

First Baptist Church Brady, Texas

June 2019 newsletter

FBC Brady, TX

325-597-2956

<http://fbcbrady.org>

Vol. 20, No. 6

Mission opportunities this summer

The Mission at Brady, first two weekends in June. Contact Jason Behrens to volunteer your help or go to the job site at 601 E. 6th on

Saturday
morning,
June 1.

The job

involves replacing windows, siding, painting, and trim. (No roof work.) The church office is collecting donations of water and Gatorade.

Backyard Bible Club at Trails Apartments, June 12, 19, & 26; July 17, 24, and 31, 3:00-4:30. **Block Party** August 7. Sign up or talk to Becky Martin.



Vacation Bible School July 7-11, 5:30 to 8:00. Sign up in the West Entry to help with an age group, crafts, refreshments, recreation, music, or missions.



Broadway Baptist Navajo mission trip, July 12-19. Contact Betty Smith is you would like to go.



LIBA Navajo mission trip, July 13-20. FMI call Keith Simpson at 325-456-0928 or Marty Akins at 806-215-1932. From LIBA: *Thank you for your faithful support both through your prayers and financial gifts. If you would like to send a check to help, send it to Lake Ivie Baptist Association, P.O. Box 639, Ballinger, TX 76821-please make a note on the bottom of the check: "For LIBA Mission Trip". Thank You & God Bless. **Because of money contributed by LIBA & BGCT the actual cost per person will be less than \$175.*



A message from Bro. Lee

After several weeks of prayer, of discussion and feedback from the congregation, this is the Mission & Vision statement the transition team has developed for your consideration:

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.

What is the purpose of this statement? Why is a vision important?

This gives FBC Brady focus. It is the measuring rod of what we pursue. It is our definition. The statement helps us communicate what we are all about.

This statement is defined by who FBC Brady has been in its 132-year history. And the statement will define who FBC Brady will be in every day God grants in the days to come.

Memorize the statement. Chew on it a bit. Let it begin to sink in. Final approval will be voted on in our June business meeting.

On another note.....

What a GREAT celebration we had. The Heritage Weekend was a tremendous time of reflection of who we have been as a church. May it encourage us that God has placed us here for a purpose. The KING of kings and LORD of lords is not done with us yet. Let's continue to pursue the KING to know His purpose that we may be a church that GIVES - GROWS and GOES!!!

See you Sunday,
Lee

A Life's Song

by Beth Sparkman, Worship Leader

I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.

Psalms 34:1

I have an app on my phone for a daily Bible verse. This past week, there has been a theme of praise. Starting with the question of "Why, my soul, are you downcast?...for I will yet praise Him." Ps 42:11. Moving to the idea of His great power in Rev 11:17; His enduring love and goodness (Ps 106:1) and ending with the verse above (Ps 34:1)

Whenever I notice a recurring theme, I stop to wonder what I need to be hearing. What is God trying to tell me? How do I need to respond?

Many of you may have already heard that Jerry & I will be moving away from Brady. Circumstances beyond our control have set into motion a path we did not foresee. This change has been both exciting and heartbreaking. We were happy with our life here. We love our church and our friends. We enjoy being a part of this community. So there are inevitable feelings of being "downcast."

However, I am told to "yet praise Him." This is one of those times in life where your head says one thing, but your heart says something like, "Okay, Lord, I'm praising You - grumble, grumble." But, I know He has only good in mind for me. He loves me more than I can possibly understand. This is a time to choose to trust.

I am asking you, FBC, to choose this trust with me. Please trust in Him and in His great love for each of you individually and as a body of Christ. Trust that He knows His plan and that He is powerful to fulfill that plan and to provide all that is needed. Trust that you are loved by me, and by almighty God!

One of my favorite songs:

The Best is yet to come
Never any day without the Son
Shining all around us, together
Forever, together,
living in love
And I know it will be soon
Not the slightest doubt,
it will be soon
For in my heart, I know
the best is yet to come

Cynthia Clawson, 1980, Triangle Records

Keith's Konnections

by Keith Simpson, Ministry Director, Lake Ivie Baptist Association

"Few people will argue that church attendance in many churches in America is declining. Our own research indicates that the majority of churches in our country are not growing." (Thom Rainer, former head of LifeWay Press and author of Autopsy of a Deceased Church, I Am a Church Member, and Scrappy Church.) This may seem like a rather simplistic statement; however it also rings true for many churches across America. Why is the church not growing? Let us look at this from a somewhat mathematical situation. Let's say that a church has 200 members, but they lose 12 per year to death, moving, non-attendance, etc., and they only gain 3 members per year. That shows a -9 people per year, and if you figure that over the course of 10 years, the church that WAS running 200 is now running 110 people. Over the span of 20 years, that church's membership has dwindled from 200 down to 20, and we wonder "What the heck happened?" Simply put, we are losing more members than what we are gaining! According to Baptist Press (www.bpnews.net/46989/acp-more-churches-reported-baptisms-worship-numbers-decline) Southern Baptist churches across America saw the number of churches go up by 294 in 2014 which is only a .63% increase. In that same time period, membership was down 1.32% and baptisms were down 3.3% across Southern Baptist Churches in America.

So what do these statistics say about our local churches? Simply put, WE ARE NOT GROWING! (This is not true in every church, however. Some of our churches are growing exponentially.) This lack of growth and decline in churches is what Rainer calls "Slow Erosion." (Autopsy of a Deceased Church) We simply do not realize that our churches are declining in membership until we almost hit rock bottom, then we become terribly concerned. Another reason mentioned by Rainer in the Autopsy of a Deceased Church is that the church refuses to look like the community in which it exists. Simply put, again, we are not reaching those in our community, because they may be and probably are different from us. Every community is a diverse, ever-changing living organism, and those that are moving into our community may not speak like us, think like us or dress like us. BUT, God still loves them TOO.

One of the big reasons that the author mentions is that a church has no clear direction, vision, purpose or mission. (Remember the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Our "nation" may simply be the neighborhood in which we live, shop, and send our kids to school. We MUST start in our neighborhood before changing the entire nation. Each church needs a purpose, a vision, some goals, and a mission to reach the lost in our respective communities.

Lake Ivie Baptist Association and our Leadership Team leaders are willing to come to YOUR church and help you formulate a "Strategic Plan" that is specific to your church, based upon what YOU tell us you feel you need to be about. We have done this with a few churches already, and the churches have found great benefit to this planning process. As the old saying goes, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." Without direction, we just seem to wander in the wilderness, hoping that we grope our way through our culture and society. If you would like us to meet with your church's leadership or the entire church, please contact me and let's set up a time where we can help you formulate a strategic plan. We would be more than glad to help ANY church of ANY size in our association to have this "jump-start" to strategically reaching out to people in the community and, with God's help, slow the decline of our churches. Paul writes in Philippians 1:3-5, "thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." We want to partner with you and your church to further the Kingdom of God. Praise be to Him, who was, who is, and who is to come. I do pray for our churches and am asking God to use each church to fulfill the Great Commission.

Please continue to pray for our pastorless churches:

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

Thought For The Day:

"When you pray- God listens, when you listen – God talks & when you believe – God works."



For event reminders, follow us on Facebook: Lake Ivie Baptist Association



Congratulations to all 2019 graduates!

Godly Impressions Preschool

Connor Bucy, Peyton Farris, Caleb Gomez, Reid Jones, Olivia Najera, William Oldham, Raylee Springer, Witten Taylor

Middle School

Kyla Dae Curry, Tanglewood Middle School, Houston
Granddaughter of Bobby and Bobbie Ann Williams

Gunnar Roberts, Brady Middle School
Grandson of Jerry and RaNon Caraway

High School

Micheal Anderson, Weatherford High School
Great-great nephew of Judy and Gary Mitzel

Evan Bedell, Coleman High School
Great nephew of Farion and Laurie Morton

Jessie Bedell, Coleman High School
Great nephew of Farion and Laurie Morton

Cooper Davis, Junction High School
Great nephew of Farion and Laurie Morton

Cabe Dunham, Greeley, Colorado
Great nephew of Judy and Gary Mitzel

Daniel Gainer, Mason High School
Grandson of Marsha Gainer

Ashley Keller, Weatherford High School
Great-great niece of Judy and Gary Mitzel

Payton Lucas, Carlsbad, New Mexico
Cousin of Judy and Gary Mitzel

Gage McFadin, Winters High School, salutorian
Great nephew of Farion and Laurie Morton

Sarah Jane Patton, Clyde High School
Granddaughter of Lois Patton

Noah Palacio, Greenwood High School, Midland
Grandson of Jerry and RaNon Caraway

Annie Roberts, Boyd High School
Granddaughter of Jerry and RaNon Caraway

Jackie Ybarra, Greeley, Colorado
Great niece of Judy and Gary Mitzel



Connections Fair, Sunday, June 30

Plans are still in progress, but here is list of some of our connections that we hope to have represented at the fair:

Lake Ivie Baptist Association
Godly Impressions Preschool
Texas Baptists/Baptist General Convention of Texas
Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment at Brownwood
Texas Agrilife Extension Service
Concho Valley Regional Food Bank
Wesley nurse at First United Methodist Church
The Mission at Brady
Brady Clergy Association
Men's Prayer Breakfast
Frank Banda ministries
Broadway Baptist Navajo Partnership
Samaritan's Purse/ Operation Christmas Child
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions
Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions
Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions

Heritage Weekend makes more memories

Blessings abounded over Heritage Weekend, May 4-5. All three events drew numbers of people from Brady and out of town to reunite with friends and church family to celebrate 132 years of our shared history.

Bible Baptist Church, led by Pastor Don Ziriaux, welcomed us Saturday afternoon to see the old building on 6th and Elm. It was definitely a trip down "memory lane." George and Darline Archer led us in an impromptu hymn-sing. Christ was honored, worshiped, and served in that beautiful old church.

Saturday evening many gathered in Fellowship Hall to visit and remember. People were intrigued by several displays of church history and artifacts and were given a book, written and compiled by Becky Elliott, that puts together the history of FBC from its start in 1887 until the present. The Millersview Gospel Band, Beth Sparkman, and Karen Behrens provided wonderful music in the sanctuary.

Sunday morning was an amazing worship service. Returning pastors Ray Ash, Mike McKinney, and Blake O'Dell shared messages of encouragement. Former music ministers George Archer and his wife Darline and Rob Tucker led the music. Our praise teams led by Beth Sparkman came together for more inspiring music. Beth also shared her testimony.

Bro. Lee did the welcome, introductions and recognitions, and the opening and closing prayers. Deacons George Matula, Jerry Caraway, Farion Morton read Scripture, and George shared his poem composed for the occasion.

The barbecue meal in the FLC was the perfect Texas barbecue. Our Hospitality Team knows how it's done.

The Transition Team thanks everyone again for helping make this event one to remember as we move forward into more years of serving the Lord together at FBC.



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

June 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 George Matula
2 <i>Transition team, 4:00</i> <i>Deacons meeting, 5:00</i>	3	4	5	6 Kathryn Bishop	7	8
9 Whitney Gainer Karen Behrens	10 <i>Triple S, noon</i>	11 Terry Bean	12 <i>Backyard Bible Club at Trails Apts. 3:00-4:30</i>	13 Addyson Wilton	14 <i>Food Pantry food distribution, 9:00-12:00</i> Shirley Nelson	15 Alma Lyon
16 <i>Father's Day Business meeting, 5:00</i> Marvin Tucker	17	18	19 <i>Backyard Bible Club at Trails Apts. 3:00-4:30</i> Jason Behrens	20 Bill Butts	21	22 Joyce Scott
23 Denise Owens Madison Lyon <i>Church council, 5:00</i>	24 <i>Triple S, 5:30</i>	25 Cynthia Reeves	26 <i>Backyard Bible Club at Trails Apts. 3:00-4:30</i> Daniel Gainer	27	28	29
30 <i>Lord's Supper</i> <i>Fifth Sunday pot luck fellowship meal</i> <i>Connections Fair</i>						

Food Ministry Report

May 2019

- Adults (19-64) 23
- Children: 22
- Adults over 65: 81
- Families: 70
- Total served: 126



FEED THE HUNGRY

Food distribution day for this month is June 14 from 9:00-12:00.

Volunteers are always welcome.

Deacons on call in June:

Jerry Caraway
cell 792-8671
Virgil Middleton
597-2629, cell 456-7284

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: recorded sermon from previous week at 11:30 AM

Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45

June devotionals will be done by Joyce Scott, Betty Smith, Misty Urban, and Melinda Cook. Thank you!

Fifth Sunday Plans

Lord's Supper
Fellowship meal
Connections Fair

The Transition Team is planning this special event to highlight the many connections FBC has with local organizations and Christian entities beyond Brady.

There will be representatives and displays in the hall before, during, and after the meal to share information. See page 3 for a list of some of our "connections."

Weekly Events

Sunday

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

Monday

4:00 Ladies Bible study, this summer at the Home of Linda Wall, 1011 12th St.

Wednesday

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church
3:00-4:30 Backyard Bible Club, Trails Apts.
(June 12, 19, and 26)

Thursday

9:45-12:00 Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart, sorted, and stored
2:00-3:30 Dorcas quilting ministry
4:00 Bible study/prayer group, Trails Apts.

Welcome to the family. . .

by baptism on May 26

Louis Palacio Jr.
Katie Palacio



Becky Elliott has moved to Midland. Her new address is
Becky Elliott
4717 Harvard Ave., Apt. A
Midland, TX 79703



We love you and will miss you, Becky!

Pray without ceasing. . .

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:8

- our church
- 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
- The Transition Team
- Vacation Bible School and all summer missions

Mary Ballew
Louise Baker
Sherry and Billy Barsch

Karen Behren's
stepfather Chuck
Deryl Bishop
Amelia Britteon
RaNon Caraway
Doris Collins
Melinda Cook
Sherry Cox
Fayrene Easley
Mike Fields
Charlie and Maria Garcia
Larry Garner
Janet Gloria
Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves
Roy Guthrie
Robin Hill
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Jerry Jordan
Greg Jordan
Rex Joslin
Janie Lowery

Mike Lowery
Phil and Evelyn Martin
Michelle McCartney
Michael Padgett
Jim and Cynthia Quinn
Jack Selby
Mike and Tanzee Shedd
Edith Slaughter
Madison Slaughter
Jim and Betty Smith
Pam Speer
Jackson Tijerina
Jack and Susan Turk
Shawnte Virdell
Megan Wall
Mackie Jo Walters
Bobbie Ann Williams
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 families of Leisa Camp and Ezzie "Sue" Routt-Fay, and to Marty Jordan on the loss of her brother.

The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. The newsletter is also sent to email addresses as requested. Just send your address to Becky Martin: becky@scottmartin.net.

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Brady, Texas*

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Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.
Matthew 5:9

Godly Impressions Preschool sends 8 to kindergarten

May 24 was a big day for the preschool grads and their families, as 8 little ones moved on to kindergarten—in a ceremony complete with diplomas, caps and gowns, and Pomp and Circumstance.

The celebration included songs by the "Faithful Flock," the "Zion Lions," and the whole preschool. The Zion Lions (the oldest group) also recited Deuteronomy 6:5 and Philippians 4:13.

Director Holly Stewart gave the welcome and served as emcee. Bro. Lee also welcomed the families and prayed for everyone.

Our Dorcas Quilters presented the graduates with gift quilts specially made for them.

The children danced out of the sanctuary to enjoy cookies, cupcakes, and punch with their families and friends in Fellowship Hall.

Please keep these young families in your prayers. And pray for Connor, Peyton, Caleb, Reid, Olivia, William, Raylee, and Witten, that this will be the first of several graduations for them, and that the lessons they learned at Godly Impressions about God and His love will stay with them throughout their lives.

Note: The daycare part of Godly Impressions will be open through the summer.

