

First Baptist Church

First Edition

Volume 45, Issue 10

October 1, 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Technology & the Christian Life / Wilson County Community Event	2
Operation Christmas Child / Sanctuary Poinsettias	3
Missionary Moments / Miscellaneous	4
Trunk or Treat Kid Ministry Event	5
Women's Ministry News	6
Calendar & Birthdays	7
Acknowledgements, New Members, Food Pantry, & Budget Info	8

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ~ Hebrews 13:7

And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. ~ Jeremiah 3:15

Appreciating Your Pastor in October

By Marcus Merritt

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. 1 Tim. 5:17

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. While that may not seem like a big deal to you, I am confident it is to your pastor.

Shepherding God's flock can be a lonely and weary task at times. Hundreds of pastors leave the ministry each year. I personally minister to discouraged pastors on a regular basis, so I know firsthand the importance of public affirmation.

Both the Old and New Testaments record stories of men who felt the loneliness and weariness of ministry. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah slumped under a broom tree and longed to die. He later told God that he felt all alone in the ministry. Paul lamented in 2 Timothy 4 that no man stood with him. God eventually showed Elijah that he had 7,000 supporters, and Paul came to understand that God was with him, even when he felt deserted by men.

Pastor Appreciation Month is designed to keep your pastor out from under the broom tree! An encouraged pastor is a blessing to his congregation and his family. A church can encourage and bless their pastor simply by treating him and his wife to a date night at a nice restaurant. In fact, you do not have to wait until October; you could give them a date night on a regular basis.

Here is another way to encourage and bless your pastor. Ask each Sunday School/small group to donate gift cards for restaurants, home improvement stores, sporting goods stores, bookstores, etc. On any Sunday in October, have a "Pastor Appreciation Day" and publicly present the gift cards, along with hand-written notes, to the pastor and his wife. This small gesture will go much further than you can imagine. It does not matter so much *what you do*, just that you *do something* meaningful for your pastor in October.

The Apostle Paul spoke about the weight of the churches he led. By observing Pastor Appreciation Day, you are literally lightening your pastor's load. Please do not let October pass without publicly appreciating your pastor!

Marcus Merritt serves as a state missionary for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board in Church-Minister Relations. Access the online article by visiting: <https://christianindex.org/appreciating-pastor-october/>



Pastor Mike Clements, D.Min.
Senior Pastor



Pastor Terry Smith
Worship Pastor

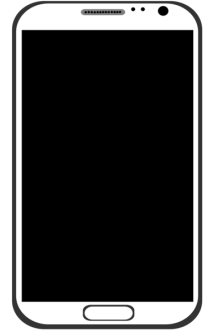


Pastor Matt Keller
Student Pastor

Technology and the Christian Life

A Word from Pastor Matt Keller:

I want to say thank you for allowing me to challenge everyone to fast from all unnecessary use of your cell phone and social media for one week. If you participated, I hope that it was beneficial for you. My prayer is that this helped our church put these things in proper perspective. Below you will find the motivation behind teaching and challenging the students and the whole church.



Would you consider doing a monthly evaluation of how you use your cell phone? Pick a day of the month to read Proverbs 3:4-5, go to the Lord in prayer, and ask the Lord, "Father, show me if my phone is getting in the way of me loving You in every part of my life. Father, show me if my phone is getting in the way of showing the love of Jesus to others." I plan on praying this the first day of every month. Would you be willing to join me in this prayer?

Please consider the following from the book *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You* by Tony Reinke:

- Our phones amplify our addiction to distractions and thereby splinter our perception of our place in time;
- Our phones push us to evade the limits of embodiment and thereby cause us to treat one another harshly;
- Our phones feed our craving for immediate approval and promise to hedge against our fear of missing out;
- Our phones undermine key literary skills and, because of our lack of discipline, make it increasingly difficult for us to identify ultimate meaning;
- Our phones offer us a buffet of produced media and tempt us to indulge in visual vices;
- Our phones overtake and distort our identity and tempt us toward unhealthy isolation and loneliness;

Then consider how we can preserve our spiritual health in the age of the smartphone:

- We minimize unnecessary distractions in life to hear from God and to find our place in God's unfolding history;
- We embrace our flesh-and-blood embodiment and handle one another with grace and gentleness;
- We aim at God's ultimate approval and find that, in Christ, we have no ultimate regrets to fear;
- We treasure the gift of literacy and prioritize God's Word;
- We listen to God's voice in creation and find a fountain of delight in the unseen Christ;
- We treasure Christ to be molded into his image and seek to serve the legitimate needs of our neighbors.

Scripture makes life-focus possible in the digital age, and it does so when Jesus boils down the purpose and aim of our lives into two goals: **treasure God with your whole being**, and then **pour out your God-centered joy in love for others**. On these two commands all other smartphone laws depend.

Wilson County Collection Event

Wilson County will hold a collection day for any household hazardous waste, used tires, used electronics, and pharmaceutical waste on Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 8am to Noon, at the Precinct 4 Yard at 104 Mesquite Street in Stockdale. This event is for residents of Wilson County only, and proof of address is required. Residential waste only; no businesses. There is no charge, but some items cannot be accepted. For more information, call 1-866-345-7272 ext. 3228.

What to Bring:

Acids, Antifreeze, Tires (with no rims), Batteries, Used automotive fluids (and filters), Household cleaning products (and those labeled "caution," "warning," or "poison"), Paint products (including varnish & solvents), Pool chemicals, Lawn & garden chemicals,

Herbicides & pesticides, Small appliances, TVs (no wooden console), Computer components & monitors, Pet Medication, Vitamins & herbal supplements, Prescription & non-prescription meds, Inhalers (leave all meds in original containers & black out personal information;

What NOT to Bring:

Tractor tires, Agricultural chemicals, Large appliances, Containers larger than 5 gallons, Explosives, Large propane cylinders, Radioactive materials, Industrial waste, Ammunition, Items with asbestos, Construction waste, Household/office furniture, Oxygen tanks, syringes, sharps, & lancets.

Operation Christmas Child FAQs

What is Operation Christmas Child? Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. OCC ships these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

How do I pack my shoebox gift? Everything you need to learn how to pack a shoebox gift can be found at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>. That includes what kind of box to use, what items can be included, how to learn the destination of your shoebox gift, and much more!

What is the \$9 suggested donation per box? The \$9 per gift is a suggested donation. This donation is critical for Operation Christmas Child to collect, process, and ship shoebox gifts to more than 100 countries. It also provides for ministry materials such as The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklet and The Ministry Partner Guide. We encourage those who are unable to include the \$9 per box to consider asking a group in their church or a family member to sponsor this part of the shoebox gift.

Are gifts delivered by Christmas? The shoebox gifts are shipped out from our processing centers by the middle of December, and depending on the distance they must travel, some are delivered by Christmas—primarily those in Central/South America and Eastern Europe. Most of the gifts are sent via ship. Although the collection of Operation Christmas Child gifts is during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season, the delivery of some gifts is sometimes delayed due to international shipping. They may not clear customs in receiving countries until spring. In addition, many countries that receive the gifts must transport the gifts to rural areas using very poor roads. Distributions typically occur from late December through spring each year, extending the joy of Christmas to children that receive them!

What happens after my shoebox gift is delivered? Our local ministry partners distribute your shoeboxes to children in their communities. After receiving shoebox gifts, many boys and girls are invited to enroll in The Greatest Journey, our 12-lesson discipleship program. Through the program, our local ministry partners are able to establish long-term, caring relationships with children and families by sharing the love of Jesus Christ.



It's time to begin thinking about packing a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. Fill a box and bless a child. Contact Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068 for more information. Suggested items:

Pens, pencils, sharpeners	Solar calculators	Watches, flashlights
Crayons and markers	Scissors, glue sticks	Yo-Yos, bouncy balls
Small notebooks and paper	Socks, toothbrushes	NEW stuffed animals
Coloring and picture books	Hair clips, sunglasses, hats	NO liquid items, please.

Christmas Poinsettias in the Worship Center

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we are doing the poinsettias for Christmas differently this year. You can still purchase a poinsettia in honor of someone, but we are asking you to purchase and bring your poinsettia to the church before the 8:00 am Sunday morning worship service for the week for which you signed up, and then take home your plant after the 10:30 am worship service. If you prefer, you may drop your poinsettia off in the church office that Thursday or Friday.

You may choose one of three Sundays in December. The sign-up schedule is posted next to the flower calendar on the bulletin board across from the restrooms in the education wing. Please sign up soon to get your preferred Sunday. Once all three Sundays are filled, we can add space for more. Thank you.

~ The Flower Ministry Team



Missionary Moments

The fall semester is well underway at the Belize Bible College, the only accredited Christian college in the Central American country of Belize. There are currently 13 students working on degrees in theology, and 5 students pursuing degrees in music, with several independent studies music students who take after-hours classes. This semester, some of the courses being offered are: Epistle of Romans, Speech Communications, Eschatology, and Managing Finances God's Way.

The campus is also being used for electrical training courses that have been taught in the Toledo District of Southern Belize for the past (28) years as STTI. The College is in hopes of starting other trade courses for Technical/Trades certificates in the future.

Also in the future are plans to establish a radio station, Bible College Radio, to service the region around the College. Many exciting things are happening.

FBC's former student pastor, Aaron Coffey, serves as the Dean of Students and professor there. Ashley Coffey teaches music classes, specifically piano and voice. The Coffeys are responsible for raising their own financial support and do not receive a salary for their work in Belize, so one-time or ongoing gifts would be appreciated. Make your checks payable to First Baptist Church and indicate "Belize Fund" in the memo line, or donate online at www.fbcf.org and select the "Belize Fund."



Professor Aaron Coffey teaches a course in the Book of Romans at the Belize Bible College

Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions—Collegiate Ministry

Enrollment at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) is 27,642 students. Thousands are international students from countries such as India, China and Iran, where missionaries are banned or Christians are heavily persecuted.

UTD is ranked 11th in the nation for ethnically diverse student populations. The Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) at UTD is reaching out to international students to share the Gospel with them.

"The world is coming here to our backyard, and these students are going back home to their home countries that we can't even reach," said Mark Warrington, UTD BSM director. "They're very educated, and they come to our free lunches. We have Gospel conversations, and they keep coming back."

Our church supports the BSM at UTD through our gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions.

The rhythm and heartbeat of the BSM at UTD is Gospel-centered. At every weekly event, the main focus is sharing the Gospel with others and creating a Christ-centered culture for students.

Our church supports the BSM at UTD through our gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions. Let's pray for Mark, the BSM, and the thousands of students at UTD in need of the Gospel.

Floresville Peanut Festival Parking Lot Fundraiser

FBC students need your help! Peanut Festival is October 10-12, 2019, and the Parking Lot Fundraiser is our most financially profitable; every vehicle helps students attend summer camp. In order to open up all of our parking lots, we'll need a minimum of 5 volunteers during every 2-hour shift. You'll find the volunteer sign-up sheets in the foyer, and please help!



The Fun Bunch will visit



on Monday, October 7, 2019. Please find a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Bring money to shop and enjoy lunch together. See Pastor Terry for more information.



Military BibleSticks are small, personal listening devices that are pre-loaded with the Audio New Testament and selected Psalms. Faith Comes By Hearing, a faith-based, non-profit organization wants to get audio Bibles into the hands of armed services personnel. A donor has made Military BibleSticks available at no cost to FBC's veterans. If a BibleStick would help one of our veterans listen to the New Testament, please contact the office during regular business hours.

Fall Festival Community Event

Move over, Trick or Treat; there's a new gig in town and it's called Trunk or Treat. Originally started by church groups with the aim of providing a safer environment for trick-or-treaters around Halloween, Trunk or Treat involves a community coming together in a parking lot so that children can trick-or-treat out of the decorated trunks of their cars.

In an effort to reach out to our community, First Baptist Church will host its First Annual Fall Festival by having a Trunk or Treat event on Thursday, October 31, 2019, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the parking lot of the Family Life Center (FLC). We need your help. We'd love to have all 21 parking spaces filled with fun-themed, decorated vehicles with wide-opened trunks ready to share treats and tracts with boys and girls.

How can you help? There are several opportunities for folks to get involved.

- Host a parking spot. Rally your family, Bible study class, or a group of friends to choose a parking spot. Consider a fun theme (nothing scary or even questionable, please) and decorate your vehicle—specifically the trunk. Consider hosting a fun game for visitors to play, enjoy some worship music, or just have fun handing out gospel tracts and candy.
- Help at the FBC Information Station. We'll be distributing water bottles in exchange for guests' contact information so that in the future, we can let families know about other Kid Ministry events.
- Donate. Donations of candy are appreciated, as well as gifts of cash that will help pay for water bottles and evangelistic materials (tracts, New Testaments, etc.).
- Pray that FBC will impact Floresville and Wilson County for the Gospel, and that we will represent Jesus well to those around us.

You'll find a map of the FLC parking lot where you can select your parking spot. Select a theme—make it as simple or as ambitious as you want. Search "trunk or treat" on the internet for ideas, or take some inspiration from some of the pictures included on this page.

Most importantly, let's redeem this day by making it about sharing Jesus with boys and girls in our community. Please contact Darlene McKeen or Pastor Matt Keller for more information.



Trunk or Treat

Thursday, October 31, 2019
5:30 pm—7:30 pm
Family Life Center Parking Lot

Women's Ministry News

Greetings, Ladies! I pray that everyone is enjoying the tiny drop in temperatures! For me, I'll take it. It's a new season with new and changing landscape—changing color of trees and the smell of the fall! Welcome Fall, happy you finally made it! I think sometimes I get to this time of year and I go into automatic pilot because October goes by and it's holiday, holiday, holiday! I'm going to make an extra effort this year to slow down, smell the roses, and enjoy what the Lord puts at our feet. I need to ask myself, "am I making the best use of my time?" It's hard to break some old habits and exchange them for making better use of time. Time is one thing that we cannot get more of. I have been praying that the LORD would show me where I can cut the wasted time or where the wasted activities are and ask the LORD to give me the strength to replace them with things that are pleasing to HIM! He gives us plenty of opportunities. We just have to be on the lookout! Well, time was coming near for the newsletter deadline and I was with my back up against the wall for ideas for this month's newsletter. It's pretty bad when I start from the end of the newsletter because I could put those ideas together. Well, tonight after service I asked a couple of ladies for help, and the LORD definitely provided!! Ideas were flowing like a big healthy river, not just a little trickle! We will be sharing those ideas for ministry in 2020! So I might be tapping you on the shoulder next for some fellowship ideas that can enrich our walk with the LORD and add some special spice to fellowship too!



Last month a group of women attended the Women of Joy conference—Deeply Rooted—and were so filled and overjoyed that they have already made plans to attend Women of Joy 2020—Rise Up. Sandra Smith has ordered the DVD of all the speakers! So don't worry if you were unable to attend, because we will be able to have our Mini-SUMMER Women of Joy fellowship! Thank you, Sandra!!

If anyone has ideas for Women's fellowship ideas, just let Sally or me know. Please check the calendar near the coffee corner for notices.

> October 5, 2019—WMU Mission Project Fall Event. T-Shirts to Jump Ropes. The Sign-up form to attend October 5th to make the jump ropes is in the Church Foyer.



> November 9, 2019—Operation Christmas Child Packing Party. This fun event is open to anyone that would like to assist with this wonderful ministry! More information to come. Be on the lookout for items for these special shoe boxes!

> November 23, 2019—Annual Thanksgiving baskets and home-baked goodies! This is a church-wide ministry! More information to come.

The FBC Women's Ministry loves to have visitors, neighbors, aunts, sisters, and friends to any activity! If you have any questions, any Women's Ministry activity ideas, or need more information, please contact Sally Gaertner at 361.290.1068 or me, Donna Arispe, at 210.560.9642.

OCTOBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 WNS Hamburgers	3	4  Whataburger after the game	5 WMU @ FBC Stockdale 8am MEN'S BREAKFAST
6 Fun Bunch Movie Night 5pm *Ron Bluff	7 Worship at FV Nursing Home 3pm Fun Bunch to IKEA	8	9 WNS— Chicken Pot Pie FBC Feeds Lunch to TXState BSM students	10 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am ————Peanut Festival————	11	12
13 Lord's Supper Service 10:30am NO 8am SERVICE *Darrel Dundas	14  Office Closed—Holiday	15	16 WNS— TBD	17 FBC feeds FHS football team	18  Whataburger after the game	19
20 *Danny Fenner	21	22	23 WNS Chalupas	24	25	26
27 *Amos Garcia	28 Fellowship of Christian Athletes @ Tiger's Den 6:30p	29	30 WNS— Bacon- wrapped Chicken Kids' Movie Night 5:30-7:30	31 Trunk or Treat 5:30-7:30pm 	The church office is closed on Monday, October 14, 2019, in celebration of Columbus Day.	

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday

- 8:00—Worship Service
(except Lord's Supper
& 5th Sundays)
- 9:15—Bible Study
- 10:30—Worship Service
- 4:00—Student Choir Rehearsal

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 Mtg
Kids on a Mission / Youth Study
- 7:30—Choir Rehearsal

Weekly Activities

- Creative Hands—Quilting
Mondays at 10:00 am
- Worship at Veterans' Home
Wednesdays 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

October Birthdays

1 Sherrie Welfel	8 David Haverlah	16 David Collins	25 Sharon Collins
2 Mike Whatley	8 Bill Anderson	16 Wanda Whitis	25 Diane Smith
3 Cheyanne Baker	9 Mikaela Talley	16 Rose Lee Risley	25 Jason Talley
3 Otto Hierholzer	10 Michael Simmang	18 Ashlyn Talley Meyer	25 Ila J. Walls
3 Tracie Fuller Scheffler	11 Austin Coleman	19 Chris Banks	26 Cody Houdmann
4 Dayna Koenig	11 Sandra Smith	19 Terrie Myers	26 Kristalyn Huber
4 Maegan Mahula	12 Carson Gorzell	20 Clayton Pelech	26 Mary Ann Schiefelbein
4 Rachel Smith Kramm	12 Mark Johnson	21 Anna Belle Welfel	27 Jennifer Jansky
5 R.G. Holley	12 Jesse Lopez	22 Carl E. Ray	27 Brian Jones
5 Candace Sellers	13 Beverly Hardin	22 Katie Smith	28 Catie Gillespie
6 Mary-Ellen Long	13 Jeff Pierce	23 Hannah Sawers	29 Charles Eichman
7 Jeff Barnes	14 Peggy Thomas	23 Debra Seidel	30 Judy Herndon
7 Jerry Savage	15 Justin Kunath	24 Cole Gulick	31 Justin Huber
	16 Charmaine Haller	24 Tiffany Yosko Durby	31 Galen Jansky



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Floresville, TX 78114
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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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Because He First Loved Us.

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

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Jim Dippary, father of Loree Dippary, who passed away September 20, 2019.

Dear church family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, and encouragement during my recent surgery. The support and love from all of you is so appreciated. I'm feeling so much better now!

Thanks again, Bob Herndon

Dear Church Family,

The Glynda Merritt family would like to thank everyone that prayed, called, visited, brought food, and helped us during our time of sorrow. Thank you for the fried chicken and the drinks for the luncheon after Glynda's funeral, and thanks to everyone who helped with the meal. Thank you also to anyone who donated to the church's Memorial Fund in Glynda's memory. We appreciate all the kindness and Christian love you showed us.

Bonna Reed

Congratulations to

Layla Brown,

*big brother Weston, and
big sister Jacelynn,*

on the arrival of twin daughters,

**Cass Louise Friske &
Noah Grace Friske,**

*born September 10, 2019,
at 12:42pm and 12:43pm respectively,
both weighing 5 lbs., 5oz., measuring 19 in.*



GREETINGS HI
WELCOME HELLO
HOWDY GLAD YOU'RE HERE

By Baptism
Jerry & Cathy Kotzur
P.O. Box 788
Poth, TX 78147
830-299-0468

Floresville Food Pantry

Suggested Donations for
October



Canned Meats

(packaged in 6-12 ounces)



Last month, the Floresville Food Pantry began partnering with Daily Bread ministry of San Antonio to provide food to the needy of Floresville. The Pantry is now open on Thursdays only. Clients 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 always appreciated.

BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:
\$ 525,000.00

September Loan Payment:
\$ 5,000.00

Current Loan Balance:
\$ 182,931.20

*"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
August 2019	\$ 51,049.62	\$ 56,493.17
YTD thru August	\$ 423,574.16	\$ 451,945.36