

April 2015

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Brady, Texas

<http://fbcbrady.org/>

Vol.16., No. 4

Spring, and bare spots in the soul

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

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Now that spring is springing, it is time for yardwork. I see lots of people mowing and many stores are selling flowers and gardening supplies. Yards are going to be a priority for a lot of folks for the next few months. In fact, my yard provided me for the idea for this month's newsletter article. Really, it wasn't the yard; it was the bare spots that set my mind to thinking.

I like a nice yard, and last summer I tried real hard to get the grass to fill in those bare spots. I watered around them every day; I faithfully kept the grass around the bare spots watered, and I cared for the runners of new grass with great faithfulness. I even filled in some large spots with lots of small sprigs, and took care of them all summer. You know what I discovered? Grass grows reaaaally slooow unless it is trying to get into a flower bed or cover the sidewalk. All I got for my faithful care and watering was bare spots that were only a little bit smaller when fall ended than they were when spring started.

I need a lot more bang for my buck, so this year it is big squares of St. Augustine for me. I am going to cover those bare spots 12 x 18 inches at a time, and in one day my yard will be green grass, not green grass and brown dirt. Victory will be swift and sweet. No more natural process for me, no letting nature take its course, deferred gratification be hanged. Patience is for people who can put up with bare spots in the yard, and I am not one of those people.

It is too bad I cannot deal with the bare spots in my soul the same way. If only I could go to the church store, buy some 12 x18 rectangles of spiritual maturity and cover up the bare spots in my life and soul with one afternoon of moderate effort. Christ-likeness without obedience, Christ-likeness without effort, Christ-likeness without a cross. That would sell (and sadly it often does) like hotcakes.

But spiritual maturity is not a fast and/or easy proposition. It takes years of consistently watering and weeding, cultivating my heart and soul and mind with prayer, scripture, love and fellowship. We patiently watch and wait and *work* for the bare spots in our life to gradually and most often, imperceptibly fill in. We have to continually fight off the weeds that see a bare spot as an invitation to take root and flourish. Spiritual maturity is the destination: spiritual formation is the route we take; it is not the interstate, it is the scenic route.

So as you get ready to go outside and work on the lawn, let Galatians 6:9 guide your spiritual yardwork. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." It's nice to have a green thumb, but let's work on having green hearts too.

—Bro. Kevin

Josh and Faith say "Thanks, FBC!"

To FBC Brady: "We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our church family at FBC Brady. Thanks to your generosity our fundraising goal has been reached. We continue to ask for your prayer support as we prepare ourselves for the mission before us. Once again thank you to everyone for your support. "

Faith Bean and Joshua Collier

The fundraisers in March were very successful, with the pancake lunch bringing in \$566 and the bake sale netting \$935. Additional donations have been promised.

The young people are raising money to fund their mission trip to Spain this summer. Their trip is a part of iGo Global missions.

Faith and Josh are still available to help with any odd jobs you may have. Contact Josh at 792-8054, or Joyce Collier at 792-8181 or 792-4848. Contact Faith at 792-6399.

Children's Easter egg hunt set for Easter Sunday

by Maurice Mallow

The children's Sunday School, (from nursery through 5th grade) annual Easter egg hunt will take place on Easter Sunday morning, April 5, on the baseball field in back of the church.

Please meet in your Sunday School room at 9:45 am. The egg hunt will begin about 10:00 am.

Please bring your Easter basket or suitable container, but do not bring eggs. Your basket should be empty when the hunt begins.

After the egg hunt, we will have cupcakes, milk, and/or punch for all the children in one of our classrooms. Parents are welcome to come and bring your cameras or just to watch the children.

If your child has allergies to certain foods, please call Maurice Mallow, 597-2373, or Claudette Young, 597-2485. Also, if you have any questions, please call us. We wish you and your family a blessed Easter.

If you missed the Palm Sunday celebration by the children's Sunday School, you missed a blessing! They were wonderful.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering this month

FBC's goal for this important missions offering for North American missions is \$2000. Your gift. . .

- Provides for the needs of missionaries. More than 2,500 missionary families are serving in the United States, Canada, and their territories.
- Creates opportunities for evangelism and church planting to intersect broken lives, offering the hope found only in Christ.
- Raises up the future missionary force by investing in NAMB's "farm system" student missionaries.

Navajo Mission 2015

by Betty Smith

Calling all fun-loving, mission-minded, adventurous, friendly, willing, hardy people (that should hit someone). You are most welcome to join us on a mission trip to the Navajo Reservation at Eagle Spring Baptist Church in New Mexico. The dates are June 26th - July 5th (or any part you can participate), and the cost is \$150 per person. A discount is made for younger children (kindergarten and up). A planning meeting after Easter (TBA) will welcome any newcomers. Think about it, and join us for the experience of a lifetime. For more information call Betty Smith at [325-597-0740](tel:325-597-0740), or Becky Martin at [325-597-1372](tel:325-597-1372).

Youth News

- Small groups have started! I ask that you all will join me in praying for this ministry that takes place on Wednesday nights. Pray specifically for the kids to know Jesus Christ and to have a personal relationship with Him, and pray that they will grow in that relationship. Pray for the parents of the kids who show up on Wednesday nights and pray for the volunteers that give 6 hours out of their week to come and serve at FBC Brady.

- Come and join us Easter Sunday, when the youth will be helping hide Easter eggs for the children's ministry!

Upcoming events for the summer

- Super Summer June 8-12.
- The day camp/missions with the team from FBC Midland is June 14-21
- Mission trip to Arizona will be June 26 – July 5.
- Paisano camp is July 26-31
- I ask that you all will be praying for these events. Pray for God to use these events to change the hearts of youth, and ultimately help students to grow deeper in their personal relationship with God!

Also...

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

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

- 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 *Breakaway* 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

Godly Impressions Preschool: we learn to obey

by Kim Coleman, Preschool Director

For the month of April the children will be learning about "Ocean Commotion", the letters "W", "O", "X", the numbers "8", and "18" the color "Blue" and the shape of a "Triangle".

The Bible lesson for the month is "God Asks Me to Obey" featuring the story of "Jonah and the Whale." Our monthly Bible verse is "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Ephesians 6:1

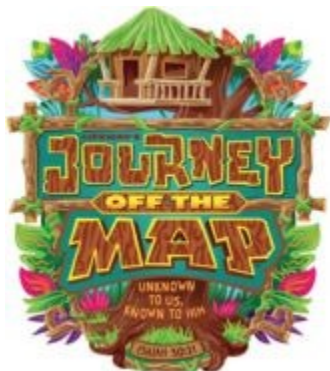
The children will be having an Easter Party on Wednesday, April 1st at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will also have an Easter Egg Hunt on the playground. The preschool will be closed for Good Friday, on April 3rd.

We would like to remind everyone that the black boxes in the Sunday School rooms that are labeled "Preschool Prayer Partners" are a way for the First Baptist Church members to minister to their preschool children, their families, and the preschool staff. Please find time to pray for at least one child in the box a week. The preschool families really appreciate this ministry. The other ministry we have is the "Rocking Readers". This is a time for anyone to come and read to one child or several children any day of the week between 9:00 and 12:00. We have books available for you to use. Reading a small book to a child and sharing the love of Christ with them only takes a couple of minutes, but the impression you make can last a lifetime.

The preschool is now taking donations for any gently used toys and books for the ages of birth to 5 years. The toys can be for indoor or outdoor use. If you are not sure if it is something we can use, just bring it up and if we cannot use it, then we will donate it to Helping Hands.

If you would like to donate snacks or juice, we would appreciate those items as well. The snacks can include: 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 me at 325-792-6529.

Thank you all for the prayers and support! God bless.



Vacation Bible School in planning stage: will you help?

Vacation Bible School is being planned for July 12-16. If you have always helped, if you have never helped, or if you used to help, please pray about volunteering this year! Needed personnel include:

- Director or co-directors Director for preschool class Director for K-1 class
- Helpers in every area, including each grade level, crafts, refreshments (children and workers), recreation, and music.

It takes a small army to make VBS happen. You can have a part! You will be a blessing to the children, and you will be blessed more than you realize. Contact RaNon to enlist, or watch for a sign-up sheet .

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Deacons on call for April Jerry Caraway 792-8749 Charlie Elliott 597-0066		1 Bill Burns	2 Graceson Williams	3 Paul Nix	4 Sherry Cox Mabel Jones
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Egg hunt for kids during Sunday School Farion Morton	6 Robert Reeves	7 Austin Reeves	8 Charlie Elliott	9	10 Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00 John David Bishop	11 Robby Paradise
12 <i>Shelby's shower, 1:30; Business meeting 5:30; Your Church Experiencing God Together, 6:00</i>	13 Triple S lunch, noon, Fellowship Hall Becky Elliott	14 Margaret Mitchell Kevin McDonald	15 Jonathan Torres	16	17	18 Zoey Sparks
19 Your Church Experiencing God Together, 6:00, fellowship following	20	21 Billy Whitaker	22 Glenda Douglas Cy Nobles	23	24 Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00	25
26 Your Church Experiencing God Together, 6:00 Zane Sparks	27 Triple S meal and game night, 6:00	28	29 Carrah Sparks	30 Carrie Pearson Beth Snowden		

Weekly Events

Sunday	
9:45 AM	Sunday School
10:50 AM	Morning Worship
6:00 PM	Your Church Experiencing God Together
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 to 7:15	AWANA, mission groups
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 April	
	East Door
April 5	Robert and Cynthia Reeves
April 12	Joyce Hollingsworth and Velma Hendley
April 19	Ed and Becky Weber
April 26	Jason and Karen Behrens
	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 Rod Young, Deryl Bishop, Joyce Hollingsworth, Bobbie Williams, and Wanda Burns for recording radio spots for March.

April devotionals will be done by Janet Guthrie, Cynthia Reeves, Becky Martin, and Susan Turk.

Food Ministry Report

March 2015

- 139 families
- 156 adults under 65
- 91 children under 18
- 42 adults 65 and older

April food distribution will be Friday, April 10, and Friday, April 24, from 10:00 to noon. More volunteers are always 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.



Pray without ceasing. . .

Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
 I will strengthen you, surely I will help you.
 Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

- 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
 - Navajo mission trip
- Richard Aguirre
 James and Mary Bates
 Pam Beasley
 Maggie Behrens
 David and Deryl Bishop
 Diane Bradshaw
 April Carson

- Doris Collins
 Sue Crow
 Dayton Dennard
 Fayrene Easley
 Glenn Elliott
 Betty Guthrie
 Mary Holubec
 Curtis and Genna Jennings
 Rex and Geneva Joslin
 George Koehl and wife
 Mary Beth Lewis
 Janie Lowery
 Mike Lowery
 Sue Lubke
 Charles Miller
 Louise Morrow
 Paul and Connie Nix
 Nicholas Palacio
 Noah Palacio
 Kathy Parsley
 Tracy Parsley

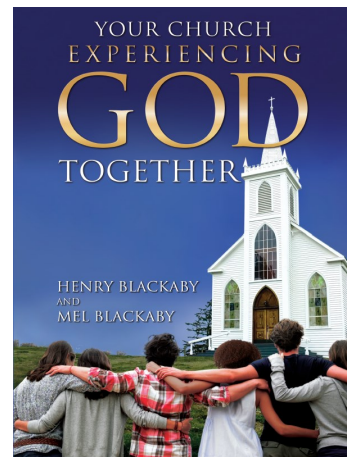
- James Patton
 Jeffery Perkins
 Jon Randles
 Ann Roberts
 Dennis Sandoval
 Harry Sellers
 Mildred Seward
 Red and Kay Simpson
 Mike and Laurie Slone
 Bud Stamm
 Terry Starks
 Jack and Susan Turk
 Richard Valdez
 Tess Warren
 Doris Whitaker
 Lilly Williams
 Tanya Wilks
 Betty Wilson
 Kristan Wilson
 Wes Woodard
 Alice Young

- In military:*
 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 families of Bill Curry, Terri Lee Edwards, and Robert Kibbe.

The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

John 14:26



This study will continue through April. Everyone is welcome, even if you have missed some of the sessions.

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Jerry Caraway, Maintenance Supervisor
Kim Galindo, Nursery Director
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 Martin: becky@scottmartin.net.

Recipe Bridal Shower for



Shelby Young
 Bride elect of
Kyle Timmermann

Sunday, April 12
1:30-3:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite recipe(s), the ingredients, and the dish or pan in which to bake.

Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. —Ephesians 6:18b

Nadine Hinshaw is one of our homebound members. She has been a member of FBC for many years. Because of health issues she is not able to attend services. She loves the Lord and misses worshiping with us. Nadine lives with her daughter Barbara at 113 South Street. Her number is 456-5435. She would enjoy receiving a visit, phone call, or a cheery card.



The Beth Moore study of Daniel will begin at a later date. Books are available for \$15.