

May 2014

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Brady, Texas

<http://fbcbrady.org/>

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Making history at FBC

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

July 11-13 are important dates for FBC Brady. We will be conducting an Experiencing God weekend retreat on those dates. I encourage you as strongly as I know how, to be a part of this retreat. It will be a significant event in its own right, but will also set the stage for a 13 week small group study of Experiencing God. Then in the fall, as God leads, we will begin the Vital Church process. Your leadership, participation, and prayers will all be key ingredients in determining the fruit these events produce.

FBC of Brady has a history. It is one of faithfulness, sacrifice and, for the most part, progress. There have also been times of difficulty, dissention, and sadly, division. That is our history, and we own it, both the good and the bad. I have been your pastor now for a little more than two years, and think it is time we address our history. However- I have no desire to address the history that has been made; I am only interested in the history we are making now and will be making in the years to come. It is time for us to make *our* history. The history of the next few years of FBC will determine the history of FBC for the next decade or two. It is time for us to stop living off the work and faith of others, (most of whom are long-gone); it is time for us to stop cashing in on the investments of others; it is time for us to stop sleeping in the shade of trees we did not plant, and plant some of our own

It is OUR turn. It is our turn to take the risks and to make the sacrifices. It is our turn to take the role of servant-leaders, it is our turn to put away childish things and commit ourselves to counting the cost. It is time for us to do the hard work of discovering and then doing the will of God (no matter what that turns out to be), no matter the cost.

It is time for change. But each one of us must understand that it is first of all, time to change Me. That is a significant challenge, but the Christian life is one of constant change and challenge. We know this, we just don't do it. If FBC is made up of people, how can FBC be changed if the people who compose it are not changed? Churches don't change, people change. If you are not committed to personal change, we will just be pouring old wine into a new wineskin, re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic as it slips beneath the waves.

The other element of what we are trying to bring about is in some ways beyond our control. As the old hymn says, "All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down." While we have no control over what God does, we can seek His presence, His guidance, His will. God will not hide Himself from us, and I believe will honor our efforts to seek Him. So pray, read the Bible, and seek the will of God for yourself and for us as a church.

The motto of the British Special Air Service is "He who dares wins." We are told "fortune favors the brave." In Jer. 1:17 God tells the prophet, "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified..." It is time for us as a church, by faith and guided by God's Holy Spirit, to set our foot on the path that goes into our future, into our history. I pray you will leave everything behind but your faith and obedience, and take that journey with us.

—Bro. Kevin

Frank Banda ministries expand

by Ed Weber

I would like to share with you the ministries of Brother Frank Banda in Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras. He and his wife, Isabel, have a thrift store in Eagle Pass where the churches, in the Lake Ivie Baptist Association, have donated usable items. Mostly clothes, shoes, toys, coats and non perishable food items. Clothing items are sold for just a few dollars, to pay for the expenses on the store, and most of the food is given away to the people along the border. Brother Banda is starting a church at the thrift store to minister to the people in that area. He has a vision "If you have a church the people will come".

They are also building houses along the border for people to have shelter all year long. He preaches to these people, young and old, in different places along the border.

He also preaches to the inmates in the prison in Mexico. There are about 800 inmates. About 100 or more are attending the services. Most of them have accepted Christ as their savior. There are seven of the men who have accepted Christ, and preach to the other inmates all during the week. The prison officials have given Bro. Banda permission to build a building inside the prison. It will be used for a church and library with Christian books and literature for them to read. They have already started the building process.

He has two soccer teams that he takes into the prison so the inmates have interaction with people on the outside. Soccer is the only game the inmates play for recreation and to befriend them, and in this way some more of them may have a life changing experience in accepting Christ as Lord and Savior.

He would like to purchase some shorts and T-shirts for his team. If some people would like to give a donation, small or large, to make this ministry a reality, it would be a great opportunity to be part of this ministry.

Brother Bill Finley was a great supporter of Brother Banda's Ministries and so have the members of FBC Brady, with donations of money, clothing, shoes and many other donated items. May you receive blessing in knowing you are helping others. That is the core of biblical teaching, loving and helping people less fortunate than ourselves.

I will be taking items to Bro. Banda on June 3. Please have your items here by June 1 for loading. Thank you in advance for your help with this worthy project.

Jeffery Bunger, Youth Minister of FBC Eden, is going to Eagle Pass right after our trip. He is taking some of the youth with him to do some evangelistic work with Bro. Banda. Your prayers are appreciated and greatly needed as Bro. Banda works to bring the good news of Christ to the lost.

Elliotts to report on mission trip, host fellowship at ranch

Charlie and Becky Elliott will give a report to the church on their recent mission trip to China on Sunday morning, May 4.

That evening the church has a special invitation from Charlie and Becky:

"Come on out" to our place on the San Saba River to provide a Texas-style welcome to 6 students from a Chinese University along with their teacher/sponsor. It's a church-wide picnic on Sunday evening, May 4; so come early (5:00) if you want to play in the river or come at 6:00 p.m. for hamburgers and home-made ice cream. We like to use this evening as a picture of what Christian America looks like. We've been with these students two times at their university city. They are wonderful young people. Help us show them some Texas-style "love!"

There's a sign-up sheet in the west foyer of the church auditorium for things to bring for the hamburgers AND ESPECIALLY FOR THE ICE CREAM.

See ya' there,

Charlie and Becky Elliott

Pray at 9:00 AM & PM

We are encouraging every church member, no matter where you are, to stop and pray at 9:00 am and 9:00 pm. Please take part in this special time of prayer for our church, leaders, and members. Pray for the lost and un-churched in our community. Pray that FBC will be a lighthouse for those blinded by sin. Pray that FBC will be a place where people will run to for comfort, encouragement, and love. Please pray!

Navajo mission trip

An organizational meeting for the Navajo mission trip (June 20-29) will be held this month, date and time TBA. Please talk to RaNon or to Betty Smith if you are interested in going. The FBC group will join a group from Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth to do ministry in Tinian, New Mexico. Is God calling you to go?

Welcome new members by baptism on Easter Sunday:

Jacob Jeffreys and Patricia Burkhart

Youth events: a busy summer ahead

April was a great month for the youth group. Last month I asked that you would pray for the youth to keep growing and we have had several new faces showing up for Wednesday night services. I ask that you continue to pray that that youth group will continue growing.

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 a Wednesday night for a youth worship service! The doors are open at 5:15 pm and the youth service will start at 6:00 pm. After the service we will be hanging out in the gym and playing games. But most importantly 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: Ladies Retreat June 20-21



We are having a Ladies Retreat entitled "Cafe Chocolat," where women delight in God's grace. The retreat will be held at the FBC Family Life Center on Friday, June 20 from 6:00-10:00 p.m.-Saturday, June 21 from 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cost is \$25.00. Sign up for retreat begins in May with more information to follow.

Godly Impressions Preschool plans end-of-year events

For the month of May the children will be learning about "Bugs and Crawly Things", the letters "S", "B", "L", the numbers "9", "19", the colors "black" and "orange", and the shape of a "rectangle".

The Bible lesson for the month is "God Asks Me to Forgive" featuring the story "The Parable of the Lost Son." Our monthly Bible verse is "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

We have a lot of fun and exciting activities planned for this month! On Wednesday, May 7th, Brady Elementary will send a school bus over to pick up our preschoolers that will be entering kindergarten in the fall, for a tour of the elementary school. On Friday, the 9th, we will have "Muffins for Mom." This is a small party to honor our mothers for Mother's Day. Then on Friday the 16th, we will have "Donuts for Dad" to honor our fathers for Father's Day.

Then on May 28th, at 11:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary, we will have our preschool program and graduation! Everyone is invited to this very special event – even if you don't have a child in the program, it is worth coming to see! This is also our last day of preschool. We will have childcare on the 29th and 30th, and then we will be closed for the summer!

Have a safe and happy summer! Thank you all for your continued support! God bless,

—*Kim Coleman, Preschool Director*



Vacation Bible School June 15-19

Julie Armstrong has graciously volunteered to be VBS director this year. Thanks, Julie!

There is a place for everyone to help in VBS. Please sign up! VBS will begin on a Sunday night and go through Thursday night, June 15-19 from 5:30-7:30. Plan now to bring your children,

grandchildren, and neighborhood children to this important week. VBS is for children from incoming Pre-K (age 4) to incoming 5th grade.

Thanks to youth for help with fun egg hunt

—*by Maurice Mallow*

The Children's Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt was held on Easter Sunday morning on the baseball field behind the church. Over 20 children, from the Nursery through 5th Grade, participated in the egg hunt. Gage Behrens found the most eggs. His basket was full and running over, but after we counted 40 eggs, he shared his "find" with some of the children who didn't have as many as he did. Thanks, Gage. Some of the children found surprises in their eggs.

Thanks to the following youth who hid the eggs for the hunt this year. Carson Brandenberger, McKenna Brandenberger, Dillon Roberts, Annie Roberts, Weston Bauer, Walker Bauer, Landry Harper, and Jacob Jeffries. We appreciate you!

After the egg hunt, all of the children and youth had cupcakes, milk and juice.

No tummy aches were reported because all of the eggs were plastic eggs.



May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
It's not too late to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. Our giving to date is \$571, obviously short of the \$2000 goal. 100 percent of your gift will be transformed into missionary salaries and ministry supplies.				1	2 Wes Avant Tim Owens	3 Ethel Blackwell <i>Ethel's birthday party, 3:00-4:00, FLC</i>
4 Matthew Bishop Oleta Weaver <i>Fellowship at Elliott Ranch, 5:00</i>	5	6 Alton Roberts	7 Daniel Virdell	8 Edith Slaughter Blane Woodard	9 Andy Howard Kari Nichols <i>Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00</i>	10 Terry Virdell
11 Geneva Stanley Josh Collier <i>Business meeting, 6:00; deacons meeting 7:00</i>	12 Cody Munden Crockett Jurius <i>Triple S lunch, noon, Fellowship Hall</i>	13 Pat Gary Emily Spurgin Jack Jennings Jett Jennings <i>Grace Class meeting, 3:00, FLC</i>	14 Wes Virdell	15 Norma Ridout	16	17 Lynn Munden
18 <i>Fellowship, 6:00</i>	19	20	21 Sharon McDonald	22	23	24
25 <i>Visitation, 6:00</i>	26 Jeanagayle Behrens <i>Triple S meal and game night, 6:00</i>	27 Teresa Felts Layne Avant	28 <i>Preschool graduation, 11:00</i>	29	30 Arlan McBee Daryl Booth	31

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM
Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM
Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM
Thanks to Judy Mitzel, Judy Odem, Linsey Woodard, Kay Holloway, and Jeanagayle Behrens for recording radio devotionals in April.
May devotionals will be done by Maurice Mallow, Susan Turk Betty Smith, and Wanda Burns.


Coming in June. . .

June 3	Ed Weber takes donations to Banda ministry
June 9-13	Youth Super Summer
June 15-19	VBS
June 20-21	Ladies Retreat
June 20-29	Navajo mission trip
June 27-28	Youth Evangelism Conference

Food Ministry Report
April 2014

- 123 families
- 145 adults under 65
- 57 children under 18
- 56 adults 65 and older

May food distribution will be Friday, May 9, from 10:00 to noon.



Weekly Events

Sunday

9:30 AM	Special prayer time, parlor
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
6:00 PM	Community choir, Choir Room (May 5, then every other Monday)
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
6:00	Prayer meeting/Bible study

Thursday


9:30-11:00	Dorcas quilting ministry
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Deacons on call for May

Rex Joslin	286-4526 or 456-8080
George Matula	792-0430

Greeters for May

	East Door
May 4	James and Maurice Mallow
May 11	Robert and Cynthia Reeves
May 18	Roy and Janet Guthrie
May 25	Gary and Judy Mitzel
	West Door: Youth



Thank you, Russell Pierce, for painting the rails, curb corners, and parking lot markings. It all looks good!

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
 - Alexa Bean’s trip to Central Asia
 - 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
Alan Brown
Marcus Burell
Mike Caldwell
April Carson
Larry Collier
Sue Crow
Maria De Luna
Fayrene Easley
Patsy Finley
Louise Gainer
Janet Gloria
Kenneth House
Wesley Hyatt
Arch Jacobson
Juanita Jacobson
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Mike Lowery
Leroy Keese
Gary Mitzel

- Paul and Connie Nix
Brian Owen
Tracy Parsley
James Patton
Ann Roberts
Betty Schaffner
Mike and Laurie Slone
H.V. Smith
Opal Smyrl
Jim Spurgin
Jack Threadgill
Jack and Susan Turk
Richard Valdez
Makie Jo Walters
Makayla Walters
Chelsea Watts
Billy and Doris Whitaker
Lilly Williams
Alice Young
Claudette 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 David DeLand, Rua Ewing, Rachel Garza Garcia, Camrie Garcia, and Carter Garcia, and to Bro. Kevin and Sharon McDonald in the loss of his uncle, Lloyd McDonald..

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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.

And whatever you do,
whether in word or
deed, do it all in the
name of the Lord Je-
sus, giving thanks to
God the Father
through him.
Colossians 3:17



Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you all so much for the support you have given me. My trip to central Asia has been completely paid for! I am very excited to go and spread the message to a place that needs to see God’s true love. Thank you again for showing that love to me! I treasure all your prayers as I leave on May 14th. I am so blessed by all of you!

Sincerely,
Alexa Bean

Dear First Baptist Church;

May I send my heartfelt appreciation for all of the prayers, phone calls, and concern for me while I was recovering from my Christmas afternoon car accident that left me with a broken neck and many deep bruises and hematomas. It has been a very long, agonizing road back, but I am hoping that I will be able to take my neck brace off on April 18. I felt I would never be released, but after 22 days in the hospital and the Rehab Nursing Facility I was given my reprieve. Thank you to each of you and believe me there are guardian angels. I had one that day who put loving arms around me and saved me from more serious injuries.

All my love to my church home.

Sincerely,
Margaret J. Woodall

Please drop by the Family Life Center at First Baptist on May 3, at 3:00 pm to honor Ethel Blackwell. The Gleaners class is celebrating her recovery from hip surgery and her 90th birthday. We'll have some cake and punch. Bring a card or greeting but no gifts.

