



Message from the Pastor: *Amazing forgiveness, amazing grace*

In the Church calendar we are in the season of Lent, when we prepare ourselves for the events that happen at Easter. When we first hear and receive the great news of what Jesus Christ did on the cross, we may be very content to have our sins (past, present, and future) forgiven with our shame removed. We feel the heavy burden being lifted off our shoulders of all we have done wrong and even sense the consequences of offending an all-knowing and all-powerful God. We know there is still work to do, a lingering sense of our remaining sin, but there is a powerful sense of relief of simply being forgiven.

That leads me to this question: What if Jesus died for more than just forgiveness?

The good news of the gospel does not stop with a pardon. The Bible teaches us that God does not only mean to clean us up; He intends to write a new story in sin's place, replacing what was once broken, wicked, evil, and dead with love, faithfulness, and life. Paul wrote, *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)"* The gospel of Jesus Christ does not just get us out of judgement and hell; it also makes us new. Grace helps us shed the weight of our past sins; it also allows us to feel and live differently.

David wrote in Psalm 51, *"For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night (Psalm 51:3, NLT)." You know the story. David was walking around on his roof and saw a married woman (Bathsheba) bathing (2 Samuel 11:2). He lusted after her, had her brought to his home, slept with her (2 Samuel 11:4), and got her pregnant (2 Samuel 11:5). Then he tried to cover up his sin by having her husband come home from war (2 Samuel 11:9-13). When that did not work, David conspired to have her husband murdered in battle (2 Samuel 11:15). David had an innocent man killed to protect his affair with Bathsheba. David thought he got away with it. But one day the prophet Nathan, sent by God, confronted the king about what he had done (2 Samuel 12:1-14).*

When David wrote Psalm 51, he knew all about his sin and the wickedness and rebellion in his heart. *"For I was born a sinner – yes, from the moment my mother conceived me (Psalm 51:5, NLT)." The adultery, lying, and murder were all just indicators of a deeper problem. You see, my friends, at his core, David was evil and had been that way even before his birth. The truth is that sin infects and cripples us more than we will ever admit or comprehend.*

David realized that his sin was great, but at the same time he also knew there was something greater than all his sin. *"Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins (Psalm 51:1, NLT)." God can make even the worst sinner feel safe and confident in His presence. David, in spite of his awful, murderous sin, came boldly before God to ask for forgiveness and cleansing. Picture David on his knees, praying and pleading, not according to anything he had done to make his sins right, but according to the Lord's love and mercy.*

David asked for forgiveness (Psalm 51:1), then he asked for more: *"Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. . . . Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me" (Psalm 51:7&10, NLT)" He basically says, "God, I want to change. I want to love what is right and good. LORD, I want to live differently and love like you love. By the same grace that you rescued me from hell, please LORD, make me new."*

Over time as God shows you more and more of the sin inside your heart, ask Him to forgive you, but then ask Him to renew you. The grace he gives in forgiveness is beyond our wildest imaginations, but He has promised even more grace than that. My brothers and sisters in Christ, as we look to our Savior, let us remember what Paul told us: *"So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image (2 Corinthians 3:18, NLT)"*

I think Julia H. Johnston said it best in 1911 when she wrote these words, "Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin."

Amazing grace,

Pastor Jeff

Believe

Trust

Serving His children

by Marsha Gainer

Children's Ministry Team Lead

The Children's Ministry will begin to formulate plans for a wonderful Children's Easter service. The first meeting will be on March 6 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone interested in helping is invited to attend. We will need stuffed eggs for hiding.

BAM meals have been so wonderful and delicious. A huge thank you to all who have helped. We will not meet on March 15 (spring break). BAM will conclude with Family Night on April 18.

We are looking forward to summer and VBS featuring Babylon and Daniel. Bev is asking for shoeboxes for a craft activity as she develops a hanging garden project. Please keep July 9-14 open for VBS. It will take every single one of us working together to make this a success!

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Work in the light

by Karen Behrens

Music Team Lead

March is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. However, we think of it as the beginning of spring, as March brings the vernal equinox, the Full Worm Moon and the return of Daylight Saving Time! (Almanac, 2023) I for one will be glad when daylight savings time begins. What does daylight savings time mean to you? In John 9:4 it states, "We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work." To me this means we as children of God can work more for His glory with more daylight. Will you use this time to work for His Glory?

We will have an Easter Choir for Easter Sunday. Rehearsals will be Wednesday nights, March 29 and April 5 at 7pm.

Missions team

Becky Martin, Missions Team Lead

Ladies Night Out on Saturday, February 18, was a blessed night. We had a good attend-

ance: 35-40, with ladies joining us from 5 other churches.

This article is a heart-felt thank you note to everyone who helped: Bro. Jeff for the welcome sign; the FBC ladies who brought delicious salads, vegetables, and desserts in abundance; the Food Pantry, for giving us two hams to serve; Marsha, who led us in a fun meet-and-greet game; Karen and Misty, who led us in wonderful worship songs; and Kathy Brandenberger, who spoke to us about McKenna's missions journey. McKenna has served in overseas missions in several countries since she was a teenager. Kathy told her story from a mother's perspective. She and Carl Max have been on a faith-growing journey of their own as they have released McKenna to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

We gave away a number of door prizes, including Chester. (If you were there you know who Chester is. If not, Glenda Middleton can tell you.)

We closed the evening in a prayer circle, sang "I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God," and Carl Max gave the closing prayer.

Finally, to everyone who stayed afterwards to clear the tables, wash the dishes, put the room and the kitchen back in order, and take out the trash: THANK YOU for your servants' hearts. The work was done in a matter of minutes.

Other missions news

Linda Wall is leading a Bible study at Royal Oaks twice a month.

The Missions Team is suggesting a goal of \$2000 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and dates of April 2-9 for the Week of Prayer for North American Missions.

Our goal of \$2500 for the Lottie Moon Offering was met. Thanks to all who donated.

The Lake Ivie Baptist Association is planning a mission trip to the Navajo in July. Talk to Keith

Simpson or Bro. Jeff if you are interested in going or helping.

We purchased children's Bibles to give to the preschool graduates in May.



325 Ministries

by Vickie Roddie,
Youth Director

This past month was full of activities and connection points to begin to engage with students and the community. March 20 is our "Launch" date for 325 Ministries. Please pray! Please come!

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. 1Thessalonians 2:8. This is a scripture that I am praying as our church family shares not only the gospel, but our lives with young people of all ages. We have been blessed to be able to interact with some fine young people and I am proud of the love our church shares so freely. May those we meet in the coming months see not only our hospitality, but ultimately the gospel.

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6
Pray for conversations to be seasoned with Salt!

Follow us on Instagram at 325ministries, and on Facebook at First Baptist Church Brady.

Welcome, Melanie

Melanie Couvillion is now our Financial Secretary, taking the place of Kay Curry after Kay's retirement. Melanie has worked with Kay the last few months and comes highly recommended by Kay. We're glad to have you on board, Melanie.

Memory Verse for March 2023

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24 NIV

Future spring events
 April 2, fellowship meal after church
 June 4: evening fellowship outside, 5:00

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Jackie Behrens Kryste Boydston Prayer group 4:00; BAM 5:30	2	3	4 Darlene Friar Becky Martin
5 Wanda Burns Deacons Meeting, 4:00 Bible Study 6:00	6 LIBA breakfast, Sandy's Kitchen 8:30; planning meeting for VBS, 11:00; Bible study 6:00; 325 Minis- tries, 6:15-7:30	7	8 Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	9	10 Food Distri- bution, 9:00- 11:00	11
12 Bobbie Williams Daylight Saving Time begins	13 Bible study 6:00 325 Ministries 6:15-7:30	14 Missions Team meeting, 2:00	15 Prayer group 4:00 No BAM (spring break)	16	17	18
19 Church Council, 4:00	20 Bible study 6:00 325 Ministries Launch	21	22 Jeanine Willis Prayer group 4:00 BAM 5:30	23	24	25
26 Mistie Quat- tlebaum Business Meeting, 5:00 Bible study, 6:00	27 Bobby Wil- liams Bible study 6:00 325 Ministries 6:15-7:30	28 Kasen Couvillion	29 Prayer group 4:00; BAM 5:30 Easter Choir 7:00	30	31	April 1 Church work day

MARCH 2023 Bible Readings	
(AM)	(PM)
HEBREWS	PSALMS
1-3	24
4-6	25
7-10	26
11-13	27
NUMBERS	
1-3	28
4-7	29
8-10	30
11-14	31
15-17	32
18-21	33
22-24	34
25-27	35
28-30	36
31-33	37:1-22
34-36	37:23-40
GALATIANS	
1-3	38
4-6	39
DEUTERONOMY	
1-4	40
5-7	41
8-10	42
11-13	43
14-16	44
17-19	45
20-22	46
23-26	47

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

Deacons on call in March
 George Matula 325-792-8611
 Jerry Caraway 325-792-8671

February Food Pantry Report
 30 adults ages 65 & over
 42 adults ages 19-64
 16 children 18 & under
 88 individuals
 47 families

Weekly Ministries
Sunday: Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11:00, Bible study at 6:00 (not on 3-12 or 3-19)
Monday: Bible study in library at 6:00; 325 Ministries 6:15-7:30
Wednesday:
 • Women's prayer group, 4:00
 • BAM 5:30-6:50 (not on 3-15)
Thursday morning: Walmart pick-up for Food Pantry

Thank you, Kay!
by Jeanagayle Behrens, Chair of Personnel Committee
 The church honored Kay Curry with a retirement party on February 3 at the home of Carrie Pearson. The come and go gathering was well attended by friends and church members. Kay's sweet personality and dedication to the church will not be forgotten. Kay is loved by all who know her and she is wished the very best in all her future endeavors.

March radio spots
 6-10 Bro. Jeff
 13-17 Velma Hendley
 20-24 Judy Mitzel
 27-31 Bobbie Williams

Congratulations to the BHS Varsity Basketball Team! Bi-district Champions, 2023
 FBC hosted this outstanding group of young men and their coaches to a meal in the FLC on Feb. 20, the night before their play-off game. Maybe the taco bowls, cookies, brownies, and homemade ice cream (made by one of the coaches) helped boost them to victory!

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
 EASTER OFFERING
 Our goal: \$2000
 Week of Prayer for North American Missions:
 April 2-9



“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” *John 5:24 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
- Texas Baptist men in Turkey
- 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
 Roy and Janet Guthrie
 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

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 family of Frances Caraway (Jerry’s mother.)

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

March at Godly Impressions Preschool

The month of March, and spring is around the corner! This month our theme throughout the preschool is: Flowers, Bees and Butterflies. Children are curious by nature, so what could be better than exploring and learning about God’s beautiful creations. One special project several classes are doing will be hatching their own butterflies in the classroom; giving the kids the opportunity to see first-hand the entire cycle from caterpillar to butterfly.

We will also be focusing on: the color green, the shape of a circle, and the letters M, B, Y.

Along the lines of change, we have three new staff members: Kiliah Jolly and Stephanie Garcia are full time in the nursery and Abigail Torrez is a new aide for the classrooms. God has truly blessed the daycare as we are almost at capacity and now, we have a full staff as well. Everyone is looking forward to the month ahead.

Blessings, Meredith Navarette
 ~ Godly Impressions Preschool and Day Care ~



Thank you

Dear Church Family,
 I just wanted to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, encouragement, love, kindness, and generosity.
 I have been so blessed to be a part of such a loving family. I’m so grateful and thankful for each and every one of you.
 Love you all!
 Rhonda Aguirre

Notice: items to give away in FLC
 At the business meeting on Feb. 26, the church voted to authorize the Hospitality Team, Grounds Committee, and Youth Team to inventory items in the FLC and main kitchen, dispose of damaged items, offer items to church members during the 1st week of March, make a list of needed items, and schedule a garage sale.
 So—go to the FLC any morning early in March and see if there’s something you want.