

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Danger Signs

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

fbcbrady.org@gmail.com

The holiday season's assault on our weight is just about to begin. We will snack on Halloween candy until Thanksgiving, eat leftovers for a few days, and then the Christmas parties begin. We usually finish up the season of eating with a New Year's Eve party.

It's no mystery why so many have health issues, is it? A little cake, a little pie, a few candy bars, and *voila!* You're pre-diabetic. And a few pounds overweight. And your blood pressure is up a little, which is a nice complement to your new higher cholesterol numbers.

By themselves, none of these issues are life-threatening. Annoying? Yes, but nothing we can't live with—for a time. However, if you let these health problems continue, grow, and then work together, you have the beginnings of some serious health problems.

That's how most people get seriously ill. They start off small and slow, ignore bad habits and see their health slip away. Catastrophic health issues often have a long history of building up to a critical level that is difficult, if not impossible to reverse.

The same is often true for a church. There are issues that we learn to live with: ways of thinking and doing that in isolation are not too dangerous to our health, but when allowed to work in concert, do great damage.

As a church consultant, Thom Rainer of LifeWay has identified ten issues, events, processes, mindsets, etc. that are common to churches that are in danger of losing their health and their lives. I find most of these symptoms are interrelated. They are mutually supportive, and any one of them produces the seeds of several others. They are not easy to deal with. I hope you will prayerfully read his list and see where we are in need of changing our church's lifestyle. I'm not going to define or elaborate on these symptoms. I'll just let you prayerfully reflect on the appropriateness of each one to our setting:

- Slow erosion.*
- The past is the hero.*
- The church refused to look like the community.*
- The budget moved inwardly.*
- The Great Commission becomes the Great Omission.*
- The Preference-Driven Church.*
- Pastoral tenure decreases.*
- The church rarely prayed together.*
- The church had no clear purpose.*
- The church obsessed over the facilities.*

These are danger signs, like shortness of breath or dizzy spells— things that sneak up on us and slowly diminish our health and our ability to engage life. Or in the case of a church, reduce its ability to engage the Great Commission and the Gospel. We are in the early stages of addressing some of our health issues. I hope you will commit yourself to the honesty and the effort and the process it will take to make the changes we need to make to become a healthier church.

So let's put down the candy bars and drumsticks, eat our spiritual broccoli and exercise our faith.

—Bro. Kevin

God at work

- Bracken Bean has been called as youth minister and worship leader for Cotton Flat Baptist Church in Midland. He will begin this ministry later this month. Bracken is the son of Terry and Shelly Bean, a BHS graduate, and a Howard Payne graduate.
- Our Christian Women's Job Corps program is currently serving three couples, with another couple likely to join soon. Classes are Bible study, taught by Becky Elliott, and parenting, taught by Betty Smith.



Remember the time change Saturday night! Before you go to bed on Saturday night the 31st, remember to "fall back" by setting your clocks back one hour.

Thanksgiving meal after church on Nov. 8

We will gather in the Family Life Center at noon on Sunday, Nov. 8, for our annual Thanksgiving meal.

Please sign up on Nov. 1 if you would like to provide a ham or turkey.

Each family should bring two side dishes: salad, vegetable, or dessert. You don't need to sign up for those.

Please plan to attend and share this time of Thanksgiving and fellowship with your church family.

Thanks in advance to our Hospitality Committee, who will cook the meats and make the dressing, gravy, and rolls: Susan Turk, Lynn Munden, Stefani McKay, Wanda Burns, Jerry Caraway, Jeanagayle Behrens, Pete Barrera, and Kay Holloway.

Church wide clean-up planned for Nov. 7

A workday is planned for Nov. 7 to clean out closets, haul off trash, and generally make the place look better! Please come and help. The work will start in the FLC at 8:00 and continue till we get through or at least make a difference! Lunch will be provided.

Children's Church planned

We are going to begin offering Children's Church as soon as we have leaders, workers and a curriculum. If you would like to serve in any capacity in this new work, please contact the office.

Welcome, Gabe, and thanks, Gary

Gabe Rios will be with us on November 1 to begin serving as Youth and Music Minister.

Please welcome Gabe and keep him in your prayers as we serve and worship the Lord together.

Thank you to Gary Tapley for serving as our Interim Minister of Music these last several weeks. We will never forget *Moses!*



Welcome new member

By baptism
Hayleigh Delk



Just a quick note on the outcome of Fields of Faith that took place on the 14th of October.

We loaded five school busses with about 190 students from Brady Middle School and Brady High School.

Our numbers seemed down this year but after looking over the Brady section that was second in size only to Brownwood ISD. I think that more students drove over themselves. (I'm guessing around 240 Brady students in all).

We had a great time listening to and singing praise songs and then several youth from the Brownwood area spoke, giving their testimony and telling others what God and the saving Grace of Jesus Christ has meant to them. After that, a speaker came up to challenge all who attended to take a careful look at their lives and just where Jesus Christ was at in their own life story. (This was an eye opener for everyone, very convicting.)

Each day I get to interact with today's youth and it isn't hard to tell that there is a yearning for something in their lives. This event, Fields of Faith may be the only opportunity that some kids have to go with their peers and set down to hear the plan of Salvation set out so simply to them.

Each year we see tears rolling down the faces of students, the red swollen eyes and the heart felt emotions pouring out. It is plain to see that Christ was at work(in a football stadium) and that the fields truly are white for harvest.

We do not have any numbers yet on how many decisions were made, but if only one life was changed, then I'll count this as a successful night.

Also, thank you for all the donations that were sent in, we actually had some money left over and this will be used to send students to a leadership camp or FCA sports camp this summer.

If you get a chance, give our Superintendent of schools a call and let him know how much we appreciate the use of the school busses for this event. (Not all schools will allow the use of school busses to an event like this and our administration here in Brady has never questioned or batted an eye.)

Just because you compete doesn't mean you're going to win, but if you never compete you'll never win. As a Christian, go out today and compete, for the winning team of Jesus Christ.

*Terry Bean
Brady Fellowship of Christian Athletes*

Godly Impressions Preschool welcomes Kelly Nichols

We would like everyone to welcome Kelly Nichols, who is now on board with us as a "floater." She stays busy helping out wherever she is needed. Please help us to give Kelly a warm welcome!

The lesson theme for the month will be "On the Go". The children will be learning the color "orange", the shape of a "triangle", the numbers "5 & 6", and the letters "C, W, T".

The Bible lesson for the month is based on "The Little Children and Jesus" and "God Asks Me to Follow His Path." The Bible verse is "I am the way and the truth and the life! No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

If you would like to donate snacks or juice, here are some things we use regularly: any cereal, graham crackers, Gold Fish crackers, Nilla Wafers, Cheez-It crackers, pretzels, Ritz crackers, cube cheese, string cheese, etc. The juice must be 100% juice and we will also take gallon jugs of drinking water. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sabrena at 325-792-4675.

Thank you all for the prayers and support!

God bless,
Sabrena Rushing, Assistant Preschool Director

November 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 "Fall back" to Standard time Mission Committee meeting, noon Deacons meeting	2	3 Ashleigh Voight	4	5 Van Virdell	6 Daniel Mendoza	7 Madden Virdell Church wide workday, 8:00
8 Mary Ballew Church wide Thanksgiving meal, noon in FLC	9 Gunnar Roberts Triple S, noon	10 Dariel Carson Kolson Kirk	11	12 Tarell Day	13 Food Pantry food distribution, 10:00-12:00	14 Drew Wilton Jenna Jennings
15 Business meeting, 5:30 before Bible study	16 Harold Underwood	17 Stacy Hudson	18 Grant Nobles	19 Rex Joslin Melinda Cook	20 Ronnie Holloway Kenneth Young Food Pantry food distribution, 10:00-12:00	21 Lisa Remini
Return Operation Christmas Child boxes						
22	23 Triple S. 5:30	24 Robert H. Reeves	25 Lauren Patton Madison Jurrius Rose Sherer No AWANA today	26 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	27	28 Larry Gerstenberger
29	30					

Weekly Events

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
10:50 AM Morning Worship
6:00 PM Bible study

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
5:30 AWANA, missions organizations
5:45 Middle School Youth group
7:15 High School Youth group
6:00 Adult prayer meeting

Thursday

9:30-11:00 Dorcas quilting ministry
9:45-12:00 Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart to the Church

Greeters for November

East Door

Nov. 1 Terry and Shelly Bean
Nov. 8 Jackie and Jeanagayle Behrens
Nov. 15 Bill and Wanda Burns
Nov. 22 Charlie and Gwen Bush
Nov. 29 Kenneth and Claudette Young
West Door: Youth

Food Ministry Report

October 2015

- 122 families
- 127 adults under 65
- 38 children under 18
- 35 adults 65 and older



Food distribution days for November are the 13th and the 20th from 10:00 to noon. New volunteers are welcome! Help is also needed on Thursday mornings from 9:45 to noon to bring donated food from Walmart to the Food Pantry in the FLC.

The Food Pantry purchases some food from the Concho Valley Regional Food Bank at a minimal cost. Donations to the Food Pantry are always welcome, as it is funded entirely by special gifts.

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM

Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Jeanagayle Behrens, Tim Owens, Cynthia Reeves, and Claudette Young for recording radio spots for October.

November devotionals will be done by Becky Martin, Betty Smith, Joyce Scott, Kevin McDonald, and Joyce Collier.

Deacons on call in November

Bobby Williams
597-7573
Jim Smith
597-0740

Operation Christmas Child boxes are still available in the west hallway. Deadline for returning them is November 18. Be a blessing to a child this Christmas!

FMI go to www.samaritanspurse.org



If you would like to provide a fresh flower arrangement for the altar in honor of or in memory of someone, please call the church office or Jackie Maxcey (597-5406) to reserve a date. Thanks to our Flower Committee—Jackie, Gwen Bush, and Nelda Martin—for adding these touches of beauty to the sanctuary.

Pray without ceasing. . .

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;
Give thanks to Him and praise His Name.
Psalm 100:4

- 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
 - Our preschool
 - AWANA and missions organizations
- Richard Aguirre
Serena and Terry Alexander
James and Mary Bates
Jerry Bean
Jim Benson
David Bishop
Alton Bradshaw
Diane Bradshaw

- Vickie Brown
Big John Campbell
Helen Carriger
April Carson
Pres. Jimmy Carter
Doris Collins
Sherry Cox
Carrie Currie
Fayrene Easley
Charlie Elliott
Jack Faulkner
Earl Gartner
Betty Guthrie
Holly Groves
Janis Groves
Charity Harper
Theda Henniger
Josh Hudson
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Mary Beth Lewis
Janie Lowery

- Mike Lowery
Jessie Melendez
Charles Miller
Louise Morrow
Tracy Parsley
James Patton
Bobbie Petty
Ann Roberts
Dale Sierman
Edith Slaughter
Mike and Laurie Slone
Sue Steelhammer
J.R. Stewart
Sherry Thomas
Barbara Tschirhart
Jack and Susan Turk
Tess Warren
Kristan Wilson
- In military:*
Jon Bradshaw

- Howard Brown
Brandon Haymon
Talisha Hendley
David Hernandez
Jose Lopez
Moses Marmolejo
Concho Moore
Brandon Pfannenstiel
Jace Telford
Jonathan Torres
Alisha Slone
Wes Stark
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the families of L.D. Land, Jim Springer, James Ramsey, Mary Hays, and David Dumas.

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
Gabe Rios, Minister of Music and Youth,
rios_gabe@yahoo.com
Francis Schmaltz, Youth Ministry Intern
Jerry Caraway, Maintenance Supervisor
Christy McAnally, Nursery Director
Norma Ridout, Pianist
Deryl Bishop, Organist
Kim Coleman, Preschool Director
Sabrena Rushing, Assistant Preschool Director
792-4675

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 Martin: becky@scottmartin.net.

For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.
Psalm 100:5



Tess Warren called to express her thanks to the church for all the encouraging cards, letters, and prayers. She misses everyone and sends her love. Tess Warren Kindred Hospital, Rm. 209B 7800 Oakmont Blvd. Ft. Worth, TX 76132

To the First Baptist Church: This card is sent to you all to let you know that we really appreciate you for letting us use the church on October 11 from 3-5 PM. Thank you so much. Our love to you all in Jesus Christ,
*From Emmanuel Baptist Church
1001 S. Willow
Brady*



Dearest FBC:
Words cannot even begin to describe how much the people of this church have meant to me and my family. When you live a good distance away from your loved ones, you tend to worry more about how they are doing and pray every night for God to take care of them. God does amazing things. And in bringing my mother into fellowship with this church He has done something that I cannot. You all have enveloped her as a member and a sister and I cannot thank y'all enough. I speak for myself and my mother when I say that all of you are truly blessings to us and we thank you for everything you have done. You all are the example of how a Christian life should be lived.
From Jackie Harper and Janie Lowery

Dear Ladies of the Dorcas Quilting Ministry,
This quilt is the most amazing gift I've received in a long time. It is simply beautiful and is on my bed now. I so appreciate the love and time spent on it. It has given me comfort at a most difficult time. Two months after the tornado my husband passed away. Your ministry is wonderful. God bless y'all.
*From Debbie Jones
Van, Texas*