



THE DOVE



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STAFF WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Interim Pastor

Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday
8:30am-5pm

Associate Pastor of Worship

Monday—Thursday
8:30am—noon
& 1pm—5pm

Associate Pastor of Youth

Tuesday—Friday
8:30am—noon
& 1 pm—5 pm

Childhood

Ministry Director

Monday—Thursday
8:30am—noon
& 1pm—5pm

Financial Administrator

Monday—Friday
8:30am—noon
& 1pm—5pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesdays:

6pm AWANA's
6pm Youth Worship
6:30pm Adult Prayer Meeting / Bible Study

Sundays:

9:15am Bible Study
10:30am Worship
6pm Youth Bible study

A Word from Our Interim Pastor

Dear Church Family,

This is my first Newsletter Article as your Transitional Pastor (a.k.a. Intentional Interim Pastor), and Sue and I want you to know that we are excited to be with you again. As most of you know, I served here for about 2 ½ years (2012-2014) as your Associate Pastor of Senior Adults before retiring (again). Back in the summer I was approached by the church about being your Transitional Pastor, but after praying about it, I did not receive a positive answer. Then, when the Interim Pastor Search Committee was formed, they called and asked me to consider it again. After praying about it again, the Lord placed a peace about it in our hearts, and you know the rest of the story.

The function of the Transitional Pastor is to assist a church in making a smooth transition from the previous pastor to the new pastor. The Southern Baptist Convention has recognized the need to help churches in making this transition between pastors, and has developed a certification course for the Transitional Pastor Ministry. I took and completed the course in 2009 after my retirement as a full-time pastor. I am looking forward to being your Transitional Pastor. Having served here previously, I already know most of you, and most of you already know me. I believe that will be an advantage as we begin the transition process together. Also, I believe that I know the heart of Arcadia FBC, and I welcome this opportunity to lead the church during these next months.

Please understand up front, that I will not be under consideration to be called as your full-time Senior Pastor. That is one of the stipulations of being a Transitional Pastor, and the Interim Pastor Search Committee and I mutually agree on that. Although we live in Richwood, about 35 miles away, I will be in Santa Fe at least a couple of days a week besides Sundays. I will be working together with the Church Staff to minister to the needs of our congregation and to reach out to our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I will be involved with the church as if I were the Senior Pastor. That means that I will be available for funerals and weddings, counsel and visitation. I will be preaching most every Sunday, morning and evening services. At the present time, I am teaching the Wednesday Night Bible Study at FBC Lake Jackson, and have asked that I be allowed to continue doing that. Richard Bours will continue the Bible Study at Arcadia FBC on Wednesdays. If you have any questions for me, or need to talk to me, please feel free to call me at 409-539-9640.

Grace and Peace,
Jerl



New Year Resolution

Happy 2018!!! This is the time of year where many of us resolve to lose weight, to get into a new habit, or to give up an old habit. I want to challenge you (and challenge myself) to seek what the Lord wants of you this year. Then, rather than doing things in your own strength and giving up on your New Year's resolutions by January 2nd, give it to the Lord and seek His strength. I love you and love being your Worship Pastor!

Recap and Thank You

We had an excellent time at Arcadia FBC on December 17th! I want to take some time to thank everyone who helped to make the Snow Day and AFBC Christmas Celebration a success. Thank you to Julie Beanland, Chris Beanland, Nathan Kidd and Will Leach for organizing and working on the snow. The kids had a blast! Thank you to everyone who bought Roadhouse meals and helped to contribute to the expense of turning our playground into a winter wonderland. Thank you to Loran Lance and his team of helpers for getting the hayride together. Thank you, Patricia Bouquet, for leading the carol singing and Tara Dean for managing the line. Special thanks to the Brantley family for hosting the firetruck rides on their vintage fire truck and to the Hart family for helping people to get on and off the truck. I want to thank Joshua Doss, Paige Wilhite, Kaylie Doss, Sierra Dean and Donovan Ross for helping to put together the Advent Prayer Journey. It was a beautiful setup that truly helped to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Thank you to Kim McCurdy, Ruth Crosby, Tara Dean, and any others who helped with the hotdog bar and

dessert fellowship. It was all delicious! Thank you to Donna McDowell, Kay Lance, Ruth Crosby, Shannon Kyle and all the others who helped set up and break down tables and chairs and helped decorate in the Activity Center. It looked great! Thank you to Julie Beanland, Debbie Kidd, Becky Rachel, Rose Beanland, Crissy Moore, Marina Dean and others who helped with the Christmas activities we had set up in the Activity Center. Thank you to everyone who brought desserts to share that night. Thank you to Ken Haynes, Julie Berry, and to all the singers, readers, and instrumentalists that helped out with the program. You are all such a blessing! I'm sure there are many, many people I am leaving out of this "thank you" list, but know that God knows who you are and what you did and I truly believe He was honored by what took place. Our church appreciates you and so do I!



Additional Wednesday Night Cook Teams Needed



Additional Cook Teams are needed for the monthly rotation. Contact Kim McCurdy or contact the church office @409 925-2825 for more information & details.

JANUARY 14, 2018

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING
 Make Plans To Attend
7pm in the Worship Center
QUORUM REQUIRED



Galveston Baptist Association International Mission Study: Russia

When: Saturday, January 20, 2018
Where: Arcadia First Baptist Church F4
Time: 10:00am—12:00pm

What to bring: A covered dish to share at the “tasting” and a friend. Recipes from Russia can be found on the internet. No childcare provided, all ages are invited to join us!

Preview:

The mention of Russia may conjure up images of Romanov royalty or dictators like Stalin or Lenin. What probably doesn't come to mind is Muslims. However Muslims are actually one of the indigenous peoples of Russia. Please Join us to learn more on how God is at work to bring Muslims to Himself and how to share Christ to anyone, anywhere!



January Men's Breakfast

8am January 21st—F4
 Gene Newton, Dir.

All Men are welcome no need to sign up!



Observance of the Lord's Supper

10:30am Worship Service - January 21st

AFBC 12th Annual Chili Cook-Off

JANUARY 28, 2018

4:00pm Chili Check in Time ~ F5
 4:30pm Chili Cook-Off Judging F4
 5:00pm Chili Cook-Off Supper F4
 6:00pm Evening Worship ~ WC

Prizes will be awarded to our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. A fabulous trophy will also be at stake (see photo)! Start preparing your recipes now!



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Goal: \$2,500 Amount Received: \$4,335.00



January 6th

8am-4pm

@AFBC

Everyone Welcome



Senior Adult Retreat



January 25-27, 2018 AFBC - F4
 Bro. Jerl Watkins - Guest Teacher
 See Jan Gray or Pat Bours for more information

Deacons on Call

- 1/07 Kelly Creech/Mark Higginbotham
- 1/14 Sammy Belcher/John Rothermel
- 1/21 Doug Anderson/Loran Lance
- 1/28 Gene Newton/Doug McDowell

January 2018

GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM 3

- **MONDAY—FRIDAY**
AFB CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 7:40AM—3:10PM
- **MOTHER'S DAY OUT 9AM—2PM**
- **EXTENDED CARE 6:30AM—9AM & 2PM—6PM**
MDO/FBCS CHAPEL 10:30AM
(Rotates Wednesdays & Thursdays)
- **CHILDCARE 6:30AM—6:00PM**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE, AFBCS; MDO CLOSED.</p> <p>2 TEACHER INSERVICE/STUDENT HOLIDAY 9:30am Outreach BS @ Amegy 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery—F6</p>	<p>3 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC</p>	<p>4 10am-2p AFBC PeacemakersF3-F4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 8am-4pm Men's Workday @ AFBC</p>		
<p>7 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service-WC 5:30pm Youth "Man-Up" (guys) -TYC & "Kalos" (gals) - F6 6pm Children's Musical Practice—AC 6pm Evening Worship - WC</p>	<p>8 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>9 CHURCH CONFERENCE REPORTS DUE 9:30am Outreach BS @ Amegy 6pm Budget & Finance Mtg.—TYC 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery—F6 6pm Church Council! - CR</p>	<p>10 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 6pm AWANA's Dbl. ticket/sticker- AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>11 10am-2p AFBC PeacemakersF3-F4</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service-WC 4:30am Deacon's Mtg-CR 5:30pm Youth "Man-Up" (guys) -TYC & "Kalos" (gals) - F6 6pm Children's Musical Practice—AC 6pm Evening Worship - WC 7pm Church Business Conf.-WC</p>	<p>15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TEACHER INSERVICE/STUDENT HOLIDAY 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>16 9:30a Outreach Bible @ Amegy 12pm GBA Executive Board Meeting—AFBC F4 6:30p Celebrate Recovery—F6</p>	<p>17 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 6pm AWANA's - Homemade shirt -AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>18 10am-2p AFBC PeacemakersF3-F4</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 10a-12p - (GBA) IMS - RUSSIA Missions Event for all ages — F4</p>
<p>21 Outreach Sunday Observance Of The Lord's Supper Sanctity of Human Life 8am Men's Breakfast-F4 8am Praise Band Rehearsal-WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service-WC 5:30pm Youth Escape room & paintball 6pm Children's Musical Practice-AC 6pm Evening Worship - WC</p>	<p>22 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>23 9:30am Outreach Bible @ Amegy 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery—F6</p>	<p>24 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 6pm AWANA's - store, sports Jersey - AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>25 10am-2p AFBC PeacemakersF3-F4</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Annual Chili Cook Off 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service-WC Annual Chili Cook-off 4pm Chili Check-in-F5 4:30pm Chili Judging 5pm Chili Supper - F4 6pm Worship Service—WC</p>	<p>29 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>30 9:30am Outreach Bible @ Amegy 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery—F6</p>	<p>31 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 6pm AWANA's - Hero Night - AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>SR, ADULT RETREAT—AFBC- F4 (begins Thursday at 6pm) 1/25/18 — 01/27/18</p>		

1/2- 1/5/18- STUDENT HOLIDAY TEACHER INSERVICE



Deacons on Call
 2/04 Will Leach/Sammy Belcher
 2/11 John Rothermel/Loran Lance
 2/18 Doug Anderson/Kelly Creech
 2/25 Gene Newton/Doug McDowell


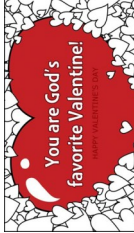










February 2018

GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM 3

AFBCS/MDO Extended Childcare Events

2/16 – AFBCS TABS Training/Student Holiday
 2/19 – AFBCS Teacher in-service/Student Holiday
 2/19-2/23 AFBCS Spring Book Fair
 2/22 - 6:30pm - AFBCS Preview Night

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>4 Supper Bowl of caring—cash collection for Mission Galveston 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—WC 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups—AC 6pm Evening Worship - Worship Evening—Superbowl Sunday Prayer Fellowship Home Groups</p>	<p>5 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p> 	<p>6 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Amegy 6:30 Celebrate Recovery F4/F6</p>	 <p>7 11:30am Chamber luncheon 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 6p AWANA's - grd prix workshop AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p> 	<p>8 10am-2p AFBC Piecemakers-F2</p> 	<p>9 10am-2p AFBC Piecemakers-F2</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—WC 4:30pm Deacon's Meeting— CR 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups —AC 6pm Kid's Musical Practice—TYC 6pm Evening Worship - Worship Ctr.</p>	<p>12 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p> 	<p>13 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Amegy Bank Comm. Rm 12pm GBA Pastor Luncheon-F4 6pm Budget & Finance Mtg—CR 6:30 Celebrate Recovery F4/F6 7pm Church Council— CR</p> 	<p>14 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 6p AWANA's - grd prix workshop AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p> 	<p>15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10am-2p AFBC Piecemakers-F4</p> 	<p>16 TABS Training/Student Holiday</p>	<p>17</p>
<p><i>WMU FOCUS February 12th -18th</i></p>						
<p>18 Outreach Sunday 8am Men's Breakfast - F4 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—WC 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups—AC 6pm Kid's Musical Practice—TYC 6pm Evening Worship - Worship Ctr.</p>	<p>19 President's Day—In-service/Student Holiday 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p> 	<p>20 8am-3pm AFBCS 4th Grade—F4 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Amegy Bank Community Room 12pm Secretaries Luncheon— New Hope Baptist Church 6:30 Celebrate Recovery F4/F6</p>	<p>21 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 6p AWANA's - grd prix workshop AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p> 	<p>22 10am-2p AFBC Piecemakers-F4</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—WC 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups—AC 6pm Kid's Musical Practice—TYC 6pm Evening Worship—Worship Ctr.</p>	<p>26 Pre-Teen Camp Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser Deadline 6PM HANDBELL REHEARSAL</p> 	<p>27 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Amegy Bank Community Room 6:30 Celebrate Recovery F4/F6</p>	<p>28 5:15PM WNS—F4 6:30pm Prayer Mtg./Bible Study-WC 5:30 AWANA's Grand Prix—check in 6pm AWANA's - Grand Prix- AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p> 			



ON FIRE



"As the deer pants for the water brook so my soul longs after thee."
Psalms 42:1

I rolled over and looked at the clock...6:45 am...another day. But, it wasn't just any day. It was the first day of **2018**. Would it be just another day...more of the same? Or, would it be different from the others that had preceded it?

What is it that determines the outcome of our days?

The impetus behind great art, or great music, a great sports team, a great drama, great architecture or a great sermon is passion.

- Passion mobilizes armies.
- Passion drives scientists to find new cures for dreaded diseases.
- Passion equips athletes to break records.
- Passion is what sustains us when we feel like giving up.
- Passion energizes our lives.

Without passion in our lives, our lives are dull, drab, boring. God wants us to live passionate lives... lives that sense the passion that He put within us. Hear the passion in Jesus' voice as He says, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion, all your prayer, all your intelligence, all your energy." (MSG, Mark 12:30)

In Colossians 3:23 Paul says "Whatever you do, do it with all your heart (*passion*) as unto the Lord and not as unto men." If God wired us to be passionate, why do we so often live without passion and purpose? Maybe it is because we fall prey to the passion killers of life.

- We have allowed something precious to become familiar. We have forgotten how it was before we knew Jesus? We have forgotten our value...the price Jesus paid to set us free?
- We fail to count it all joy when we are experiencing life's trials and hardships...a joy not based on circumstances but relationship.
- We have an unclear purpose. A clear purpose creates passion as we begin to see our part in God's plan.
- We live in a society that values political correctness and are afraid that our passion for God will offend others.
- We look to others for acceptance and approval instead of Jesus.
- We have an unbalanced schedule. When we are overworked we tend to lose our passion. We may even develop compassion fatigue and eventually just stop caring.
- We have unconfessed sin and the guilt that comes with it. It is impossible to have passion and guilt at the same time.
- We have an undernourished spirit...the greatest passion killer of all because it is the root of all the others. At its root

passion is a spiritual issue...the heart of the matter. Passion is not restored with money, something physical, something material or a pill...it comes from the heart. If we don't nourish our spirits our hearts will grow cold and hard.

We could go on but you get the idea.

So what are some steps that we can take to become passionate Christians?

1. We must make up our minds that we are going to regain our passion...there is power in a made up mind!
2. We must confess that we have lost our passion. Going through religious motions can dull our spiritual senses and blind us to our own condition. But God can open our eyes!
3. We must take action. God will do His part to increase our passion, but He also expects us to do our part. So what actions can we take to ignite our passion for God?
 - We must thirst for God. Instead of living for fame, fortune, recognition or rewards...live for God. Experience the intense satisfaction of a personal relationship with a holy God. (Psalm 42:1)
 - We must hunger for truth. Refuse to accept mere human opinion or feeling-based experience. But, realize that we cannot be passionate about someone we do not know... what He has done for us and how He has revealed Himself through His Word. (Acts 17:11) We must memorize important passages of scripture and apply what we learned.
 - We must follow Jesus' example of praying constantly and consistently. We cannot imagine a man and woman growing in love without communicating, so prayer cannot be neglected without expecting one's love for God to grow cold. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - We must eliminate the competition. The temptation is to love the world (those things that please our eyes, make us feel good about ourselves, and gratify our flesh). Jesus said it is impossible to have two masters (Matthew 6:24)
 - We must live today with tomorrow in mind. As passionate Christians we know our time is limited...that we will have no second chances. So, we should be compelled to live each day to its fullest...to follow hard on the heels of the very God in whom we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28).
 - We must love others with a Godly passion. The passionate Christian isn't one who has arrived but one who knows where they are going. They demonstrate sincere concern, seek to model unconditional love, and do all they can to point others to heaven. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
 - Lastly, as passionate Christian we must avoid sin so we can possess intimacy with God... know our boundaries. (1 Timothy 6:11)

(continue page 8)



ADULT III SS DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS



A festive group of Senior Adults gathered on Friday, December 15 in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Christmas with fellow believers. The evening was filled with laughter, good food and fellowship. One of the highlights of the evening was the Make It, Bake It or Grow It gift exchange. Participants showed their true colors when they stole a gift from others... all in good fun. There were some very creative and imaginative Seniors as demonstrated by the variety of gifts they provided for the exchange.



OWLS ENJOY CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Members of the OWLS gathered on Saturday, December 9 in the Fellowship Hall for their annual Christmas celebration. A delicious meal was catered by Joe's Bar-beque consisting of chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans and rolls with carrot cake, Italian cream cake and chocolate cake for dessert. A program of beautiful Christmas music was provided by Kimberly and her daughter (daughter and granddaughter of Richard and Pat Bours). Kudos to Jan Gray, Senior Adult Director, and the OWLS Council for preparing for this event and many other activities for senior adults throughout the past year.



AFBC Senior Adult Events:

January:

- **Outreach Bible Study** - Every Tue., 9:30am, Amegy Bank Community Rm; the group is open to individuals of all ages;
- **Piecemakers** - Every Thurs. 10am AFBC - F4; women of all ages are invited to participate;
- **OWLS Council** - January 4, 10:00 am; AFBC Conference Room



Coming Soon:

- **Senior Adult Bible Study Retreat** - Thurs.-Sat. Jan. 25th-27th; Cost: \$30.00



Memory Verse of the Month

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:13-14



"On Fire" (cont. from page 6)

Is this a description of the perfect Christian ...no, but rather a passionate one. Passionate Christians don't have boundless amounts of energy, super-human strength, or superior spirituality. Rather, they are ordinary people who fail, fall, and are tired at the end of the day. But, they have heard from God through His Word, seen the Holy Spirit work in their lives, and have experienced peace, answered prayer, and power and comfort through the Holy Spirit.

Truth to Claim: God desires that we live lives that are passionate for Him.

Personal Application: Make up your mind today to live a life passionate for God ...may others say of you and I, "That Christian is on fire!"

Solo Deo Gloria

Source: Adapted from Kay Mitchell's blog post, January, 2016, on Devotionals for Women

LOL...Laughing Out Loud

"A joyful heart is good medicine..."

Proverbs 17:22a (ESV)

A New Year Prayer For the Elderly

God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
The good fortune to run into the ones that I do,
And the eyesight to tell the difference.

Dieting - New Year Resolutions

2003: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.

2014: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.

2015: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

2016: I will work out 3 days a week.

2017: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

Timely One-Liners

Why did your sister shoot the alarm clock? Because she felt like killing time.

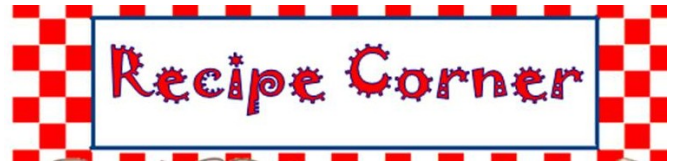
What dog can tell the time? A watch dog!

Why shouldn't you tell secrets when a clock is around? Because time will tell.

When do clocks die? When their time is up.

Why did the man put a clock under his desk? He wanted to work overtime.

What time is it when a clock strikes thirteen? Time to get it fixed.



Gingerbread Pudding Cake

Ingredients:

Nonstick cooking spray

1 14 1/2 ounce package gingerbread mix

1/2 cup milk

1/2 cup raisins or pecans

2 1/4 cups water

3/4 cup packed brown sugar

3/4 cup butter

Vanilla ice cream (optional)

Directions:

Lightly coat the inside of a 3 1/2- or 4-quart slow cooker with cooking spray; set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine gingerbread mix and milk until mix is moistened. Stir in raisins/pecans (batter will be thick).

Spread gingerbread batter evenly in the bottom of the prepared cooker.

In a medium saucepan, combine the water, brown sugar, and butter. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Boil gently, uncovered, for 2 minutes. Carefully pour sugar mixture over batter.

Cover and cook on high-heat setting (do not use low-heat setting) for 2 hours (center may appear moist but will set up as it stands).

Remove liner from cooker, if possible, or turn off cooker. Let cake stand, uncovered, for 45 minutes to cool slightly before serving.

To serve, spoon warm cake into dessert dishes. If desired, serve with vanilla ice cream.

Source: www.bhg/recipe/cake/gingerbread-puddingcake/



SNOW DAY & AFBC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - AND SNOW IT DID! What a blast and an overall super fun day at church on Sunday December 17th! Since it was overcast and in the 60s, the snow really lasted a lot longer and stayed white and didn't get muddy! So awesome! We had over 120 kiddos play in the snow! We hope to make this an annual tradition! The kids really enjoyed it!

We also had lots of other things to do! In the Activity Center, we made Christmas picture frames, decorated Christmas cookies, and created a gift bag to carry all of our candy and goodies in! There was also a photo spot and a coloring station as well as hot dogs with all the fixings and hot cocoa!

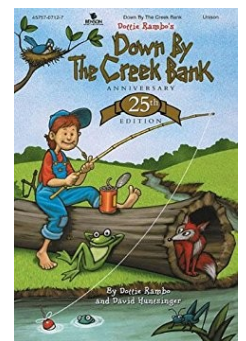
Outside, if you weren't in the snow, we had hayrides and fire truck rides! There was also an advent prayer journey walk-through in the youth center! We closed out the evening with desserts and an interactive music celebration! Our adult choir sang and our handbell choir played beautifully! Our children and youth took part as well! What a blessing! Happy Birthday Jesus! He's the reason for everything! We are blessed!

AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed) - Our AWANA program is going strong! We just enjoyed our last Club night for December! After handbook time and game time, we celebrated Jesus' birth with ice cream sundaes! What a great way to end 2017! Here is the schedule for January and February, 2018: January 3 - No Club/Christmas Break; January 10 - Double Ticket Night/Sticker Night; January 17 - Homemade Shirt Night; January 24 - AWANA Store/Sports Jersey Night; January 31 - Hero Night (Dress like a hero!); February 7 - Grand Prix Workshop 4:30 - 5:45/Stuffed Animal Night; February 14 - Grand Prix Workshop 4:30-5:45 / Valentine's-Wear Red or Pink; February 21 - Grand Prix Early Registration (regular time) /President's Day/Dress Patriotic; February 28 - Grand Prix! - Check in at 5:30 - Race Begins at 6:00!

As you can see, our Grand Prix is right around the corner! We hope to find some men (or women) who can help cut out cars and be at club early on February 7th and February 14th! If not, we may move the workshops to Sunday afternoons! We'll keep you posted with details at club! Grand Prix car kits are on sale now for \$5 at club!

We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30! There are sign-up packets in the foyer, or you can just show up and sign up when you come to club! AWANA is for children 3 years old (by September 1, 2017) up through the 6th grade. Join us!

NEW CHILDREN'S MUSICAL BEGINNING IN JANUARY! The children have been enjoying Sunday evenings in the Activity Center for Bible Study and games, but we will do something different for the spring! We will begin the children's musical "Down by the Creek Bank" -- an oldie but a goodie! We will begin January 7. We will begin meeting in the Youth Center from 6:00 to 7:00. Hope you will join us! This is for children who are in kindergarten through the 6th grades!



Children's Sunday Morning Bible Study- Our children's Bible study classes are going great! It is a joy to present the Christmas story this month! Don't miss out! This hour will help prepare, equip, and refresh your child for their upcoming week! See you there!

Mothers Day Out / Preschool / Full-Time Child Care & Before & After School Care- November was a fun month as we celebrated Thanksgiving! We had thanksgiving meals and parties and mini fall festivals with our little ones! One of our 3-year-olds named Madison was excited about her party! I asked her about it, and she corrected me saying, "It's not a party. It's a 'paw pestibal.'" Can't argue with that! #CUTENESSOVERLOAD! We have so much to be thankful for!

We look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth this month with the children! We will have birthday parties for Jesus and make lots of Christmas crafts! We are blessed!



CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Our choir/band and theater art students presented a concert on Tuesday evening, December 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. All of our students participated! It was fun a night to enjoy watching our students celebrate the birth of Jesus! A special thank you goes out to our band and choir director, Kala Baker!

AFBCS REGISTRATION - Registration for the fall of 2018 will begin next month, and we will be registering for kindergarten through the 12th grades! WOW! For those currently enrolled, we will have a private in-house registration the first two weeks of February. We will open it up to the public on February 15th! New packets will be available February 1st!

AFBCS PREVIEW NIGHT / OPEN HOUSE! - Our school preview night / open house is next month, Thursday evening, February 22nd! The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. After the faculty and students share about our school, guests will be escorted to the classrooms where teachers can go over curriculum and answer questions that they may have. This is a huge night for us! We constantly have calls, emails, and visits from families inquiring about our school, and we are hoping to have lots of prospective students and families attending! We are excited to share what we're all about and introduce to you our exceptional students! We hope you will invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come and join us for this fun evening!

SPRING BOOK FAIR - We will host our 2nd book fair of the school year the week of February 19th! The kids get so excited to attend our book fairs! We hope you will come check it out! This is also a fundraiser for our school! Thank you, Katy Wheeler, for putting this together and for all you do! You are hard to keep up with!

Basketball- The season is flying by! Schedules can be picked up at the desk in the atrium or the school office!



Senior Trip- We will have seniors - our first graduating class - next year! It's crazy to believe, but it's true! Parents of our seniors are putting together pricing and details for a senior trip fall of 2019. Exciting stuff!



BOX TOPS!! - Ms. Aloha put together another Box Tops contest! **The boy and girl who brought in the most box tops were Michael Garcia and Callie Bond!** They received free tickets to play in the snow! We will start our next contest in January! So keep them coming! Thank you so much, church body and school/mdo families, for cutting out and turning in those box tops! It's amazing how quickly they add up! **Thank you so much, Aloha!**

Tyson- Tyson Project A+ product labels can turn every purchase into cash for our school! Every label = 24 cents! For information, visit projectAplus.tyson.com. Start collecting labels today! Ms. Aloha Berger is overseeing this fundraiser as well. Feel free to ask her if you have any questions!



Thoughts from Joshua

What do Baptists believe about the Trinity? First, there are three persons of the Trinity; not things, spirits, modes, or classes...persons. God is a personal God, for He has made us in His image, for relationship. God is one, yet three. At times in scripture, He is referred to in the general sense of God, assuming the fullness of all three persons. Other times each person is distinctly described as separate from the other two. So where is the answer? Is God three or one? He is all three and He is one. If you're still confused, its ok, I don't have it all figured out either, but I do rest in knowing that God is perfect, and his nature, His way, and depth of His being is far beyond my understanding. Its ok for God to be a mystery to us. Having said that, there are things that scripture tells us that we can be sure of when understanding the three persons of the Trinity. The Following are directly from the Baptist Faith and Message (2000).

Regarding the Father: God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Regarding the Son: Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Regarding the Spirit: The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Each are eternal. Each are God. Each serve different roles in the Godhead. Each is full of love for us. God the Spirit, convicts and empowers us to repentance and faith in God the Son, who has come to atone for our sins, so that we may have access to God the Father. So who do we worship? God...but which one? In short, all. However, God the Father has bestowed upon Christ the Name that is above all names, and the Spirit preaches Christ to us. So it seems that the Trinity makes special emphasis to us that Jesus be central to our worship. I would argue that God wants us to lift Jesus high, but I would also deeply encourage a more profound sense of awe at the depth of God, the uniqueness of the three Persons, and perfect unity of God as ONE.

Arcadia First Baptist Church

Jerl Watkins
Interim Pastor

Stephen Wilhite
Associate Pastor of Worship

Joshua Doss
Associate Pastor of Youth

Reggie Crosby
Minister

Ken Haynes
Minister

Julie Beanland
Director Children's Ministries
Administrator's Assistant
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OR CURRENT OCCUPANT



Youth Camp at Pineywoods: July 16-20

\$50 Deposit due ASAP. On January 2nd Pineywoods opened their registration and we registered those who had already signed up through us. You may still sign up but now a waiting list will be opened and you may register as spots become available. As long as the camp has spots available, we will add campers, up until the final deadline of June 1. Contact Joshua to check availability.

Total cost is \$270. Second payment is \$120 and is due May 1. Final balance of \$100 is due June 1. Forms are available on the table outside the Youth Center.

Jan 21 - Youth Outing: Guys Paintball and Girls Escape Room. \$30 due by Jan 14. Leave at 11:45am.

