

Guest Services Ministry

The Guest Services Ministry is an expansion of the long-standing greeting ministry. As the indoor greeters continue as currently scheduled, the guest services ministry will greet our first-time visitors and assist our honored elderly outdoors in the parking lots. The goal is to communicate that First Baptist Church does truly *care for those who come*—that’s our vision! This ministry ensures that we treat our guests like family and our church family like honored guests.



As we build our Guest Services Ministry, these five cornerstones are foundational:

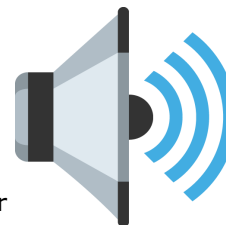
1. To the unsaved, the gospel may be offensive, but our outreach should not be (1 Corinthians 1:18). The gospel does not make sense to people who have not received it. Do you remember what it was like?
2. People are the mission. Jesus is in the people business; we should be too.
3. Everything speaks! Details matter. Every minor issue can be a distraction.
4. Make it personal. Think through a guest’s (and church member’s) experience from the time they drive onto our campus to the time they leave.
5. The first visit should set up the second. If our goal is to point people toward the gospel, it may take more than one visit.


Let’s use every opportunity to love others and point them to Jesus. Contact Jim Browning at 210-417-6040 or jmbrowning2007@yahoo.com for more information.

**“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”
Colossians 4:5-6**

Sound Committee Request

We are blessed to worship in a beautiful facility each week, but unfortunately, because of the way it was constructed, we lose much of the desired quality of sound. The Sound Committee is actively working on taking steps to improve this. We have consulted with experts in the field, and are moving forward with modifications that will enhance the worship each Sunday. Any monetary gifts toward these sound modifications would be greatly appreciated. Just write “Sound System” on your check or giving envelope. Online donations may be contributed to the “Technology Fund.” Please refer any questions about this or any other audio/visual issues to Pastor Terry Smith at 830-391-3362 or terry@fbcf.org.



 **“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)**

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The South Texas Children's Home Says "Thank You"

First Baptist Church traditionally participates in a Christmas-time Angel Tree project to benefit the boys and girls that live at the South Texas Children's Home. The office received several Thank You notes in the mail recently. A few of their notes are included here. Visit the office to take a look at the rest.



STCH
SOUTH TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOME

Dear Floresville,
Thank you for the incredible telescope! You made a lot of kids jealous this year! Thank you for giving me the gift of the stars. I really don't know how I could express this with words! I hope and pray that God gives you the strength to give even more smiles to kids like me in the future, and safe travels to all of you that are traveling for the break. Merry Christmas!
A very grateful STCH kid,
Preston



John P. H. H. P. Kimani G.
Brandon P.
Justin Gordon Sean P.
C.F.P. gear v.
Holden C. Jon B.
Dear FBC Floresville,
Thank you for the gifts provided for the boys of Brown Cottage. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are appreciated.
Sincerely,
Justin A. Howard (Dad)
& Boys of Brown Cottage



Thank you for the amazing gifts that I received. The joggers are amazing and so is the long sleeve. I also thank you for the hygiene products, especially the Axe. Thank you.
Sincerely, Deray D.

Dear FBC Floresville,
My name is Jayden O. I am 11 years old. Thank you SO much for our cottage gifts! We really enjoyed them. We opened the gifts. It made us happy because we loved them so much.
Yours truly, Jayden O.

Belize Bible College Celebrates Students

Praise the LORD for Abel Arriaza, graduating senior at Belize Bible College. It was only a few years ago when he and his family crossed paths with the Bob Farley family and the Belize Training Center. Since then, Abel has dedicated himself to church ministry and becoming a lifelong learner and disciple of Jesus Christ. Abel likes quiet, behind-the-scenes kind of church ministry and is a deep thinker and budding philosopher. He and the other college students have a thriving ministry to teens all over the Punta Gorda area and are ever faithful in leadership development and training at his church, Yemeri Grove Christian. Keep him in your prayers—for continued joy in Christ, discipline in study, love in service, and strength against sin and Satan.



The Belize Bible College is celebrating growth. Enrollment has nearly doubled this semester! The college is clearly preparing the next generation to know Christ and make Him known!

Financial support for missionaries Aaron & Ashley Coffey may be given through FBC. Just write "Belize Fund" on the memo line of your check or on your giving envelope. For online contributions, designate your giving to the "Belize Fund."

Women's Ministry News

Happy February, everyone! Most of you are aware of the journey David and I are on with cancer and chemo treatments. I have spoken with so many of you who are familiar with this journey or one very similar. We rely so very much on all the wonderful prayer warriors in our church! We want to thank you for ALL your prayers! I see the chemo as my physical medicine and the prayers are my spiritual medicine, and we can all use prayer in unlimited quantities! I look forward to the day when I can greet and hug each and every one of you and thank you for all your prayers!

We all have our favorite Bible verses that have carried us through difficult times in our lives, and I want to share a couple of my favorites with you:

- Surely God is my help, the Lord is the one who sustains me. Psalm 54:4
- "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6
- And we know that in all things God works for good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose! Romans 8:28
- Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever! Amen! Ephesians 3:20-21

I'm excited to hear about the expansion of the Guest Services Ministry! Each one of us can make a difference in someone's day with a smile, hug, or just an encouraging word! I just read an article about "Increasing Your Welcoming Skills," and I believe each member of our church (whether man, woman, or child) are Honorary Greeting Ministry members, as we greet one another, shake hands, or hug with people we know. Where we have to "kick it up a notch" is with our visitors! We can begin by looking for those unfamiliar faces. Do you remember your first visit to our church? If you don't know anyone, it can be very uncomfortable just sitting there waiting for service to begin. We can engage in greeting them and getting to know them a bit. If you come to early service, invite a guest to join you in your Bible study class. Just practice smiling and shaking hands. It may sound silly, but sometimes we could be greeting someone with our warm handshake without a beautiful smile to go with it! Now together, that's a winning combination! Last of all, we (I) need to practice listening more than we (I) talk. I definitely need to practice listening more. I would like our visitors to feel genuinely welcomed!

I can't believe that February is here! I hope everyone's schedule has settled somewhat so that we can begin planning some activities for the Women's Ministry! Here are some dates to remember:

- Saturday, February 16, 2019, at 9:30 am—Ladies Brunch and Craft Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall—Everyone is invited to join Karen Whatley and Sally Gaertner in a craft creating a beautiful hurricane candle holder or a shadow box. The cost is \$10. Text Karen Whatley at 830-391-7729 by February 6th.
- Saturday, March 23, 2019, at 10am—The Women's Ministry will be hosting our 5th Annual Flower & Plant Exchange. We will be in the back parking lot at church, so bring your plants to share and exchange. Everyone is invited to participate! You can clean out your storage room and bring any lawn and gardening items too. Get your "plant starters" ready. I started mine in Styrofoam cups last year. It doesn't have to be expensive. Plants you have may be unique to someone else. Again this year, we will be collecting a donation of canned foods and non-perishables to support our Floresville Food Pantry!
- Painting, Pasta, & Praise—date TBD—This will be an exciting and creative event for the ladies. Art supplies, instructor and dinner for \$25. This popular event sold out last year. We'll notify you when the date is set.
- 2019 Women of Joy Deeply Rooted Tour—September 6-8, 2019 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Early registration ends in July. The early group rate is \$99 per person with a group of 10 or more.

Please remember to check the bulletin board near the Coffee Corner for more updates!

For questions about the Women's Ministry, please contact Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068 or myself, Donna Arispe, at 210-560-9642.



David & Donna Arispe

Poinsettia Plans for Christmas 2019

Every year the sanctuary looks beautifully decorated with the poinsettias at Christmas time. After consultation among the members of the Flower Ministry team, an idea has evolved to change how the plants are handled. One challenge has been that it has become increasingly difficult each year to water and groom all the plants. They not only need watering twice a week, but grooming dead leaves and stems takes a lot of time. Another challenge is that as our church continues to grow, it would not be surprising to surpass the count of 54 plants that we had in 2018. As you can imagine, the total number could easily increase year after year.



Beginning in December 2019, each Sunday a person or persons can sign up to put a plant at the altar in honor/memory of whomever they choose. It is not limited to just one person each week. Accommodations will be made on the Flower Calendar to allow for more than one person to provide poinsettias each week during the Christmas season. You would then purchase your own poinsettia plant and bring it to the church to display one Sunday. If you want to bring it or have it delivered on Friday, simply call the office and arrangements can be made. After the morning services, you can then take the poinsettia home and enjoy it the rest of the holiday season.

The Flower Ministry has purchased artificial poinsettia displays for each window, so it would be nice to have live plants in other locations, for example, on the Communion Table, the upper or lower baptistery ledge, or the foyer.

Remember also, in lieu of displaying a poinsettia plant, donations can be made to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. International Mission Board missionaries need our contributions to take the gospel message throughout the world. By giving to Lottie Moon, we help them do that. Although decorating the House of the Lord is important, our main mission should be obeying the Great Commission, as given 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Thank you for your support and understanding. As Pastor George Harris said in the morning worship service on December 30th, let's try something new in 2019!

God Bless!

Flower Ministry Team
Jan Thomas, Sally Gaertner, and Jeannie McCarville

Church Communication

How do you get your copy of First Edition, the monthly newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Floresville? Many of you pick up a printed copy in the foyer of the Worship Center, but did you know that the newsletter is also available electronically? Visit www.fbcf.org/newsletter and add your e-mail to receive the newsletter in your inbox each month. Previous months' newsletters are also available to download. Another option is to send an e-mail request to office@fbcf.org and we'll be happy to add you to the distribution list.

In this electronic age, very few copies of the newsletter are sent through the mail. With the cost of postage on the rise, we have been able to be better stewards of the church's budgeted monies by limiting the mailed copies only to those who specifically request it.

Also, the church staff periodically sends out prayer requests or other announcements. To receive these, send an e-mail request to office@fbcf.org.

Please e-mail any changes in addresses, phone numbers, or other contact information so we can keep our records current.



Floresville Food Pantry
Suggested Donations for
the month of February

**All Kinds of
SOUPS**

Choosing Joy
Women's Conference



February 22-23, 2019
Highland Lakes Camp &
Conference Center

For more information,
visit www.hlccc.org or
call 888-222-3482.

Children's Ministry News

2019 is in full swing! The kids are back in school, spring sports are ramping up, and my kids are already asking, "When is Spring Break?" In order to sustain their school-weary souls, we have many fun activities planned this spring.

Each Sunday morning, Bible studies for all ages are offered at 9:15 am. Stop by the Guest Services Center to find out which class is right for your child.

Kids' Church happens every Sunday morning for kids in Kindergarten through 4th grade. The children join their families for worship in the Worship Center at 10:30 am, and then exit when the choir steps down. An adult will be waiting in the foyer to escort your children to God's Playhouse.

On Sunday afternoons, February 4th through March 4th, from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, FBC is offering KidsFaith for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade who are requesting to be baptizing or who are new to the Christian faith.

The Wednesday schedule for Kindergarteners through 6th graders is as follows:

3:30 pm	Team Kids
4:45 pm	Kids Choir
5:30 pm	Supper (\$3 per child)
6:00 pm	Recreation
6:30 pm	Bible Drill

Preschoolers ages 3-PreK attend Bible Buddies at 6:30 pm each Wednesday.



Darlene McKeen
Children's Director

Upcoming Special Events!

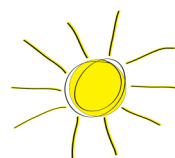
- Movie Night, Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 5:30 pm. We will show Mr. Peabody and Sherman. We'll have your movie-viewing glow glasses waiting for you!
- Student Holiday Fun Day at Incredible Pizza, Monday, April 1, 2019. Everyone is welcome! The cost is \$23/person ages 4 and up, including a \$20 game card. Children under 3 are free. The cost of a buffet only for adults is \$8.50. Sign up at the Children's Check-In Desk. Payment is due by March 13th. The church bus will depart the parking lot at 10am.
- Community Easter Egg Hunt, time is to be determined. To help plan this event, contact Darlene McKeen at darlene@fbcf.org or 210-639-5781. We will be collecting candy as the event approaches, so be watching for locations for collection buckets for Easter candy that will be used to stuff the eggs.

More than Moms

There's no such thing as being "just" a mom. Despite the routine tasks and mundane to-do lists, motherhood is anything but insignificant. God has designed motherhood as part of His greater plan to draw people to Himself—

instilling all women, whether called to traditional mothering or not, with an eternal purpose in nurturing others. That's why FBC offers **More Than Moms**, a weekday study specifically for moms of littles. Join Darlene McKeen as she leads this mom-themed study each Friday morning at 9:00 am in the God's Playhouse classroom. The women will be working through the Book of Judges this semester. Child care is provided.

Additionally, moms will enjoy a night out on the first Monday of every month at 6pm for a girls-only movie night. Child care is not provided.



Little Rays of Sunshine Mother's Day Out

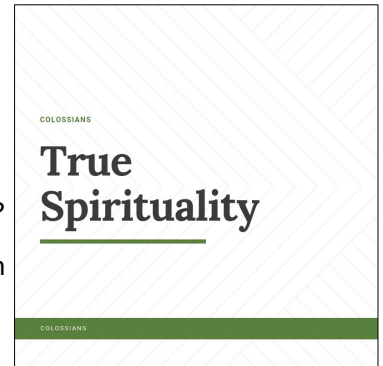
FBC's Little Rays of Sunshine Mom's Day Out (MDO) program started on January 9th with 8 children enrolled. We needed 6 to make this program financially feasible. God is already showing His blessing on our program. MDO receives boys and girls ages 2-5 every Monday and Wednesday from 9am—2pm. There are spots available, including a few spots for drop-ins.

For more information, or to obtain information about enrollment, contact Darlene McKeen or visit www.fbcf.org/mothers-day-out.

Student Ministry News

This semester on Wednesday nights the students are going through the Book of Colossians. We are calling the series True Spirituality. The Book of Colossians calls Christians to live a life pleasing to God that is rooted in the work of Christ, maintained by God's power, and cultivated by both knowledge and action. (Colossians 1:3-8)

We live in a culture with competing spiritual beliefs where many argue that all paths are equally valid. (This is called pluralism.) How do we discern what is true? How do we address false spiritual practices? What does this have to do with our understanding of the gospel? What role does meeting with other Christians play in these issues? Going through Colossians will lead us to Biblical answers for these questions.



Upcoming Events:

Paint Ball Outing—Saturday, February 9, 2019, 9am—Cost is \$15

DiscipleNow Weekend—Friday through Sunday, March 22-24, 2019. 7th-12th grade students, plan to spend the weekend together for an overnight DNow weekend. We will welcome missionary Bryan Catherman from Salt Lake City as our guest speaker.



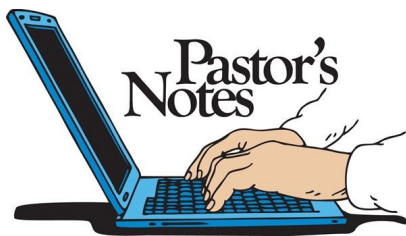
"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." ~ 1 John 2:15

Undivided: Loving God Above All Else will boldly challenge students to pursue Christ with a single-minded devotion, discovering that the only love worth giving God is an UNDIVIDED one.

Men's Ministry Events

ATTENTION ALL MEN: First Baptist Church is planning a Men's Retreat at Alto Frio Baptist Encampment on Friday and Saturday, February 22-23, 2019. The cost is \$35. Contact either John Long or Penny Smith to reserve your spot.

There will be no Men's Prayer Breakfast this month. The next scheduled breakfast is on Saturday, March 30, 2019, from 8-10 am.



Pastor Mike's sermon series, "Jesus as Lord," began with historical evidence that Jesus' birth was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy. Pastor has made these notes available for anyone who wants a copy. If interested, contact the church office.

In honor of the President's Day holiday, the church office will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019.



BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

FBC is partnering with the South Texas Pregnancy Care Center to support their efforts as they spread the message that all life is precious. Please pick up a baby bottle in the foyer and return it full of coins, currency, or checks that will be used throughout our community to help people choose life.

Please return the bottles to the office or place in the basket in the foyer by the end of February.





1115 B Street
Floresville, TX 78114

Phone: 830-216-4946
Fax: 830-393-3613
E-mail: office@fbcf.org
www.fbcf.org

Mike Clements, D.Min., Pastor
830-391-2016
Terry Smith, Worship Pastor
830-391-3362
Matt Keller, Student Pastor
409-656-3089
Darlene McKeen,
Children's Director
Penny Smith, Office Manager
Christie Davis, Office Assistant
Rosa Beltran, Church Custodian



Because He First Loved Us.

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Hal Young, son of Grace Lanning, who passed away on January 1, 2019;

Deepest sympathy is offered to the family of Wallace D. Collins, father of David Collins, who passed away on January 13, 2019.



To My Wonderful & Caring Church Family,
I have been blessed by God and many of you. Thank you for all the hugs, prayers, and telephone calls. Thank you for all the meals: lunches and breakfast tacos. Thanks also for all the calls and offering to take me back and forth to radiation. Some have given me gas money, which I so appreciate. I'm so humbled and grateful. God bless all! I have 4 1/2 weeks to go. Keep praying!
~Louise Lotspeich

To My Church Family,
Thank you so much for your prayerful support for me and my family during my second recent "hip" episode! Your prayers have been felt, your cards and messages encouraging. With superb caregivers Lillie & Jean Evelyn, up-to-date medical care, and God's healing power, I'm on the road to recovery!
With love, Carl Ray

Blessed
are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Matthew 5:4

Damon & Lauren Shine,
along with older siblings, Tristan, Hannah & Gabrielle,
are proud to announce the arrival of
Logan Walker
on January 17, 2019, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz.

**OH
BOY**



J.B. & Betty Dismuke
24001 Cinco Village
Center Blvd. Apt. 1135
Katy, TX 77494

Janice Ring
302 North Hunt
Cuero, TX 77954



Remember, the deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

New Members

By Letter

Chris Coats
Elizabeth Coats
135 Montesito Lane
Floresville, TX 78114
210-215-0719 (Chris)
210-215-0993 (Elizabeth)

Roland LeDoux
Rebecca LeDoux
112 Abrego Ridge
Floresville, TX 78114
210-416-9004

By Letter

Jim McWilliams
Dianne McWilliams
301 County Road 134
Floresville, TX 78114
601-214-0070 (Jim)
601-927-5060 (Dianne)

By Baptism

Sean Coats
135 Montesito Lane
Floresville, TX 78114

BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:
\$ 525,000.00
January Loan Payment:
\$ 5,000.00
Current Loan Balance:
\$ 217,222.75

*"Take from among you
an offering to the Lord.
Whoever is of a willing heart,
let him bring it as an
offering to the Lord."*

~Exodus 35:5a (NKJV)

**online
GIVING**
easy. fast. effective.



Online giving is an easy, convenient, and secure alternative to writing a check. Go to the church's web page, www.fbcf.org, or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
December 2018	\$ 70,714.56	\$ 54,829.00
YTD thru December	\$ 650,513.25	\$ 657,948.00