

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Jesus vacated the glory of Heaven

by Dr. Kevin McDonald fbcbrady.org@gmail.com

I like etymology. That's the study of words. I got to thinking about words the other day, and it dawned on me that an accountant is called an accountant because he or she must give an *accounting* of how the money was handled. The word *worship* comes from the word *worth-ship*, recognizing the high position of someone, or in our case, the worthiness of God. Then I thought of other words like that. *Holiday*. Well, that's easy: it comes from *holy-day*. Now, as I am getting caught up from Thanksgiving and looking toward Christmas, I realized this is the season of *vacation*. Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's all bring time off. I have realized something else. Vacation time can be a real pain.

As we all know, "Time waits for no man" and I am no exception. While a day or two out of the office is nice, Sunday still comes on Sunday, and there is always a sermon to be written and prepared, as well as all the other things that need to be done. So a day off is not really a day off, it is only a day delayed, and five days of work must now be crammed into four. But that's what happens when you vacate the office for a day or two. Did you catch that? VACATE, VACATION. A *vacation* is when you create a *vacancy*. At home, at work, wherever you leave and don't come back for awhile, there is a vacancy. Like a vacuum (see how that works?)

Christmas is when we celebrate the coming of Christ to earth. The Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. Jesus left his eternal glory, his eternal place in glory, and He came to earth. And He did it the hard way. He got born like us. He lived like us. He experienced life like us, and He died, like we will do, unless He returns. A vacancy, yes, a vacation, no.

As you go on vacation, over the river and through the woods, as you vacate the house and all you are comfortable with for awhile- maybe eating the strange or at least different cooking of others, sleeping in a bed that is not your own, residing for a day or two in a house where you don't control the T.V. remote, don't know where the towels are, and bedtime is not on your schedule, remember Jesus--who vacated the glory of Heaven and the Father, who came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

May the season of Jesus' vacating the glories of Heaven for the needs of Earth and Mankind bring you a clearer vision of what the incarnation meant for Him. And what it means for you and me to be incarnational. A vacation it isn't. Merry Christmas, y'all.

—Bro. Kevin

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Grace Class visits "The Empty Cross"

Grace Class members and friends visited The Empty Cross and The Coming King prayer garden in Kerrville on November 10.

The Empty Cross is a seven-story steel cross standing on a hill in Kerrville, just north of the access to Interstate 10. It was built in 2005 by sculptor Max Greiner, under the miraculous direction of God. The story of its inception and construction is one of God's clear leading and direction over several years.



The cross stands in a sculpture prayer garden with large bronze sculptures of Jesus the Coming King, Fisher of Men, Divine Servant, the Great Commission, and others.

The group was led through the garden by a volunteer guide. They gathered inside the open cross for a prayer for our church.

The Grace Class group included Becky Martin, Claudette Young, Janie Lowry, Fayrene Easley, Virginia Vinson, Lois Patton, Oralia and Pete Barrera, Justin Trevino, Joyce Scott, Kay Holloway, Darlene Friar, Nelda Martin, and Mabel Jones.

The garden and cross are open 7:00 AM to midnight every day. Admission is free. (Note from Becky: Everyone needs to go to this!)

Welcome new member

By statement
Robin Cook

Church wide clean-up big success

by Gerald Nobles

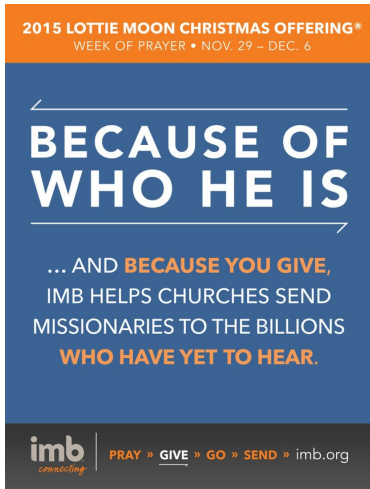
On Saturday November 7, members of our church participated in a cleanup work day. Spearheaded by Lynn Munden, Linsey Woodard, Brad Woodard, and Ronnie Holloway, many closets and rooms were cleaned, enabling trash to be hauled off, toys to be donated to our Godly Impressions preschool, and other items to be sold.

The best part was the companionship and laughter enjoyed

by all. Well, maybe the homemade vegetable soup prepared and served for lunch by Susan Turk and Lynn Munden was a highlight also.

The only setback was the need for our Brady firemen to come and extinguish our trash fire that got a little out of hand. And yes, Kevin McDonald was in the middle working with all, as we welcomed Gabe Rios to FBC Brady for a Saturday work day during his first week on the job.





Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December is the month for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This important mission offering goes entirely for the support of Southern Baptist missionaries around the world.

The Week of Prayer is November 29-December 6.

Please remember to pray and to give. The Christmas tree visual in the sanctuary will have an ornament added for every \$100 given towards our church goal of \$2000. Members of the Sunday School classes will do a special “missionary moment” each Sunday this month.

You may “mail” your Christmas cards to church members in the Lottie Moon Mailboxes in the hall. Please leave a donation for the offering for each card.

It's Christmas at Godly Impressions Preschool

Thanks to all that helped and donated to the bake sale on November 21. We raised \$1,000 for the preschool! We are truly blessed.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Happy Birthday, Jesus!

We will have an early release on December 18, @ 12 pm and be closed on December 24 and 25 and January 1.

The lesson theme for the month will be “Sights and Sound of Winter”. The children will be learning the color “White”, the shape of a “Star”, the numbers “7 & 8”, and the letters “V, X, M”.

The Bible lesson for the month is based on “The Birth of Jesus” and “God Asks Me to Praise and Worship.” The Bible verse is “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.” Psalm 150:6

The Preschool Christmas program will be December 16, 2015.

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

Fundraiser meal for Josh's next mission

There will be a spaghetti lunch fundraiser for Joshua Collier on Sunday, December 6, 2015, after the morning service. We are asking for help with the bread and desserts for that day. There are signup sheets in the foyer.

Josh will be traveling to Western Europe on an iGo Global Extreme Journey. He will be working with the IMB missionaries on the field during this six-week trip.

If you would like to know more about iGo Global Extreme Journey you can visit their website at www.igoglobal.org

Joshua's first payment of \$1,000.00 is due December 15, 2015.

FBC Christmas Parties

- Dec. 7: Gleaners Class and friends, home of Mary Ballew, 4:00 PM. Program by Janis Groves.
- Dec. 12: GA's (third, fourth, and fifth grade) cookie decorating party, 10:00
- Dec. 15: Good News Class, home of George and Pat Matula, 5:30 PM
- Dec. 16: Preschool Christmas program; Middle school/high school Christmas party, FLC
- Dec. 18: Crossroads Class, home of Gerald and Debbie Nobles, 7:00-9:00 PM

“Brady Breakfast”

Everyone is invited to the “Brady Breakfast” hosted by Keith Simpson, the Lake Ivie Baptist Association Ministry Director. This event happens every first Monday at 8:30 at El Flamingo. It is a time of prayer and information about associational plans and ministries.

Keith says that everyone orders off the menu and he pays for it!

Please see page 4 of this newsletter for Keith's informational letter about December associational concerns. This is reprinted in our newsletter with his permission.

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
And the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6*

Welcome, Gabe, our new Youth Minister!

Youth News

Hello to all the Brady and surrounding area youth (grades 6th-12th) and to your parents! The purpose of this section of the FBCB Newsletter is to let you know of upcoming events and the accomplishments of our youth. Currently the middle school meets every Wednesday afternoon from 5-7pm and high school 6:30-8pm (read further down for our change in schedule starting in January). At 6:30pm we eat a great meal so PLEASE invite your friends from school to come join us.

Food is taken care of by Stephanie McKay, Matt Popnoe, Lynn Munden, Austin Reeves, Jeanagayle Behrens, and Jerlene Smith and we are very grateful! If anyone is interested in helping out with the youth or special events call or text Gabe @ [830-391-4367](tel:830-391-4367).

Past Events

***Youth Room** - We recently have been renovating our youth room. New paint, screen, stage, sound system. So come by and see it when it is all finished hopefully in the next few weeks.

Upcoming Events

***Sunday School** is ongoing every Sunday from 9:45 – 10:35am. The youth meet in the Family Life Center. We would like to have as many youth attend. Youth Sunday School is currently taught by Francis Schmaltz and Charlie Elliott.

***Wednesday December 16th** - middle school/ high school Christmas party. We will have games and Christmas themed night.

***December 23rd - no youth/ have a Merry Christmas.**

***December 30th - no youth/ have a great New Year's.**

***January 6th - New youth night schedule**

We will be experimenting with a new format for Wednesday nights till the end of the school year and possibly through the summer. The Family Life Center will open at 3:30 pm so all kids, middle school or high school, are welcome to come straight after school and do homework, play in the gym, play outside, play games etc... Snacks will be provided until dinner. At 6:30 pm both middle school and high school will eat together and at around 7 pm we will head back to the youth room for worship and a lesson together. Instead of split groups, middle/high school, we will all be together. This time together will end at 8 pm. We occasionally may split into guys/ girls, or middle/ high school small groups for certain topics.

This change mostly affects the middle school youth because they will be released at 8 pm. In order to maintain the safety of all the kids we will have all kids sign in when they arrive and sign out if they leave earlier than 8 pm. We would like to strongly encourage all youth to stay the entire time and will not allow youth to leave and come back to campus. Once you are at youth we need you to stay. It's a safety measure so we don't have to try and keep track of where kids are going and coming back from.

D-NOW retreat - plans are in the works to have this retreat in the spring at our church. More information will be available soon.

IMPORTANT – If a Wednesday is not listed here as a special event or as “no youth,” we are having a regular youth night.

If there are any concerns that you as students or parents may have, please feel free to contact me. Lastly, thank you for the opportunity to be here at FBCB, I am very grateful. I look forward to getting to know the kids and help them grow in their walk with Christ.

God bless,
Gabe Rios, Minister of Youth and Music

Keith's Konnections

News from Lake Ivie Baptist Association

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving, and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to Christmas. With church Christmas programs, social engagements, and other activities this time of year, it seems like sometimes we get so caught up in the busy-ness that we forget what Christmas is really all about. Luke 2:10-11 says it best. "And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people; for there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." We celebrate a savior whom God gave to us for the path to righteousness, forgiveness and eternal life. Had He not come, we would still be lost without hope of restoration, but He provided the way. Remember that Jesus IS the reason for the season. And don't worry about the PC police; go ahead and say "Merry Christmas" to everyone you meet. Without Jesus, there is no Christmas.

As we wind down this current year, we are gearing up for activities for the upcoming year. Just a few reminders of what is going on this month, though. **Millersview Baptist Church** (who joined our Association at the Annual Meeting) will be once again having their "**Cowboy Christmas**" on December 6 at 3:00 p.m. with cowboy cobbler, and cowboy coffee, then will adjourn into the sanctuary at approximately 4:00 p.m. for a couple of hours of music with different individuals and groups, then head over to the Community Center for an enjoyable meal together. Everyone is invited to come and participate.

The **Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment** will also be hosting their annual **Christmas Dinner Theater** on December 7 at 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is Christian Camp Challenge which sounds interesting and a lot of fun. If you are interested, you may call the camp at 325-784-5821 or go to their website which is www.heartoftexascamp.com for further information and to RSVP for the wonderful event. They serve a wonderful meal and the fellowship is great, so plan to come if you can.

Lohn Baptist Church and Rockwood Baptist Church will once again be hosting the **Harmony Quartet** on December 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lohn Tabernacle. Snacks will be provided after the concert, and a love offering will be taken. If you haven't heard this group from the DFW area, you have missed a real treat. Great group of guys and wonderful quartet singing.

Our **breakfasts** are continuing as well, with good participation. We want to remind you that these breakfasts are not just for pastors, but for anyone who would like to attend. You may not learn much, but you will eat well and have a good time. See the newsletter for further information as per time and places.

I want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God continue to bless each of you and each of our churches as we endeavor to build the Kingdom of God. Matthew records in Matthew 2:10-11, "And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped him; and opening their treasures they offered unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." God desires mercy and not sacrifices, Scripture says, so let us be more merciful in 2016 than ever before, more loving, more kind and more compassionate and reach others for Jesus.

Keith Simpson, LVIA Ministry Director

Keith Simpson
Ministry Director
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Upcoming Events!

6th Cowboy Christmas @ Millersview Baptist
 at 3:00 pm
 7th Christmas Dinner Theatre @ HOTBE @
 6:00 pm
 7th Brady Breakfast
 12th Harmony Quartet @ Lohn Tabernacle at
 6:00 pm
 14th Coleman Breakfast
 21st Ballinger Breakfast
 25th LIBA office will be closed for Christmas

December 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Jessica Castillo Jackie Maxcey	2	3 Cheyenne Huckins Robin Cook	4	5
<i>Week of Prayer for International Missions</i>						
6 <i>Spaghetti lunch mission fundraiser, noon</i> <i>Deacons meeting</i>	7 <i>LVIA Brady breakfast, 8:30, El Flamingo Gleaners Class party, home of Mary Ballew, 4:00</i>	8	9 Lois Patton Jeremy Edwards	10	11 RaNon Caraway <i>Food Pantry food distribution, 10:00 -12:00</i>	12 Charles Jordan <i>GA's cookie decorating party, 10:00</i>
13 <i>Business meeting, 5:30 before Bible study</i>	14 Camille Sparks <i>Triple S, noon</i>	15 Jerry Caraway <i>Good News Class party, home of George and Pat Matula, 5:30</i>	16 <i>GA's Christmas caroling to our homebound Youth Christmas party, FLC</i>	17 Maurice Mallow	18 Roy Guthrie <i>Food Pantry food distribution, 10:00 -12:00</i> <i>Crossroads Class party, home of Gerald and Debbie Nobles</i>	19
20 Gwen Bush Claire Bishop	21 James Ridout Josh Day Denise Simmons	22 Cooper Bean Kannon Kirk Lana Coston	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26
27 Rita Estes Isaac Escobar	28 Mary Ann Wilton <i>Triple S. 5:30</i>	29 James Mallow Reno Alonzo	30 Ed Weber Laney Woodard Raegyn Virdell	31 <i>New Year's Eve fellowship, FLC, details TBA</i>		

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
(will not meet on Dec. 23 or 30)
5:00-7:00 Middle School Youth group
6:30-8:00 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 December

East Door
Dec. 6 Robert and Cynthia Reeves
Dec. 13 Rod and Tina Young
Dec. 20 Tim and Ida Owens
Dec. 27 Bobby and Bobbie Williams
West Door: Youth

Food Ministry Report

November 2015

- 163 families
- 191 adults under 65
- 83 children under 18
- 39 adults 65 and older



Food distribution days for December are the 11th and the 18th 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.

We will host Christmas receptions for the recipients on Dec. 11 and 18. If you would like to help furnish refreshments, please bring them to Fellowship Hall on either or both Fridays. Thank you!

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM

Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Becky Martin, Betty Smith, Joyce Scott, Kevin McDonald, and Joyce Collier for recording radio spots in November.

December devotionals will be done by Gwen Bush, Pat Matula, Kevin McDonald, and Maurice Mallow.

Deacons on call in December

Gerald Nobles
597-1869
Charlie Elliott
597-0066

Thanks to our deacons for introducing us to a different and blessed way of observing the Lord's Supper.

In the new year we will observe the Lord's Supper every fifth Sunday. On that same Sunday right after church we will have an informational update from the deacons.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
Luke 2:10-12

- 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
 Jerry Bean
 Jim Benson
 David Bishop
 Alton Bradshaw
 Diane Bradshaw
 Mary Bradshaw
 Jerry Brown
 Vickie Brown
 Big John Campbell

Helen Carriger
 April Carson
 Pres. Jimmy Carter
 Misty Chandler
 Doris Collins
 Sherry Cox
 Carrie Currie
 Fayrene Easley
 Charlie Elliott
 Jack Faulkner
 Charlie Garcia
 Earl Gartner
 Betty Guthrie
 Holly Groves
 Janis Groves
 Charity Harper
 Linda Hendley
 Theda Henniger
 Josh Hudson
 Eva Little
 Curtis and Genna Jennings
 Mary Beth Lewis
 Janie Lowery

Mike Lowery
 Jessie Melendez
 Charles Miller
 Louise Morrow
 Tracy Parsley
 James Patton
 Bobbye Petty
 Ann Roberts
 Max Schmidt
 Dale Sierman
 Edith Slaughter
 Mike and Laurie Slone
 Sue Steelhammer
 J.R. Stewart
 Sherry Thomas
 Elia Tibbetts
 Barbara Tschirhart
 Jack and Susan Turk
 Tess Warren
 Kristan Wilson

Pray without ceasing. . .

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 Larry Walker, Cindy Hill, Barney Brock, Billy Taliaferro, James Bates, Bryan Martin, and Pearl Nahkai.

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rios_gabe@yahoo.com
 830-391-4367
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

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

Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful works among all peoples.
Psalm 96:3



Baking for the Lord!
 If you like to bake, this is the month to serve the Lord with your skills! Here are some opportunities:

- Desserts (also French bread) are needed for Josh's mission trip fundraiser on Sunday, Dec. 6. Call Joyce Collier at 792-4848.
- Cookies, candy, cake, etc. are needed for the Food Pantry Christmas receptions Dec. 11 and Dec. 18. Call Becky Martin at 597-1372.
- Sugar cookies are needed for the older GA's to decorate to take to our homebound members. Decorating day is Dec. 12 at 10:00AM. Call Betty Smith at 597-0740.



- Thanks to Hexion, Inc., for their recent generous donation of food to the Food Pantry.
- Thanks to everyone who filled a box for Operation Christmas Child. We filled 56 boxes, which Cynthia Reeves delivered to San Angelo. And thanks, Cynthia!
- Thanks to our Hospitality Committee for making the Thanksgiving meal such a great time! Thanks to Susan Turk, Lynn Munden, Stefani McKay, Wanda Burns, Jerry Caraway, Jeanagayle Behrens, Pete Barrera, Kay Holloway, and everyone else who planned, cooked, served, and helped clean up!



Dear Ladies of the quilting group, Please accept my apology for the lateness of time, since Jen (my wife) had passed. Your very kind expression of sympathy by making the quilts in Jen's memory was very heartfelt for me. These weeks have been very emotional to me while trying to raise my son and daughter through this. I know God will get us through these times. May God bless you,
Keith Thomas
 Tomball, Texas