

December 2022
Volume 48 Issue 12

First Edition



From Matt:



To First Baptist Floresville,

I am grateful for my time here. I am grateful for the teenagers with whom I've had the chance to share the gospel and disciple. I am grateful for many of the families that have shown my family so much kindness and love. I am grateful that the Lord has used this church to help me grow. I pray that FBC Floresville knows how much I care about this church. I am sad to leave but excited about what the Lord has for us.

I'd like to leave the church with a challenge. We can become so distracted and spend so much of our time on the urgent but not important. We can spend our time on good gifts that God has given us but have possibly become distractions that take our focus off of the main thing. First Baptist Floresville is called to be a kingdom outpost, a gospel lighthouse for Floresville and beyond. In all of the possible committee/deacon/ministry meetings you will have over the coming months, here are some questions I challenge you to start asking:

- Who is leading the charge to equip the church to share the gospel?
- Who is spending time leading the church to pray for those who don't know Jesus?
- Who is spending time making disciples (on a personal level) of other Christians?
- Whose heart is breaking right now because there are people in this world who spend a lifetime never hearing the gospel?

None of these questions requires a pastor to answer them.

The great commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is not for pastors alone, but a challenge to all Christians. So find answers to these questions. First Baptist Church has the gifting for seeking the fulfillment of the great commission. (1 Corinthians 12) It does not matter if you are 17 or 70 you are called to take a part in seeking the fulfillment of the Great Commission. There is no room for "I've done my time" or "I'm too young." Why should you do this? I want to leave you with a quote from Jim Elliot that provides motivation.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep
to gain that which he cannot lose."

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Special Dates

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Men's Breakfast - Dec 3rd 8:00-9:30 | • LAST Wednesday Night supper of 2022
Dec 7th Chalupas
(WNS will resume Jan 25th, 2023) |
| • Fun Bunch—Dec 6th Don Pedro's, San Antonio | • Christmas Eve Service Dec 24, 5:30pm |
| • BSF— Tuesday nights Dec 6th, 13th 6:30-8:00 | • OFFICE CLOSED – Dec 22nd -26th |
| • Business Meeting Dec 14th, 6:30 | |



TERRY'S NOTES



Wow! Can you believe that we are wrapping up another year?!!! Of course, for most of us, it is one of the most favorite times of the year. Christmas is here; however, most of us are not ready for all of the festivities, shopping and even Christmas musicals!

This past year has been a very challenging one for my family and for our church. We entered this past year with some shocking news about our financial situation; we discovered that our giving was extremely low. We practically were spending more than we were bringing in. Our tithes and offerings had dramatically declined for so many reasons. However, our church came together in prayer and sought the Lord's will in trying to figure out how we were going to survive. We even had committee meetings practically every night of the week, it seemed. But, most importantly, our church strived together, through the good and bad, and kept our focus on the Lord. The great and exciting news is that our church is rebounding in attendance, new membership, and even in our giving! Praise the Lord! May this trend continue!

Has it been easy? Not at all! Even during times of disagreements, I experienced our church body trusting in the Lord for the decisions that had been made, whether individuals agreed or not. It is a blessing when a church can go forward together, laying personal agendas and preferences aside, and working together to move forward for the Kingdom's sake. I am very proud to be part of a congregation that is not necessarily perfect (of course, there are no perfect churches), but one that can agree to disagree and work together. I really believe our Heavenly Father will bless First Baptist Church Floresville for persevering together! Can I hear an Amen?!!!!

MATT KELLER FAMILY

I would like to comment on the Matt Keller family. As you know, Matt and his family have moved on to Hobbs, New Mexico. Matt will begin his new ministry as senior pastor. We are very proud of him, and we will definitely miss his leadership and energy at F.B.C. Floresville. Matt and family have been here for almost 5 years. It just seemed like yesterday when the Keller family moved into the 3rd Street parsonage.

For me, Matt has challenged me and many of you to be open minded about the multigenerational church. For the past almost 5 years, Matt has encouraged us to be mindful of every age level who attend church, and for us to realize their importance in the Body of Christ. I appreciate that challenge, and of course, I appreciate other attributes Matt possesses! Not to mention, his goofiness and high energy! He is fun and quite intelligent! Most important, Matt loves Jesus! I know he and his family will be a great blessing at Hobbs and wherever else Matt and family serve the Lord.

We will miss the Keller family. Our granddaughter, Audrey, will definitely miss the Keller girls! Let's not forget sweet Lyndi. She is a true Saint! Many of us ask how she puts up with her "4" children!!! Just kidding! We love you, Lyndi! You are a beautiful treasure, who we will truly miss. Your hard work at F.B.C. was not unnoticed. Thanks for being part of our church family, as well. We love all of you so much!

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Please continue to pray for the Pastor Search Committee. These 7 individuals need our prayer every day! The PSC has met for over a hundred hours in prayer and discussion. These 7 are wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ who represent all of us. We know that God will direct them to the right man for our church. When you see Chris Coates, Jim Browning, Jewel Gleason, Judy Whitley, Bobby Etheridge, Stacy Collins and Sheila Brieden, please let them know how much you appreciate them, and let them know you are praying for them.

"If we want to lead people in God's ways, then our hearts, which include our thinking and choosing not just our emotions, must be like God's own heart." (Jeremiah 3:15)

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!





Christmas Program

At FBCF, December 11, 6pm.

We will have a combined

Church choir from

Floresville, Pleasanton,
Jourdanton and Charlotte

Cookie fellowship following-

In the Fellowship Hall

Bring a Dozen Cookies to share



We would like to extend an invitation for more praise choir singers. If you have a love for singing and feel you can contribute vocally, then we have a spot for you! We are rehearsing Sunday morning anthems, and we are also working on a Christmas musical.

December 7th
TEAM KIDZ PRAISE
(Pre K- 6th Grade) 4:45 PM Wednesday

December 7th, 14th 7:30 PM Wednesday
PRAISE CHOIR And
PRAISE BAND REHEARSAL-

Message from the Pastor Search Team

What happens when a church needs a new senior pastor?

It depends.

Churches in some faith traditions are **told** who will be their next pastor by a church hierarchy or persons in authority over them. True to form, Baptists choose to be different (and I am **mostly** glad for that). In fact, the process followed by most churches in the Baptist General Convention of Texas is a distinctive part of our Baptist tradition. Our church is solely responsible for selecting or "calling" an individual to be our pastor. What an **awesome** responsibility!

However, our convention does not leave us without guidance or help. The search process *recommended by our convention and adopted by our Pastor Search committee puts a premium on two things: seeking God's specific direction for our church and maintaining church unity. Because of this, **the process is not built for speed** and doesn't happen as fast as many of us would like.

The process is also different from the hiring process in the secular business world in some important ways. We're not hiring a CEO, we're seeking a shepherd of Christ's church.

As such, a person is not offered a job, but they are **called** by a majority vote by our church membership. This doesn't happen unless and until the pastor search team recommends a person by what is **ideally** a **unanimous** decision. Did I mention that one of the chief goals is to maintain church unity?

Finally, no person is even considered by the Search Committee unless they submit to the committee's selection process. Qualified persons can submit their written resumes and references to the email address below to ask to be considered in this selection process.

Our committee continues to ask for your prayers for direction. Our committee members are working on multiple simultaneous efforts, including transition planning by parents of students in the youth program to continue the great work done by pastor Matt as he prepares to accept his new calling as Senior Pastor in Hobbs NM.

Please pray for us! Chris Coats

Chairperson, Your Pastor Search Committee



Business meeting item:

During the Dec. 14th business meeting a motion to rescind the motion to sell church parsonage will be presented (purpose of rescind is to cancel action passed by the church).

December 2022




Birthdays



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						Men's Prayer Breakfast—8AM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Christmas Angel Tree Gift due Bill Perry		Fun Bunch Don Pedro 10:30 am BSF	Women's Bible Study 10:30am WNS—Jars of Clay Chalupa			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Christmas Program FBCF-6pm Ronald Tipton		BSF	Women's Bible Study 10:30am Business Meeting 6:30			Ladies Pot Luck 11:00am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Christmas Program Pleasanton -6pm Ron Bluff			Women's Bible Study 10:30am	Office Closed		Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
No Sunday School Christmas Day Chris Coats	Office Closed					

- 3 Aaron Garcia
- 4 Rob Coleman
- 4 Claryce Holcombe
- 4 Stacey O'Leary
- 4 Preston Taggs
- 5 Jerry Kotzur
- 5 Randy Richards
- 5 Doug Watson
- 6 Jeanine Livingston
- 6 Elliana Woods
- 7 Drew Clements
- 8 Ross Koenig
- 9 Braelyn Burns
- 9 Sara Ham
- 11 Clay Respondek
- 12 Susan Eubanks
- 13 Dahlia Sellers
- 14 Norma Idrach
- 14 Ryan Parker
- 15 Marty Choate
- 15 Cole Harris
- 15 Chad Rex Reed
- 17 Jean Evelyn Hughes
- 17 Karen Sada
- 18 Melba Dunn
- 19 Gearis Herndon
- 19 Deana Smith
- 19 Peggy Tipton
- 20 Lyla Smith
- 21 Timothy Davis
- 21 Chuck Garza
- 21 Craig Wilder
- 22 Cathy Kotzur
- 22 Shine Trabucco
- 23 Sheila Brieden
- 23 Evie Carter
- 23 Michael Villarreal
- 24 Carlos Garza
- 24 Judy Murray
- 25 Buddy Smith
- 28 Ron Fischer
- 28 Ron Tipton
- 29 Robert Calmes
- 29 Becky Ledoux
- 29 Vira Wright
- 30 Bob Bagley
- 30 Judy Whitley
- 30 Cody Bland




Ladies' Pot Luck and Ornaments Exchange
December 17th—11:00 am

Please Bring a Friend

All Ages Welcome

P.S. We are also gathering a collection of cold weather items for the homeless

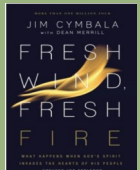
Ladies time

Ladies Bible study

Wed. 7th, 14th, 21st


At 10:30am

Annex Kitchen



Ladies Finish Dec. 7th the study of Jonah, 6:30 -7:30 Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. Come Join us! For more info, contact Sally Gaertner 361-290-1068

**** New study will Start when Wednesday Nights resume Jan. 25, 2023**



Cookies needed by Dec.18th

We need your help!
**Cookies for Air Force Recruits
On Christmas Day**

On Christmas Day homesick Basic Trainees from all over the USA, will be in boot camp at Lackland Air Force Base. For most trainees it will be their first time away from home at Christmas. As we share about Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas you can be a blessing, by baking for them homemade cookies!

We need 1,200 Chocolate Chip and 1,200 Sugar Cookies!

Invite friends, your church, your family to help.

We will put one of each cookie in a plastic baggie, tie it with a red ribbon and put a Jesus sticker on the bag.

Bake Chocolate Chip and, or Sugar Cookies

- 3" - 3 1/2 " in diameter
- Put icing on the Sugar Cookies, no nuts in Chocolate Chip
- Bake as many as you can
- Deliver the Cookies to Cru, Airmen For Christ
- We will pack them and give to trainees on **Christmas Day!**

Questions, Details

**Please let us know soon
if can participate!**

Suzanne Dollar 210-710-8710,
call , text or email:

suzanne.dollar@crumilitary.org

Cookie Deadline is Monday

December 19, 2022



If you would like to donate poinsettias to beautify God's church during the Christmas season please purchase them and deliver them to the church office.



**Angel Tree Gifts due
December 4th**



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24th at 5:30

For unto you is born this day in
the City of David a savior, which
is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11



Cards needed by Dec.11th



Follow These Guidelines for Christmas Cards

1. Medium to large-size cards
2. White or very light colored envelopes
3. Faith based
4. Write personal words of encouragement, 6-10 lines. Avoid generalities.
5. Sign your name.
6. Write **Merry Christmas** in **RED** on the front middle of the Envelope (use a red felt-tip pen)
7. Don't seal the envelope
8. No need to write a salutation. Just begin writing your note.
7. Follow the above directions or we cannot give the cards
8. Bundle cards that are the same with a rubber band

✓ Below is a sample note:

Thank you for your willingness to serve our country. I pray you grow stronger each day and graduate on time. I hope you make great friends and memories in BMT. Know that God loves you. He has a future and a hope for you. You can trust Him with your life. I live in San Antonio and we are very aware of you being at Lackland in BMT and know it is not easy. We pray for you regularly. God bless you from someone who cares and prays for you.
Your name

Return your cards to the person who gave you the brochure, or mail or deliver to:
Cru Military, 3859 Morgans Creek S. A. 78230



Questions: suzanne.dollar@crumilitary.org
210-710-8701 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF TIME AND LOVE!

First Baptist Church of Floresville Staff



Dr. Ben Craver, Intentional Interim
Pastor 210-687-6748
Terry Smith, Worship Pastor
830-391-3362
Zoé Fox, Office Manager
Christie Davis, Family Ministry Asst.
Rosa Beltran, Custodian
Because He First Loved Us

1115 B Street
Floresville, TX 78114
Phone: 830-216-4946
Fax: 830-393-3613



10:30 am
We're on the Web
and Facebook!
WWW.FBCF.ORG

December 14th, 6:30
CHURCH
BUSINESS MEETING



Dec 11th

Deacons
Meeting
Fellowship Hall

Kitchen Drifts

Thanks-you church for supporting the Wednesday Nite Suppers. It is a great time for getting to know each other, especially our new members. We appreciate your feedback and are always looking for new ways to improve. Thanks you volunteers for the countless hours you put in each week and the delicious meals prepared. We are so blessed to have you!

Barb Herndon



Welcome 11/7/2022

Amelia Mae Garza

To proud parents

Dahlia and Joeangel Garza



Brenda Fenner

Has a gently used pillow to assist in laying upright if any one is in need of one.

Please contact at—210-275-1657

**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.

**TONE AND
STRETCH CLASS**
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
5:15-6:00 pm
Starts September 12, 2022
Family Life Center
First Baptist Church, Floresville
Corner of 3rd and B St.
Class is free, but a donation for utilities will be accepted.
Instructor: Linda Downs
Seated exercises, balance exercises, and stretching
Class is for men and women
Contact Linda with any questions
at 210.632.6018

With Deepest SYMPATHY

Condolences to the Family of
Betty Jean Dismuke
February 15, 1932 - November 22, 2022



Condolences to the Family of
Lenora Dickens
January 20, 1931 - November 15, 2022

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
October 2022	\$ 54,312.17	\$ 43,438.49
YTD thru October 2022	\$ 540,856.15	\$ 434,384.90