

First Edition



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Abuse and the Southern Baptist Convention

Some of you may have seen the series of 3 recent [Houston Chronicle articles](#) entitled “Abuse of Faith” discussing issues related to sexual abuse in the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). We challenge you to read them if you have not already done so, but be warned—they are difficult to read because of the nature of the problem. This issue is difficult to discuss and it is very serious. Like many other SBC pastors and denominational leaders, we felt it was necessary to comment about the nature of the articles and share steps we have taken at FBC Floresville to prevent abuse within our church body.

First, we should have grief and sorrow about the nature of this issue and the experiences reported by the victims of abuse. We should pray for those who have been taken advantage of and abused. Help and healing are available, both physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and we are committed to support victims as they heal. Second, we should renew our commitment to the safety of our students and children. This means a commitment to following the policies and procedures of FBC’s children’s ministry and student ministry. These policies and procedures are in place for both the safety of the students and for the adults as well. Third, this means praying for our denomination and praying that the churches within our denomination commit to their witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ through seeking to keep students and children safe.

To be clear, we do not believe that any type of abuse is acceptable—abuse is sin. It is rebellion against both God’s commands and against the way we were created to live. Whoever commits abuse against anyone, especially students and children, are in rebellion against the Lord (Matthew 18:6). Forgiveness is available to all through the perfect work of Jesus, but there are still earthly consequences for our rebellion.

We commit to keeping families safe at FBC. Please review the information in our policies related to safety within the students’ and children’s ministries. We will vote on a revised Student Ministry Handbook that includes sections related to this timely issue in this month’s business meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 6:30 pm.

For information about how the SBC is responding, check out www.churchcares.com. We’d also like to recommend two articles from the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission: [5 Ways the Gospel Shapes Our Response to Sexual Abuse](#) and [10 Calls to Action](#) by Phillip Bethancourt. To read these articles, perform a simple internet search or contact the church office for help.

Pastor Mike Clements, DMin, Pastor
Pastor Terry Smith, Worship Pastor
Pastor Matt Keller, Student Pastor
Darlene McKeen, Children’s Director
and the rest of the FBCF staff

Inside this issue:

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING	2
MISSIONS REPORTS	2
KID MINISTRY NEWS	3
DISCIPLE NOW WEEKEND FOR STUDENTS	3
WOMEN’S MINISTRY NEWS	4
LINE EXERCISE AND COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH FOR SENIORS & VETERANS	4
CALENDAR & BIRTHDAYS	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
NEW MEMBERS, ETC.	6
BUDGET INFORMATION	6



Time to
Spring Ahead

Daylight Savings Time
begins March 10, 2019.

Spring Forward!



BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 6:30 pm

Business will be presented by the Youth Committee and the Committee on Committees.

“...He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

1 Peter 1:3 (CSB)

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

This year’s theme is SENDING HOPE. Your prayers and financial support make it possible for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to send hope to our continent by training, resourcing, and sending missionaries who share the good news of Christ. 100% of your Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts support more than 5,000 NAMB missionaries in church planting and compassion ministry. Here’s how your gifts resource missionaries:

- \$5—Bus fare for travel in the local community
- \$25—Meal with an unreached person
- \$85—Subscriptions for training resources
- \$175—Laundromat fees for a family of four
- \$300—Training and conferences for a church planter’s wife
- \$500—Neighborhood outreach event
- \$1,000—Emergency travel assistance for a missionary family
- \$1,200—Bibles, gospel tracts, and discipleship materials
- \$1,400—Monthly worship facility rent

The Flemings Speak Japanese

Thank you for praying for the Trey Fleming family as they continue to work on learning to speak Japanese. Their language skills were recently evaluated by a guest sensei from Tokyo who came to their home in Osaka. Trey and Adria’s goal was to each hold a conversation with him for 30 minutes which was recorded and later evaluated.



Even though the Flemings felt like they didn’t do as well on the language evaluation as they had hoped, the results showed that both Trey and Adria had improved by one level. They were thrilled! Thank you for praying!! The evaluator commented that they could tell the Flemings had been spending time with Japanese speakers. One way they do that is by hosting fun game nights.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the Trey Fleming family.



Spring Break Mission Opportunity for Ariel Howard

Greetings from San Marcos, Texas! I hope you are well and seeing God’s blessings in your life. This coming spring break, I have the opportunity to go on a mission trip to South Padre Island with a ministry called Beach Reach through Texas Baptist Collegiate Ministry! We will be offering free van rides up and down the island each evening, acting as designated drivers for partying students, making late-night breakfasts for those that need to sober up, having gospel conversations when we can, and just being the eyes of Christ so we can protect those that are not fully themselves.

I am asking for two things to help me prepare for this trip, and they are prayer and financial support. In order to participate in this trip, I must raise \$300 to cover all transportation, meals, and other expenses. I thank you ahead of time for considering this!

Will you commit to pray for me and perhaps support me with a gift of \$20, \$50, or any other amount?

My goal is to raise the entire amount by March 8, 2019. I know that it’s very soon for such a large amount of money, but I know that God has called me to be a light to this area during spring break, and the support of my church family means the world to me. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church, indicating “Padre Island” on your check’s memo line or on the giving envelope. Thank you for your prayers and support. I am excited and trust the Lord to provide and bless His work.



Kid Ministry News

Spring is almost upon us! I have always loved Spring the most. Spring is a season of awakening, of leaving behind the cold and dreary, and embracing the warm and new. As a child, I loved watching my mom’s daffodils grow. Each spring, the daffodil leaves peeked through the soil, tentatively at first, as though testing the air to make sure it’s time. Suddenly, the leaves pushed their way through, growing tall, stems with buds shooting through and reaching toward the sky. Soon, the soft yellow flowers opened their petals wide, a beautiful picture of creation worshipping its creator.

The daffodil is a poignant picture of fresh new life, much like the life we experience when we come to know Christ. Where we were once hopeless and helpless, in Him we are now bold and beautifully loved as we seek to live the rich life that God has for us. As your family moves toward Spring and reflects on the coming Easter season, take a moment to pause and ponder the richness and meaning that Christ has brought to your life. Sit with your children and write a list of the things you are grateful for, praying together in gratitude for the new life he gives. My family’s list of gratefulness looks like this:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life on earth • Eternal life and a greater purpose • Home | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter: a time to pause and ponder Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plentiful food • Clothes • Family • Friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love • Celebrations! |
|---|---|--|---|

Drop your family’s list off at the Guest Services Desk to be displayed throughout the months of March and April on our bulletin board! Happy Spring!

~ Darlene


UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March Movie Night, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 5:30 pm. Movie: “Wreck It, Ralph”
- The FBC Kids Ministry is hosting a community-wide Easter celebration. We will need lots of help planning this event. A planning meeting will take place on Sunday, March 10, 2019, after the 10:30 am worship service. Childcare is provided, but you must RSVP. Let us know if you’re able to attend our planning meeting by emailing darlene@fbcf.org.
- VBS Planning Meeting (mandatory for station leaders) is Sunday March 17, 2019, after the 10:30 am worship service. Do you want to help plan or head up a station for our 2019 Vacation Bible School? We will start the VBS planning process, assign VBS team leaders, and hand out curricula during this meeting. This is not a volunteer training for crew leaders. General VBS volunteer training will take place in April.
- School Holiday Fun Day at Incredible Pizza is Monday, April 1st. Meet at the church at 9:45 am. Everyone is welcome! \$23/ person ages 4 and up, includes \$20 game card. Children under 3 are free. \$8.50/adult, buffet only. Sign up at the Children’s Check-In Desk. Payment is due by March 13, 2019. The church bus departs the parking lot at 10:00 am.
- MDO summer sign-up is open. Mom’s Day Out will run on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-2pm for 3 weeks each month during the months of June, July, and August. The cost is \$150/month. At this time, we will not have availability for summer drop-in care. The MDO summer schedule and registration forms are available at the Guest Services Center. Preference will be given to current MDO students and FBC church members, so get your registration in early!



DiscipleNOW Weekend Friday-Sunday, March 22-24, 2019

We will welcome missionary Bryan Catherman from Salt Lake City as our guest speaker. Bryan will address the students throughout the event and then he will preach to the congregation in one combined 10:30 am worship service on Sunday. Parents, Pastor Matt has an information packet for you, so contact him to obtain a copy.



Floresville Food Pantry

Suggested Donations for the month of March

**Pasta (1-pound bags or smaller),
Pasta sauce, Tomato sauce or Tomato paste**

The Food Pantry is located on the corner of 5th and A Street and is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 10am—2pm. Volunteers are appreciated. First Baptist Church typically provides volunteers one week per month, but the Pantry could use help any time. Contact Bonnie Dickerson for more information about this great program.

Women's Ministry Events

Happy Springtime, Ladies!

Here are some upcoming dates to remember:



“SO THEN WE
PURSUE THE
THINGS WHICH
MAKE FOR PEACE
AND THE
BUILDING UP OF
ONE ANOTHER.”
ROMANS 14:19
(NASB)

- 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!
- WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration, April 5-6, 2019—Join together at First Baptist Church in Woodway (near Waco) with women from all over the state as they focus on missions, both locally and around the world. There will be opportunities to hear from several missionaries and learn about some of the exciting things God is doing around the world. There will also be opportunities to work on missions projects in the Waco area. Breakout sessions include: Trauma Healing, The Externally-Focused Church, Developing Missional Habits, Keep On Praying, and more. Contact Judith Smith to attend this exciting and worthwhile event.
- 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 Donna Arispe, at 210-560-9642.

LINE EXERCISE

If you have been putting off that New Year's resolution to be healthier and give your body a little more exercise, then Line Exercise is just what the doctor ordered. It's time to kick up your heels, have a little fun, and help your body at the same time. Classes are for adults of all ages (men & women). Pick a time and day that fits your schedule or come to all three classes each week (many do).

Classes meet every week at the

FBCF Family Life Center

(across the street from the front door of the Sanctuary)

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

9:30 am—10:30 am

For more information, contact Patti Kuykendall at 210-216-0810.



Wilson County Community Services

(formerly Meals on Wheels)

invites ALL Senior Adults 60+ and ALL Veterans to enjoy a **FREE HOT LUNCH** and fun activity each weekday.

Monday thru Friday

11:00 am

Wilson County Expo & Community Center (formerly the Show Barn)

The cost is FREE for Veterans and Senior Adults age 60 and over. (Donations are accepted.)

The cost for folks under 60 is \$5.

There are various activities offered including Line Dance on Wednesdays and Fridays at 1pm.

Please contact 830-391-9397 for more information; if you'd like to volunteer, contact Linna Selby at 908-337-7049.



MARCH 2019

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 More Than Moms Movie Night 6:30pm	2
3 Pastor Mike's birthday *Darrel Dundas	4 FV Nursing Home 3:30	5	6 WNS Chalupas	7	8	9	
10  Easter Planning Mtg Noon *Danny Fenner	11	12 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	13 NO WNS No activities FISD Spring Break	14 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	15	16	
17  VBS Planning Meeting Noon *Amos Garcia	18	19	20 WNS Sloppy Joes Business Meeting 6:30pm	21	22 Student Disciple Now	23 Flower & Plant Exchange 10 am	
24 NO Early Worship —DNow— *Bob Herndon	25	26	27 WNS Chicken Cornelia Kids' Movie Night 5:30pm	28	29 Youth Ministry Lab	30 8am MEN'S BREAKFAST	
31 NO Early Worship *Tom Kuykendall	 <h1>hello March!</h1>						

Sunday

- 8:00—Worship Service (except Lord's Supper & 5th Sundays)
- 9:15—Bible Study
- 10:30—Worship Service
- 3:00—Veterans Home (except 2nd Sunday)
- 4:00—Student Choir

Wednesday

- 3:30—TeamKids
- 4:30—FLC open
- 4:45—TeamKids Praise
- 5:30—Wed. Night Meal
- 5:30—Kids Movie Night LAST Wed of month
- 6:30—Life Groups / Prayer Meeting / Youth Bible Study / Bible Drill / Bible Buddies
- 7:30—Choir Rehearsal

Weekly Activities

- Creative Hands—Quilting Mondays at 10:00 am
- Bible Study Fellowship Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
- Ladies Bible Study Wednesdays at 10 am
- Sr. Adult Game Day Thursdays from 1-4 pm
- Line Exercise Classes Mon, Tue, & Thu from 9:30-10:30 am
- Mother's Day Out Mon & Wed from 9am-2pm

* Deacon of the Week

March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Bob Herndon | 10 Matt Perez | 20 Matt Bingham | 29 Rick Huber |
| 2 Chris Coats | 10 Charlotte Rolland | 22 Allison McKeen | 29 Ivy Lanier |
| 2 Sean Coats | 10 Mae Belle Stringer | 23 Randy Gorzell | 30 Jennifer Kowalski |
| 2 Jane Lee | 11 Robin Parker Ingram | 23 Kyle Houdmann | 31 Jonathan Huber |
| 3 Dr. Mike Clements | 13 Luke Clements | 23 Chris Reed | 31 Fay Rogers |
| 4 Braxton Richardson | 14 Henry Coleman | 23 Russell Rodriguez | |
| 4 Preston Pehl | 15 Wade Harris | 24 Alyssa Flores | |
| 4 Adlai Welfel | 16 Bro. Aaron Coffey | 24 Kaitlyn Flores | |
| 5 Cristy Cutsinger | 16 Bethany Smith Vick | 24 Lou Johnson | |
| 5 Tony Perez | 17 Lyndi Keller | 25 Paige Wheeler | |
| 5 James Whatley | 17 Brooke Fewox | 26 Jean Harris | |
| 6 Darlene McKeen | 17 Jonathan Parker | 26 Jovi Murray | |
| 7 Elton Gilchrist | 18 Mark Davis | 26 Charles Rice | |
| 8 Keegan Ward | 18 Paula McGee | 28 Mike Hopper | |
| 9 Luis Chavarria, Jr. | 19 Stephanie Simmang | 28 Mary Pierce | |
| 9 Adam Tracy | 19 Michelle Talley | 29 Ralph Coston | |



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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 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.

We're on the Web!

www.fbcf.org

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Jerome Moy, father of Blake Moy, who passed away on February 10, 2019;

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Kenneth & Rhonda Durham, uncle and aunt of Elisabeth Kotzur, who passed away unexpectedly on February 18, 2019;

Heartfelt sympathy is offered to the family of David Lord, son-in-law of Mark Johnson, who passed away on February 20, 2019.

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank our church family for all their prayers and support for us and for our son, Hal Young, after his stroke and subsequent death. Also, thank you to the choir for the beautiful flower arrangement you gave us in Hal's honor.

Jeff & Grace Lanning



Pastor Mike,

Just wanted to say how we are continually grateful for the use of your church. It is the prayer of Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) that First Baptist Church be blessed beyond measure for all you do for us. "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20

Blessings, Mavis Cantu

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted."

Psalm 34:18



New Members

By Baptism

Jordan Janke
 2033 FM 541
 Falls City, TX 78113
 832-309-6478

Eric Nickles
 1887 Lakeview Drive
 Floresville, TX 78114
 210-716-1743

By Letter

Clay Respondek
 3740 US Hwy 281 S
 Floresville, TX 78114
 254-760-1833

Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
 1892—2019

invites everyone to attend their

**127th Church
 Anniversary Celebration**

March 10, 2019, 3:30 pm

Special Guests: Rev. Romey Flowers and
 Rising Star Baptist Church

CPR • First Aid • AED Classes

Offered by Connally Memorial Medical Center

Monday, March 11, 2019, 8am-12:30pm –or–
 Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 3pm-7:30pm



The cost is \$35. Call 830-393-1345 or email marketing@connallymmc.org for more information. Space is limited.

BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:
 \$ 525,000.00
 January Loan Payment:
 \$ 5,000.00
 Current Loan Balance:
 \$ 212,956.24

*"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
January 2019	\$ 45,833.75	\$ 56,493.17
YTD thru January	\$ 45,833.75	\$ 56,493.17