

First Baptist Church Brady, Texas

Give.
Grow.
Go.

FBC Brady is a family that exists to GIVE - GROW - GO
GIVE - by meeting real needs in our community
GROW - by equipping people to become authentic Christ followers
GO - by taking the gospel message to Brady and beyond

December 2019

newsletter

FBC Brady, TX

325-597-2956

<http://fbcbrady.org>

Vol. 20, No. 12



Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering: Dec. 1-8 Our goal: \$2500

Prayer suggestions from Paul Chitwood, IMB President:

Pray for missionaries as they lead in different types of trauma-healing ministry, such as refugee work.

Pray for missionaries as they face the practical struggles of their ministry assignments.

Pray for personnel to work well with a diverse team of partners on the field—national believers and missionaries from other US-based agencies.

Pray for missionaries as they struggle with being so far away from their home church, country, and family.

For daily prayer reminders via email during the Week of Prayer, sign up at imb.org/subscribe.

Missions Team update

by Betty Smith, Missions Team Lead

1. **The Haven** collection has slowed down, so let me remind you that we are still collecting. A box from November will be delivered there on Friday, November 29.
2. **The Food Pantry** has a really big praise with an abundance of help on November 8. See page 3 of this newsletter for details about that, as well as a wonderful donation of food from our preschool families. Dec. 13 is the Christmas reception at Food Pantry with cookies and punch. Send your cookies to be part of this special day. Also we will have drawings for some gift baskets. If you would like to donate one or add to one, please do so!
3. **The Banda Ministry**—Bobby Williams will be taking a load on December 9 or 10 if there is enough to take. So far only 2 sacks of donations have come in.
4. **Outreach**— We have been talking about ways to contact new-to-Brady folks, and also give a welcome packet with information about our church to our visitors. We will be telling more about that later.
5. **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** begins December 1, with the week of prayer December 1-8. The goal is \$2,500.
6. **Operation Christmas Child**—Bro. Lee delivered 37 shoeboxes to the collection center in San Angelo on Nov. 24. Thank you to all who gave.

As always, your Mission Team thanks you for your participation in these projects. We couldn't do them without you.

Merry Christmas from Bro. Lee

I love Christmas. It has always been my favorite time of year. The smells, colors, sounds and sometimes the cooler weather always lift my spirit. It's the celebration and the anticipation that excite me the most.

We are celebrating the great work God has done in our midst as we have journeyed through the Intentional Interim process. And we anticipate the great work God will continue to do in making us ready for the next pastor.

These two words, *celebrate* and *anticipate*, are representative of two things TXBSM is doing. Celebrating the work of God and anticipating what He may do next. So, I ask you, what are you celebrating? What has God been doing in your life or around you that you need to celebrate? What are you waiting on God to do?

As we bring a year to a close, take some inventory. Do some celebrating. Celebrate even the things that have not been so easy or comfortable. Be watching with anticipation for what God has in store for you—for us—over the coming days.

Merry Christmas! —Bro. Lee

Search Committee News

by George Matula, PSC Chair

The newly formed search committee of Pete Barrera, Jeanagayle Behrens, Tony Groves, George Matula, Farion Morton, Joyce Scott, and Betty Smith met with Brother Lee Floyd for a training retreat on November 9th. The committee elected George Matula as chairman and Joyce Scott as vice chairman. A pastor profile has been developed and items ranked according to importance. Preliminary review of four previously received resumes was conducted. An abbreviated job description has been posted on the BGCT website. Laurie Morton is notifying seminaries in Texas of our job opening.

Please pray for the man God has chosen to be our spiritual leader and shepherd.

BAM Christmas program December 18

by Marsha Gainer, Children's Ministry Team lead

The B.A.M. Program is working very hard on a Christmas play to present to the parents and guests on December 18th at 6:00. There will be pizza and cookies afterwards for all.

On December 11th, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with a birthday party.

Our children filled 6 Operation Christmas Child boxes and prayed for the children who will receive them.

Thank you for your help and support.

Celebrate with Christmas music all month

These Christmas music events are being organized by our Music Team (Karen Behrens, Team Lead):

- Sunday morning, December 1; Hanging of the Greens
- Saturday, December 7, 7:00 PM: Christmas cantata, *Shine on Us*, followed by reception in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday morning, December 8: *Shine on Us* presented again during morning worship
- Sunday evening, December 15, 6:00, at Vision Heights Church of God: choir will participate in their Christmas program with selections from *Shine on Us*.
- Tuesday, December 24, 6:00: Christmas Eve candlelight service



Keith's Konnections...

by Keith Simpson, Ministry Director

Lake Ivie Baptist Association

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Perhaps the four most important words in the Bible are **“In the beginning, God.”** Without these four words, nothing would still be nothing, without form and void. Yet God, in His infinite wisdom, decided that He DESIRED to have fellowship with His creation.

In the beginning, God created EVERYTHING out of NOTHING. He simply spoke it, and it was.

In the beginning, God knew that the zenith of His creation, man, would be a moral failure. Yet He chose to not only create man and woman, but desired a fellowship with them, knowing that they would fall.

In the beginning, God knew that mankind would oftentimes turn their back on Him and go seeking other gods, even though He said, “Thou shall have no other gods before me.”

In the beginning, God knew that mankind could not, and would not keep the law that was given to them.

In the beginning, God knew, that even with all their failings, that He would call “His people” out of captivity and lead them to the Promised Land.

In the beginning, God knew that because His people would turn to other gods that He would allow them to be diminished in numbers over and over again.

In the beginning, God knew that there would always be the faithful few with whom He could work to restore His called people.

In the beginning, God knew that His people would choose to have a MAN over them in the form of a king, a judge or a prophet, rather than listening to God Himself.

In the beginning, God knew that the world would tempt mankind and that mankind would succumb to it.

In the beginning, God knew that there had to be a way to reconciliation.

In the beginning, God knew that Jesus would necessarily be that way to reconciliation.

In the beginning, God knew that His only Son would need to become the perfect Pascal Lamb of the offering

In the beginning, God knew that people, even though they have access to His grace, would reject Him.

In the beginning, God knew that Satan would run rampant for a short while, but would be bound and cast into the Lake of Fire at His direction.

In the beginning, God saw past, present, and future in one moment, yet still decided to carry out His plan for creation and to provide THE way to come back to Him through His Son.

In the beginning, God peered into the future, knew the end result, and yet still decided to carry out His ultimate plan, knowing that His people would oftentimes turn their back on Him and reject Him over and over again.

And **In the beginning**, GOD CHOSE TO LOVE US in spite of ourselves. PRAISE BE TO GOD!

—Keith

Upcoming events in LIBA

*DEC 1st Cowboy Christmas-
Millersview 3pm Cobbler & Coffee; 4pm- Program, Dinner to follow
*DEC 2nd Brady breakfast, 8:30am,
Down Home Country Cooking
*DEC 7th – Pastor Mentoring 10am
– 2pm at Millersview
*DEC 12th Baptist Encampment
Dinner Theater-11:30am and 6:30pm
*January 6th- Brady breakfast,
8:30am, Down Home Country Cooking
*January 6th – Associational Meeting,
Santa Anna, Business meeting–
5:pm/Dinner-6:pm Program 6:45
with Dr. David Hardage, Executive
Director of BGCT

Thoughts For The Day:

“Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace in difficulties.”



“What God knows about us is more important than what others think.”

“Peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of Christ.”

Please continue to pray for our pastor-less churches:

El Cordero, Santa Anna
First Baptist Church,
Brady
First Baptist Church,
Paint Rock
Millersview Baptist
Church

God is at work in the Food Pantry—by *George Matula*

We experienced a real blessing with our November food distribution. We have been working short-handed the last 3 or 4 months even with the help of the Mormon Missionary Sisters. It has been difficult to get our clients processed and get their food boxes together. For the November distribution we faced a real challenge since Pete Barrera was having his gall bladder removed and four or five other workers would not be available. Becky Martin mentioned this in an e-mail to our church members. Farion Morton contacted the ministers at the Methodist and Vision Heights Churches. Mayor Tony Groves mentioned our situation during his Wednesday morning update on the radio. I emailed the Wesley Nurse at the Methodist Church and the manager at Helping Hands.

When Friday morning rolled around we were surprised and blessed by the number of volunteers who came to help with our food distribution. There were extra FBC members helping with client processing. On the manual labor food handling side we had the Methodist minister, Bun Jackson, and four others from her church as well one from Helping Hands. Everyone worked together and we had a great time while putting out 105 adult boxes and 25 children's boxes for a total of 4800 pounds of food. They were amazed at what we are doing with the Food Pantry. It was truly a blessing to have all their help and to work together in the service of the Lord. The Food Pantry is a ministry to our community and it was great to have others from the community help with this ministry.

Food Ministry Report November 2019

- Adults (19-64) 125
- Children: 42
- Adults over 65: 37
- Families: 102
- Total served: 204

Food distribution day and Christmas reception: December 13 from 9:00-12:00.

Thanks to all the volunteers, new and returning!

*Ministry Focus:
FBC Food Pantry*

*Give.
Grow.
Go.*



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

My morning spent praying with many different people at the Food Pantry was very rewarding and a good experience for me. I plan on helping in December also, with the Christmas reception.

—*Jerlene Smith, first-time volunteer*

The Food Pantry is an amazing ministry opportunity for anyone in our church to get deeply involved with the people in our community. The November distribution was my first experience in this field. I was so blessed to be able to get to know and pray with people from all over our community. Their faith and trust in God and his Savior, Jesus, inspired and deeply moved me. If the Lord allows me, I hope to continue with this ministry.

—*Marsha Gainer, first-time volunteer*

Godly Impressions Preschool makes generous donation

The parents and children of our preschool conducted a phenomenal food drive during November and donated a grand total of . . .

1151 cans of food

to be distributed through the Food Pantry to those in need. Thank you, kids, moms, and dads!

Adult Food Boxes in November 2019 - 42 lbs.
Each household received a box containing these items:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 can potatoes | 2 cans spaghetti sauce |
| 3 cans soup | 2 cans chick peas |
| 1 can black beans | 1 can kidney beans |
| 1 pkg. pinto beans | 1 pkg. dried cranberries |
| 1 pkg. dried figs | 1 pkg. egg noodles |
| 1 box elbow macaroni | |
| 1 bottle concentrated cranberry juice | |
| 1 soft drink | 3 candied apples |
| 1 doz. eggs | 1 dessert |
| 1 bread | 3 deli assortment |
| 1 yogurt or cheese | 12- 13 lbs. meat |

Children's Boxes - 15 lbs.

Every household with a child or children also received a box with these items:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 box cereal | 1 can vegetables |
| 1 can fruit | 1 can meat |
| 1 jar peanut butter | 1 box elbow macaroni |
| 1 carton - milk (8 oz.) | 1 bottle orange juice (2 qt.) |
| 1 dessert | 3 candied apples |
| 1 bag chips | |

How it works

Our Food Pantry distributes food to people in need on the second Friday morning of each month from 9:00-12:00. Food is purchased as needed from the Concho Valley Regional Food Bank in San Angelo. However, our local Wal-Mart is the primary supplier, donating many pounds of food each week. Church volunteers pick up the food at Wal-Mart every Thursday morning and bring it to the FLC, where it is stored on shelves, in freezers, and in refrigerators.

On food distribution mornings, the entire ministry team gathers about 8:50 for a prayer circle. We acknowledge that we are representatives of Christ.

Recipients gather in Fellowship Hall in the main building. They sign in and fill out any needed paperwork, and provide proof of income as required. Two volunteers sign people in and get the paperwork started; four more work in the office to process the folders.

“Pray-ers” then meet with individuals of families in the smaller rooms along the hall to check over the folders and offer to pray with the people. Prayer is optional but is rarely refused.

Then recipients are given a ticket for their food box. They drive under the drive-through at the front of the FLC, where volunteers have already packed the boxes. Volunteers put the boxes in the recipients' cars.

Smiles and kindness are the order of the day.

All costs for this ministry are covered by designated gifts; no budgeted money is involved.

Luke 2 :1-20 King James Version (KJV)

2 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

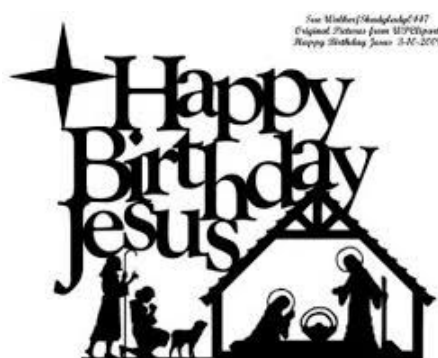
¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Jackie Maxcey <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> Deacons meeting, 5:00	2 <i>LIBA breakfast, Down Home Country Cooking</i> 8:30	3 Robin Cook	4	5	6	7 <i>Christmas Cantata</i> 7:00, reception following
<i>Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Dec. 1-8</i>						
8 <i>Christmas Cantata</i> 11:00	9 Lois Patton <i>Triple S, noon</i>	10	11 RaNon Caraway <i>BAM birthday party for Jesus</i>	12 <i>Dinner theater at HOT Baptist Encampment, 11:30</i>	13 <i>Food Pantry food distribution, and Christmas reception</i> 9:00-12:00	14
15 Jerry Caraway <i>Business meeting, 5:00</i> <i>Choir at Vision Heights, 6:00</i>	16	17 Maurice Mallow	18 Roy Guthrie <i>BAM Family Night and program, 6:00</i>	19	20 <i>Godly Impressions Preschool Christmas program, 11:00</i>	21 James Ridout Josh Day
22 Cooper Bean	23 <i>Triple S, 5:30</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve candlelight service, 6:00</i>	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28 Mary Ann Wilton
29 James Mallow Reno Alonzo	30 Ed Weber Raegyn Virdell	31				

Food Ministry Report

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Cookies needed!

December might as well be called "Cookie Month" at FBC! We need dozens and dozens (and a few more dozens!) of cookies for two events:

1. The Christmas Choir performance on Saturday evening, December 7, at 7:00. The Hospitality Team will host a reception for everyone following the performance. The choir includes people from other churches, so we're expecting a lot of guests.
2. The Food Pantry Christmas reception will be during food distribution on Friday, December 13. This has become an annual tradition where we serve cookies, coffee, punch, etc. to all who come for food. This is a festive time of sharing Christmas with our Food Pantry friends.

Homemade cookies are good; purchased bakery cookies are good too. Please help if you can!



Deacons on call in December:

Jerry Caraway
792-8671
Farion Morton
792-6596

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: recorded sermon from previous week at 11:30 AM
Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45

December devotionals will be done by Kay Holloway (week of 2-6), James Mallow (week of 9-13), Claudette Young (week of 16-20), Norma Ridout (week of 23-27), and Charlie Bush (week of Dec. 30-Jan. 3). Thank you! And thanks to Claudette for organizing these!

You're invited to the **BAM Christmas Program and Family Night** Dec. 18, 6:00

Let's gather as a church family to let these kids and their parents know they are loved and included at FBC.

The Christmas story will be portrayed —Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, the wise men—with Christmas carols for all to sing.

Special recognition will be made of the many FBC adults who have provided meals every Wednesday.

Please come!
Pizza and cookies for all!



Weekly Events

Sunday

9:45 Sunday School
10:50 Morning Worship
6:00 Prayer meeting

Monday

4:00 Ladies Bible study, Church Library

Wednesday

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church
6:00- 7:30 PM BAM Children's Ministry

Thursday

9:45-12:00 Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart, sorted, and stored
2:00-3:30 Dorcas quilting ministry
5:00-6:00 Adult Bible Study at Trails Apartments Clubhouse

From the Hospitality Team:

The 2019 FBC Thanksgiving Dinner is now in the record book and is a fond memory for all who attended. The tables were decorated beautifully with a fall theme, thanks to George Matula, Farion and Laurie Morton. The various and many food dishes, brought by everyone, were delicious. A special thanks to Tony Groves, Darlene Friar and Ned Cook for the turkeys that were served. A big "Thank You" to the volunteers who helped clean up, take tables down, and even carry trash out. That made an easier job for the Hospitality Team. It was heart warming to see God at work in our church. GIVE GROW and GO. That is FBC.

Thanks,
Joyce Scott, Hospitality Team Lead

Prayer unlocked the past and will open the future at First Baptist Church Brady.



Remember to pray.

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."
Luke 2:10

- our church staff, ministries, future pastor
 - our nation's leaders
 - our members in the nursing homes
 - our homebound members
 - the lost and unchurched in our community
 - Brady children & youth
 - Our Sunday School
 - Our preschool
 - the Pastor Search Committee
- Mary Ballew
Pete and Oralia Barrera
Amelia Britteon

- Doris Collins
Sherry Cox
Virgil Davis
Fayrene Easley
Charlie and Maria Garcia
Janet Gloria
Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves
Nita Groves
Roy Guthrie
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Jerry Jordan
Rex Joslin
Fernando Lafuente
Janie Lowery
Mike Lowery
Louise Morrow
Alisa Morton
Kay Morris
Betty Nash

- James & Anna Richards
Betty Sargent
Mike and Tanzee Shedd
Edith Slaughter
Madison Slaughter
Pam Speer
Kathy Stanley
Jackson Tijerina
Jack and Susan Turk
Shawnte Virdell
Waisner family
Megan Wall
Mackie Jo Walters
Kenneth & Claudette Young
- In military:*
Jon Bradshaw
Howard Brown
Brandon Haymon

- David Hernandez
Jose Lopez
Moses Marmolejo
Concho Moore
Brandon Pfannenstiel
Jace Telford
Joseph Telford
Jonathan Torres
Wes Stark
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the family of Evelyn Calvello and to Kim Menefield in the loss of her sister.

The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. If you would like a reminder of when it is posted each month, send your email address to Becky Martin: becky@scottmartin.net. Paper copies are available at the church and can be mailed on request.

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*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.
John 1:14a*

Godly Impressions Preschool

"Connecting children to the love of Christ through Godly impressions"

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35. This is the Bible verse that all of our preschoolers will be memorizing this month in preparation for the Christmas season.

We have our annual Christmas program on Friday, Dec. 20 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend and then enjoy our birthday party for Jesus which will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

In January we will "whale"-come 2020 with a study of the ocean and all its wonderful creatures.

From all of us at Godly Impressions, we wish you a joyous holiday season!

In His Service,
*Holly Stewart, Director; Stacie Novell, assistant director
Laura Alsop, Taylor Asbill, Donna Brown, Dana Caffey,
Priscilla Hernandez, Cathy Jones, Ashlee Shaw, Drea Torrez,
Alyssa Villarreal, Maricella Villarreal, Tiffany Villa, and
Mary Ann Wilton*

godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com



BAM Meal Schedule for December

- Dec. 4: Randy and Carol Bedwell
- Dec. 11: Michael and Tanzee Shedd
- Dec. 18: Charlie Bush and Marsha Gainer

Volunteers needed: McCulloch Mercantile thrift shop, (formerly in Helping Hands, now in the old library building) is in need of volunteers to sort, hang, and price clothing and other donations. Training (nothing complicated) is offered every Wednesday any time between from 10:00 and 4:00.

The flow of donated goods is constant, so help is always needed. Consider helping an hour or a few hours a week.



Thank you. It's the thoughtful things people do for us that make all the difference.

Toney and I are so thankful for our church family. Everyone has been so wonderful during this difficult time. Thank you to all the people who provided the meal and thank you all for the prayers and kind words. We love you all.

Toney and Misty Urban