



THE DOVE

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Growing
God's
Kingdom
Together

STAFF WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Interim Pastor

Tuesday, Thursday &
Sunday
8:30am-4pm

Associate Pastor of Worship

Monday—Thursday
8:30am—5pm

Childhood

Ministry Director

Monday—Thursday
8:30am—5pm

Financial Administrator

Monday—Friday
8:30am—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
6pm Children's Musi-
cal rehearsal
6pm Worship

A Word from Our Interim Pastor

Dear Church Family,

One of my favorite verses in all scripture is found in John 16:33, where Jesus said, “...in the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Now, there are those who believe that the second phrase cancels out the first, so if you have enough faith, you won't have any problems in this world. Not only is that wrong, it twists what Jesus said. What it does mean is that if we are in Christ, He will always be there for us, no matter what comes our way, and in Him we will ultimately be victorious. So, all people, including all Christians, will have problems in this world. However, unlike the rest of the world, those who are in Christ have *a very present help in times of trouble* (Psalm 46:1). Certainly, there were none closer to the Lord than those who wrote down the scriptures, as they were inspired by God himself, and yet we find phrases in scripture like, “*I am weary with my sighing; every night I make my bed swim; I dissolve my couch with my tears*” (Psalm 6:6). It is obvious here and in other places in scripture that the Psalmist and others did not have a life which was free of problems and heartache, but they knew above all, that God was always with them.

There is an interesting scripture found in Psalm 56:8, which is, “*You have taken account of my wanderings. Put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?*” This scripture reflects a custom of the people of the ancient world. When they experienced tragedy, they would actually collect their tears and put them in a bottle, and as they looked at the bottle of tears, they would be reminded of the difficult times they had experienced in the past, and this helped them to appreciate the good times and not take life for granted. The Psalmist is saying that his tears are also in God's bottle, and as God looks at them, he is reminded of all the troubles the Psalmist has been through, and has not forgotten him. For all of us in Christ who are hurting, we know there is a God who loves us, who remembers us, and who cares about us. *He will never leave us nor forsake us*, and we can *cast all our cares on Him, because He cares for us*. Those are promises from the Lord, and He always keeps his promises.

Sue and I had a wonderful time at my granddaughter's wedding, and also enjoyed visiting with some of her family in Palestine, Texas, and some of my family in Memphis, Tenn. Long trip, short visit, and we were glad to get back home, and glad to see all of you in church on Sunday. We are looking forward to being a part of all that God has in store for our church.

Grace and Peace,

Jerl



Remembering Billy Graham

I was a sophomore in high school when I learned that a Billy Graham crusade was coming to my hometown of San Antonio. I had heard of Billy Graham all my life and had some huge expectations as I headed to the Alamodome to hear him speak. Some big names were to lead worship before he spoke. I can't remember all the artists, but Amy Grant was one of them. The arena was packed as Billy Graham took the stage. To my surprise, he didn't deliver some grand oration. He stood stationary behind a pulpit and delivered a straight-forward gospel presentation similar to what I was used to hearing from the pastor of my church week in and week out. When he finished his message, he offered an invitation. I watched astonished as people came pouring down the aisles toward the floor of the stadium. I was actually confused as to what was going on. Never had I seen someone preach a simple gospel message that resulted in hundreds of people responding in that way!

William Franklin Graham Jr. (Billy) was born on November 7, 1918 and was known for the crusades he held around the world. In these crusades he challenged world views shaped by society and culture by presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ. These crusades lasting from 1947 to 2005 along with other outreach endeavors including radio and television ministry allowed Billy the opportunity to present the good news to as many as 2.2 billion people in more than 185 countries and territories. He preached the gospel to more people in person than any man in Christianity's history. Graham was a spiritual advisor to several presidents during his lifetime and was particularly close with Lyndon B. Johnson. He played a large role in desegregation and partnered with Martin Luther King Jr. on occasion in advocating racial integration. In fact, he even bailed King out of jail once. Billy Graham was on the Gallop's list of most admired men and women on 61 occasions- more than any other person in history.

Billy was born in a farm house in Charlotte, North Carolina to a dairy farmer and his wife. He was raised on the dairy farm along with his three siblings. Though he was brought up in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, but would later be ordained as a Southern Baptist Minister. Graham was once turned down from membership in a local youth group for being "too worldly." After

that he was convinced to meet with evangelist Mordecai Ham. Billy was 16 years old when Ham led him to Christ at a revival in Charlotte. He attended college at Bob Jones University and Florida Bible Institute where he came to believe that the Bible was the infallible Word of God. Graham married Ruth Bell and remained married to her for 64 years until Ruth died at age 83. They had five children together, 19 grandchildren, and 41 great-grandchildren, many of which have become leaders of large ministries. His son, Franklin Graham, is the president and CEO of both the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, the organization that has helped our area on multiple occasions with disaster relief and is the parent organization of the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry our church participates in each fall.

Billy Graham served in a number of ministry positions ranging from Bible college president and chaplain in the Armed Forces, to an evangelist and revival preacher. He passed away on February 28, 2018 at the age of 99 and will never be forgotten for the difference he made in our world. I will never forget the lesson I learned from Billy Graham. God used a small-town kid from a dairy farm in North Carolina to take His message of salvation to billions around our world. We don't need to be the most talented and attractive people to make a difference in our world for Christ. In fact, the Bible tells us that God likes to use the weak and foolish things of this world because His strength is shown great in our weaknesses (1 Cor. 1:27; 2 Cor. 12:9). We just need to be faithful to share his message of hope and seek His strength as we do so. I love you and love being your Worship Pastor!

For His Glory,
Stephen Wilhite

Unknown. "Billy Graham." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 10 Mar. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Graham.



Growing
God's
Kingdom 3

April 8th begins our third year of GGK3. Please pray about your commitment to Growing God's Kingdom here at AFBC. Commitment Cards are available in the Foyer and the Church Office.



SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP

DATE	Total
03/04	242
03/11	259
03/18	261
Easter 03/25	457

Average 305

Coming Events in April & May

- April 7 8am Churchwide work day. Everyone is welcome to help.
- April 9 Reports due in Church Office for Quarterly Church Business Conference
- April 10 6pm Church Council Mtg in Youth Center; Budget Finance Mtg Conf Rm
- April 15 8am Men's Breakfast; 9am Prayer Time for Mission Santa Fe; 4pm In reach/Outreach Visitation; 7pm Quarterly Church Business Conference
- April 29 11:30am Prayer Time for Mission Santa Fe; Pre-Teen Camp Bake Sale
- May 1 6:30pm AFBC School Sports Banquet
- May 3 National Day of Prayer—Community Prayer 12noon @ Santa Fe City Hall
- May 5 7pm-9pm Girls Night Out in F6—"Chicks, Chocolate & Comedy"
- May 15 Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Annual Spring Salad Supper—Activity Center

CHURCH FAMILY FOCUS
Sunday School/Bible Study
Attendance

March 04	
Adults	151
Youth	20
Children	24
Pre-School	17
TOTAL	212
March 11	
Adults	140
Youth	14
Children	19
Pre-School	10
TOTAL	183
March 18	
Adults	145
Youth	11
Children	18
Pre-School	12
TOTAL	186
March 25	
Adults	168
Youth	15
Children	26
Pre-School	22
TOTAL	231
S.S. MONTHLY AVERAGE	203



We are collecting items for Samaritan's Purse. During the month of April we are asking for 'new' hygiene items for boys and girls. Place your donations in the basket in the Foyer. Contact Mrs. Betty Clayton or the Church Office for more information. Thanks to everyone who makes this project a great success!

Only a Texan would understand



Wednesday Night Cook Teams Needed

Kim McCurdy is seeking additional Wednesday Night Cook Teams (monthly rotation). If you're interested and need more information, please contact Kim McCurdy or the church office @ 409-925-2825.



AFBC Goal \$3,000 Rec'd \$4,051

H.I.S. Ministry Donation
H.I.S. Ministry is collecting **deodorant** (for men and women) during the month of April. Place your donated items in the "H.I.S. Ministry" basket in the Church Foyer.

GOD'S TITHES & OFFERINGS MARCH 2018

Budget Receipts		Building Fund GGK3	
Reporting 3/04/18	\$ 26,228.36	Reporting 3/04/18	\$ 5,810.18
Reporting 3/11/18	\$ 14,025.67	Reporting 3/11/18	\$ 2,595.12
Reporting 3/18/18	\$ 9,831.75	Reporting 3/18/18	\$ 1,505.16
Reporting 3/25/18	\$ 26,869.75	Reporting 3/25/18	\$ 10,589.76
Budget Receipts (as of 03/31/18)	\$ 76,955.53	Total GGK3 (for March)	\$ 20,500.22
March 2018 Monthly Budget Needs	\$ 56,446.12	Balance (AS OF 03/31/18)	\$ 4,043.32












Deacons on Call
 4/01 Doug Anderson/ John Rothermel
 4/08 Gene Newton/Loran Lance
 4/15 Will Leach/Doug McDowell
 4/22 Kelly Creech/Mark Higginbotham
 4/29 Sammy Belcher/John Rothermel

April 2018

GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM

AFBCS/MDO Events

4/2 - AFBCS/MDO Teacher In-service/
 Student Holiday
 4/6 - In-Service/Holiday; 6pm School Auction
 4/10 - 4/13 AFBCS Achievement Testing

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER SUNDAY Children Flower the Cross 9:15AM SS/BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM Worship Service—WC NO EVENING SERVICES 	2 AFBCS/MDO Student Holiday 6pm Handbell's Rehearsal—TYC 7pm Men's Bible Study - F4	3 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Amegy Bank Community Room	4 12pm Ministerial Alliance lunch-BB 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm AWANA - Wear Mix/Match -AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:15pm Women's Bible Study - 203 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 	5 Set-up for School Auction 10am OWLS Council — Conf. Rm 10am-2p AFBC Peacemakers-F4 6:30pm Pratsse Bard Rehearsal— cancelled 	6 6:00pm School Auction	7 8am-4pm Churchwide Workday @ AFBC - Everyone Welcome
8 GKG 3rd Year Begins 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service-WC 4:30pm Deacon's Mtg. -CR 4:45pm Kids Leadership Team (KTL) 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups -AC 6pm Kid's Musical Practice—TYC 6pm Evening Worship - Worship Ctr	9 6pm Handbell's rehearsal 7pm Men's Bible Study - F6 CHURCH CONFERENCE REPORTS DUE by COB 	10 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Amegy Bank Community Room 6pm Budget & Finance Mtg. -TYC 6pm Church Council — CR 	11 11:30am Chamber luncheon 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm AWANA's - silly socks -AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:15pm Women's Bible Study - F6 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 	12 8am - OWLS Trip - Bluebonnets & Blue Bell 10am-2p AFBC Peacemakers-F4	13	14 2pm - OWLS Trip The Grand 1894 Opera House - "Amazing Grace"
15 Outreach Sunday 8am Men's Breakfast 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9am Prayer Time for Mission Santa Fe 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service-WC 4:00pm Inreach/Outreach Visitation 4:45pm Kids Leadership Team (KTL) 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups -AC 6pm Kid's Musical Practice—TYC 6pm Evening Worship - Worship Ctr. 7pm Church Business Conf.-WC	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6pm HANDBELL'S REHEARSAL 7pm Men's Bible Study - F6 	17 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Amegy Bank Community Room	18 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm AWANA's - wear dots/stripes -AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:15pm Women's Bible Study - F6 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 	19 10am-2p AFBC Peacemakers-F4 Last Day to order Spaghetti Dinner to support AFBC School High School Prom	20	21
22 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service-WC 12:15pm Senior Adult Meal-BBQ-F4 4:15 Kids Leadership Team (KTL) 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups -AC 5:30pm Kid's Musical Practice—WC 6pm Evening Worship - F4	23 6pm Handbell's rehearsal 7pm Men's Bible Study - F6 	24 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Amegy Bank Community Room 5pm-6pm Spaghetti Dinner pick up	25 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm AWANA- wear earth colors -AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:15pm Women's Bible Study - F6 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC 	26 10am-2p AFBC Peacemakers-F4	27 7pm Youth Rally @ FBC Alta Loma	28 8am-5pm Cheer Clinic
29 Preteen Camp Bake Sale 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service-WC 11:30am Prayer Time for Mission SF 4:15 Kids Leadership Team (KTL) 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups -AC 5:30pm Kid's Musical Practice—WC 6pm Evening Worship - F4	30 6pm Handbell's rehearsal 7pm Men's Bible Study - F6 					

2018 Galveston County Fair & Rodeo April 13th — 21st

Deacons on Call
 5/06 Doug Anderson/Loran Lance
 5/13 Gene Newton/Doug McDowell
 5/20 Will Leach/Mark Higginbotham
 5/27 Kelly Creech/John Rothermel

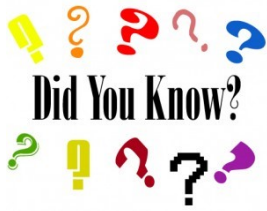
May 2018

GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM

AFBCS/MDO Events

5/10 - 6:30pm AFBCS Spring Concert—*Worship Center*
 5/17 10am MDO Preschool Graduation—*WC*
 5/22 & 5/24 - 9am-2pm MDO Last Session
 5/28 AFBCS/Childcare Inservice/Student Holiday
 5/30 AFBCS Field Day
 5/31 AFBCS Last Day of School/11am Early Release/9amKindergarten Grad/10am EOY Awards

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>6 NO Kids Leadership Team (KLT) 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—WC 4:30pm Deacon's Mtg. —CR 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups —AC 6pm Kid's Musical "Down by the Creek Bank"—WC</p>	<p>7 YOUTH TX Roadhouse dinner pick up 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL 7pm Men's Bible Study - F6</p>	<p>1 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @Anegy/Bank Com. Rm 6:30pm AFBC School Sports Banquet—AC</p>	<p>2 12pm Ministerial Alliance lunch-BB 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm AWANA's - Wear Camo AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:15pm Women's Bible Study - F6 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study - WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>3 National Day of Prayer 10am O.W.L.S. Council Mtg. - CR 12pm Community Prayer @SF City Hall Gazebo</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8am-4pm Churchwide Workday @ AFBC 10am-12pm Musical Rehearsal—WC 7pm-9pm <i>Girls Night Out</i> —F4 "Chicks, Chocolate, Comedy"</p>
<p>13 Mother's Day-Baby Dedication 9:15AM SS/BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 4:45 Kids Leadership Team (KLT) 6pm EVENING SERVICE</p>	<p>14 5pm set up tables & chairs for WMU supper—AC 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL 7pm Men's Bible Study - F6</p>	<p>8 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Anegy Comm. Rm 6pm Boot Camp LH-AC 6pm Budget & Finance Mtg. —TYC 6pm Church Council</p>	<p>9 11:30 Chamber Luncheon 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm AWANA's - Duct Tape - AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:15pm Women's Bible Study - F6 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study - WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>10 10am-2p AFBC Peacemakers-F4 6:30pm - AFBCS Spring Concert</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 7pm-11p AFBCS PROM—Hidden Palms</p>
<p>20 Graduate Sunday 8am Men's Bkfst. — F4 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—Worship Ctr. 12pm Lunch for Graduates—F4 4:45pm Kids Leadership Team (KLT) 5:30pm Baccalaureate 6:00pm Evening Worship</p>	<p>21 6PM HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Anegy Bank Community Room 6:00pm WMU Annual Spring Gathering & Salad Supper—AC 6:00pm MDO Mtg-F6</p>	<p>16 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm AWANA's - Vacation Shirts- AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:15pm Women's Bible Study - F6 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study - WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>17 10am-2p AFBC Peacemakers-F4 10am - MDO Graduation - WC</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>27 GOD FAMILY COUNTRY Memorial Sunday 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 Adventure—TYC 6pm Evening Worship - Worship Ctr</p>	<p>28 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE & SCHOOL CLOSED</p>	<p>22 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Anegy Bank Community Room</p>	<p>23 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm AWANA's -Awards - Uniform AC 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study - WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>24 10am-2p AFBC Peacemakers-F4</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Alvin Graduation 2pm LSCS Graduation—Livingstones Manvel Graduation</p>
<p>29 GOD FAMILY COUNTRY Memorial Sunday 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 Adventure—TYC 6pm Evening Worship - Worship Ctr</p>	<p>29 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Anegy Bank Community Room</p>	<p>30 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study - WC 7:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal-wc</p>	<p>31 LAST DAY OF AFBC SCHOOL 10am-2p AFBC Peacemakers-F4 6pm TC/LM Graduation</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>



One in five American adults raised in religiously mixed homes

NOVEMBER 2, 2016

By Kimberly Winston / Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In another sign indicating the United States is a diverse country, a new poll reveals one in five American adults grew up in a family with more than one religion.

The poll, conducted by the Pew Research Center, also found most of those raised this way had one Protestant or Catholic parent and one religiously unaffiliated—sometimes called a “None”—parent.

“To be sure, religiously mixed backgrounds remain the exception in America,” the report on the poll states. “But the number of Americans raised in interfaith homes appears to be growing.”

That’s because more Millennials—27 percent—are raised in religiously mixed homes than any other generation to date. And about the same number of young people—24 percent—say they were raised by at least one parent who did not have a religious affiliation.

The poll also revealed: People raised by at least one parent with no religious affiliation are more likely to be unaffiliated themselves (60 percent)—the same retention rate as those raised by Catholic parents.

Children with two Catholic parents are more likely to remain Catholic (62 percent). But those raised with only one Catholic parent have a 50-50 chance of being Catholic as adults.

Eighty percent of those raised in a Protestant-only home remain Protestants—but that number drops to 56 percent if one parent is a religious None. In either case, there is a lot of “religious switching” in Protestant families, as only one-quarter of those raised by at least one Protestant parent remain in that parent’s denomination.

More people say their mother, rather than their father was mostly responsible for their religious upbringing, and those raised in mixed-faith homes are more likely to identify with their mother’s faith.

The study was conducted among 5,000 U.S. adults and has a margin of error of 2.0 percentage points.

Source: www.baptiststandard.com/new/faith-culture

FIXING MY EYES ON JESUS

By Anne Graham Lotz
January 20, 2013

When I read the news, I have the distinct impression that our world is unraveling! Economically, politically, environmentally, socially, religiously, morally and culturally, we seem to be in turmoil. The uncertainty has stoked fears that have produced one of the highest suicide rates in years. To be honest, my heart sinks as I look at the prognosis for 2013 if we do not turn to God in repentance of sin, or if Jesus does not return. Humanly speaking, we seem to be increasingly hopeless and helpless as we dig a deeper and deeper pit into which we ourselves are falling.

But I have heard God’s voice in no uncertain terms speaking to me from Psalm 46. He has commanded me not to lose my focus. Like setting my spiritual compass, He has challenged me to fix my eyes on Jesus so that regardless of all that swirls around me, my heart is steadfast, trusting in Him!

READ PSALM 46

I. DURING NATURAL STORMS

Psalm 46:1-7

Name some environmental disasters that took place in 2012. (2017)

Focus on Him

Verse 1

Give three characteristics of God during times of natural storms, and describe what each one means to you, from Psalm 46:1.

How did Noah experience God’s provision in the midst of the Flood? See Genesis 7:11-16.

How did Elijah experience God’s provision during the famine? Read 1 Kings 17:2-6.

How have you been personally affected by environmental storms?

How have you experienced God’s provision in the midst of them?

Focus on Hope

Verses 2-3

Name the four environmental disasters referred to in Psalm 46:2-3. Give each a contemporary description. Could environmental disasters be sent by God as warnings, or even the implementation, of His judgment? See 1 Kings 16:33 along with 17:1; 2 Kings 8:1; Jeremiah 11:21-23; Revelation 6:7-8, 7:1-2 and 8:5.



Continued on page 7 >



Continued from page 6

Focus on Hope (Cont'd)

When disasters strike, whether these are His judgment or not, how are we to respond, according to 2 Chronicles 7:13-14? In 1 Kings 19:11-18, how did God use storms to refocus Elijah on His Person and His purpose?

Focus on Heaven

Verses 4-7

Compare the Psalmist's description of Heaven in Psalm 46:4-5 with Revelation 22:1-5. What similarities do you find? What to you is the most meaningful aspect of Heaven? How does Psalm 46:6 describe our world today? When trouble surrounds us, what does Jesus tell us to do in John 14:1-3? What practical steps do you need to take in order to keep your focus during times of natural storms?

II. DURING NATIONAL STORMS

Psalm 46:8-11

What national storms are brewing in our world today? Name the most obvious ones.

Focus on His Power

Verses 8-9

Who does the Psalmist indicate is behind national storms? How is the Psalmist's perspective affirmed by Isaiah 46:8-11? Colossians 1:16? How does this change your perspective? See Romans 8:28.

Focus on His Person

Verse 10

Who is God? See Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:6, 14-15; John 1:17-18, 3:16, 4:24, 5:18, 26; and Revelation 1:8. What phrase is repeated in verse 10? What does this mean to you? How was God exalted in Exodus 15:1-18? See also 2 Samuel 22:47-51; 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Job 36:22, 37:14-24; Isaiah 2:17, 6:1. Give phrases. Besides keeping our focus, how does the Prophet Micah say we are to respond to who God is? Read Micah 6:6-8.

Focus on His Position

Verse 11

Why do you think this verse is repeated twice in this Psalm (see verse 7 also)? How is the thought in verse 11 amplified in the following verses, and how does each one encourage you? Psalm 2:1-6, 10-12, 37:1-7, 61:1-5, 62:1-2; Isaiah 40:21-31; Zechariah 14:1-9.

At the beginning of this new year, I know that if I am not careful, I will get out of focus. The busyness and responsibilities of family and ministry will distract me, the natural and national storms will distress me, the memories of past wounds and failures will depress me. I know. So I must be intentional about fixing my eyes on Jesus. Every day I need to make the time to read His Word, listen to His voice, apply and live out His principles, obey His commands ... every day

... if I'm to maintain not only a vibrant relationship with Him, but a healthy equilibrium mentally, spiritually and emotionally. Would you join me in fixing your eyes on Jesus, too? Every day. Make this your New Year's resolution for 2013.

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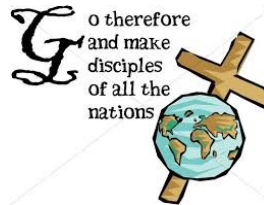
billygraham.org/decision-magazine/january-2013/fixing-my-eyes-on-jesus/

Missionary Moments

Kelly and Brandy Parrish
TIMNATH, COLORADO



For our missionary prayer time today, we head out West to Timnath, Colorado, which is on the east side of the larger city of Fort Collins. That's where Kelly and Brandy Parrish went to start a new church called Living Rock Church. They moved from home in Texas to a place where they knew nobody. But as they made this big change, they also prayed for God to give them a great love for the new people they would meet in Colorado. The Parrishes come up with lots of ways to get to know the people in Timnath. They have invited people in for southern-style sweet tea and taken people fly fishing. They gave out Bible verses with candy at Halloween. At Easter they held Easter egg hunts. Gradually people are coming to faith in Christ and Living Rock Church is growing, one person and one decision for Christ at a time. We are supporting Kelly and Brandy in their ministry through our church's Cooperative Program giving. Now, let's pray for God to bless them as they serve Him. And let's ask that many will come to faith in Christ.



OWLS ENJOY POTLUCK SUPPER AND MUSIC CONCERT

OWLS and their guests enjoyed a relaxing evening as they gathered for their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 8th in the Fellowship Hall at 5 pm. The evening began with a delicious potluck dinner provided by attendees. There was a great variety of delectable dishes to try and since we didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings we all tried a little of everything. In addition to warm fellowship, the group enjoyed an old time musical concert provided by Robert Williams.





TEXAS BAPTIST MEN UPDATE



Submitted by Gene Wofford

The Texas Baptist Men (TBM) Board of Directors met February 16 and 17. I was privileged to be there and hear the various ministry reports. Since our Church supports TBM some of the reports might be of interest to you.

TBM is most widely known for Disaster Relief Ministry. TBM was involved with 21 total responses and three in other states. In Hurricane Harvey alone TBM provided 349,266 volunteer hours. In 2017 TBM provided 33,379 volunteer days; served 1,605,515 meals; provided 30,032 showers; washed and dried 16,345 loads of laundry; gave out 51,549 boxes, did 2,941 rebuild projects; 2,577 mud out jobs and 1,116 chainsaw jobs; and provided 2,511 heavy equipment hours. During all this there were 15,294 ministry contacts that led to 265 professions of faith and 5,592 bibles handed out.

What I didn't know was that FEMA requires disaster relief matching funds from the State of Texas. Credit is given for "contributions in kind" which includes volunteer hours. So the logged volunteer hours in Hurricane Harvey saved the State of Texas at least \$8.4 Million in matching funds for disaster relief, not to mention what homeowners and others saved.

Wish there was space to more than mention some other areas.

There were amazing reports of TBM Water Ministry work in Peru, Ghana, Kenya, Philippines, Honduras and the Navaho Nation in New Mexico. Hygiene training has been added to water well drilling and water purification because of the lack of knowledge of locals. Also training was provided in making soap from local materials. This not only allows better local hygiene, but also allows local women to generate income from soap sales.

TBM Restorative Justice Ministry is very active with ministry to both inmates, families of inmates and prison guards and staff. Victims Relief is a growing area of ministry.

Rebuild is a new area for TBM. This involves long term recovery projects rebuilding disaster destroyed homes and buildings. Presently Rebuild Projects are in progress at Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy; University Baptist Church in Clear Lake; Navy Housing at the Port of Orange and First Baptist Church in Rockport.

What's New at the Movies?

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

Genre: Drama

Audience: All ages

Distributor: Lionsgate Films **Rating:** PG



Director: Andre Erwin, Jon Erwin

Starring: J. Michael Finley, Brody Rose, Dennis Quaid, Madeline Carroll, Trace Adkins, Priscilla C. Shirer, Jason Burkey

Summary:

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE is the story behind the most-played Christian contemporary song, "I Can Only Imagine" by the band MercyMe. Since he was a young boy, Bart Millard's father, Arthur, was emotionally and physically abusive. When Bart isn't able to fulfill his own father's dream of being a football star, Bart enters the world of music. Eventually Bart becomes so fed up with his father, he leaves for good and joins a band. The band struggles to find success. Bart realizes he needs to return home and somehow find resolution with his father, who's dying. What Bart doesn't know is that his father has found Jesus.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE is a powerful, heart-rending story of redemption and reconciliation found in Jesus Christ. Dennis Quaid is terrific as Bart's father. Bart Millard described his father as a monster and someone he hated, but who transformed into a man and who became his best friend and a role model. Void of objectionable content, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE warrants only a light caution for younger children because of tastefully executed abusive violence.

Source: www.movieguide.org/reviews/i-can-only-imagine.html

Arcadia FBC Senior Adult



April

- ◆ OWLS Council – **April 5**, 10:00am in the AFBC Conference Room
- ◆ OWLS Monthly Meeting – **Bluebonnets and Blue Bell – Thursday, April 12**, leave at 8:00 am; sign-up sheet in the church foyer.
- ◆ Piecemakers - **every Thursday**, 10:00am in AFBC F-2 & F3; women of all ages are invited to participate
- ◆ Outreach Bible Study – **every Tuesday**, 9:30am @ Amegy Bank Community Room; the group is open to individuals of all ages.
- ◆ **AFBC Senior Adult Day – April 22** followed by Barbeque meal with all the trimmings.

Coming Soon

- ◆ **May By The Bay – May 7-10**; Texas Baptist Encampment, Palacios; this is a great time of Bible study, preaching, music and lots of fun. Early reservations begin January 20th. There are packets on the table in the foyer with all the information.
- ◆ **Senior Adult Trip to Nova Scotia – Fall of 2018** – flyers and sign-up sheet in the church foyer.



LOL...Laughing Out Loud

"A Joyful heart is good medicine..."
Proverbs 17:22a (ESV)



Makeup

I was in the bathroom, putting on my makeup, under the watchful eyes of my young granddaughter, as I'd done many times before. After I applied my lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye...

Happy Birthday

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 72. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

Bedtime

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

The Good Old Days

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

Like God

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

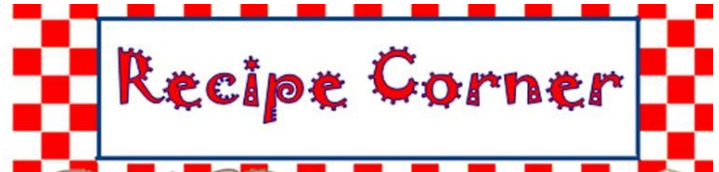
Determining One's Age

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6." (WOW! I really like this one – it says I'm only '38'!)

Babies

A second grader came home from school and told her grandmother "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting." She said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

Source: Jd Holland's Facebook post



MISSISSIPPI POT ROAST (The BEST EVER Pot Roast)

Ingredients:

- 1 (3-4 pounds) chuck roast
- 1 packet ranch dressing mix
- 1 packet au jus gravy mix
- ¼ cup butter
- 4-5 pepperoncini peppers

Instructions:

1. Place roast in the slow cooker and sprinkle the top with the ranch dressing mix and the au jus mix. (I whisk mixes together in a bowl and then sprinkle over the roast.)
2. Place peppers on top of the mixes, and add the butter.
3. Cook over low heat for 8 hours.
4. Serve with noodles, rice or mashed potatoes. Enjoy!

Note:

Do not add any water or broth to this! It will make enough liquid as it cooks.

Source: Belle of the Kitchen at <https://belleofthekitchen.com/2016/04/13/mississippi-pot-roast/>

Submitted by Kay Mitchell



Memory Verse of the Month



*Therefore we do not lose heart.
Though outwardly we are wasting away,
yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
For our light and momentary troubles are
achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.
So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen,
since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

1 Corinthians 4:16-18

AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed)



Our AWANA Clubs had our AWANA Grand Prix Wednesday evening, February 28, and it was a blast! We ended up with 29 cars entering the big race! The kids worked so hard on their cars! Each one was unique! We had chili dogs with all the fixings! Stephen Wilhite led a devotional while the design judges were trying to narrow down their picks to *only three* of our fabulous 29 cars! (I'm glad I didn't have that job!) But thank you, Richard and Pat Bours for judging the cars for design! You are much appreciated! **The winners for design were: 1st place - Trey Coffey; 2nd place - Hope Wilhite; and 3rd place - Haley Higginbotham. The fastest cars on the track were: 1st place - Grant Eckenrode; 2nd place - Jake Beard; and 3rd place**



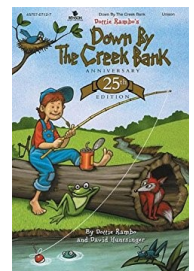
- **Trey Coffey! Congratulations to our winners!** The evening was so much fun!

Our theme nights for April are: April 1 - Fashion Disaster Night; April 11 - Silly Sock Night; April 18 - AWANA Store and Dots and Stripes Night; April 25 - Creation Day - Wear earth tone colors (blues, browns, and greens).

AWANA Clubs 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! AWANAs is for children 3 years old (by September 1, 2017) up through the 6th grade. It's never too late to join us!



Children's Spring Musical - I am amazed at how quickly the kids are learning this musical! They are working on solos and memorizing skits! We are having a great time on Sunday evenings! **We will present the musical on May 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** We have between 25 and 30 children participating! We are meeting in the Youth Center from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings. There are lots of solos and speaking parts! It's not too late to join us! This is going to be a lot of fun! It's for children who are in kindergarten through the 6th grades! Hope to see you there!



Preteen Camp Registration - We have 20 campers registered to date, and I am expecting a few more in this week! Registration forms are available! If you plan to attend, please go ahead and grab a registration form and turn it in with the \$50 registration fee. I will continue to register children as forms are turned in and as space is available! We will head to Pineywoods Baptist Encampment again this summer! We will leave on **Saturday, July 28, and return on Wednesday, August 1, 2018!** The cost for camp this summer is \$265 per person! The price goes up June 30!

The kids raised \$522 profit from our Texas Roadhouse rib fundraiser!! We are having a **BBQ sandwich fundraiser** on March 25, and we will have our last fundraiser, a **bake sale**, on April 29! Kids, if you need help financially to go to camp, please be a part of these fundraisers! Looking forward to a great week of camp!

Children's Sunday Morning Bible Study- Our children's Bible study classes are going great! Don't miss out! This hour will help prepare, equip, and refresh your child for their upcoming week! We meet each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15! See you there!

Mothers Day Out / Preschool / Full-Time Child Care & Before & After School Care-

We have another great month planned! In April we will learn about Spring, how things grow, and pets! Wow, hard to believe the school year is almost over! Time flies!

Registration for summer and fall 2018 began in February! Some classes are already filled! CRAZY! Registration is now open to the public! Spaces will continue to fill up quickly. We already have 115 registered for the summer and 140 registered for the fall! Don't wait to register if you are planning on enrolling for a certain program. New packets are now available! Please call the children's ministry office if you have any questions! (409.925.2825, Ext. 2).



AFBCS REGISTRATION - Registration for the fall of 2018 continues! We are expecting a strong registration for the 2018-2019 school year! **We already have 106 registered! We are registering kindergarten through the 12th grades!** New packets are now available! Please contact the school office if you have any questions! (409.925.2825, Ext. 2) .

TEST DRIVE FUNDRAISER - We held our first AFBCS Chrysler's Cars 4 Classrooms on March 7, 2018 to help raise funds for our school! Final numbers are not yet in! I will update the total raised in the next newsletter! Thank you so much for coming out to test drive a car! We saw many church members out there to help and to test drive! You are appreciated!



AFBCS AUCTION - Our 7th Annual AFBCS Auction is almost here! It's Friday evening, April 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for this evening of fun! We will have a silent auction during dinner and a live auction afterwards! **Here are ways you can help: PURCHASE** a ticket to our auction. We will have a catered meal by Texas Roadhouse! They will serve ribs AND portabella mushroom chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, and tea. Adult tickets (\$12) and children's tickets (\$7) are on sale now! **INVITE** family and friends to the auction! Be sure to give them plenty of notice to purchase their tickets! **DONATE** an item or service. You can put together a theme basket, donate gift cards, sports memorabilia, a vacation getaway, tickets to theme parks, homemade items such as woodwork or quilts, etc., or even a dessert! If you plan to donate an item or service, please pick up a donation sheet and write on it what you will donate and turn that back in to us as soon as possible. You may begin bringing up items as soon as you get them ready! (Of course, if you are donating a dessert, you may bring that up the day of the auction!) **Please try to bring up donated items by Friday, March 30, 2018! COME!** It is really a great time! You will eat, laugh, and enjoy good company, as well as help raise money for our school! **The deadline to purchase a ticket to eat is March 30, 2018! Hope to see you there!**



MAY ACTIVITIES - We have a lot planned for May! We will have our **sports banquet** on May 1, our **spring concert** on May 10, our **first PROM** on May 12, **field day** on May 30, and **kindergarten graduation** and **end-of-year awards** on May 31! Wow, God is good! End of year 6 is almost here!



BOX TOPS!! - Thank you so much for taking the time to cut out those box tops and turn them in! They add up quickly! So keep them coming! Thank you so much, church body and school/mdo families, for participating! **And thank you so much, Aloha, for keeping track of all those tiny pieces of paper!**

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!



Arcadia First Baptist Church

Jerl Watkins
Interim Pastor

Stephen Wilhite
Associate Pastor of Worship

Reggie Crosby
Minister

Ken Haynes
Minister

Julie Beanland
Director Children's Ministries
Administrator's Assistant
AFB Christian School

Tammy Berryhill
Financial Administrator

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OR CURRENT OCCUPANT



Youth Activities.....

- April 8 Last day to order your t-shirt to support the Youth Fundraiser for Memphis Mission trip—
"Street Reach Ministries". See Lynda Hart for information.
- April 27 7pm Youth Rally @ FBC Alta Loma—no charge to attend
- May 7 Pick up date for Texas Roadhouse Dinner—Fundraiser for Memphis Mission trip
- May 20 10:30am Graduate Sunday Morning Worship Service; 12noon Graduate Luncheon F4;
5:30pm Santa Fe Baccalaureate
- July 1—7 Youth Mission Trip to Memphis, TN "Street Reach Ministries"
- July 16—20 Youth Camp @ PineyWoods: total cost \$270, forms available on table outside Youth Center.
Deposit of \$50 should already have been paid
Second payment \$120 due May 1st
Balance of \$100 due June 1st



- Coming Soon.....keep your eyes open for ways to support our Youth*
- Spirit Night @ Gringos / Casa Ole / Chick-fil-a
 - Sonic coupon cards
 - Youth bake sale