

First Edition

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Fall 2019 Life Group Courses

The fall 2019 Life Group semester begins Wednesday, September 18, 2019. There will be after-school activities for children and teenagers, and dinner is available at 5:30 pm for folks who plan to attend Wednesday evening classes. After dinner, stay and join a Life Group at 6:30 pm. The courses offered this semester are:

Prayer Meeting—*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving* (Colossians 4:2). Prayer is foundational to the Christian faith. Let's gather with like-minded believers and see for yourself how God answers the prayers of His people. One of FBC's deacons will lead this weekly time of intercession in the Fishers of Men classroom each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University—Take control of your money this fall by attending Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University seminar. This course will help participants pay off debt, budget, save money, and give generously. Dr. Jim Browning will facilitate this class each Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the God's Playhouse classroom. The cost of the course is \$90, and it includes a one-year membership to valuable online tools.

Slaying the Giants in Your Life—Fear. Discouragement. Loneliness. Worry. Guilt. Temptation. Anger. Resentment. Doubt. Procrastination. Failure. Jealousy. Which giant is intimidating you? Perhaps fear has your number. Maybe loneliness has you locked out. Whichever giant may be bullying you, the message of this series is that God has the strength to bring you victory! Bob Whitley will facilitate this David Jeremiah study each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm in the Green Room.

The Story (begins Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30 pm and Sunday, September 22nd at 9:15 am)—The Story is the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity. It sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible people and events from Genesis to Revelation, told as one grand narrative. Tom and Jean Harris will begin the study of the book *The Story* by Max Lucado. This is a 31-week overview of the entire Bible in chronological order. The emphasis is on the continuity of the Bible with Jesus as the central figure. This discussion-based study is offered separately on both Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm and on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. You'll find the Harris at the end of the hallway in the education wing.

Proven: Where Christ's Abundance Meets Our Great Need (women's study)—Too many of us walk through life feeling as if we don't measure up. We always seem to thirst for more. We think that if we could only work harder or be better, we could be enough. But the truth is, we will never be enough. And thankfully, we don't have to be. In this study by Jennie Allen, Sally Gaertner will walk through key passages in the Book of John to demonstrate how only Jesus is enough. We don't have to prove anything because Jesus has already proven everything. Meet each Wednesday at in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm. The cost of the book is \$10.

Gideon: Your Weakness. God's Strength. (women's mid-week study)—This women's course offered each Wednesday morning at 10:00 am in the Annex will cover the life of the Old Testament's Gideon to encourage you to recognize that your weakness is the key that the Lord gives you to unlock the full experience of His strength in your life, and learn to see weaknesses as the gifts given specifically by God. The cost of the participant's book is \$10.

Wednesday Night Suppers

- Begin Wednesday, September 18, 2019;
- Each Wednesday evening from 5:30 pm–6:15 pm during the fall semester;
- Provided for people who attend Wednesday evening activities;
- Cost is \$4/adult, \$3/child, \$15/family maximum;
- Sign up in the foyer;
- Volunteers for after-dinner clean-up duty are needed.

3 Implications for Our Prayers if God Already Knows What We Need

By Michael Kelley

If you struggle to pray, take heart, because prayer is a learned discipline. The disciples didn't know how to pray either, and so they asked Jesus to teach them (Luke 11:1). And Jesus did. What follows the request in Luke 11 is Jesus' prayer tutorial, a model prayer that we have come to refer to as The Lord's Prayer.

Matthew also recorded The Lord's Prayer, but expands some on Jesus' teaching regarding prayer as a whole. Before giving us this model prayer, Matthew recorded Jesus' prayer "don'ts":

Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him" (Matt. 6:5-8).

Jesus is not just teaching what to do when we pray; He's also interested in showing us what not to do. And He doesn't want us to pray as so many were praying during that day and time. He did not want prayers full of flowery language and self-importance; He did not want prayers of insincerity and mixed motives; He did not want prayers of endless length. And why not? The specific reason Jesus gives is that our Father in heaven knows what we need even before we ask Him.

This is where it gets a little bit tricky, because if you've got a cynical bent, perhaps you push back on Jesus saying something like, "If God already knows what I need, then why do I need to pray at all?" Point taken – there is some mystery here. But make no mistake – God's knowledge of what we need is not meant to move us to less prayer, but more prayer. It's not meant to constrict us but to motivate us. And along with that motivation, the knowledge of God ought to change the way we pray. Here are three implications for our prayers if God already knows what we need:

"The knowledge of God ought to change the way we pray."

1. Our prayers become honest. The reason is simple – why not? There is nothing at all not laid bare before God, so why not be as completely, gut-level honest with Him as we can be? We don't have to find the right words. And, gloriously, we don't even have to have all our motivations sorted out. Often we don't – we pray for an outcome and only later discover the true motivation behind our desire. But in the meantime, we can know that God knows what we need, even if we do not. That means there is nothing in the world to keep us from being as honest as possible in our prayers.

2. Our prayers become simple. I miss the days of simple prayers with our children because everything seemed so much less complicated. But as we start to grow up, we start filling our prayers (and our lives) with all kinds of qualifications. But if God already knows what we need, our prayers can return to that state of simplicity we once had. We can trust our Father, and in that trust, we can simply and freely ask for what we think we need.

3. Our prayers become immediate. If God knows what we need, then we can pray at any time knowing that we are never going to bring a request before Him that is surprising, off-putting, or shocking in some way. God's knowledge of us and our situation removes any obstacle to prayer because we are talking to Him about something He is already aware.

Friends, the knowledge of God is not constricting; it's freeing. It makes our prayers more honest, more simple, and more immediate as we come to a Father who not only loves us, but knows what we need in advance. We can be confident as we approach this throne of grace knowing that this Father will not always do what's comfortable, but will always do what is best.

Women's Ministry News

Greetings, Ladies! Happy September, everyone! I'm praising the LORD that we have survived the heat, vacation, and for some of you the back-to-school frenzy! At this time of year, I feel like I'm on a roller coaster—because after Labor Day the holidays seem to creep up on me. I know they are there but I just never seem to be prepared enough! Am I the only one who feels that way? By the time most of you will be reading this newsletter, a group of ladies may be attending the Women of Joy 2019 Deeply Rooted conference! We've been so blessed these past few months to join in fellowship to watch the videos from the Women of Joy 2018 Rescued conference! I pray that we will be able to do that once again next summer. What a blessing it has been! We will be scheduling a Plan and Pray Fellowship in October (date TBD). If anyone has ideas for these fellowship opportunities, please let Sally or me know. We would love to bring in some new ideas for the coming year. Ladies, I hope and pray that everyone has made a stronger effort to reach out to a new member or a new visitor. It's not always easy to know what to say. I read an article recently that offered some suggestions. One was to simply pay someone a compliment. This doesn't only apply to new guests and visitors, but to anyone! I'm trying to make this a habit, because we just don't know what a person is going through, and the compliment might just make their day. If it's a genuine compliment, it will bless you too. I challenge everyone to try!

Dates to Remember:

- September 18, 2019—LifeGroup semester begins. I hope you find a LifeGroup class to attend. To make your Wednesday evenings easier, dinner is served at 5:30 pm (\$4/adult, \$3/child, \$15/family), followed by class at 6:30 pm.
- Saturday, October 5, 2019—WMU Mission Project—Judith Smith has been serving on the Women's Missionary Union's Leadership Team through the Gambrell Association for several years. Judith serves as their Treasurer and has been active in many associational activities, including this one. Judith is collecting used t-shirts (all colors and sizes) for this project. Women will gather on October 5th at First Baptist Church in Stockdale to make jump ropes out of these t-shirts. Please find the article in this newsletter about this great project that will benefit children around the world through the Operation Christmas Child efforts.
- Women's Plan & Pray Fellowship—October—the precise date is yet to be determined.

Please continue to be in prayer for volunteers to assist with numerous openings for help in the Children's Program—just a few hours once a week or month. See Darlene McKeen for information.

If you have any questions or ideas about Women's Ministry activities, please contact Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068 or me, Donna Arispe, at 210-560-9642.



Bible Study Fellowship's fall semester begins on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 6:30 pm in the Annex. They will be studying the Book of Acts.

Talk to Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068 or Thomas Welfel at 361-813-9643 for more information.



The Fun Bunch will travel to Rockport/Fulton on Thursday and Friday, December 5-6, 2019, to shop, eat some good seafood, and go see the endangered whooping cranes. Please contact Karen Sada or Pastor Terry Smith for more information.

FABULOUS FIFTH SUNDAY

A group from Teen Challenge will lead in worship in one combined service on Sunday, September 29, 2019, at 10:30 am. Bring a side dish or dessert and stay to enjoy a fellowship lunch together. There is NO 8am worship service this day.



T-Shirts to Jump Ropes—WMU Mission Project

By Judith Smith—Gambrell Association WMU Treasurer

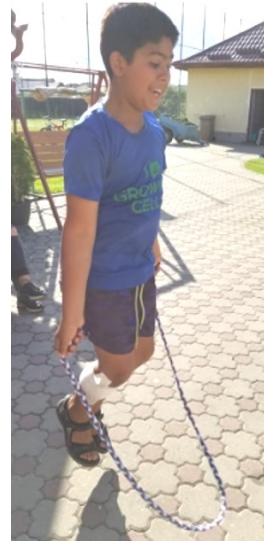
The Leadership Team of the Gambrell Association Women's Missionary Union (WMU) met recently and chose a project that we think will be something we can come together to work on, will be easy to accomplish (no sewing or craft skills necessary), and will produce an item that can be used for mission needs in many ways.

Our current plan is to meet with ladies from other churches in the Gambrell Association at First Baptist Church, Stockdale, on Saturday, October 5, 2019, and work together on making jump ropes out of old T-shirts. We plan to meet at 9:30 am to fellowship and make Jump Ropes for Jesus. A light lunch will be served and we plan to be dismissed by 12:30 pm.

Each church that participates may take some jump ropes back to their home church to distribute as they wish. The ones I bring back will be put in the Operation Christmas Child boxes to bless a child around the world.

I understand that it takes three T-shirts for each jump rope, so please start gathering donations of T-shirts now. All colors are needed. They can be from a ball team or a paint company or whatever—okay if they have a hole or a stain—it does not matter because they will be cut into strips and braided.

I hope you will be as excited about this program as I am. I am collecting T-shirts. If you want to bring some, you may leave them in the Helping Hands Classroom. If you have questions about this project, email me at judithsmith900@gmail.com.



Canady Life—from JP & Sarah Canady

Wow! We are in awe of what the Lord has done! We would like to share with everyone that we are 100% funded to go on our missions internship to Indonesia! We cannot say “thank you” enough to everyone who has been praying for us and those who are financially supporting us! We are beyond excited to get the opportunity to serve on the mission field and share the gospel with the people we meet while living in Indonesia!

During the month of August, we will be traveling around a bit to visit some family outside of Texas. Then we will be leaving the US for Bloomington, MN, in early September of this year.

Our private Facebook page should be up by the end of the month and we will be updating it throughout our time in Indonesia, as well as sending out a monthly email newsletter! Our next newsletter will provide more details about key words, these are safe words we can use on our Facebook page and in our newsletters while overseas.

Lastly, we would like to ask that you continue to pray for us in strengthening our marriage. Pray against the enemy and that he will not have any access into our lives to destroy what God has been building. Pray that we will continue to be on each other's team and that the Lord will prepare us for the work he has in store for us. Also pray for the Lord to open the hearts of the people of Indonesia, that they would give glory to Him, and that we would see flourishing gospel communities among un-reached people groups.

Again, we appreciate all of your support and trust that God will continue to provide for us and for you.

All in Jesus' Name, JP & Sarah Canady



A Word from Scarborough College Student, Rebekah Dickerson

Dear FBCF Congregation,

I am writing to you to give you an update on what is going on in my life, as well as to make a request. As many of you know, I am going into my senior year at Scarborough College on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, and I expect to graduate in December of 2020. While my minor may be in Philosophy, know that missions has my heart. Since I arrived at this school, I have been praying for God to reveal what His plan for me is, and He has given me a glimpse. God has given me a heart for Mormons and has called me to do ministry with the LDS community. He has cultivated in me a deep love for them and a deep and strong desire to reach them and to really just do life with them. I have been praying about this for many months and God has confirmed this. So, I have surrendered my life totally to this. Where that will take me I do not yet know, but I do know that God's will is better than mine and that this plan for me is better than my plans for myself. So I will go wherever He wants me to go...although part of me is really hoping for Utah. I have one request for y'all. I have several friends that I deeply love and care for that are Mormons. Some of them recently completed their 2-year mission and have gone home to their very prominent LDS communities. My request is this: Pray for them! I have shared with them as much as I could, and they may not talk to another Christian ever again. So please, PLEASE, pray for them. Pray for the scales to fall from their eyes and for them to see Truth! Pray that God will make them restless! Pray that God will draw them to Him and that their hearts will be changed! This is all I ask. I ache so much for them and weep almost every day for them. I love them dearly. And if you meet any other Mormons, if they come to your door, please be kind and love them. They are told that we Evangelical Christians have the spirit of the devil in us. Prove them wrong! Be the most loving and caring person to them that you possibly can be. But also share the Gospel with them. This is all I ask. Thank y'all for your love, prayers, and support. God bless all of y'all!



~ Rebekah Dickerson

Audio Bibles for Service Members

First Baptist Church is partnering with **MILITARY BIBLESTICK**, a Ministry of **Faith Comes By Hearing**, to get these small, personal listening devices pre-loaded with the Audio New Testament and selected Psalms into the hands of military chaplains. Over a million BibleSticks have been given to chaplains in every branch of our armed forces. The chaplains then give them to troops, often those on the front lines, who have courageously volunteered to serve our country.

Chaplains are currently requesting an average of 2,000 Military BibleSticks a week. The demand continually exceeds our ability to keep up with the need! Would you consider gifting a Military BibleStick to at least one service member for \$25? Every gift will not only bless a service member, but their family as well. Each BibleStick includes a card that offers free MP3 Bibles for spouses and children. God's Word in this unique format could change the life of a service member forever!

Make checks payable to "FBC" and indicate "Military BibleStick" on your giving envelope or on the check's memo line. Give online visiting www.fbcf.org and clicking the green "Give Online" button. Use the "Love Offering" fund and indicate "Military BibleStick" in the description field.



See You At The Pole—Wednesday, September 25, 2019

It's about one simple thing—STUDENTS in PRAYER.

One weekend in early 1990, a small group of teenagers in Burleson, Texas, came together for a DiscipleNow weekend. They came seeking God and little did they know how powerfully He was about to move. On Saturday night their hearts were penetrated like never before, when they became broken before God and burdened for their friends. Compelled to pray, they drove to three different schools that night. Not knowing exactly what to do, they went to the schools' flagpoles and prayed for their friends, schools, and leaders. Those students had no idea how God would use their obedience, but that was the spark God used to create **See You At The Pole**.

On a Wednesday morning each September before school, students all over the world gather around their campus's flagpole to pray. Pray for our students on Wednesday morning, September 25, 2019, as they intercede on behalf of their classmates, teachers, and administration during this annual student-led event.



Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions

Starting in 1910, the Mary Hill Davis Offering was established to empower state missions efforts for Texas Baptists. Mark your calendars for September 8-15 for the Week of Prayer for State Missions. The State Goal this year is \$3,800,000. Your giving mobilizes ministries and missionaries to go make disciples and multiply churches among all peoples for the glory of God. Your gifts benefit ministries such as the Baptist Men Disaster Relief, BOUNCE student disaster recovery projects, Texas Baptist missionaries, Baptist Student Ministries on college campuses, GoNow Missions events, Special Friends Retreats, River Ministry, Youth Evangelism Conferences, Christian Women's Job Corps, strategic refugee outreach, church planting, various prison ministries, and a number of additional projects.

FBC will highlight some of these ministries throughout the month with videos and prayer guides during our weekly worship times. Indicate "State Missions" on your check's memo line or giving envelope, or give online at www.fbcf.org by clicking the green "Give Online" button. Designate your gift to the "Mary Hill Davis" fund. Thank you for your gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions.



I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 NLT

Schedule of Events

Sunday

- 8:00—Worship Service (except Lord's Supper & 5th Sundays)
- 9:15—Bible Study
- 10:30—Worship Service

Wednesday—after 9/18

- 10:00 Ladies Mid-Week Study
- 3:30—TeamKids
- 4:30—FLC open for students
- 4:45—TeamKids Praise
- 5:30—Supper
Kids Movie Night LAST Wed/mo
- 6:30—Life Groups / Prayer Meeting / Kids on a Mission Youth Bible Study
- 7:30—Choir Rehearsal

Weekly Activities

- Creative Hands—Quilting Mondays at 10:00 am
- Worship at Veterans' Home Tuesdays at 2:00 pm (except for 2nd Tues each month)
- 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

September 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 Worship at FV Nursing Home 3pm 	3	4 Women's Fellowship Meal 5:30pm	5	6	7
8 KidMin Crttee @ 9:15a 12:30 Fun Bunch Movie Night 5pm *Carter Thomas	9	10 BSF Begins 6:30pm	11 Women's Fellowship Meal 5:30pm	12 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	13  Whataburger after the game	14
15 Deacons Meeting Noon KidsFaith @ 9:15a *Ronald T. Tipton	16	17	18 WNS—TBD  Life Groups begin Business Meeting 6:15pm	19	20	21
22 KidsFaith @ 9:15a *Bob Whitley	23	24	25 WNS Chicken Pasta  Kids' Movie Night 5:30-7:30	26	27	28 8am 
29 KidsFaith @ 9:15a Teen Challenge Presentation *David Arispe	30 					

September Birthdays

1 Sarah Haverlah	8 Carter Herndon	16 Isabelle Fewox	21 Ed Pipes	27 Wyatt Miller
1 Damon Shine	9 Cissy Dippel	16 Jeffrey Lanning	21 Bruce Whitley	28 Carlos Gonzalez
2 Piper Parsons	9 Linda Laijas	17 Luke Gulick	21 Frances Weyrick	28 Lance Little
2 Sandra Keith	9 Sarah Baird	17 Tyra Mosier	23 Scott Baker	28 Veda Voyles
3 Callie Baker	10 Kyriasa Parsons	17 Andrew Young	23 Jason Sellers	29 Amanda Eichman
3 Miles Keith	10 Ray Klespies	18 Mark Burris	24 Jeremiah Canady	29 Rosalie Brumlow
4 Russell Dickerson	10 Daniel Hargrove	19 Chance Addington	24 Yogi Gaertner	30 Lorraine Young
4 Karla Hankins	11 Joyce Pelech	19 Jackie Lozano	24 Louise Lotspeich	30 Denise Kelley
4 Brooklynn Holt	12 Joe Holcombe	20 Bill Varnon	24 Thomas Stringer	30 Valerie Moss
5 Carolyn Andrews	13 Michael Guerrero	21 Alexis Fewox	24 Tanya Tackitt	
5 Henrietta Turner	15 Layla Brown	21 James Hankins	25 Gwen Cason	
8 Tommy Detamore	15 Celeste Savage	21 J.T. Mills	27 Sally Gaertner	

First Baptist Church

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 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

We're on the web!
www.fbcf.org

Wednesday, September 25, 2019,



GREETINGS HI HELLO HOWDY GLAD YOU'RE HERE

WELCOME

By Letter
Mary Martinez
 285 Martinez Lane
 Floresville, TX 78114
 512-552-3562

He gives strength to the weary.
 — Isaiah 40:29

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Peter Mahula, father of David Mahula, who passed away on August 5, 2019;

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of Nan Tackitt, who passed away on August 11, 2019;

Sincere sympathy is offered to the family of Glynda Merritt, sister-in-law of Bonna Reed, who passed away on August 14, 2019.

Dear Church family,

Claryce and I were so blessed this week to enjoy the Lord's Supper in our home. Pastor Terry, Bob & Barbara Herndon, and Sophie Rodriguez came to our home and shared communion with us. It was a very sweet time and we thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Thank you for taking time to be with us and share the Lord's Supper with us. Our church family is the best!

~ Joe and Claryce Holcombe



Thank you all so much for praying for me throughout my recent surgery. What a blessing to be a part of such a loving, caring fellowship as FBC Floresville! I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits, and prayers this past week! The nurses said I had a great group of friends in the waiting room that were there to pray with me and for me...and as usual, when you get such a cloud of Baptists around, I'm always hoping someone passed the hat and took up a collection!! :) What a blessing to have such wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ who tend and pray for us when we have needs! Thank you, my family! Love you...

~ LaJuana (Philippians 1:3)

Floresville Food Pantry
 Suggested Donations for September.
Dried Beans and Rice
 (packaged in 1-pound bags)

Beginning this month, the Floresville Food Pantry will be partnering with *Daily Bread* ministry of San Antonio to provide food to the needy of Floresville. Beginning September 5th, the Pantry will be open on Thursdays only. Clients will need to arrive at 9am to sign in and wait for food distribution. A prayer/devotional time will be at 10am. Clients are asked to bring their own bags. The Pantry is located on the corner of 4th and A Street and the phone number is 830-321-1151. Volunteers are appreciated.

BUILDING HISTORY
 Original Loan Amount:
 \$ 525,000.00
 August Loan Payment:
 \$ 5,000.00
 Current Loan Balance:
 \$ 187,168.42

"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
July 2019	\$ 47,576.60	\$ 56,493.17
YTD thru July	\$ 372,524.54	\$ 395,452.19