



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

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<http://www.fbcbrady.org>

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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.

Impacting youth at Christmas

by Vickie Roddie, Youth Director

God is in a class by Himself. He is distinct, singular, peerless, and perfect. He is Kadosh – Holy.

Do you ever stop to recognize the value of ordinary things? Do you ever stop to help the youth in our community understand how abundantly blessed they are? Do we take the time to help them enjoy the little things? One day they will look back and realize the little things were the big things. The Christmas season has arrived. Families are busy decorating the house and picking out Christmas trees. Children are excitedly awaiting Christmas morning. Yet, seasonal financial stress affects 64 percent of Americans, and 41 percent sense a rise in depression. Many question whether Christmas is worth the financial and emotional turmoil, and some wish to cancel the holiday altogether. When did the birth of Christ become synonymous with anxiety, stress, and depression? Sadly, rejoicing in Christ's birth has been superseded by chasing deals on material goods, as Christmas grows increasingly secular and commercial. In considering our questions about teaching the youth about being blessed and enjoying the little things, we find ourselves wandering aimlessly in a purposeless Christmas. If we do not teach them to worship Christ at Christmastime, they will never know true peace before, during, or after the holidays. Jesus promised, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (Jn 14:27). We should teach our youth to be marked by the peace Christ gives us.

As adults if our stress level rises during the holidays then the children and youth's stress level rises. We should ask ourselves, "What's the purpose of Christmas?" The truth that should be shared with our families is found in Luke 2:10-14: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

May we intentionally convey the peace of Christ within our hearts as we celebrate this Christmas season.

Camp Christmas

FBC was in the Christmas spirit early, with Camp Christmas on November 6. 23 children attended this afternoon of all things Christmas: the Christmas story, crafts, music and dance, play time, cookie decorating. The Children's Team all felt like this was a big success. The children had a great time. Thank you to the team of volunteers and to all who prayed for this.

We hope to do more mini-camps on 2 or 3 of the BISD flex days in the second semester, and also next summer.



Personnel Committee News

by Janis Groves, Chair

The Personnel Committee met on 11/19/2023 to discuss several important matters. We have had no applications for a nursery worker after two months of advertising. The consensus was to hire several high school girls who have done this before. They will go through all the normal background checks etc., as well as training for the position. The plan is to always have an adult with them during these times.

After a hiatus our custodian, Corey Meza, is back to take on her previous duties and has also agreed to clean the Family Life Center, except for the gym. Many thanks to Buz and Vickie Roddie who have graciously stepped forward to take on the task of cleaning the gym.

Also, our committee has decided to meet only when necessary, which will likely be about every other month. We are presently reviewing the policies and procedures handbook for nursery workers which will be presented to you for approval in a business meeting in the future.

Thank you to all who filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, and to Clifford Crouch for taking them to Coggin Ave. Baptist Church in Brownwood. He delivered 66 boxes on Sunday, November 19. 36 boxes were given by the Melvin Bible Church and 30 by FBC.

At the close of the service that Sunday morning, the deacons and others gathered around the boxes and prayed for the children who would receive them. Then people lined the aisle and passed the boxes down the line from the front of the church, box by box, person to person, out to Clifford and his truck at the east door.



Congratulations, Gage!

Gage Behrens, a junior at Richland Springs High School, is a star player on their winning 6-man football team. As this newsletter goes out, the season record is 13-0, and they have advanced to the state semifinals following their 74-58 win over Cherokee on November 24.

Our church van has transported some of Gage's FBC fans to the last two games. The semifinal game will be against Oglesby on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 4:00 in Dublin. If they win this game, they go to the state finals at Cowboy Stadium in Dallas.

We're behind you all the way, Gage! —Your church family

It's not too late to join the Christmas Choir! Come to rehearsals on the 6th and 13th at 5:30. The Cantata will be Sunday, Dec. 17, in the morning.

Thank you, Karen Behrens, for leading this beautiful music!



Daily Bible Readings

DECEMBER 2023

(AM)	(PM)
<u>THESSALONIANS (2ND)</u>	<u>ISAIAH</u>
1-3	42
<u>NAHUM</u>	
1-3	43
<u>PETER (2ND)</u>	
1-3	44
<u>HABBAKUK</u>	
1-3	45
<u>ZEPHANIAH</u>	
1-3	46
<u>JUDE</u>	
1	47
<u>HAGGAI</u>	
1-2	48
<u>ZECHARIAH</u>	
1-3	49
4-6	50
7-9	51
10-12	52
13-14	53
<u>MALACHI</u>	
1-2	54
3-4	55
<u>REVELATION</u>	
1-2	56
3-4	57
5-6	58
7-8	59
9-10	60
11-12	61
13-14	62
15-16	63
17-18	64
19-20	65
21-22	66

Weekly Ministries

Sunday: Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11:00
Wednesday: Women’s prayer group, 4:00; Christmas Choir rehearsal, 5:30; Men’s Bible study, 6:30, ends Dec. 6
Thursday morning: Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry

November Food Pantry	
New Clients	4
Total Boxes	63
Adult Boxes	47
Children Boxes	16
Adults over 65	39
Adults under 65	79
Children	29
Total Clients	147

December radio spots

4-8 Valerie Gonzalez
 11-15 Jeanagayle Behrens
 18-22 Judy Mitzel
 25-29 Vickie Roddie

December birthdays

1 Jackie Maxcey
 9 Lois Patton
 5 Khalila Gonzalez
 11 RaNon Caraway
 15 Jerry Caraway
 18 Rhonda Capps
 18 Roy Guthrie
 21 James Ridout

Deacons on call in December

Buddy Cox 409-673-7916
 Jim Smith 325-597-0740



For your calendar

Dec. 2: decorating church for Christmas, 9:00-12:00, lunch provided

Dec. 3: Deacons meeting after church

Dec. 3-10: Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Dec. 6: Last Men’s Bible Study for the month, 6:30

Dec. 8: Food Pantry food distribution and Christmas reception, 9:00-11:00; cookies needed

Dec. 10: Pastor search committee after church

Dec. 12: All-church fellowship and Christmas caroling, 6:00

Dec. 13: Budget & Finance Committee meeting with Property & Grounds Committee, 6:00

Dec. 17: Christmas cantata, morning service

Guest Preachers in December

Dec. 3: Jon Harper
 Dec. 10: Carlos Francis
 Dec. 17: Christmas cantata
 Dec. 24: Kurt Gross
 Dec. 31 Kurt Gross



Our goal: \$2000
 Week of Prayer:
 December 3-10

From chili to Christmas caroling at FBC

Congratulations to George Matula for winning the chili cook-off on November 14 with his venison chili. It was voted the favorite of 9 entries. The evening also included a fun game of Celebrity and another of Pegs and Jokers, while the children got to play in the gym. Thank you to all the chili cookers and to those who provided cornbread or desserts.

This month’s fellowship is set for Dec. 12 at 6:00. Everyone is invited to bring finger foods and/or desserts. The plan is to share this light meal together, then those who want to will go caroling, with Jason and Karen providing the hay-filled trailer. When the group returns, the desserts will be served with hot drinks. For those who don’t want to go caroling, games will be available. Come and enjoy this Christmas event with your church family.

Search Committee to meet December 10

by Vickie Roddie, Search Committee Chair

The Pastor Search Committee has scheduled a meeting for December 10th following the church service to discuss a couple of items before the end of the year. It is our prayer that during this quiet season of waiting on the Lord that we would all be in intentional prayer. God is preparing the field for our next pastor and the harvest that will be forthcoming. During this season of reflecting on the birth of Christ, may we also reflect on what makes our church unique. Just what is it that God desires of us as a church body engaging with the people of this community?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.”



*And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6b NIV*

- Our church in a season of change
- our members in care facilities and our home-bound members
- the lost and unchurched in our community

Rhonda Aguirre
Everett Andrews
Ray and Rita Ash
Beverly Bigby
Karen Bivens
Jenny Brady
Amelia Britteon
Sonny & Judy Brooks
Bill Burns
Sherry Cox
Sue Crow

Howard Dennis
Stan Dennis
Mary Favoccia
Linda Flint
Marsha Gainer
Charlie & Maria Garcia
Holly Groves
Melanie Groves
Roy and Janet Guthrie
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Mabel Jones
Janabeth & Charles Hanson
Colleen Laman
Janie Lowery
James Mallow
Lois Patton
Carrie Pearson
Carole Ramsey

James and Norma Ridout
Joyce Scott
Keith Simpson
Jerlene Smith
Jim Smith
Richard Smith
Wendy Smith
Kathy Stanley
Edith Slaughter
Jack and Susan Turk
Harold Underwood
Linda Wall
Gene Walton
Virgil & Anita Webb
Addie Jo Webster
Bobby and Bobbie Williams
Steve & Laurie Woerner
Claudette Young

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

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Jeanine Willis.

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

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Memory verse for December
And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
Hebrews 11:6



**Food Pantry Christmas Reception
Friday, Dec. 8, 9:00-11:00**

This event has become a tradition at FBC as we minister to our friends/clients who come to the Food Pantry. We decorate the tables for Christmas, but the main thing is *cookies*. We serve cookies, punch, and coffee. Thanks to the generosity of our FBC families, we always have a bountiful table of cookies to serve.

Cookies can be brought that morning, or any time during the week. Thank you so much.

(Note from Becky: One year I heard one man asking another if there was a charge for the cookies. The man answered, “No, they do this because they love us.”)

To all of First Baptist Church:

What a wonderful example of love and showing the servant side of our church during the Thanksgiving meal this year! Words can't express how wonderfully we all worked as an awesome team of brothers and sisters, from decorating, cleaning, cooking, carving, and all the many talents that were expressed and shown. Thank you to everyone for the food that you prepared and for helping to serve, clean up, and put up afterward. I am looking forward to our next event in serving our congregation and community. Let us get busy inviting folks to join us by showing our love of Christ by example.

*From Judy Mitzel,
Hospitality Team Lead*