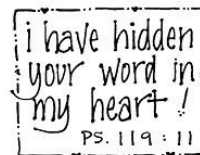


# First Edition

## NEW YEAR, NEW COMMITMENT

We all know that we are supposed to read the Bible. We believe that it is God's Word. His Word is the authority for how we can know God and live *CORAM DEO* ("before the face of God"). We are called as Christians to submit to the Lord's authority in every aspect of our lives. We can only do this through reading and knowing God's inspired, sufficient Word. This is why we need to memorize passages of the Bible.



1. **Our obedience is tied to meditating on God's Word.** (Psalm 1) Psalm 1 challenges us to not walk in the way of those who rebel against the Lord. How can we do this in a culture that seems to push against the Lord's commands in so many ways? We do this by Psalm 1:2, "His delight in the law of the Lord and on His law He meditates day and night." This is the way we walk in obedience, by meditating on His Word. What better way to meditate on the Word than to memorize it!
2. **Our joy amidst trials is tied to meditating on God's Word.** (Psalm 119:105,111) The Psalmist says that God's word is "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Yes, I believe that this is about direction and decision making in your life, but the context of this verse is actually about faithfulness to the Lord during trials and temptations. We are prone to despair in the midst of trials. This is why 119:111 is so helpful. It says, "Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart." Your source of joy is drawing near to the Lord through knowing, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word!
3. **You get to know Jesus better through meditating on God's Word.** (John 5:46) The Pharisees continually challenged Jesus' authority. They argued that Jesus was teaching against the Old Testament. Jesus responded to their challenges in an interesting way. John 5:45-46 says, "There is one who accuses you: Moses on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me." Jesus argued that the Old Testament actually points to Him. If you want to know who Jesus is and what He has done, you need to know the Bible (both the Old and New Testament). This means reading, meditating, and memorizing passages from both Testaments.

In the coming weeks, we want to memorize Bible verses together as a church. We want to do this across all age groups. Let's challenge each other and keep each other accountable. Would you be willing to take up this challenge with us?



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## SPRING 2020 LIFE GROUPS

The Spring 2020 Life Group semester will begin Wednesday, January 20, 2021. 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. Pastor Terry leads this weekly time of intercession in the sanctuary each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm.

**The Story**—*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 lead this study of the book *The Story* by Max Lucado. This is an 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 on Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm **via Zoom**. Contact Tom and Jean at [tomandjean777@gmail.com](mailto:tomandjean777@gmail.com).

**Elijah** by Priscilla Shirer—Old Testament heroes are best known for their most celebrated moments: Moses dividing the Red Sea; David slaying Goliath; Gideon routing an insurmountable army; Joshua marching around the defiant walls of Jericho. And Elijah—calling down fire on Mount Carmel. Blinded by the remarkable narratives of our biblical heroes, we can forget they each had a backstory—months and years of development, even difficulty, which fortified their spiritual muscle and prepared them for the tasks that made their lives unforgettable. This study is offered each Wednesday at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall, facilitated by Sally Gaertner. Books will be \$15 each.

**Challenging the Secular World View of Genesis** (in-person) — The secular world view of the history presented in Genesis can present questions for many Christians. This class aims to strengthen your faith by providing answers and in turn challenging the secular worldview. Bro. Ron Bluff will lead this class each Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the TEL classroom.

## PASTOR MIKE'S 20 YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY

February 12<sup>th</sup> will mark a milestone in our church history as we celebrate the Clements' 20<sup>th</sup> year at FBCF. We have never had a pastor for this length of time, which calls for a big celebration. Bro. Mike has guided our congregation through his teaching, love and support. We want to show our appreciation for he and Allison appropriately. Over the next few weeks we will be taking up a Love Offering to fund a very special gift for them. Once Sunday School resumes, envelopes will be in each of the adult classes. Feel free to put a check or cash in those envelopes. If you prefer online giving, you can find the link [here](#). Choose the "Love Offering" fund when making donations online. Mail any checks to FBCF, 1115 B Street, Floresville, TX 78114, or you can drop a check or cash at the office once they reopen. If you have not used the online giving before and encounter any issues, call Penny and she can assist you. We ask that you designate "Clements Love Offering" on your check or contribution. We will take up funds January 1<sup>st</sup> thru February 7<sup>th</sup> and present the gift on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,

Your FBCF Personnel Committee



## 2020 REFLECTIONS FROM SCOTLAND

Jerry and I want to thank you for your prayers, support, and for standing with us in a year of unprecedented challenges. And yet, through these challenges God stretched our creativity, our trust in Him, and proved Himself faithful continuously.

We returned to Scotland in early February and jumped right into a casting and rehearsing performances for the Women's Festival in mid-March. Then—as we began rehearsals for the Easter show—lockdown. We watched COVID-19 impact Europe, the USA, our plans, and everyone else's. What now, Lord? Since performing live wasn't an option, we could translate Jerry's plays to film. New, untested, and apprehensive but we knew that God was leading.

By Easter two films were completed—one for Palm Sunday about the donkey that Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Interactive for children and their families, we were thrilled that fellow missionaries in Greece translated it to Greek and used it for their church services. We filmed The Day Between in our home. Who knew that a renovated flax/linen mill would so perfectly become the many settings for Jesus' story? God knew! So this was a year of trying new formats, ideas, venues, and leaning harder into the Lord.

As we moved into summer, Scotland was still in lockdown and the chances of theatres opening for the annual Dundee City-wide Nativity to perform did not look promising. So, with the Father's leading, Jerry turned the script into a film and spent the autumn prepping, casting, rehearsing (via ZOOM) and filming. Through our friend, Jason McAuley, a girl's boarding school in Perth also came onboard to do the same for their "Christmas concert." Producing 2 films! The last few weeks have been crazy, but we are in the final stages of editing and The Dundee Nativity—CELEBRATING A COVID CHRISTMAS—will be released on YouTube and Vimeo Friday, December 11.



All in all, the Dundee Nativity's message of Jesus will reach more people this Christmas than we could ever imagined a single play would do. Thank you for being part of this!

Elizabeth & Jerry Averill



*"All in all, the Dundee Nativity's message of Jesus will reach more people this Christmas than we could ever imagined a single play would do."*

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2  <b>8am</b> <b>MEN'S BREAKFAST</b>
3  <b>LIVE</b> 10:30 am  *John Long	4	5	6	7	8	9
10  <b>LIVE</b> 10:30 am  Lord's Supper observed  *Shaun Murray	11	12	13	14 FBC vols @ Food Pantry	15	16
17  <b>LIVE</b> 10:30 am  Sanctity of Human Life Sunday  *Greg Parker	18	19	20  Life Groups Begin	21	22	23
24  <b>LIVE</b> 10:30 am  *Carter Thomas	25	26	27	28	29	30
31  <b>LIVE</b> 10:30 am  *Ron P. Tipton						

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Sunday

- 8:00—In-person Worship
- 9:15—Bible Study for all
- 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—Tues. evenings
- Line Exercise Classes Tues. & Thurs. 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

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |                   |                    |                          |                        |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Marie Schroller | 8 Dorothy Holley   | 18 Jo Carolyn Hierholzer | 25 Melissa Bland       |
| 1 Don Voyles      | 8 Jim Holt         | 18 Mary Martinez         | 26 Tiffany Gonzalez    |
| 1 Dayna Deaton    | 8 Harry Pehl       | 18 Stephanie Pierce      | 26 Asa Welfel          |
| 2 Thomas Detamore | 8 Stan Swahn       | 19 Mary Jordan           | 27 Mason Taggs         |
| 2 Debra Yeager    | 9 Tara Loeffler    | 20 Lenora Dickens        | 28 Kathy Mills         |
| 3 Luke Keith      | 11 Paul Moss       | 20 Kelly Parker          | 28 Maryclair VanDeaver |
| 4 Kami Kunath     | 12 Rusty Coston    | 20 Linda Pipes           | 29 Sarah Collins       |
| 5 Tami Kensing    | 13 Travis Miller   | 21 Jim Browning          | 29 Daniel McKeen       |
| 5 Charles Sawers  | 14 Neysa Choate    | 21 Cindy Mahula          | 29 Kathy Sawers        |
| 5 Harold Snowball | 14 Audrey Keylich  | 22 Gunter Clements       |                        |
| 6 Joni Huber      | 15 Grace Pierce    | 22 Elisabeth Kotzur      |                        |
| 6 Patsy Roberts   | 16 Andy Eubanks    | 22 Madeline Street       |                        |
| 7 Caiden Gorzell  | 17 Jerrid Alfaro   | 22 Midge Perry           |                        |
| 7 Wanda Bodiford  | 17 Otto Hierholzer | 23 Paula Gorzell         |                        |
| 7 Hilda Esensee   | 17 Jonathan Pehl   | 23 Jeannette Kunath      |                        |
| 7 Kodie McClure   | 18 Shelly Boyd     | 24 Rebecca Braune        |                        |



*First Baptist Church*

1115 B Street  
 Floresville, TX 78114  
 Phone: 830-216-4946  
 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,** Family Pastor  
 409-656-3089  
 Penny Smith, Office Manager  
 Christie Davis, Office Assistant  
 Rosa Beltran, Church Custodian

*Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Janet Marie Darilek, mother of Janelle Pehl, who passed away December 15, 2020;*

*with deepest SYMPATHY*

*Heartfelt condolences are offered to the family of Mary Esther McGuire, sister of Sophie Rodriguez, who passed away on January 3, 2021.*

**WAYS TO GIVE**

GIVE ONLINE AT  
[WWW.FBCF.ORG](http://WWW.FBCF.ORG)

TEXT  
 "FBCF1234"  
 TO 73256

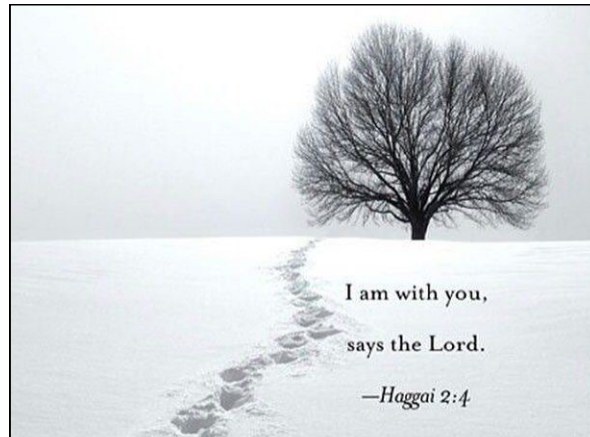
DROP OFF OR MAIL  
 YOUR GIFT TO:

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
 1115 B STREET  
 FLORESVILLE, TX 78114



**Because He First Loved Us.**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!



**Floresville Food Pantry's  
 Suggested Donation for JANUARY  
 Boxes of Cereal**

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.



**Congratulations to  
 Seth Taggs and  
 Chesney Robertson,  
 along with grandparents,  
 Thomas and Shynelle Taggs,  
 uncles, Preston and  
 Mason Taggs, and  
 great-grandparents,  
 David and Karen Wallace,  
 on the arrival of a baby boy,  
 Holden Lane Taggs,  
 born December 10, 2020,  
 5 lbs. 12 oz.**

**BUILDING**

**HISTory**

Original Loan Amount:  
 \$ 525,000.00

December Loan Payment:  
 \$ 5,000.00

Current Loan Balance:  
 \$ 115,967.84

**"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)**

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
November 2020	\$ 52,339.60	\$ 57,596.85
YTD thru November	\$ 597,756.89	\$ 633,565.35

**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.