

January 2015

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Brady, Texas

<http://fbcbrady.org/>

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What didn't happen in 2014

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

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The end of the year always prompts the media to sum up the year with lists. Turner Classic Movies is running a clip that lists significant actors and movie people who died during the year. People magazine will, no doubt, have issues that list the ten most beautiful, sexiest, wealthiest, the biggest flops and successes, etc., etc., *ad nauseum*, of the beautiful people for 2014. And of course every news channel will have a wrap-up of the biggest news stories of the past year.

Like the media, we usually define a year by what happened. We say "it was 2001, because that's when we moved", or "it had to be 1998, because that's when the baby was born." The things that happened define the years for us. Sadly, we often define a year by the tragedies and losses we experienced. The financial set-backs, health or family emergencies, and the deaths of those we love are so often the events that define the year for us.

But what about the things that didn't happen to you and those you love? What bad things did NOT happen to you in 2014? Maybe the IRS did NOT audit you, or the house did NOT burn down, and that medical test came back NEGATIVE. So often we forget about the bullets we dodged, and are, in fact, ignorant of most of the ones that missed us by an inch.

I encourage you to look back over 2014 and find the grace and mercy that God has extended to you this past year. Just as Christmas reminds us to celebrate the gifts we have received, to count your blessings, let us use the end of the year to be grateful for what we did not have to endure, to recognize and remember the victories we saw and the defeats we did not.

Let God who made and defines life define 2014 for you, not the mere events of life.

Happy LAST Year to you.

—Bro. Kevin

Children's Christmas party a big success

by Maurice Mallow

The Children's Sunday School, (from Nursery through Fifth Grade), was treated to a Christmas Party, on Sunday, December 14th during the Sunday School hour.

As the children entered the Fellowship Hall, Joanna Coston, teacher of the 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades, led the children in playing several Christmas games. Next, Marsha Gainer, teacher of the Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades, read them a Christmas story, followed by Christmas music with Judi Oden, and Pastor Kevin McDonald accompanying on their guitars. David Munden, teacher of the preschool children, was unable to attend this year.

Refreshments were Christmas cupcakes and punch. Each child received a Christmas sack filled with Christmas goodies to entertain them during the Christmas holidays, plus an apple, an orange and peppermint sticks. 25 children were in attendance.

Maurice Mallow and Claudette Young, Sunday School Secretaries, coordinated the party. They wish to extend thanks to each teacher for their help in making some lasting memories for the First Baptist Church children. We pray each family represented will have a Blessed New Year in 2015.

If you know of children who are not attending Sunday School elsewhere, please let us know so we can contact them.

"Children are a gift from God; they are his reward." Psalms 127:3

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Our goal: \$3000.00

Giving as of 12-30-14: \$1799.65



Please continue to pray for and give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

What are the global needs?

Gifts to the 2013 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering were the largest in history. Yet, the goal of \$175 million was not met, and more missionaries cannot be sent at this time.

We still face this challenge:

- Out of the world's 11,000-plus people groups, nearly 7,000 are considered yet unreached; they include more than half the world's population
- More than 3,000 unreached people groups are unengaged, having no church-planting strategy at all

What might happen if we reach the 2014 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$175 million? More missionaries sent from our churches to partner with more nationals, more people groups engaging others — more lives for the kingdom.

Youth News

- I hope everyone had a good Christmas and got to spend quality time with family! As the next semester of school begins the youth will start doing small groups again. Last year was a success but we were short of volunteers. Small groups give students the opportunity to talk with other students and leaders and ask them questions to find out more information, while at the same time students build relationships with each other in order to keep each other accountable. I believe this is a very effective way to do student ministry and ultimately it is a great way for students to grow in their relationship with God!

- Come and join us on Sunday mornings! Sunday school starts at 10:00am. We are going through James as a group sharing what God reveals to us personally in order to help each other grow in our walk with Christ!

- Also come join us for BREAKAWAY on Wednesday nights! Junior high service will start at 5:45 and the senior high service starts at 7:15.

- "Breakaway" is our Wednesday night service where junior high and senior high students can come and worship God! Students, 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 help keep us on track! Don't miss this opportunity! I look forward to seeing you there!

- Jack Wells, Youth Minister

Happy New Year from Godly Impressions Preschool!

by Kim Coleman

For the month of January the children will be learning about "Dinosaur Digs", the letters "L", "E", "V", the numbers "5", and "15" the color "Purple" and the shape of an "oval".

The Bible lesson for the month is "God Asks Me to Seek Him" featuring the story of "The Parable of the Talents." Our monthly Bible verse is "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12:34

The children did a great job at their Christmas program! If you were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed the show.

The Preschool will be closed January 1st, 2nd, and the 9th. We hope that everyone has a safe and Happy New Year!

Thank you all for the prayers and support!

God bless,

—Kim Coleman, Preschool Director



Spain Mission Trip update

Faith Bean and Josh Collier have reached just over 50% of their goal for the Spain mission trip next summer. Thank you to everyone who helped with and contributed to the spaghetti luncheon on December 7, 2014.

Josh is available to help folks around their houses with odd jobs.



Navajo Mission Trip 2015, June 26-July 5

- Eagle Springs Baptist Church (near Cuba, NM)
- Volunteers from FBC will join others from Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth.
- Families are encouraged to make this a family mission; children kindergarten age and over are welcome.
- Youth have a special invitation.
- Contact Betty Smith FMI 597-0740 or Becky Martin 597-1372

Is God calling you to make this trip in 2015?

Birth Announcement

Robert Lawrence Gerstenberger---"Larry"
 Born November 28, 2014
 6 lb 13 oz
 Parents: Erica and Ty Gerstenberger
 Grandparents: Robert & Cynthia Reeves, Pam Edmondson of Kerrville and the late Robert Gerstenberger
 Great Grandparents Dorothy Reeves and Robert and Marilyn Evans
 Proud uncles: Robert Houston Reeves and Austin Reeves



January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Oralia Barrera Betty Daugherty	2 Stefanie McKay	3 Amelia Britteon
4 <i>Deacons meeting,</i> 5:00	5	6	7 Ann Roberts Kay Holloway	8 Jaelyn McKay	9 <i>Food Distribution,</i> 10:00-12:00	10 Terri Virdell
11 Damian Everett <i>Business meeting</i> 5:30	12 Joanna Coston Weston Bauer <i>Triple S lunch, noon,</i> <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	13 David Munden	14 Janis Groves	15	16	17 Joyce Hol- lingsworth
18 Ida Owens	19	20	21 David Bishop Kathy Branden- berger Pat Matula	22 Ashley Davee Marsha Gainer	23 <i>Food Distribution,</i> 10:00-12:00	24 Fayrene Easley Ashlee Shaw Sharon Poe
25 Braden Kolb	26 <i>Triple S meal and</i> <i>game night, 6:00</i>	27	28 McKenna Bran- denberger Albert Pearson	29 Nadine Hinshaw	30	31 Doris Collins

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 <i>(resumes Jan. 12)</i>
6:30 PM	CWJC, Building Men for Christ <i>(resumes Jan. 12)</i>

Wednesday

7:00 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church
5:30 to 7:15	AWANA, mission groups <i>(resumes Jan. 7)</i>
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 <i>(resumes Jan. 8)</i>
9:45-12:00	Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart to the church

Greeters for January

	East Door
Jan. 4	Virgil and Glenda Middleton
Jan. 11	Jim and Betty Smith
Jan. 18	Pete and Oralia Barrera
Jan. 25	Welman and Becky Bauer 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 Jeanagayle Behrens, Claudette Young, Wanda Burns, Kevin McDonald, and Becky Elliott for recording radio spots for December.

January devotionals will be done by Ida Owens, Kenneth Young, Tina Young, and Lynn Munden.

Food Ministry Report

December 2014

- 143 families
- 153 adults under 65
- 76 children under 18
- 71 adults 65 and older

January food distribution will be Friday, January 9, and Friday, January 23, from 10:00 to noon. 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.

Deacons on call for January
Bobby Williams 597-7573
George Matula 792-0430

Seven Realities of Experiencing God

Did they become part of your life in 2014?

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

Pray without ceasing. . .

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

- 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
- Faith Bean and Josh Collier: mission trip

Richard Aguirre
Pam Beasley
Maggie Behrens
David Bishop
Joyce Blackwell
Marcus Burell
April Carson
Doris Collins

Sue Crow
Dayton Dennard
Fayrene Easley
Terri Lee Edwards
Glenn Elliott
Roy Guthrie
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Robert Kibbe
George Koehl and wife
Mary Beth Lewis
Lisa Linder
Mike Lowery
Sue Lubke
Nelda Martin
Charles Miller
Louise Morrow
Paul and Connie Nix
Kathy Parsley
Tracy Parsley
James Patton
Jon Randles

Ann Roberts
Paul Sanders
Michael Sandoval
Harry Sellers
Red Simpson
Mike and Laurie Slone
Braden Summer
Jennifer Thomas
Jack and Susan Turk
Richard Valdez
Tatum Vinson
Tess Warren
Bob and Jana Watts
Chelsea Watts
Billy and Doris Whitaker
Lilly Williams
Tanya Wilk
Kristan Wilson
Wes Woodard
Alice Young

In military:
Daryl Booth
Jon Bradshaw
Brandon Haymon
Talisha Hendley
David Hernandez
Jose Lopez
Moses Marmolejo
Concho Moore
Jace Telford
Jonathan Torres
Alisha Slone
Wes Stark
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the family of Bob Engdahl.

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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.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32



Thank you to everyone who brought cookies and other good food for the Christmas Food Pantry receptions. Many people enjoyed the special treats and hospitality. And thanks to Norma and Deryl for the live music!

Dear First Baptist Church,
I would like to thank the church and everybody that prayed, brought food for my family at the loss of our loved one. Bro. McDonald did a beautiful graveside service for us. The meal was delicious that you provided for my family to enjoy. The use of the Family Life Center to enjoy the meal in was perfect. We all felt the love and all the kindness was greatly appreciated at this difficult time.
Sharon Reeves Turnbow

Congratulations to our December graduates!

- ◇ **Bracken Bean** graduated from Howard Payne University with a Bachelor of Arts in Youth Ministry.
- ◇ **Tyler Cooper** graduated from Howard Payne University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education.
- ◇ **Crockett Jurius** graduated *magna cum laude* from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Business Administration, with a major in accounting.

