about "Explore the Pond", the letters "F", "P", "K", the numbers "7", "17", the colors "purple" and "blue", and the shape of a "diamond". The preschool will not hold classes the week of March 10th, Spring Break, but we will have childcare available.

The Bible lesson for the month is "God Cares about My Worries", featuring the story "Jesus Walks on Water." Our monthly Bible verse is "Don't worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything." Philippians 4:6.

We still have 5 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 Can's, 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 and Pop-Tarts)

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

—Kim Coleman, Preschool Director



Awana works

A child's involvement in Awana will set the foundation for a lifetime of faith.

- Awana alumni are 3.6 times more likely to read their Bible several times a week.
- Nearly 70% surveyed said they witness to their friends at least once a month.
- 92% still attend church weekly or more often.

Consistent, long-term participation in Awana—between 6 and 10 years—accompanied by spiritual training from parents reaps long-lasting results.

(from information furnished by the national Awana organization)



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



Mission Friends

Spotlighting Sunday School First Baptist Church, Brady, Texas

by Maurice Mallow

The Sunday School is one of the oldest and most important organizations within a church. It is a smaller group of persons, young and older, that meet to study the Bible, using materials designed for the grade and/or age level of the participants in each class. There is a class for everyone at the First Baptist Church with teachers in each class who devote many hours each week in preparation for teaching the lesson each Sunday morning. If you are not involved in one of these classes, we invite you to join us each Sunday morning at 9:45. We will help you find the class that best suits you. The teachers in each of these classes are sharing with us this month, "Why I Teach Sunday School."

Becky Elliott is the teacher of the Gleaners Ladies Class. "The Gleaners Class asked me to be their teacher 10 years ago. Every Sunday with these dear ladies has been a joy and a blessing. They prove the Bible to be true and vital in all its precepts. This past month we studied the book of Job. The victory at the end of 42 long chapters is the assurance that God loves Job. Job's suffering was beyond understanding, but we all suffer many times in our lives. We, who claim Jesus as our Lord, learn to pray and to trust God more when we suffer. This class of women has shown me yearly that faith grows, that God is near, that there is victory in Jesus. Each Sunday we pray Psalm 51:10 out loud together: 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.' What a sisterhood this prayer creates! We each one acknowledge that we need God. We each one say in our heart, 'I want to do your will, Father.' These ladies in the Gleaners Class are my beloved family."

"Some things you know you're just supposed to do. Teaching Grace Class is one of those things for me. I had taught in children's Sunday School for several years, then about 12 years ago Grace Class was in need of a teacher and asked me to consider it. I felt that God was leading me to try something new. Preparing for and teaching this class is a huge blessing to me. Getting to know the members of this interesting group of ladies has been a blessing too! The class has no age limit, but somehow we seem to be getting older together. And as God goes with us through pain and loss, the fellowship of these Christian friends gets sweeter and sweeter. You will see most of the Grace Class ladies serving in many ministries of FBC: Awana, Food Pantry, Quilting Group, VBS, serving meals to grieving families, serving on committees and as church officers, and playing the piano and organ. We strive to be "doers of the Word and not hearers only." (James 1:22)

Becky Martin, teacher, Grace Ladies Class

"I believe God gives us certain gifts and abilities for His service at certain times in our Christian lives. Why do I teach a Men's Sunday School Class? God led me to do it. It was a conviction He put on my heart. I had much rather say that I 'lead' my Sunday School class rather than 'teach' it. All of the men in the class are capable of teaching as well as I. The more I lead this class I realize how much I am also learning. We welcome all men to this class." **James Mallow, teacher, Hope Men's Class**

"Sunday School has always been an important part of my life. Growing up in a Baptist church, my family always attended Sunday School and worship service every Sunday morning. Sunday School is where I learned about God, His love for me, and my need for a Savior. When I married and had my own family, I wanted my children to have that same love for God and the church that I had learned as a child, so I carried them to Sunday School and church. As a young adult, I taught a youth Sunday School Class. Later I taught a women's class. Now I am teaching the Good News class, and I continue to learn more each week. I feel that an active Sunday School taught by dedicated teachers is vital to a growing church. Not only is it a place to learn about God and His Word, but it is also an outreach tool to minister to members and to the community."

Pat Matula, teacher, Good News Class (Adult Mixed Class)



Gerald Nobles, Jr., and his wife, Debbie, teach “Crossroads,” an Adult Mixed Class: “I know this is selfish, but the prime reason I teach Sunday School is that it pushes me to continually study the Bible. For most of my life I have been intrigued with not only the fascinating stories found in the Bible, but also teachings by God through the various authors for solving many of man’s shortcomings and problems. No other book, writing, or video is the complete “how-to instrument” as is the Bible. Once you get into the Bible, problem solving solutions for every facet of everyday life are everywhere. Plus, you obtain information on the greatest gift to mankind, the gift from God for eternal life, that being the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a teacher, you are able to share this information with others. Yes, it is wonderful to study commentaries by scholars prior to each lesson, but it is the sharing of the beliefs and ideas of the class members through discussion that make each lesson so special that it makes you want to do it again. For you can read the same passage over and get another ‘wow’ view. Yet, in class, you can read a passage and get many ‘wow’ views.”

Charles Elliott works with our Youth Department in Sunday School. “The answer to “Why do I work with youth?” is first of all because God called me to work for Him at the end of my senior year in high school. As I began following God’s call, He led me to attend Hardin-Simmons University and study to be a minister. There I discovered the wonderful ministry to youth. Through these 50 years I have been blessed to watch youth grow and mature in the Lord. The greatest blessing is to look back and see how young teenagers who said “Yes” to God are now serving Him all over the world. I know that if we do not help youth hear God speaking to them, we will not win the world to Christ. That is our commission from the Lord. We must provide opportunities for youth to learn about God through Bible study. And we must give them hands-on opportunities to put their faith into practice. Youth learn by doing.”

“I believe Sunday School is important because: (1) Ephesians 2:8, ‘By grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the Gift of God.’ Salvation comes to a human as they hear God’s word and faith in God can occur.’ (2) Romans 10:17 ‘So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.’ Sunday School is Bible study. It is hearing God’s word in a specific age setting. The learner is directed by logic appropriate for their age. The setting is small and private, to encourage thinking and asking questions. Sunday School is for sure a faith builder, and all people need faith in God. (3) Hebrews 11:6 ‘But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.’ May we be found diligent in lifting up Jesus, the Word of God.”

Rick and Donna Kent teach the 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders in our Sunday School.

Marsha Gainer, teacher of the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Graders says, “It is an honor and a joy to work with these precious children in Sunday School. I believe leading a child to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ is the most important responsibility given to an adult. I was saved because of the many powerful Sunday School lessons that my Grandmother taught.”

David Munden, (Mr. David) teaches our little ones, the Three and Four year olds. He enjoys teaching Sunday School for these little ones because, “I like being with the kids. I enjoy seeing how excited they are to come to Sunday School.”

Beginning this Sunday, March 2nd, **Melissa Burkhart will be in the Nursery (Babies – 2 years)** during the Sunday School time. She will be teaching a Bible lesson to them with songs and games. Please pray for Melissa as she prepares to teach these children about Jesus.



If you are not involved in a Sunday School class at this time, there is one for you at the First Baptist Church. Come and join us. You will be blessed!

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1
Jackie Behrens

2 <i>Evening worship, 6:00</i>	3 Roger Villarreal	4 Mike Slone Darlene Friar Becky Martin Joy Jennings	5 Wanda Burns Shelly Bean	6	7 Gerald Nobles	8 Leanna Davis
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9 Emily Burkhart Seth Spurgin Sassy Sisters, 5:00; business meeting, 6:00; deacons meeting 7:00	10 Dillon Munden Triple S lunch, noon, Fellowship Hall	11 Tessa Moreno Grace Class meet- ing, 3:00	12 Bobbie Williams Debbie Nobles	13	14 <i>Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00</i>	15
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16 Joel Jennings Church fellow- ship, 6:00	17	18	19	20	21 Paige Bauer	22 Jeanine Willis Brannon Kolb
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23 <i>Visitation, 6:00</i>	24 Faith Bean Jerry Jordan Triple S meal and game night, 6:00	25	26	27 Bobby Williams	28 <i>Youth lock-in overnight in FLC</i>	29 Liam Burkhart
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30 31

**Broadcasts on
KNEL 95.3 FM**

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

Thanks to Joyce Hollingsworth, Debbie Nobles, Gerald Nobles, and Karen Behrens for recording radio devotionals in February.

March devotionals will be done by Cynthia Reeves, Lynn Munden, Kathy Brandenberger, and Joyce Scott..

An opportunity

If you are looking for a chance to do something for your church, and your God, then doing a radio spot might just be the thing for you. It really isn't as intimidating as it may sound. You would only need one minute thoughts, five times. You can read a devotional you like, or make up your own.

Call Betty Smith at [325-597-0740](tel:325-597-0740) if you are interested or have questions. It would be great to have some new people to get involved in this ministry.

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

Wednesday
7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
Presbyterian Church
5:45 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
6:30 Community choir, Choir Room

Deacons on call for March
Bobby Williams 597-7573
Rex Joslin 286-4526

Greeters for March

	East Door
March 2	Welman and Becky Bauer
March 9	Travis and Pat Gary
March 16	Andy and Kim Howard
March 23	Russell and Sheri Pierce
March 30	Russell and Sheri Pierce

West Door: Youth

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
Philippians 4:4-5

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
 - Charlie and Becky’s trip to China
 - Josh Collier’s mission trip to Spain
 - Navajo mission trip
- Catherine Adams
Jamie Akins
Dale Anderson
Don Ash
Pam Beasley
Maggie Behrens
- Rick Bentley
David Bishop
Dorothy Bishop
Ethel Blackwell
Joyce Blackwell
Michelle Bradshaw
Amelia Britteon
Alan Brown
Marcus Burell
Karla Burleson
April Carson
Doris Collins
Sherry Cox
Sue Crow
Fayrene Easley
Patsy Finley
Louise Gainer
Nadine Hinshaw
Jimmy Hodges
Kenneth House
Wesley Hyatt
Curtis and Genna Jennings

- Mike Lowery
Paul and Connie Nix
Brian Owen
Tracy Parsley
James Patton
Patrick Petersen
Ann Roberts
Betty Schaffner
Jerry Slaughter
Mike and Laurie Slone
Opal Smyrl
Jim Spurgin
Jack Threadgill
Jack and Susan Turk
Richard Valdez
Mackie Jo Walters
Chelsea Watts
Billy and Doris Whitaker
Lilly Williams
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 Clarence Friar, Joe Mallow, Jim Underwood, and Gerald Yarborough and to Alma Davis in the loss of her father and her mother.

First Baptist Church
(325) 597-2956
1103 W. 17th St.
Brady, TX 76825
<http://www.fbcbrady.org>
Dr. Kevin McDonald, Pastor
fbcbrady.org@gmail.com
597-1926
RaNon Caraway, Secretary
mrc48nona@yahoo.com
Tyler Cooper, Minister of Music
tyler.cooper@hputx.edu
325-200-7454
Jack Wells, Youth Minister
jack.wells@hputx.edu
214-578-3967
Shawntè Virdell, Nursery Director
Kim Coleman, Preschool Director
godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com
325-792-6529
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.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
Philippians 4:6



Dear First Baptist Church Family,
Thank you for the use of the church for Mother’s funeral. Thank you for the meal provided for the family. The chicken, ham, and vegetables were delicious. We appreciate it all so much. God truly uses his people to comfort us. Thank you so much.
Sincerely,
Kristi Strickland
(daughter of Brenda McBee)

Your kind thoughts and sympathy will always be remembered. Thank you.
Thank you so much for the ham and chicken provided for the meal after the funeral. We really appreciate it.
Thank you,
The Clarence Friar family