



Our Mission: *FBC Brady is a family that exists to*
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

newsletter

FBC Brady, TX

325-597-2956

<http://www.fbcbrady.org>

Vol. 23, No. 12

Message from the Pastor: *Lessons from Joseph*

As we enter this Christmas season there will be countless sermons, plays, choir performances, etc. about the birth of Jesus. When you look deeper into the story, there are many interesting characters that take part in it. One of those characters is a man that we don't know much about, a man named Joseph. We are introduced to Joseph in the first chapter of Matthew. Matthew 1:18 tells us, *"The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit."*

Let us consider for a moment what Joseph was signing up for. In the culture and time period that he was living in, this was no easy assignment. Matthew tells us what was going through his mind in Matthew 1:19: *"So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly."* He knew that if he went ahead and married Mary, who was already pregnant, he would be subject to endless scrutiny. Put yourself in Joseph's shoes: What if your wife came and told you she was pregnant and that it was by the Holy Spirit? If you think Joseph reacted strangely, at first, to this news, how well do you think others in their immediate circle would take it? They would either have to take his word, or they would reject him.

Now, think about what Joseph would go through before he said yes to God (Matthew 1:24). By saying yes to God, Joseph was saying no to everything he had worked hard for. Even his reputation in the community would take a big hit. As we read this story over 2000 years removed, it is easy to just read over this. I challenge you this Christmas season to pause and consider how significant Joseph's decision was. In essence, Joseph would be a pariah among his own people. He would bear the shame for sins that he did not commit. This part of the story foreshadows the shame that this baby would one day bear on behalf of Joseph, Mary, and all who would come to follow Jesus.

On that fateful evening in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus would literally sweat drops of blood. Jesus would literally become sin for his people, so much so that the Father, who cannot look on or abide sin, would turn His face away from His own Son. This makes what Isaiah said in Isaiah 53 more amazing.

You see, my friends, just as Joseph could bear the shame in answering God's call, we can bear the shame that sometimes comes with being a Christian--all because Jesus bore our shame. We can live as outcasts in a world dominated by Satan because Jesus was the ultimate outcast. Because of the work Jesus did at the cross, we can do what God has called us to do.

Joseph would not only lose his reputation, he would lose his comfort and safety. Consider Matthew 1:25: *"but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus."* To preserve his reputation, Joseph would not be intimate with Mary until Jesus was born. This was not something the angel told him to do. Joseph was called a *"righteous man"* (Matthew 1:19) and he went above and beyond what was required in order to say yes to God, even if that meant putting aside his natural desire of intimate relations with his new wife until the Christ Child was born. Throughout his life Joseph would continue to ask, "What's the right and best thing to do?" in order to serve God no matter what the cost.

What about you?

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Jeff

Christmas



Our goal: \$2500

Christmas with FBC kids

by Marsha Gainer

Children's Ministry Team Lead

The Children have made Christmas card holders and Christmas cards for each of the residents at the nursing home. We are looking forward to delivering these items.

The **BAM Birthday party for Jesus** will be on December 14. That will be the last BAM meeting of the year. We will resume BAM classes on January 4th. Thank you so much for the wonderful meals provided each week.

Each Sunday the children are learning about the coming of the promised Messiah. Christmas Day services will be children's church only at 10:00.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the children and their leaders!

Christmas Music

by Karen Behrens

Music Team Lead

It's December and that means a lot of music!

We will be presenting our **Christmas Musical** on Sunday December 18th during the morning service.

I also have planned an evening of **Christmas caroling** for anyone that is interested. Jason and I will bring a flatbed trailer with hay bales. We will sing the streets of Brady on Tuesday, December 20th, at 6:00 pm. I will post a sign-up sheet for that outside the sanctuary to get a count so I can prepare.

December 24th at 6:00 pm we will have a candlelight **Christmas Eve service.**

Make plans to be at church for all of these events.

You will be blessed.



Mission opportunities

Becky Martin, Missions Team Lead

First: **Thank you** to everyone who helped or who donated candy, cakes, and prizes for the **Fall Family Fest** on October 29. The event was a huge success with over 300 people attending!

Thank you to everyone who gave a box for **Operation Christmas Child.** Clifford Crouch delivered our 68 boxes to the collection center at Coggin Avenue Baptist Church in Brownwood on November 21. They will go to Central America.

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the Haven. The donation box was full and overflowing in November. Each item is a blessing to someone in need.

The **McCulloch County Resource Center** sent us a certificate thanking us for our financial support of their community ministry.

A big **THANK YOU** to the Hospitality Team for hosting the **Thanksgiving Fellowship meal** on November 6. It was well attended, and the food and fellowship were outstanding.

Now: December mission and fellowship opportunities:

It's time for the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.** Our church goal is \$2500. Week of Prayer is Dec. 4-11. The Lottie Moon mailboxes are set up in the west entry. "Mail" your Christmas cards to your church family this way. Consider donating the postage you save to the Lottie Moon Offering.

We will serve a **meal to the Brady High School band** on Dec. 5 in the band hall starting at about 7:00. Vickie and Buz Roddie are organizing this outreach and are requesting desserts from the church family. Everyone is welcome to help serve the meal and fellowship with the students.

Call Vickie at 325-213-5108 FMI.



Our annual **Christmas Reception** for our food pantry recipients will be during food distribution day on December 9, between 9:00 and 11:00. We need cookies! Thanks to everyone who has made this a part of their holiday baking for the past several years. We always have a bountiful table of cookies of all kinds to serve to these friends. You can bring your cookies that day or bring them by the church the day before. Thanks so much!



The Brady Clergy Association is sponsoring **Christmas in the Heart** on the square on Saturday, December 10. The lighted parade will begin at 6:00 followed by activities for children and families, including a sledding hill! FBC will help run the this fun attraction. Contact Bro. Jeff if you can help with that or other activities.

There will be a **Ladies Luncheon** after church on Sunday, Dec. 11. This will be a Secret Sister Reveal and sign-up for the next year, but *all* ladies are welcome and invited. Please bring an appetizer and/or salad to share.



Update from Personnel Committee by Jeanagayle Behrens, Chair

The Personnel Committee met in November with all members present. We discussed the Christmas holidays, Financial Secretary training and support, the need to update the employee handbook, and Kay's retirement.

Youth happenings

The youth are planning to have their Sunday School party on December 18 at the Torres household at 6:00 pm. It will be a chance to enjoy good food, games, white elephant gift exchange, and fellowship.

December 2022 Bible Reading Schedule

Week 1

December 1st – 1 Corinthians 9-11
 December 2nd – 1 Corinthians 12-14
 December 3rd – 1 Corinthians 15-16

Week 2

December 4th – 2 Corinthians 1-4
 December 5th – 2 Corinthians 5-9
 December 6th – 2 Corinthians 10-13
 December 7th – Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3
 December 8th – Romans 4-7
 December 9th – Romans 8-10
 December 10th – Romans 11-13

Week 3

December 11th – Romans 14-16
 December 12th – Acts 20:4-23:35
 December 13th – Acts 24-26
 December 14th – Acts 27-28
 December 15th – Colossians 1-4; Phm 1
 December 16th – Ephesians 1-6
 December 17th – Philippians 1-4

Week 4

December 18th – 1 Timothy 1-6
 December 19th – Titus 1-3
 December 20th – 1 Peter 1-5
 December 21st – Hebrews 1-6
 December 22nd – Hebrews 7-10
 December 23rd – Hebrews 11-13
 December 24th – 2 Timothy 1-4

Week 5

December 25th – 2 Peter 1-3; Jude 1
 December 26th – 1 Jn 1-5
 December 27th – 2 Jn 1, 3 Jn 1
 December 28th – Revelation 1-5
 December 29th – Revelation 6-11
 December 30th – Revelation 12-18
 December 31st – Revelation 19-22

Memory Verses for December 2022

My lips pour out praise, for you
 teach me your statutes. I long
 for your salvation, LORD, and
 your instruction is my delight.
 Psalm 119:171, 174 (CSB)



FBC Brady
Give Grow & Go

December birthdays
 12-1 Jessica Castillo,
 Jackie Maxcey
 12-3 Emberly Poe
 12-9 Lois Patton,
 Sam Quattlebaum
 12-11 RaNon Caraway
 12-15 Jerry Caraway
 12-18 Rhonda Capps,
 Roy Guthrie
 12-21 James Ridout

**Deacons on call
in December**
 Jim Smith 325-597-0740
 Buddy Cox 409-693-7916



Game night was enjoyed by a good group on Sunday night, November 20.
 Plan to come next time to this fellowship event!

December events
 Dec. 4 deacons meeting 5:00
 Dec. 4-11 Week of Prayer for International Missions, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
 Dec. 5 LIBA breakfast at Sandy's Kitchen, 8:30
 Dec. 5 meal for band, BHS Band Hall, 7:00
 Dec. 7 BAM visit to Brady West, 5:30
 Dec. 9 Food Pantry Christmas reception 9:00-11:00
 Dec. 10 Christmas in the Heart, on the square, 6:00
 Dec. 11 Ladies Luncheon after church, church council after that
 Dec. 14 BAM Christmas party/family night, 5:30
 Dec. 18 Christmas musical 11:00; business meeting 5:00; youth Christmas party at the Torres household, 6:00
 Dec. 20 Christmas caroling/hayride 6:00
 Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service 6:00
 Dec. 25 Service at 10:00, no Sunday School

November Food Pantry Report
 25 adults ages 65 & over
 58 adults ages 19-64
 20 children 18 & under
 103 individuals
 53 families

Weekly Ministries
Sunday: Sunday School, 9:45, worship 11:00. Sunday evening study, Baptist Distinctives, 6:00, ends Dec. 4.
Monday: Bible study in library will not meet this month but will resume in January.
Wednesday:
 • Women's prayer group, 4:00
 • BAM for children, 5:30-6:50
 • Christmas choir rehearsal, 7:00
Thursday morning: Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry

December radio spots
 5-9 Greg Torres
 12-16 Judy Mitzel
 19-23 Bro. Jeff
 26-30 Bobbie Williams

The church office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26.



“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.”
Luke 2:14

- Bro. Jeff Quattlebaum, Misty, Regan, and Sam
- our church staff and pre-school
- Texas Baptist Men on mission
- McKenna Brandenberger on mission in Uganda
- our members in care facilities and our homebound members
- the lost and unchurched in our community
- Brady children & youth
- Brady Clergy Association

Wyatt & Francisca Anderson
Marshall Armstrong

Ray and Rita Ash
Pete and Oralia Barrera
Holden Bedwell
Karen Bivens
Allie Bradshaw
Amelia Britteon
Bill and Wanda Burns
Sherry Cox
Carolyn Crawford
Carlos (Charlie) Cruz
Linda Flint
Charlie & Maria Garcia
Ronnie, Kay, & Cathy Holloway
Trey Holtzclaw
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Mabel Jones
Bobby and Colleen Laman
Terry Lange
Fay Lawler

Stephanie Lopez
Janie Lowery
James Mallow
Anita McBride
Mary Ann McCarver
Louise Morrow
Lois Patton
Charles & Carole Ramsey
Anna Richards
Donald & Margie Richardson
James and Norma Ridout
Richard Smith
Tommy & Kathy Stanley
Edith Slaughter
Jack and Susan Turk
Addie Jo Webster
Bobby and Bobbie Williams
Angie Willis
Claudette Young

In military:
Jon Bradshaw
C.J. Gonzalez
Jennifer McAnally
Brandon Pfannenstiel
Christian Pittman
Jace Telford
Jonathan Torres
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We pray for comfort and guidance for the families of Sally Lafuente, Charlotte Carrithers, and Dorthy Rice

First Baptist Church Brady, Texas

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: beckyv@scottmartin.net.
Print copies are available at the church and can be mailed on request.

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Kay Curry, Financial Secretary
Melanie Couvillion, in training as Financial Secretary
Karen Behrens, Music Ministry
Meredith Navarette, Preschool and Child Care godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com
Norma Ridout and **Carol Bedwell**, Pianists

**Memory Verses for
December 2022**

My lips pour out praise, for you teach me your statutes.
I long for your salvation, LORD, and your instruction is my delight.
Psalm 119:171, 174 (CSB)

December at Godly Impressions Preschool

Theme: Jesus is the reason for the season!
Verse: “A Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2:11
Shape: Star
Letters: C, R, S
Color: Red
Numbers: 7, 8



It is the most wonderful time of the year! We have welcomed Amanda Jolly, as the new faithful flock teacher. Teaching is a true passion for Amanda, and we are blessed to have her on our staff. This month we are emphasizing that Jesus is the reason for the season, and that He is the best gift we could ever receive. We also have a Christmas program in the works, which is sure to be very entertaining with our group of littles.

The entire Godly Impressions staff would like to wish Christmas blessings to everyone!

Meredith Navarette,
Godly Impressions Preschool & Child Care



Welcome new members!
by letter
Jeremy Couvillion
Melanie Couvillion
Ethan Couvillion
Kasen Couvillion