



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. 24, No. 2

A Message from the Pastor: Faith, Testing, and Sacrifice

“Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you, so let’s just praise the Lord.” I remember that song (written by the Dutch song writer Pierre Antonius Laurentius Kartner in 1971) from my childhood growing up in church at FBC Collinsville and FBC Athens. As I have grown in my faith, I have read the stories of Abraham in Genesis (chapters 12-25) trying to put myself in his shoes. In Genesis 12 God called Abraham to move to a land that Abraham did not know. I’ve always asked myself, “Could I do that? Would I do that?”

One constant theme in the story of Abraham is the testing that God did to grow his faith. In Genesis 22 is one of the most moving and most difficult stories in the Old Testament. God called on Abraham to take his son, Isaac, the son that he had been praying for, waiting for, to the land of Moriah and offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Now, put yourself in Abraham’s shoes. What are you thinking at this point—maybe “Excuse me, did I hear you right, God?” or “How can this be? How can this be your plan?”

Abraham had waited so long since God had promised him a son back in Genesis 15 and 18. God promised that Abraham’s descendants would be as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5.) So how could he offer his only son from his wife as a burnt offering? (If you notice in the story, Abraham never told Sarah what God wanted him to do with Isaac.) Hadn’t Abraham done enough to prove his faithfulness to God? I bet Abraham was thinking at one point, “Haven’t I gone through many of the Lord’s tests and passed them?” Abraham had waited on God. Abraham left his home and followed God into a new land (Genesis 12). If that wasn’t enough, he pressed on through famines, conflicts, and his own fears to follow God.

A passage like Genesis 22 is hard for us to accept or even think about. Abraham obeyed by faith and moved with a kind of quiet conviction. Now, in this article we don’t have the time or the space to look at all the details or how this story will frame so many other important Biblical themes. But there is one thing I want you to see: this test forced Abraham back into a life of faith.

In the chapters leading up to Genesis 22 we see Abraham sitting beside the tree he had planted (Genesis 18). He had negotiated peace with his neighbors (Genesis 14&21). Abraham was very wealthy and had good land to retire on, and he had received everything that was promised to him. What else did he have to do that required faith?

It may be hard to imagine ourselves in a similar place. Yes, we may speak of faith as affirmation, the belief we hold onto about God and His promises for our salvation. The truth is that for many of us, the logistics of living actually require very little faith. You and I have access to banks, grocery stores, modern medicine, vacations, time off from work, etc. Now sure, we know from our experiences that life will not always go perfectly, but it is not hard for us to distract ourselves and remove ourselves from the need for living in faith..

I believe this test God put Abraham through was not to torture him, but to keep him from slipping into apathy or a lack of interest or this faithless passing of time. God was going to show Abraham that he needed to see his need for living in faith all the time.

Apathy tends (or at least I see it this way) to shrink the world around us. We try to detach ourselves from things we cannot control, and without knowing it we harm those that God called us to serve and influence. When you look at the whole story of Abraham, every time Abraham slipped into apathy and self-protection, he hurt those he cared for and was responsible for. The test in Genesis 22 was actually a gift, a means of forcing Abraham to conform again to what faithfulness before God really meant.

We don’t often think about sacrifice, but we are still called to do it for the greater good. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:1, *“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.”* (NLT) Each of our lives is supposed to be a living sacrifice to God. The sacrifices are most important when we feel most unenthusiastic about making them. As apathy begins to try and disengage us from the complexity of the world, God often calls us to once again sacrifice. God does it to save us.

So, we sacrifice our time, resources, hobbies, interests, our own plans, and the peace we try to construct for the plans God has for us. In 2023 God is going to test us at FBC Brady. He wants to do big things through us, many of which will require our total belief and trust in God. God will test us. Are you ready for it?

In the words of Jesus, *“Not my will, but thine be done.”* (Luke 22:42)
Pastor Jeff

Believe

Trust

BAM, Easter, VBS: Come be a part!

by *Marsha Gainer*

Children's Ministry Team Lead

The Children's ministry will have special Love One Another events on Sunday, February 12, and at BAM on February 15.

We will be planning an Easter children's service for Easter Sunday. A planning meeting will be held on March 6 at 11:00. We will need stuffed eggs.

VBS will be held the week of July 9 through the 14th. Our theme is "Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity."

Thank you so much for the wonderful meals on Wednesday nights. The children delight in them.

We will begin to be very busy, so anyone who wants to help is welcome to join in the fun!

What's stopping you?

by *Karen Behrens,*

Music Team Lead

I sat here staring at the computer screen for about 15 minutes thinking about what I was going to write. All it seems I've been doing lately is writing essays for my federal government class and writing case studies for case management classes. It has put time restraints on me, but I am definitely motivated to keep moving forward.

What motivates you to get things done? What motivates you to read the Bible? What motivates you to get up on Sunday mornings and come to church? If you're reading this today, something motivated you to pick up the newsletter to read it. Knowing what drives us and keeps us going is important. It's keeping us going and continuing to attend things, go to church, and read our Bible.

If you're not attending church and you're able to, then what is stopping you? I could give you 4-5 reasons that could keep me out of church right now. But that is not in God's plan for me. I believe it's in your plan to be in church also. What's stopping you? See you Sunday.

Karen

Mission opportunities

Becky Martin, Missions Team Lead

Linda Wall has begun a twice-a-month Bible study at Royal Oaks Assisted Living. She is teaching from the Psalms.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies, this is your invitation to Ladies Night Out on Saturday, February 18. (And, as good Baptists, we need you to bring a covered dish, or two. *Thank you.*)

This will be a missions-themed evening. Speaker will be Kathy Brandenberger, McKenna's mother, who will update us on McKenna's work. Karen is organizing music. We have invited the ladies of all the Baptist churches in McCulloch County. (Can you name them all? There are 10 besides us.)

So mark your calendars and don't miss this event! We'll start at 6:00. We'll have door prizes.

325 Ministries

by *Vickie Roddie, Youth Director*

This month is full of NEW BEGINNINGS. Many preparatory activities have been taking place to begin the process of welcoming the youth of our community to FBC-FLC. Our God is the catalyst of new beginnings as He transforms lives, is the fire to our movement in our community, and helps us to invest in our youth and their families. The youth leaders and the students are diligently working on our vision and goals as we pray for guidance and assurance that God has gone before us to prepare the field. Through the month of February, we will determine foundational truths to be ready for God's best. Praise God who continually draws people to Himself. Be in prayer for the youth of our community.



Updates on maintenance issues

At the special called business meeting on January 8, the church voted unanimously to hire Bradley Concrete to replace a 60x62 section in the west parking lot.

At the regular meeting on January 22, Bro. Jeff said that Jason Behrens is looking into the possibility of doing the parking lot the week of spring break.

Also, estimates are being done on roof repair or replacement. There are problems with the roofs on both buildings.

Retirement party for Kay Curry

Date: Thursday, Feb. 2

Time: 4:30-6:30 (come & go)

Place: home of Carrie Pearson, 1016 W. 12th

Kay has served as our financial secretary since 2016. Come and show your love and appreciation to Kay for all she has done.

Prayer of Thomas Aquinas

"Give us, O Lord, a **steadfast heart**, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards;

give us **an unconquered heart**, which no tribulation can wear out;

give us **an upright heart**, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, **understanding** to know you,

diligence to seek you,

wisdom to find you,

and a **faithfulness** that may finally embrace you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Memory Verse for February 2023

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18 NIV

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Charlie Bush Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	2	3	4
5	6 Janie Lowery LIBA breakfast, Sandy's Kitchen 8:30 Bible study 6:00 325 Ministries 6:15	7	8 Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	9 Betty Smith	10 Food Distribution, 9:00-11:00	11
12 Deacons Meeting, 4:00	13 Bible study 6:00 325 Ministries 6:15-7:30	14 Ray Ash	15 Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	16 Kim Galindo	17	18 Ladies Night Out, 6:00
19 Church Council, 4:00 Bible study, 6:00	20 Bible study 6:00 325 Ministries 6:15-7:30	21	22 Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	23	24 Ashley Poe Matthew Poe Robert Tetens	25
26 Business Meeting, 5:00 Bible study, 6:00	27 Rusty Capps Annie Roberts Bible study 6:00 325 Ministries 6:15-7:30	28 Lilly Tetens				

February 2023 Bible Readings	
(AM)	(PM)
EXODUS	PROVERBS
15-17	1
18-20	2
21-24	3
25-27	4
28-31	5
32-34	6
35-37	7
38-40	8
ACTS	
1-3	9
4-6	10:1-16
7-9	10:17-32
10-12	11:1-15
13-15	11:16-31
16-18	12:1-14
19-21	12:25-28
22-25	13:1-12
26-28	13:13-25
LEVITICUS	
1-4	14:1-18
5-8	14:19-35
9-11	15:1-17
12-14	15:18-33
15-18	16:1-16
19-21	16:17-33
22-24	17:1-14
25-27	17:15-28

Deacons on call in February
Rusty Capps 325-347-4974
Farion Morton 325-792-6596

January Food Pantry Report
34 adults ages 65 & over
64 adults ages 19-64
35 children 18 & under
133 individuals
61 families



The Youth group—325 Ministries—is meeting on Mondays from 6:15-7:30 in the Family Life Center, making plans together for the next few months. Vickie Roddie, Youth Director, has been working in the FLC, cleaning and organizing the spaces for ministry. An official launch will take place early in March. Please pray.

Weekly Ministries
Sunday: Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11:00, Bible study, 6:00 (starts Feb. 19)
Monday: Bible study in library at 6:00; 325 Ministries 6:15-7:30
Wednesday:
• Women's prayer group, 4:00
• BAM for children, 5:30-6:50
Thursday morning: Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry

February radio spots
6-10 Vickie Roddie
13-17 Laurie Morton
20-24 Jeanagayle Behrens
27-March 3 Greg Torres

Church Wide Bible study begins Feb. 19
10 sessions over 12 weeks (not meeting March 12 & 19)
This Sunday night study will be on Nehemiah or Esther.
Everyone is welcome.

Congratulations to Tony Groves, who received the Doing the Most Good Award from the Salvation Army for his outstanding work as a Bell Ringer during the Christmas season.

(Used with permission from The Navigators. Adapted from The Discipleship Journal)



Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue
but with actions and in truth. *1 John 3:18 NIV*

- Bro. Jeff Quattlebaum, Misty, Regan, and Sam
- our church staff and pre-school
- 325 Ministries (youth)
- our children's ministry
- McKenna Brandenberger on mission in Uganda
- our members in care facilities and our homebound members
- the lost and unchurched in our community
- Brady Clergy Association
Rhonda Aguirre
Laura Alsop

Ray and Rita Ash
Pete and Oralia Barrera
Holden Bedwell
Karen Bivens
Tiffani Bohannon
Amelia Britteon
Bill and Wanda Burns
Sherry Cox
Linda Flint
Charlie & Maria Garcia
Ronnie, Kay, & Cathy Holloway
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Mabel Jones
Colleen Laman
Janie Lowery
James Mallow

Mary Ann McCarver
Louise Morrow
Lois Patton
Charles & Carole Ramsey
Anna Richards
Donald & Margie Richardson
James and Norma Ridout
Tommy & Kathy Stanley
Edith Slaughter
Jack and Susan Turk
Gene Walton
Virgil & Anita Webb
Addie Jo Webster
Bobby and Bobbie Williams
Angie Willis
Claudette Young
Tina 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 Shirley Doyal, Louann Hall, Peggy Hill, and Bobby Laman.

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.
Print copies are available at the church and can be mailed on request.

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Norma Ridout and Carol Bedwell, Pianists
Becky Martin, newsletter and website editor

February at Godly Impressions Preschool

Theme: Loved you yesterday, love you still, always have, always will.

Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13 "The three most important things to have are faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of them is love."



Shape: Heart

Color: Pink

Letters: L, V, H

February is the month of love, and our hearts belong to Jesus! Instead of Cupid, love birds, and chocolates, the focus this month will be that there is no greater love than the love God has for us. He loved us yesterday, loves us still, always has, and always will. The message of God's unending love is one of the greatest messages we can share with the children.

Blessings,
Meredith Navarette, Godly Impressions

Life is short,
and we do not have too much time
to gladden the hearts of those
who travel the way with us.
So be swift to love;
make haste to be kind.
And may the blessing of the one
Who made us,
Who loves us,
and Who walks the way with us still,
the one, holy and undivided
Trinity
be with us always.



Blessing adapted from the words of Henri Frederic Amiel, a Swiss philosopher