

# First Edition

## First Baptist Church

May 1, 2019

Volume 45, Issue 5

## Vacation Bible School—June 3-7, 2019

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! Mark Monday-Friday, June 3rd-7th, 2019, from 8:30–11:40 am on your calendar. VBS is for boys and girls who have reached age 4 (by June 3rd) through the 6th grade.



This year's theme is **The Incredible Race: One Family, One Race, One Savior**. Boys and girls will embark upon a race filled with fun clues to find, challenges to attempt, and a global scavenger hunt like you've never seen! At the same time, kids will learn about another race that started in the Garden of Eden. What race is that? The human race.

As always, VBS is a FREE evangelistic event. Registration will begin soon, so start visiting [www.fbcf.org/children/](http://www.fbcf.org/children/) and click the VBS link. Sign up quickly before we reach capacity!

### ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:

The VBS crew is still in need of additional volunteers and team leaders. Visit the registration links and click on the volunteer button to register. Please attend a Volunteer Meeting (Adults—Sunday, May 5th at noon; Youth—Wednesday, May 8th at 6pm) and start praying now for God to work in the lives of the boys and girls that will come through the doors of First Baptist Church.

Please contact Darlene McKeen at [darlene@fbcf.org](mailto:darlene@fbcf.org) or 210-639-5781 with any questions.

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## You're Invited: Bringing People to Church

Despite all the advertising most churches do, 80% of first-time guests come because they were personally invited. That's HUGE! And frankly, that's why the church has been around for 2,000 years. Knowing this, how can we encourage personal invites?

First Baptist Church has created a tool that may make it easier for you to invite people. Invitation Cards like the one pictured to the right can be found in the foyer and at the Welcome Center. Take a few cards and keep them with you throughout the week. As you encounter people each day, give them a card along with a personal invitation to attend church on Sunday. Arrange a time and place at church where you will meet your guest so he won't feel nervous about walking in alone.

We should provide a welcoming atmosphere—a place where people truly feel welcomed and not lost. It's all about first impressions.

Once people come, make sure they want to come back. A follow-up call or text message is a nice gesture, but most importantly, remember their names when they visit a second time. Small efforts are a start to becoming a truly welcoming church.



# VBS: It's Worth It

By: Landry Holmes, Managing Director, LifeWay Kids Publishing

My earliest memory of VBS is a brief, visual snapshot. As a preschooler, I'm standing outside Second Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Texas, with my dad, the associate pastor. I'm too young to go inside when the other children soon will begin marching into the worship center, so my dad gives me a VBS attendance pin before attending to his duties as the VBS Director. That's it. That's all I remember, but the memory is forever imprinted in my mind.

What's your VBS story? Are you among the 60% of adults who attended VBS while growing up? What memories do you have? Recent research from LifeWay reports that 9 out of 10 American adults who attended VBS while growing up report having positive memories of those experiences. There really isn't a stigma against it. It's got the brand recognition a Fortune 500 company would pay big bucks to achieve. That's great news for churches! When we do VBS, we don't have to explain to our community what it is or why people should come. We don't have to convince people it's going to be fun for kids. We don't have to sell people on its merits. We're sitting in a really good place!

Why is VBS worth it to our church and our community? After all, aren't there other good things—maybe even better things—that we can do as local churches to reach our communities? Let's start with the problem, first, then answer that question.

The problem is that we are in a two-fold crisis. First, our churches are in a crisis of evangelism. As a whole, we are not doing a good job of reaching our communities with the gospel. Forty-eight percent of us are not inviting unchurched people to visit our church, and 61% of us are not sharing how to become a Christian. Second, we are in a crisis of loneliness. Our kids have never known the world without the internet or smartphones. What does all this time on digital devices make kids—and the adults around them? Lonely. God did not create us to be lonely—he made us to live in community. There are very few times in the rhythm of church calendars that provide a whole week of human and multi-generational interaction for the sake of the kingdom of God.

So, if the dual crisis of evangelism and loneliness is the problem, what is the solution? VBS began in a moment of crisis, not so different from the one we face today—churches needed to spread the gospel, and individuals longed for meaningful community. Enter Virginia Hawes, a godly woman who noticed the problem in a section of New York City's East Side and began searching for a solution. In 1898, Virginia Hawes opened what has become known as the most prominent precursor of today's VBS, in a beer parlor. "We felt that the Bible is not taught in homes as it used to be, nor as it should be, and it is not taught in the public schools. So we opened ... a school in which we made the Bible our only text book," Hawes said.

By 1934, approximately 700 Bible schools reached as many as 100,000 children. And those numbers continued to grow—through two World Wars, the Great Depression, the turbulent 60's—to today. I truly believe that God desires to continue to use VBS as a tool of the church to reach babies through adults with the gospel. And, I'm convinced that the solution to loneliness is found in the Jesus taught in VBS, and the community Jesus provides through the church.

VBS is worth it—all the effort, all the expense, all the hours, all the tears. Why? Because VBS is the one week that mobilizes the entire church to reach the community with the gospel, while simultaneously providing a unique discipleship experience for the individual child and volunteer. The 2017 numbers reported to LifeWay by churches attest to the fact that VBS is worth it:

21,376 churches reported a VBS	2,494,059 people enrolled in VBS
65,301 salvation decisions from VBS	835 decisions made for vocational ministry at VBS
160,926 prospects discovered through VBS	\$7,012,000 given to missions during VBS

VBS is still one of the most effective tools we have. It helps us take a realistic view of the current cultural landscape and as a result to double down on our efforts to reach kids and families through a time-tested, proven effective strategy.

So what about you and your church? For over 120 years, God has used VBS to impact the eternity of millions of people, all over the globe. If we stop using VBS as a tool for evangelism and discipleship, where will our churches be 10, 20, 30 years from now? Knowing that 22 percent of children who participate in VBS do not attend any church, what will take the place of VBS to reach kids and families for the sake of the gospel? VBS is not a program to save, it's a ministry tool with a future. My prayer is that when faced with the question, "Is VBS worth it?" we'll all clearly hear, "Yes, it's worth it, because eternity is worth it."

Adapted from a blog post located here: <https://vbs.lifeway.com/2018/12/06/vbs-its-worth-it/>

## Salt Lake City Mission Trip

The Student Ministry of First Baptist Church is sending a team to Salt Lake City, Utah, the week of July 20-26, 2019, to work with Redeeming Life Church and North American Mission Board missionary Bryan Catherman. Would you consider supporting the team as they prepare to share the Gospel and support a church plant in a difficult ministry setting?



Of course, our greatest need is prayer. Please pray for the team as we study, memorize scripture, and learn how to have a conversation with a person whose belief system is grounded in untruths. Pray that we develop a love for people we have never met. Pray that we begin to understand how to effectively share the truths of scripture with people who have been culturally blinded to it.

Your financial support would be a huge blessing. A conservative cost estimate (air fare, lodging, and transportation while there) is \$550 per person. Bake sales are being planned as we speak, but other monetary gifts are appreciated. Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church with "Salt Lake City" in the memo line, or indicate "Salt Lake City" on your giving envelope. Online gifts can be made at [www.fbcf.org](http://www.fbcf.org). Just click on the green button and indicate the "Youth Fund." Please direct any questions to Pastor Matt Keller.

## Missionary Highlight—Taylor and Susan Field in NYC

Taylor and Susan Field minister to the needy and share the Gospel through Graffiti Church on the New York City's Lower East Side. They have served in the area for 40 years, sharing Christ's compassion in practical, no-strings-attached ways—from tutoring to teaching English as a second language, to providing lunches in a nearby park.

Their goal is to make personal connections with people by meeting their physical needs and helping them radically change their lives through Christ.

One such life was Raul who had been recently released from prison and was living in a drug rehab facility. The court required him to take classes to earn his high school degree. He ended up at Graffiti Church for those classes.

One day, a church member invited Raul to a Sunday service saying, "We would love to have you." So Raul went every Sunday for six months in a row—and he brought his girlfriend, Siyyida. They both accepted Christ as Savior. Now they are married and attend and serve at several Graffiti campuses across New York City.

Our church's gifts through the Cooperative Program enable Taylor and Susan to bring the Gospel to New York City one person at a time. Let's pray for our missionaries and for Graffiti Church, as they reach out to serve the community.

**Because of your gifts to the Cooperative Program, people around the world hear the gospel and receive Christ!**



The Sound Board's  
Volunteer of the Month  
for the month of May is:

**Patrick McKeen**

I T S ♥ A ♥ G I R L

*A sweet little girl  
is on her way.  
Come celebrate  
before the big day!*

Join us for a BABY SHOWER honoring  
**KIMBERLY LANIER O'NEAL**  
Saturday, May 4, 2019 • 2pm-4pm  
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
Kimberly is registered at Amazon.com.

# Women's Ministry News

Greetings, Ladies!

We have been so blessed this spring with all the rain, and there was such a spectacular array of colors and beauty! The Easter season was absolutely wonderful and heart-warming with a feeling of renewing our hearts for what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has done! We serve a risen Savior!

Ladies, we had a wonderful Plant and Flower Exchange in March. We hope that this women's event that includes so many will keep *growing and growing* (pun intended) every year!

Plan to attend a Women of Joy Fellowship on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, from 5:30-7:30 pm. Come enjoy a salad supper together and watch a powerful testimony of one of the speakers from the 2018 Women of Joy conference. See Sally Gaertner for child care. It will be available by reservation.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** September 6-8, 2019—Women of Joy 2019 LIVE DEEPLY ROOTED Tour. The list of speakers is posted on the bulletin board near the Coffee Corner. The group rate is \$99 with early registration (through June 3rd). Please visit [WomenOfJoy.org](http://WomenOfJoy.org) for more information.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068 or Donna Arispe at 210-560-9642.

## ATTENTION GRADUATES!

Your church family wants to honor you on Sunday, May 26, 2019, during the 10:30 am worship service. We will put together a slide show of our graduates, so please submit your .jpg photos NOW to the office on a flash drive (10 pictures including 2 recent for HS grads, and one recent picture for college grads, along with college/degree information). Please refer any questions to Pastor Matt Keller or Kelly Parker.



**CHURCH  
DIRECTORIES  
AND PORTRAITS**

If we have 15 or more interested families, the LifeTouch photographers will return to take pictures to revise our church directory. If you are a new member, or did not have your picture taken when the photographers were here the last time, contact Mary-Ellen Long to schedule a time in June. Remember, you will receive a FREE 8"x10" just for participating.

## Parent/Child Dedication

A time for parents to dedicate themselves and their children to the Lord is scheduled for Mother's Day, May 12, 2019, during the 10:30 am worship service. Parents, if you are interested in participating, please contact Penny Smith or Darlene McKeen in the church office by calling 830-216-4946 or send an email to [office@fbcf.org](mailto:office@fbcf.org).



## Floresville Food Pantry

Suggested Donations for the summer months

### Summer Foods for Kids

Macaroni & Cheese	Cereal	Pop Tarts
Cereal/Granola Bars	Crackers, Cookies, Chips	Peanut Butter & Jelly
Ramen Noodles	Vienna Sausage	Canned Spaghetti/Ravioli
Canned Chili	Hot Dogs	Lunchables

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.



First Baptist Church  
of Sutherland Springs  
Building Dedication & Grand Opening

Sunday, May 19th at 11 am  
Free Lunch  
216 4th Street, Sutherland Springs

# May 2019

## Schedule of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 	3 More Than Moms Movie Night 6:30pm	4  Baby Shower Kimberly Lanier O'Neal 2-4pm
5 VBS Adult Volunteers Noon  Children's Choir Spring Musical 6pm  *Damon Shine	6	7	8 VBS Youth Volunteers 6pm	9	10	11
12  Parent/Child Dedication 10:30 *Carter Thomas	13	14 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	15  Women of Joy Ladies Fellowship 5:30-7:30	16 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	17	18
19 FBC Sutherland Springs Bldg Dedication 11am  *Ron P. Tipton	20	21	22	23	24	25 
26  Recognition of Graduates  *Ronald T. Tipton	27 Office Closed  	28	29  Kids' Movie Night 5:30pm	30	31	

### 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)

### Wednesday

- 3:30–TeamKids
- 4:30–FLC open for students
- 5:30–Kids Movie Night LAST Wed of month
- 6:30–Life Groups / Prayer Meeting / Youth Bible Study
- 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

The student Audio Tech of the month is Patrick McKeen.

## May Birthdays

1 L. Glenn Jones	13 Camille Ingram	22 Chandler Gorzell	31 Bro. Terry Smith
2 Jacob Hill	13 Marcy Jacobs	22 Bonna Reed	
2 Madison Posey	13 Chris Young	23 Carolyn Nickles	
2 Tricia Tipton	14 Wesley Kotzur	23 Jeannie McCarville	
3 Randy Coston	14 Rebekah Street	24 Joseph Canady	
3 Brooklen Pelech	14 Laurie Miller	24 Justin Young	
4 Thomas Harris	15 Ashley Joosepson	25 Vickie Nieto	
4 J.R. Rogers	15 Brenda Minard	25 Luis Trabucco	
5 Cameron Herndon	15 Beth Price	26 Marc Turner	
6 Micah Clements	16 Denise Trabucco	28 Codee Baker	
6 Bernice Tatum	16 Lilly Murray	28 Christie Davis	
7 Steven Boyd	18 Michelle Hill	28 Theresa Watson	
8 Rojean Rodriguez	20 Windy Miller	28 Ernest Young	
9 Janet Holt	21 Lois Brown	30 Brent Houdmann	
10 Ruth Baker	21 Ray Rogers	30 Karen Whatley	

Be Joyful ALWAYS  
*Thessalonians 5:16*





**First Baptist Church**

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 Floresville, TX 78114  
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 Fax: 830-393-3613  
 E-mail: office@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

[www.fbcf.org](http://www.fbcf.org)

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Katherine "Maxine" Laws, sister-in-law of Lillie Ray, who passed away on March 30, 2019;  
 Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Larry Lange, dear cousin of Charles Eichman, who passed away on April 11, 2019;  
 Heartfelt sympathy is offered to the family of our dear friend, Mary "Pat" Gill, who passed away on April 19, 2019.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers during my recent heart surgery and hospitalization. I could feel the power of your prayers every step of the way. I am so thankful and grateful for the love and support of my church family.

In Christ, Jim Dippary

First Baptist,

As Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) is winding down for the summer, I wanted to thank everyone at First Baptist Church for its generous hospitality to our Floresville BSF class. We pray that you receive many blessings for helping us spread God's Word.  
 In Him, Mavis

The FBC Praise Choir took up a collection to be used to upgrade the Worship Center's sound system in honor of Hal Young, Grace Lanning's son, who passed away recently. The choir presented Grace with a sweet card and collected over \$1,000 to help defray the cost of new equipment.

New Members

By Letter

**Bobby Etheridge**  
**Donna Etheridge**  
 215 County Road 146  
 Floresville, TX 78114  
 254-717-7918 (Bobby)  
 254-717-8238 (Donna)

By Baptism

**Ryan Street**  
 148 Abrego Lake Dr.  
 Floresville, TX 78114



6th Annual Floresville

**Open Car Show**

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**  
 Registration 8-11am; Trophies 2:30pm  
 Presented by Lions International  
 Food & Craft Vendors  
 Free Vision Screening from 8am-3pm.  
 For more information, contact Dave at  
 210-698-2322 or 219-588-6298.



**BUILDING HISTORY**

Original Loan Amount:  
 \$ 525,000.00  
 April Loan Payment:  
 \$ 5,000.00  
 Current Loan Balance:  
 \$ 204,426.78

*"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](http://www.fbcf.org), or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
March 2019	\$ 63,234.25	\$ 56,493.17
YTD thru March	\$ 157,198.50	\$ 169,479.51