



# First Edition

*First Baptist Church*

## October is Pastor Appreciation Month

By Ed Stetzer and Chris Martin

Pastor Appreciation Month is an important time to thank your pastor and leaders. But what exactly should you do? Being a pastor is no cakewalk. It's more than writing sermons and having coffee with people. It's doing funerals of toddlers; it's counseling adulterous couples; it's praying for a mother who was just diagnosed with breast cancer; it's working on cost-efficient building plans. Pastoring the people of God is hard work; it's a high calling for a reason. So what can we do? How can we support the leaders of our local churches? How can we show them our appreciation and encourage them as they fulfill the calling the Lord has given them? How can you encourage your pastors and church leaders?

1. Pray for them. What better way is there for you to uplift your pastors and church leaders than through approaching the throne of grace with confidence? The Lord hears the prayers of His people, and the Lord cares for the leaders of His people. Take time regularly, each day even, to pray for the men and women on your church staff. Pray for their emotional well-being, their physical strength, their spiritual wellness, and any specific needs you know. This is definitely the simplest and perhaps most impactful way you can support your church leaders. Before you do any of the following, be sure to pray.

2. Write them encouraging letters. I love receiving encouraging letters from people, especially from those in the churches I've pastored. Being approached after a sermon and hearing how the Lord convicted or encouraged people through the Word is great. I love receiving texts too. But letters of encouragement, especially handwritten ones, are true treasures. I actually save them in a file labeled "encouragement." Your pastors and church leaders will appreciate anything encouraging. Check the margin for some ideas about what to write.

3. Serve in the church. Churches are always looking for more volunteers. Willing hands and warm hearts are so needed in the local church, especially when it comes to children's ministry or nursery help. How can you encourage your church leaders by serving? Start by asking your leaders where they need help. Spend a couple of months being a greeter. Sign up to be on the monthly rotation for parking lot duty. Volunteer to hold and pray for babies while their parents worship in the sanctuary. Any service you offer will be helpful for your church leaders. Simply ask where help is needed and be willing to be a faithful servant.

4. Give generously. Giving is usually a pretty sensitive topic in church, isn't it? The pastor doesn't want to appear to be campaigning for a higher salary, and the church is sometimes wary to give more than is comfortable. Pastors aren't in the ministry for the money, or at least I hope they're not—they will be sorely disappointed! You can show your appreciation for your pastors and church leaders by giving generously and viewing your gifts as an act of worship, not merely ministry maintenance.

5. Encourage their families. We've already seen the toll leading a church can take on the pastor, but often, the pastor's family feels the toll of ministry as well. Occupational ministry is a family affair, even if the pastor is the only family member working in the church. Late nights, working weekends, phone calls in the middle of the night—the demands of ministry affect more than just the one in the role. Encourage the families of your church leaders in much the same way you encourage your church leaders: prayer, notes and acts of kindness.

6. Speak well of the church. One of the most discouraging parts about leading the people of God is hearing them talk bad about others in the church. Don't gossip about the bride of Christ. The body of Christ is a wounded body because it is made up of wounded people. Don't add salt to its wounds. Speak of the bride of Christ as you would like someone to speak of your spouse. October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Don't just give a card — be an encourager.

Article adapted from HomeLife Magazine. Visit <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/easy-ways-to-thank-your-pastor> for complete article.

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*Thinking about writing an encouraging note to your pastor? Here are a few ideas to get you started.*

- Thank your leaders for their time outside the typical nine-to-five work-day.
- Share some Scripture that may be encouraging to them.
- Tell them about how the Lord has been using their ministry to make you more like Jesus.
- Write about how you saw a friend come to Christ.

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## Belize Bible College: an Update from Missionary Bob Farley

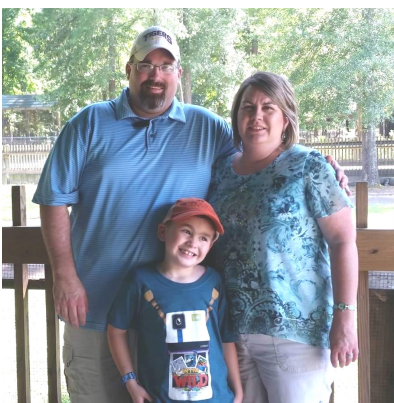
...after hearing the vision, I felt compelled to sift through every opportunity and person that came to Belize to see if it/they were part of God's plan. Rhonda and I believed that after teaching and being "school managers" at Living Word Primary School in Boom Creek Village for 12 years, we had fulfilled the vision for what "school" meant. In reality it had only just begun. After turning the primary school over to the government of Belize, Rhonda and our daughters were scheduled to fly out of Belize City for a break in the states, but I was supposed to stay behind to help with a team. While driving back to Punta Gorda, a major bridge washed out due to heavy rains. That bridge was located on the only road through Belize, so instead of being stranded on the side of the road I returned to Belize City to redeem my time. I attended a Pastor's conference there that had already started.

It was there that I heard Ramzan Hosein preach for the first time. Dr. Hosein is the founder and President of Trinidad/Tobago Bible College and has a vision to see Bible colleges start across the Caribbean.

After Ramzan spoke that night, almost every other person I met was an important piece of God's puzzle. All of the God-sized pieces that were needed to start a new Bible College in Belize were coming together. Jim Muckleroy had changed churches and got back in touch with us to see if Flint Baptist Church could bring teams down. I met our Provost Michelle Walbeck after picking their church's mission team up at the airport to serve with us. At the time Michelle was the coordinator of accreditation under the Director at Texas A&M. Professor Aaron Coffey led a team from Floresville, Texas. School Manager/Professor Eutimeo Chi was our pastor while living in Belmopan during the construction of the first building. To date, Jim Muckelroy and Flint have built four + buildings and supported us monthly. Ramzan is now the Vice President of our board of directors, and if Aaron and his family had not moved to Belize when they did, we would have never been able to open the college.

To watch God assemble HIS PLAN/HIS WAY has been a learning experience for me. The "school" we now call Belize Bible College is in its fourth year of operation. We now know that the 12 years spent managing the primary school was the foundation laid for the only Bible College in a three-hundred mile radius of our campus. I cannot think of a better time than the present to help a young adult in Belize get a quality education in the Bible. There are young people here learning things that will change their lives forever. Please help by giving a scholarship or contribution for one of these students. \$100.00 U.S. will pay for one month of college studies. Please help us help them!

Because of the pandemic, we are currently in a precarious situation. We are being told by the government that we should be able to return to in-person classes in October. The airport is supposed to be opening some time this month, but the missionaries helping us will not be back until Christmas or later. To move forward, we are having to hire professors from Belize. Because of this, we are having to raise funds more aggressively than we have in the past. To give directly to the Belize Bible College, donations may be sent to Lakeside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 174, Elkhart, TX 75839 (make check payable to Lakeside Baptist Church with "Belize Bible College" in the memo line).



First Baptist Church is happy to welcome the Aaron Coffey family, missionaries to Belize, on Sunday, October 4, 2020, in both worship services.

Aaron, formerly FBC's student pastor, will give a report on the pandemic's effect on both the Belize Bible College and the citizens of Belize.



*The vision of God I heard that day was: Spiritual formation (Yemeri Grove Christian Church), visionary, building/grounds, a school (we now know as Belize Bible College) and a children's home (?).*

## It's Operation Christmas Child Time!

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) gift-filled shoeboxes go to difficult places. From densely populated inner cities to deserts and jungles, local churches are using these gifts to share the Gospel—even where the Name of Jesus has never been heard. Working with these ministry partners, Samaritan's Purse aims to follow the Apostle Paul's example and preach Christ where He is not yet known (Romans 15:20-21). Together, despite formidable challenges, the Lord is opening doors for us to deliver Good News and great joy to children in need around the world!

OCC plans to deliver gift-filled shoeboxes to boys and girls on 1,000 Pacific islands over the next few years. Going island to island with the Gospel, we will work to introduce children to Jesus Christ. This new initiative is in addition to our continuing shoebox outreach efforts in more than 100 countries.

Some areas are difficult to access with the Good News of Jesus Christ for geographic or cultural reasons. In the last year alone, OCC has given specially-packed shoebox gifts to over 1 million children in more than 25 of these countries. Sent often through Build a Shoebox Online, these shoebox gifts provide ease-of-access through customs and give Christians in each nation a platform for sharing the Gospel in a culturally sensitive way.

Samaritan's Purse is bringing shoebox gifts and the message of the Gospel to more than 100 ethnic groups whose population is less than 3 percent Christian. Among one of these unreached groups—the Himba of Namibia—they distributed shoebox gifts to 130 children.

Gift-filled shoeboxes provide a unique way for churches to share the Gospel in new areas. Millions of the boys and girls who receive them are also invited to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship course, where they learn to faithfully follow Christ and share Him with others. As participants tell their friends and family the Bible stories they learn in class, they, too, become Christians, and in turn, disciple still others. New churches begin and the body of Christ continues to multiply.

Visit [www.operationchristmaschild.com](http://www.operationchristmaschild.com) for more information. In addition to the list below, additional gift ideas are suggested. If you prefer, for a gift of \$25, you can build a box online. **FBC Floresville's shoeboxes will be collected November 8—November 15.**

Pack a shoebox... Bless a child.

*"Jesus Christ took our sins and He died on the cross. Then on the third day God in Heaven said, 'It's enough,' and He raised His Son to life. This is the Good News. We've got a responsibility to take this message to the ends of the earth."*

Franklin Graham, President  
Samaritan's Purse

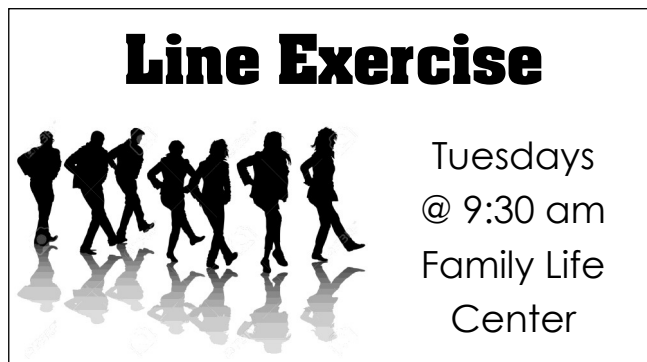


It's time to begin thinking about packing a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.  
Fill a box and bless a child.

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	AVOID liquid items, please.





## Women's Ministry News

Hello everyone and HAPPY FALL and October!

It seems to me that we are getting comfortable in this "new normal" - maybe comfortable is not the correct word. We are getting used to picking up our groceries "curbside" rather than selecting those special tomatoes or apples. Or it could be going to school—participating online through ZOOM meetings rather than in person. Whatever it is that you have now become accustomed to, we keep moving forward. It's important for us to keep our focus on what is important and reduce our anxieties and stress. Let's all keep our focus to what is important, God our Father. I believe our purpose does not change at any age! We practiced this little acronym in Sunday School and the more I said it, the more I was able to focus or refocus on the LORD. The acronym is KLEG. What kind of purpose for the LORD could you make with those letters? Maybe I should wait until next month to share it with you? No, here it is!

**K—KNOW HIM**

**L—LOVE HIM**

**E—ENJOY HIM**

**G—GLORIFY HIM**

I pray that you can and do KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM, ENJOY HIM, and GLORIFY HIM! So, until we ALL begin meeting together again, I want each of you to think about what type of gathering you would like to put on this empty calendar! Nothing is impossible for GOD!

I am praying for all to stay safe! If you would like to help with ideas for the Women's Ministry Newsletter, please contact Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068 or me, Donna Arispe, at 210-560-9642.

## Family Ministry News

During last month's business meeting, the church voted to unite the Children's and Student Ministries under the direction of Pastor Matt Keller. The Children's Committee and Youth Committee will also be combining into the Family Ministry Committee.

Programs for children are up and running as follows:

Sundays @ 9:15 am—Bible Study

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays @ 10:45 am—Children's Church

Wednesdays @ 6:30 am—Student and Children's Worship

**Families PRAY Together**—We hope each family was able to use the prayer flip book as a guide throughout the month of September. Our prayer is that parents model prayer for their children and teach them that talking to God is as easy as talking to a friend.

**Families READ Together**—During the month of October, each family will receive a list of 16 Scripture passages that correspond with the Bible stories children are covering on Sunday mornings, along with a sheet of decorative stickers that correspond with each passage. Families are encouraged to attach the list to the refrigerator and read the passages together throughout the month. As each passage is read, affix a sticker to the list on the fridge. At the end of the month when all the passages have been read, bring the list to Pastor Matt Keller and receive a gift from FBC for the entire family to enjoy.

If you're interested in joining the Kid's Ministry team, please contact Pastor Matt Keller ([matt@fbcf.org](mailto:matt@fbcf.org) or 409-656-3089). There are both paid and volunteer positions available.

# LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?

The FBC Library has been relocated to the Annex. You may visit the Library on Sunday mornings before and after 9:15 am Bible study or during regular office hours.

M-F 8am-4pm  
Closed from Noon-1pm for lunch

The Library is currently not accepting book donations.



# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4  10:30 am Deacons Meeting Noon *Shaun Murray	5	6 Line Exercise Tuesdays @ 9:30 am	7	8 FBC vols @ Food Pantry	9	10 8am <b>MEN'S BREAKFAST</b>
11  10:30 am Lord's Supper observed *Greg Parker	12  Office Closed	13	14	15	16	17
18  10:30 am *Carter Thomas	19	20	21	22	23	24
25  10:30 am Baptism in 10:30 am worship *Ron P. Tipton	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Schedule of Events

### Sunday

- 8:00—In-person Worship
- 9:15—Bible Study for all ages
- 10:30—In-person Worship and online worship through Facebook LIVE

### Wednesday

- 6:30—Life Groups / Prayer Meeting / Youth Bible Study / Children's Worship
- 7:45—Choir Rehearsal

### Weekly Activities

- Creative Hands—Quilting Mondays at 10:00 am
- Bible Study Fellowship Kids—Monday evenings Adults—Tuesday evenings
- Line Exercise Classes Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 am
- Worship at Veterans' Home —Wednesdays at 2:00 pm (except for 2nd Wed of each month)
- Sr. Adult Game Day —Thursdays from 1-4 pm

\* Deacon of the Week

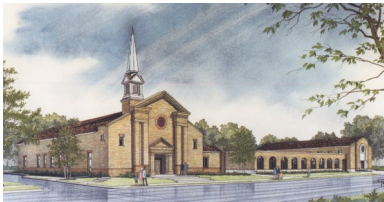
## October Birthdays

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

## First Baptist Church

1115 B Street  
Floresville, TX 78114  
Phone: 830-216-4946  
Fax: 830-393-3613  
E-mail: [office@fbcf.org](mailto:office@fbcf.org)

**Mike Clements, D.Min.**, Pastor  
830-391-2016  
**Terry Smith**, Worship Pastor  
830-391-3362  
**Matt Keller**, Family Pastor  
409-656-3089  
Penny Smith, Office Manager  
Christie Davis, Office Assistant  
Rosa Beltran, Church Custodian



**Because He First Loved Us.**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!



/FIRSTBAPTISTFLORESVILLE

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Billy Eugene Anderson, father of Bill Anderson, who passed away on September 3, 2020;

Deepest sympathy is offered to the family of Clarice Mangum, sister of Patti Kuykendall, who passed away on September 16, 2020;

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of Richard W. Kast, uncle of Linda Downs, who passed away on September 16, 2020;

Sincere condolences are offered to the family of Louis Warren, brother of LaJuana Newnam-Leus, who passed away on September 18, 2020.

All,

Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and your prayers during this time. May God bless you all!

The family of J.O. Brumlow



### Early Voting Dates:

October 13, 2020—October 30, 2020,  
Monday—Friday, 8am—5pm  
Saturday, October 17, 2020—8am-5pm

### Extended Hours:

Thursday, October 22, 2020—8am-8pm  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020—8am-8pm

## BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:  
\$ 525,000.00  
September Loan Payment:  
\$ 5,000.00  
Current Loan Balance:  
\$ 129,640.63

**"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)**

## Floresville Food Pantry's Suggested Donation for OCTOBER Canned Meats (6-12 oz. size)

The Floresville Food Pantry is 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 8am to sign in and wait for food distribution. A devotional time will be at 9am. 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 and donations are always appreciated.



## New Members

### By Baptism

**Randy Kutzer**  
25079 Private Road 476  
Floresville, TX 78114  
361-438-8700

**Jenny Richards**  
P.O. Box 134  
1844 County Road 104  
Floresville, TX 78114  
830-321-1275

**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
August 2020	\$ 55,221.10	\$ 57,596.85
YTD thru August	\$ 432,691.51	\$ 460,774.80