

January 2023
Volume 49 Issue 1

First Edition

2023

Ben Craver

"Faith Seeking Understanding"

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Special points of interest:

- OFFICE CLOSED
-Jan 2nd
- Men's Breakfast -
Nov. 7th 8:00-9:30
- Wednesday Night Supper
& Wed. Groups
Restarting Jan 25th
- BSF- Tuesday nights
6:30-8:00 pm
Restarting Jan. 10th
- Fabulous Fifth
- January 29th

St. Anselm, the 11th century Archbishop of Canterbury in England, wrote a number of important theological works. The one that remains most meaningful to me is entitled *Proslogium*, meaning "A Discourse." He had initially planned to entitle it, *Faith Seeking Understanding*. The original title sticks with me better because those three words sum up my Christian life.

We've just completed a time of symbolic preparation and waiting through our celebration of Advent. It was another time when we exercised our *faith seeking to understand* Christ's coming to us in human form. The music, the sermons, the Advent readings and candles, all contributed both to our faith and to our understanding.

Now we're facing still another twelve-month period of waiting. But, we have new questions: "What does 2023 hold for us?" "Will the Astros repeat as Word Series Champs?" And, most importantly, "Who will be our new pastor?" Questions and waiting. In fact, the entire year will be a time of waiting, from day to day, week to week, month to month until, well, until this same time next year. The good news is that the answers to all our questions will be discovered in the waiting.

Waiting is, admittedly, uncomfortable. May we be strengthened by the fact that the *long-awaited* birth of Jesus, led to his crucifixion for the forgiveness of our sins, and his crucifixion led to his resurrection for our eternal life.

So it will be in 2023. We wait, and the new pastor will providentially arrive. Please pray for your Pastor Search Committee. Pray for them to carry out their work with supernatural discernment, wisdom, and strength. Please keep in mind that the process is never simple and can take up a significant amount of time. Until then, they and we must wait. But, trust that God's best will come from the waiting.

I look forward to 2023. I'm confident that, despite what might happen to us in so many ways which are unknown to us, the Almighty will not be surprised and He is not absent. Our part in understanding is to recall with robust faith, the words of Psalm 91:

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High

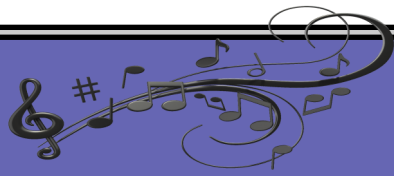
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Trusting with you,

Pastor Ben





TERRY'S NOTES

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Wow!!!! Can you believe it is 2023?!!!! I am surely having a difficult time believing that we have already gone through 2 and a half decades of the 21st Century! Just seemed like yesterday when we were preparing for Y2K! Remember the bottled water and other essentials we were all having to store up, thinking that the power grid would turn off temporarily, so we needed these essentials to get us through for a little while? Fortunately, all went well!!!

How was your 2022? The Smiths had quite a roller coaster year, but we got through it fine! Praise the Lord! As Christians, Sandra and I held on tight to the Lord's hand through both good and bad! Even though there were a few painful moments, we, fortunately, experienced many amazing blessings, too!

MY WAKE-UP CALL

My health had a wake up call this past year and a half. Something called afib??? Today, I understand what afib is and what the risks are when experiencing it. Afib has caused me to make lifestyle changes, big changes! My cardiologist says I need to avoid caffeine, which includes coffee and chocolate? What? This is a bummer, but I do want to be around awhile, so avoiding these food and drinks are a minor thing. This health wake-up call is forcing me to not only be more disciplined with my diet, but exercise needs to be part of my daily routine.

I want to thank all of you for your prayers and encouragement! Your phone calls, text messages and cards have blessed me so much! You are a wonderful church family, and you have gone the extra mile to reach out to both Sandra and me during these scary days! Sandra, of course, has been my biggest encourager! God bless her! I am so glad God brought the two of us together 37 years ago!

THANK YOU, LINDA DOWNS AND MICHAEL GUERRERO!!!

Two individuals that I want to recognize are Linda Downs and Michael Guerrero.

Linda leads our Visual Ministry. Linda makes sure that we have good quality projection on Sunday mornings. Her two helpers are Joe Myers and August Gleeson. This team of volunteers are very essential to our church and our worship services. Without them, we would not have our projection of songs, Bible verses and DVD clips.

Thank you, Visual Team!

Michael Guerrero heads our audio ministry. Without Michael, we wouldn't be able to have the quality of sound during our worship services. Michael and his team are continuously trying to make improvements on our audio quality. Michael's helpers are Jeff Lanning, Austin Coleman and Jason Hall. We appreciate these gentlemen for their hard work and effort in helping us to enjoy our worship services!

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.

PRAISE CHOIR And
PRAISE BAND REHEARSAL
7:30 PM Wednesday
(rehearsals will resume on 1/4/23)

TEAM KIDZ PRAISE
(Pre K- 6th Grade)
4:45pm -5:30pm Wednesday
(TKP will resume on 1/25/23)

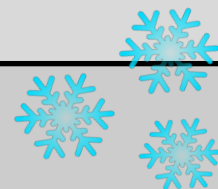
Missionaries

Your prayer support, encouragement, and giving are being used by God to equip us to serve here. You truly have a part in this ministry.

The students in our classes at the Bible College are growing in their faith and by God's Grace will be serving God's Kingdom more effectively.

We pray you are encouraged by your partnership with this mission work and that God increases the joy you have for serving him!

Your Missionaries
Paul and Sherry Sudolcan



January 2023

Birthdays

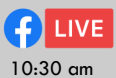
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No Sunday School Bob Herndon	Office Closed		Women's Bible Study 10:30am			Men's Prayer Breakfast— 8AM
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Lord's Supper John Long		BSF	Women's Bible Study 10:30am			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Bob Whitley		BSF	Women's Bible Study 10:30am			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Bob Ethridge		BSF	Women's Bible Study 10:30am WNS— Helping Hands			
29	30	31				
Fab Fifth Ron Bluff		BSF				

- 1 Dayna Deaton
- 2 Debra Yeager
- 3 Luke Keith
- 5 Tami Kensing
- 5 Charles Sawers
- 5 Harold Snowball
- 6 Patsy Roberts
- 7 Caiden Gorzell
- 7 Wanda Bodiford
- 7 Hilda Esensee
- 8 Jim McWilliams
- 8 Harry Pehl
- 8 Stan Swahn
- 9 Tara Loeffler
- 11 Paul Moss
- 12 Rusty Coston
- 13 Travis Miller
- 14 Neysa Choate
- 15 Grace Pierce
- 16 Jay Bell
- 16 Andy Eubanks
- 17 Jerrid Alfaro
- 17 Otto Hierholzer
- 17 Jonathan Pehl
- 18 Shelly Boyd
- 18 Jo Carolyn Hierholzer
- 18 Mary Martinez
- 18 Stephanie Pierce
- 19 Mary Jordan
- 20 Linda Pipes
- 21 Jim Browning
- 21 Cindy Mahula
- 22 Barton Brannon
- 22 Lis Kotzur
- 22 Madeline Street
- 22 Midge Perry
- 23 Paula Gorzell
- 24 Becky Braune
- 24 Skip Glenn
- 25 Melissa Bland
- 26 Tiffany Gonzalez
- 26 Asa Welfel
- 27 Mason Taggs
- 28 Kathy Mills
- 29 Sarah Collins
- 29 Kathy Sawers

Schedule of Events

Sunday

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



Tuesday

- BSF 6:30

Wednesday

- 10:30 Women's Bible study
- 5:30 WNS
- 6:30—Prayer Meeting / Youth Bible Study
- 7:30—Choir Practice

Weekly Activities

- Creative Hands Quilting Mondays at 10:00 am
- Line Exercise Classes Mon, Tues. & Thurs. from 9:30 -10:30 am



Message from the Pastor Search Team

Sometime in the first century AD, the Apostle Paul wrote to his colleague Titus about an important task he had given the man:

“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—”

Titus 1:5 ESV

Among many things, these men were to be pastors of the Lord’s churches who were “*able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also rebuke those who contradict it*”. Elsewhere Paul writes that such a person should be “*able to teach... correcting his opponents with gentleness*”.

It’s easy to imagine how a man like Titus, personally trained and taught by the Apostle Paul, could recognize men like this. Titus himself would be well-trained in sound doctrine and likely taught some of the very men he would appoint to pastor these churches.

Here in Floresville Texas, in 2023, our congregation has a similar task: to find and call someone with the same character and sound Christian doctrine, prepared to teach and gently correct when necessary. When put in these terms, it seems almost an impossible goal for a group of regular church members. After all, we’re just regular folks, not experts in doctrine or theology like Paul or Titus.

Even so, in the coming weeks and months the pastor search committee will continue seeking a person like Paul describes in his letters. Please read each month’s newsletter for details of our progress and please keep the search committee in your prayers.

Chris Coats, Chairperson, Your Pastor Search Committee

Email: FBCFTransitionTeam@gmail.com

Ladies Time

Happy New Year everyone! We ended 2022 with a Siberian blast, I pray that the weather in the upcoming months will be more reasonable. I thought and prayed for those who did without basics. Some of these people are in our own backyard. The Lord has generously blessed us with food, clothing, water and shelter, let's not take them for granted. The new year we can choose to live and give differently. We can be more mindful and be more aware of the Holy Spirit's prompting. Everyone wants to start new year resolutions. Well let's be more positive, more giving, more compassionate, more kind...this list can go on and on. The Holy Spirit will help if you ask!

Donna

To our very special church family

I want to share a big HUG to each and every one who helped me during my chemo treatment. So many mailed cards, made meals, sent messages and lifted prayers! Thank you so much for all that you shared with David and I, every single thought, card, meal, text and prayer was truly appreciated!

Thank you so much, David & Donna Arispe

New CHURCH Members:

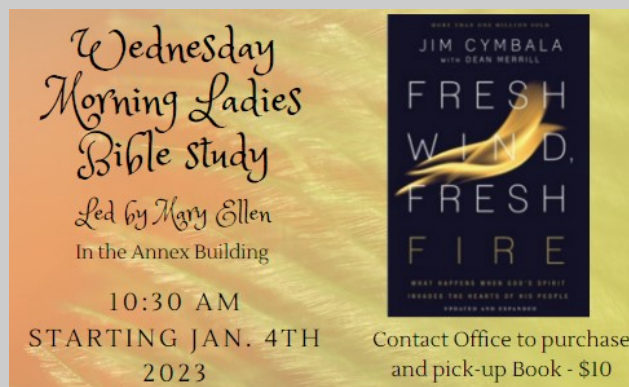
Bill and Cathy Munk

And

Bill and Susan Yeager & sons Nathaniel and Sam

Thank You

My church family means a lot to me. I mentioned to some that I needed some things around the house to get ready for the big freeze. A short time later 3 Deacons showed up to help. I truly appreciate when our Church watches over us! Thank You so Much!
Louise Lotspeich



Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study
Led by Mary Ellen
In the Annex Building
10:30 AM
STARTING JAN. 4TH 2023

JIM CYMBALA
WITH DEAN MERRILL
FRESH WIND, FRESH FIRE
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD'S SPIRIT
INDIGES THE HEARTS OF HIS PEOPLE
FORGETS THE DEVILS

Contact Office to purchase and pick-up Book - \$10

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

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

We're on the Web
and Facebook!
WWW.FBCF.ORG



Come attend the introductory lesson on January 25th, 2023,
6:30 pm to understand the purpose and process for this study.
This is a 12-week journey.

Sign up in the church foyer if you want a workbook which will
deepen your experiencing & doing the will of God.



January 25 - April 26, 2023
6:30 pm, Wednesday Evenings
First Baptist Church Floresville
Classroom location to be announced
Workbook \$10



TONE AND STRETCH CLASS
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
~~5:45-6:00 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
830-391-3362

**Time Change
4:30-5:15**

[UN]APOLOGETIC
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
PERSUADING OUR GENERATION WITH TRUTH

February 25, 2023
First Baptist Church San Marcos
325 W. McCarty Ln, San Marcos, TX 78666
Link Below
<https://texasbaptists.regfox.com/2023-unapologetic-conference-san-marcos-participants>

Sally Gaertner appreciates all the wonderful meals and help from her church family. She is stronger every day, and expecting a full recovery in a couple of months. Her family is with her and Yogi, and will be cooking healthy meals for the remainder of December.

If needed, Jewel Gleeson will be coordinating meals after the New Year. 830-391-3595

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.

With Deepest SYMPATHY

Condolences to the families of -

Jean Osburn

November 9, 1939 - December 13, 2022

Ray Klespies

September 10, 1948 - December 17, 2022

Don Wayne Voles

January 1, 1948 - December 22, 2022

Kitchen Drifts

Chairman - Please take an inventory of supplies before buying groceries. If you put anything in the freezer please label with your name and the date, Please no leftovers in the fridge unless labeled & dated also.

Barb Herndon



BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
November 2022	\$ 53,250.10	\$ 43,438.49
YTD thru October	\$ 594,106.25	\$ 477,823.39

January 8th, 2023
Fellowship Hall
Deacons Meeting