



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 Musical rehearsal
6pm Worship

A Word from Our Interim Pastor

Well, last Sunday (April 15th) I completed the sermon series on 1 Corinthians 13; the Love Chapter. As I mentioned at the outset of that series, this chapter is well known by Christians everywhere, and is viewed as one of the most beautiful chapters in all of scripture. The beautiful words concerning love in this chapter seem to just flow out of Paul's pen as he writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. But when we really study the chapter, we begin to realize that he is not just describing something beautiful for us to enjoy, like a gorgeous sunset, or a beautiful mountain range with a lake in the foreground. Paul, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is describing the kind of attitudes and actions that he wants His children to possess. Paul is holding up a "mirror", and saying, "See if you can see yourself in these verses. Do the words in this chapter describe your life as a Christian?" Do we think of the message in 1 Corinthians 13 before we say something or before we act, or do we just react and speak whatever comes to our minds? Seen in this way, the words in this chapter can cut to the quick. However, when the knife that cuts is the knife of a surgeon, the cut brings restoration and healing. And, of course, that is what God wants. He wants these words, like a two-edged sword, to remove the disease caused by sin in our lives, so that He can place this kind of love, His love, in each of our lives. To the extent that we allow that to happen, we will be in the process of being changed into the very likeness of Christ. Hopefully then, as we look in the "mirror" of this chapter, we will indeed see something beautiful; we will see ourselves looking more like Jesus.



Sue and I went with the group of seniors from our church to see the bluebonnets. We had a great time of fellowship. Wish all of you could have gone with us. We love having a great time with our church family, and we are glad that you have "adopted us" during this time that you are without a pastor. As we begin the process of finding your next pastor, I want each of us to pray earnestly to the Lord, that He will make His will clear to us, so that we will call the man whom God has in mind for this church.

Grace and Peace,
Jerl



War-Winning Worship

Have you ever read through passages of the Bible and totally missed something amazing? I was reading a book by worship leader, Chris Tomlin, and he pointed out a passage of scripture I've read multiple times but never grasped, 2 Chronicles 20. In this passage, a vast army is coming to attack Judah, and Judah's king, Jehoshaphat, in his alarm seeks the Lord's help. What do you think the Lord told him to do? Start forging extra weapons? Gather your generals to devise an extensive war strategy? Make some quick alliances with nearby countries to ward off the invaders? No! God's answer was WORSHIP! Here's the story:

¹⁸ Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.

¹⁹ Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

²⁰ Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

²¹ After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."

²² As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

²³ The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴ When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped.

²⁷ Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies.

²⁸ They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the LORD with harps and lyres and trumpets.

²⁹ The fear of God came on all the surrounding kingdoms when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

³⁰ And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

I don't know about you, but sometimes I fail to remember in all my planning that the Lord is the One who is ultimately in control. I love that every passage in the Bible ultimately points to Jesus. Just like the Israelites were without hope if God had not returned and saved them, so were we before Christ saved us. We were dead in our trespasses and sins, but apart from our works, God showed grace through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross.

What does He want from me? Worship! He wants to see me surrendered to Him. He wants me to seek Him, and when I do He promises that I will find Him (Jer. 29:13, Mtt. 7:7). I don't know about you, but I want my worship to be the kind of God-honoring worship that sees the same results the Israelites experienced - evil and sin eliminated, and God proved awesome! My prayer is that this is the kind of worship that takes place at Arcadia FBC! I love you and love being your Worship Pastor!

For His Glory,
Stephen Wilhite





Growing
God's
Kingdom 3

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
Easter	04/01	457
	04/08	247
	04/15	253
	04/22	319
	04/29	288

Average 313

Coming Events in May & June

- May 3 **National Day of Prayer**—Community Prayer time 7pm SF Fire & Rescue Station #1
- May 5 7pm-9pm Girls Night Out in F6 "Chicks, Chocolate & Comedy"
- May 6 6pm Kids Musical in Worship Center "Down by the Creek Bank"
- May 13 **Mother's Day and Baby Dedication** 10:30am Worship Service, call church office by May 9th to schedule your baby for dedication service
- May 15 6:30pm Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Annual Spring Salad Supper in the Activity Center "Missions—Looking to the Future"
- May 18 5pm-8pm "Parents Night Out" childcare in Activity Center—AFBC Cheerleaders Fundraiser
- May 20 8am Men's Breakfast; Graduate Sunday 10:30am Worship Service; 12pm Graduate Luncheon
- June 10-14 5:50pm-8:40pm "Game On" Vacation Bible School children 4yrs—6th grade, register on line today <http://www.arcadiafbc.org/>
- June 17 8am Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall; **Father's Day and Baby Dedication** 10:30am Worship Service
- June 18-22 12noon-3pm **Upward Basketball Camp** Kindergarten—6th grade in Activity Center

CHURCH FAMILY FOCUS

Sunday School/Bible Study

Attendance

April 01 Easter

Adults	150
Youth	23
Children	27
Pre-School	21
TOTAL	221

April 08

Adults	138
Youth	15
Children	26
Pre-School	11
TOTAL	190

April 15

Adults	138
Youth	17
Children	23
Pre-School	15
TOTAL	193

April 22

Adults	147
Youth	14
Children	26
Pre-School	14
TOTAL	201

April 29

Adults	152
Youth	18
Children	23
Pre-School	20
TOTAL	213

MONTHLY AVERAGE 204

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Baby Bottle Fundraiser

for The Pregnancy and Parenting Support Center



Pick up your baby bottle in the church foyer (available Mother's Day & each Sunday until Father's Day). Fill it with change (or bills). Return it on Father's Day to the basket in the foyer (or to the church office).

Clients of the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Center can earn baby bucks by participating in prenatal and parenting classes and then use those baby bucks to purchase diapers, wipes and baby formula made possible by this fundraiser.

H.I.S. Ministry Donation

for the month of May is **dish soap**.

Please place your donated items in the "H.I.S. Ministry" basket in the Church Foyer.



**Woman's Missionary Union
Spring Salad Supper**

"Missions...Looking to the Future"



Join us in the Activity Center @ Arcadia FB Church, bring a salad to share and invite a friend. We are collecting unwanted prescription eyeglasses to be donated to the Jesse Tree in Galveston. Also a love offering will be taken for "Human Exploitation Foundation". Guest speaker Tamiko Jones, Exec Director-Treasurer of WMU TX.

GOD'S TITHES & OFFERINGS APRIL 2018

Budget Receipts

Reporting 4/01/18	\$ 19,368.18
Reporting 4/08/18	\$ 13,717.83
Reporting 4/15/18	\$ 19,076.44
Reporting 4/22/18	\$ 8,402.46
Reporting 4/29/18	\$ 11,327.62
Budget Receipts (as of 04/30/18)	\$ 71,890.76
April 2018 Monthly Budget Needs	\$ 71,599.35

Building Fund GKG3

Reporting 4/01/18	\$ 4,390.11
Reporting 4/08/18	\$ 2,505.18
Reporting 4/15/18	\$ 4,080.09
Reporting 4/22/18	\$ 2,251.12
Reporting 4/29/18	\$ 2,960.25
Total GKG3 (for April)	\$ 16,186.75
Balance (as of 04/30/18)	\$ 1,753.03

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
 5/1 - 6:30pm Sports Banquet - AC
 5/10 - 6:30pm AFBCS Spring Concert—Worship Center
 5/17 10am MDO Preschool Graduation—WC
 5/18 5pm-8pm Parents Night Out childcare Cheerleaders Fundraiser
 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 *Youth Pastor Search Comm Nom form 10:30am Worship Service—WC 11:30am Mission SF prayer walk-drive 4:30pm Deacon's Mtg. -CR 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups—AC 6pm Kid's Musical "Down by the Creek Bank"—WC - BAPTISM after musical</p>	<p>7 YOUTH TX Roadhouse dinner pick up 6pm HANDBELLS REHEARSAL 7pm Men's Bible Study - F6</p> <p>MAY 7-10 2018 - MAY BY THE BAY @ Bible Teacher-Jeri Watkins, Worship Leader- Ronnie Hendricks- Missionary—TBA; Devotionals—J.V. Helms, Jim Howard & Richard Baur</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 *Results Pastor Search Committee</p>	<p>3 National Day of Prayer 10am O.W.L.S. Council Mtg. - CR 7pm Community Prayer Time SF Fire & Rescue Station #1</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8am-4pm Churchwide Workday @ AFBC 10am-12pm Kids Musical Rehearsal—WC 7pm-9pm Girls Night Out —F6 "Chicks, Chocolate, Comedy"</p>
<p>13 Mother's Day-Baby Dedication 9:15am SS/Bible Study *Youth Pastor Search Comm Nom form 10:30am Worship Service—WC 4:45 Kids Leadership Team (KLT) 6:00pm Evening Worship</p>	<p>14 5pm set up tables & chairs for WMU supper—AC 6pm HANDBELLS REHEARSAL 7pm Men's Bible Study - F6</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Anegy/Bank Community Room 6:30pm WMU Annual Spring Gathering & Salad Supper—AC 6:00pm MDO Mtg—F6</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 *BABY DEDICATION deadline</p>	<p>10 10am-2p AFBC Peccemakers-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 *Listing of Nominations Youth Pastor Search Comm 10:30am Worship Service—WC 11:30am Called Conference vote Youth Pastor Search Committee 12pm Lunch for Graduates—F4 4:45pm Kids Leadership Team (KLT) 5:00pm SF Baccalaureate 6:00pm Evening Worship</p>	<p>21 6pm HANDBELLS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>22 9am-2pm MDO Last Session 6pm Budget & Finance Mtg.—Conf Rm 6pm Church Council TYC</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 *Results Youth Pastor Search Committee</p>	<p>24 9am-2pm MDO Last Session 10am-2p AFBC Peccemakers-F4</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Alvin Graduation 2pm LSCS Graduation—Livingstones Marvel Graduation</p>
<p>27 Memorial Day 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 - WC</p>	<p>28 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE & SCHOOL CLOSED</p>	<p>29 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Anegy/Bank Community Room</p>	<p>30 AFBCS Field Day 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm Youth Worship Service—TYC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC</p>	<p>31 LAST DAY AFBC SCHOOL 9am Kindergarten Grad 10am EOY Awards 11am Early Release 10am-2p AFBC Peccemakers-F4 6pm TOLIM Graduation</p>	<p>18 5p-8p "Parents Night Out" childcare—Cheerleaders Fundraiser—AC</p>	<p>19</p>

Deacons on Call
6/03 Sammy Belcher/Loran Lance
6/10 Doug Anderson/Doug McDowell
6/17 Gene Newton/Mark Higginbotham
6/24 Will Leach/John Rothermel

June 2018

GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM

AFBCS/MDO/Extended Care Events

- Monday-Thursdays — 8am-12pm - AFBCS Volleyball Practice—AC
- Tuesday's & Thursday's 8am-2pm - Super Summer Field Trips

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

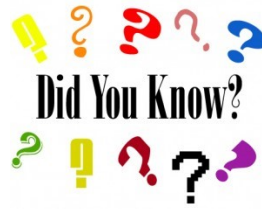
Sat

<p>3</p> <p>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 Adventure 6pm Evening Worship - WC</p>	<p>4</p> <p>MDO Begins</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8am Super Summer Field Trip 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Anegy Bank Community Room</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12pm Ministerial Alliance lunch—BB 5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm Children's Summer Program 6pm Youth Worship Service—AC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8am Super Summer Field Trip 10am —2pm AFBC Peacemakers-F4 10:00am OWLS Council Mtg.—CR</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Hitchcock Graduation Santa Fe Graduation Evening time: Newton Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4pm Newton/Ashley Wedding—Bro Jeri officiating 8am-4pm Churchwide Work day @ AFBC</p>
<p>10</p> <p>5:50pm VBS Begins 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—WC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Southern Baptist Convention June 10th—13th Dallas, TX</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8am Super Summer Field Trip 9:30am Outreach Bible Study @ Anegy Bank Community Room</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8am Super Summer Field Trip 10am —2pm AFBC Peacemakers-F4 5:50pm VBS Parent Night</p>	<p>15</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Father's Day & Baby Dedication 8am Men's Bkfst —F4 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—WC 6:00pm Evening Services</p>	<p>18</p> <p>VBS JUNE 10-14, 2018 5:50PM—8:40PM (for children 4yrs. —6th grade, workers/volunteers must sign up to help see Julie B. for details)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8am Super Summer Field Trip 4:30pm Personnel Com. Mtg—CR 6pm Budget & Finance Mtg- TYC 6pm Church Council —CR</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm Children's Summer Program 6pm Youth Worship Service—AC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8am Super Summer Field Trip 10am —2pm AFBC Peacemakers-F4</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Outreach Sunday 8am Praise Band Rehearsal—WC 9:15am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service—WC 4:00pm Inreach/outreach Visitation 5:30pm Open Gym/Youth Groups —AC 6pm Kid's Adventure 6pm Evening Worship - WC</p>	<p>25</p> <p>June 18th -22nd AFBC Upward Basketball Camp—Activity Center Time: k-4 8:30am-11:30am \$-9 12:30pm-3:30pm— Kathy Arrington, Dir.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8am Super Summer Field Trip</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:15PM WNS—F4 6pm Children's Summer Program 6pm Youth Worship Service—AC 6:30pm Prayer Mtg/Bible Study- WC</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8am Super Summer Field Trip 10am —2pm AFBC Peacemakers-F4</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
		<p>Wilhite Family Vacation June 27-July 6</p>		<p>Beanland Family Vacation June 27-July 6</p>		



Commentary:

10 opportunities knocking at your church's door in 2018



JANUARY 3, 2018

Barry Howard / Center for Healthy Churches

As we begin 2018, the challenges to local congregations are real, but so are the opportunities. Generational attrition, rotating attendance, deferred facility maintenance, and the decline of denominationalism are realities that affect most churches. What if the healthiest way to address the challenges is to focus on seizing the opportunities at our door?

Analysts who look only at declining Sunday attendance statistics declare that the challenges facing local communities of faith are almost insurmountable, and they are composing their eulogy for the church prematurely. Other indicators, including the fertile soil of opportunity, suggests that a local church is on the threshold of vibrancy and is ripe for ongoing transformation. How can a local church best address the new dynamics and extraordinary challenges of their current context?

There are some well-intentioned but ineffective things churches do to address these common challenges, reactions that almost guarantee forfeiture of mission and failure to thrive:

- Imitate another church that seems to be “doing it better than us.” (Most likely, that church is dealing with their own unique set of challenges.)
- Sell your soul to a worship style that is not organic to your congregation. (Healthy congregations grow to be liturgically ambidextrous.)
- Resort to a “felt needs” ministry. (Rather than creating growing serving disciples, catering to felt needs creates spiritual narcissists who thrive on having their way.)
- Blame the pastor and staff for perceived decline. (In most cases, a staff is called and competent, and is still learning to address the cultural shift we are experiencing.)
- Quit. (It may be time to re-tool, re-vision, re-purpose, and re-commit, but it’s certainly no time to give up.)

Rather than acting in desperation or jumping into a protectionist “survival mode,” what if a church analyzed their giftedness, re-evaluated their calling, and identified their clear and present opportunities? Even the most rigid of congregations have more elasticity than they realize. These opportunities before us may actually serve as portals to the future, concourses that proactively lead us toward clarifying our purpose and reinforcing our mission.

There are specific opportunities correlated to economic trends and social demographics that are unique to given communities. However, the following 10 opportunities are common to almost all congregations:

1. **Love your community.** Your church doesn’t exist for the sake of its own perpetuity, but to serve your community in Jesus’ name.
2. **Unite your congregation in prayer.** Prayer has a cohesive effect, bonding diverse and at times cantankerous believers into spiritual family.
3. **Cultivate intergenerational relationships.** Rather than focusing on one age group, such as millennials, focus on perennials,

those who are there for the long haul.

4. **Be proactive, not reactive.** “Let’s do whatever we have to do to keep the doors open,” is not a vision but a reaction. A proactive strategy envisions how congregational gifts and resources can be appropriated and applied to human need.
5. **Major on your niche and maximize it.** Paul’s confession that “I have become all things to all people...” (I Corinthians 9:22), is a statement of pastoral flexibility, and should not be interpreted, “We should do all ministries for all people.”
6. **Partner with neighboring congregations.** We should perceive other churches as our colleagues, not our competitors. When a church ministers out of the wellspring of their giftedness, their giftedness partners well with the giftedness of their neighboring congregations.
7. **Welcome all guests generously, especially the “stranger.”** Hospitality fosters community. The church is the one body that welcomes the CEO and the indigent with equal enthusiasm.
8. **Complement your staff.** Compliment your staff, for sure. But it is even more important to complement your staff. Like parishioners, staff ministers have a limited number of spiritual gifts. In a healthy congregation, members of the congregation utilize their unique gifts and talents to complement the spiritual gifts of staff.
9. **Learn to respect diversity.** Churches of all shapes and sizes are experiencing an explosion of diversity ... theologically, politically, and socially. Since the body of Christ is diverse, we are wise to claim diversity as a congregational asset, not a liability.
10. **Right size your ministry by downsizing your menu.** Churches are notorious for starting new ministries without bringing closure to ministries whose effectiveness has expired. A church may be more effective by doing fewer things with excellence than by attempting many things with mediocrity.

In his book, *Church: Why Bother?*, popular author Philip Yancey underscored that: “Jesus gave us a model for the work of the church at the Last Supper. While his disciples kept proposing more organization — Hey, let’s elect officers, establish hierarchy, set standards of professionalism — Jesus quietly picked up a towel and basin of water and began to wash their feet.”

In 2018, opportunity is knocking. Let’s take up a towel and basin, and answer the call.

A healthy church is a community of Jesus followers with shared vision, thriving ministry, and trusted leadership. The consultants of the Center for Healthy Congregations are committed to the local church. We believe the critical functions of a congregation build faith in individual members. We help churches re-vision their mission and create strategies that provide the faith-giving experiences of past generations to this generation – and to generations yet unnamed. For more information about our services please contact us.

Barry Howard serves as a leadership coach and consultant with the Center for Healthy Churches. His writings also appear on his blog, Barry’s Notes. You can follow him on Twitter @BarrysNotes.

Source: www.baptiststandard.com/opinion/other-opinions/commentary-10-opportunities-knocking-churches-door-2018/



Tony Evans' Definition of Faith

Acting like something is so.
 Even when it isn't so.
 Because God said it's so.
 So God can make it so!

OWLS ENJOY BLUEBONNETS AND BLUE BELL

Twenty-eight members of the OWLS Senior Adult group journeyed to Brenham for the annual Bluebonnet and Blue Bell trip. The group traveled from AFBC on Friday, April 12 on two vans filled with lively conversation and laughing!



Missionary Moments

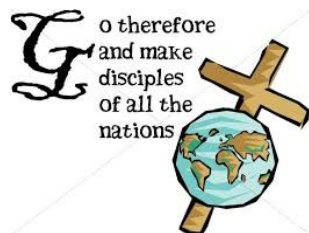


Cheryl Derbyshire

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Here is a question: Does God still speak to people through dreams as He did in ancient times? Yes. There are many stories from the mission field about God speaking to people through dreams. Today we're going to Southeast Asia to hear one such story as told by missionary, Cheryl Derbyshire, one of the many missionaries our church supports through the Cooperative Program. Cheryl went to a new village with two white mobile medical clinic vans. We'll call the first man in line Kamon, and he could hardly wait to come in. He told Cheryl that the night before he had dreamed about two white vans coming to his house. He dreamed a doctor gave him water, and when he took it the van shook! He was told, yes, he would be shaken, but he would be healed. So when the two white Baptist vans showed up right in front of his house, he couldn't wait to go inside! That day he came to faith in Jesus Christ, brought by a dream from God about people who would give him Living Water. Today, let's pray for Cheryl and ask God to give thousands more people dreams so they can be saved.

Source:
<http://www.sbc.net/cp/52Sundays/default.asp?wk=130>



Winding country roads and beautiful bluebonnets and wildflowers of all kinds were an awesome reminder of the creativity of our creator.



The group stopped at Newman's Bakery in Bellville for a snack and later in Brenham for a short shopping spree and a delicious lunch at Almost Heaven.

The outing was topped off with a visit to the Blue Bell Creamery



for some yummy ice cream for dessert.



A big thanks to Jan Gray and Jerl Watkins for organizing the outing and to van drivers Jan Gray, Jerl Watkins, Bruce Wilhite and Pat Baur for getting us safely there and back.





When God Calls Your Name

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018



Bill Tinsley

Some readers have asked when I am going to write another Buddy column. Buddy is our tri-color Pembroke Corgi that we adopted nine years ago. His story is available on Amazon in a book I wrote, "just the way he told it to me." He is still happy and healthy, but his energy level, like mine, has diminished. Instead of retrieving a ball all morning he chases it 2 or 3 times and lays down. He thinks that is enough. After 9 years, Buddy knows my voice and he knows his name. When I call, he comes!

Sometimes he comes when I first call him, running at top speed, which is not all that fast. Sometimes he loiters around, distracted by new smells and sounds So, I call him again. Occasionally I have to clap my hands. And sometimes he comes at a very slow walk, grudgingly. But he eventually comes when I call.

It seems to me that I am a lot like that with God. There are times when I sense God's call, and I come running. But there are other times, much more often I think, when I am distracted by other interests, worries and concerns. I don't listen for his voice as I should, and I don't come as quickly as I should. Sometimes I come grudgingly.

When I was a child my parents always took me to church. At the end of every service the church offered an "invitation." We all stood and sang a song while the preacher waited at the front to talk with anyone who wanted to make a decision for Christ. Sometimes we sang an old hymn.

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling
Calling for you and for me
Patiently Jesus is waiting and watching
Watching for you and for me.

Come home. Come home.
You who are weary come home.
Earnestly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

One day, I let go of the pew in front of me and went forward. Those first few steps made all the difference. When He called, I came. Ever since that day, I have been listening for His voice. I have never heard God speak audibly, though I do not doubt God can speak audibly to whomever He chooses. For me, it is an inner voice. Sometimes His voice acts like a compass, pointing the way forward.

Even when we wander away, drawn away by smells and

sounds of the world, He is always calling, waiting and watching for us to come home to God.

Jesus said, "The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. . . . I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:2-3, 14-15).

In Psalms the Bible says, "He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name." (Psalm 147:3-4). God knows your name. He knows mine. If we listen, we can hear him calling.

Source:
<http://reflectionscolumns.blogspot.com/> (published in the Galveston Daily News Friday, March 16, 2018)

Memory Verse of the Month



*"And who knows but that you
have come to royal position
for such a time as this?"
Esther 4:14b*

Arcadia FBC Senior Adults



May

- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Piecemakers** – every Thursday, 10:00 A.M, AFBC F-2 & F3; women of all ages are invited to participate
- ♦ **Outreach Bible Study** – every Tuesday, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room; the group is open to individuals of all ages

Coming Soon

- ♦ **June** – Game Night, Friday, June 22, 6:00 pm; participants to bring snacks
- ♦ **July** – Lunch at T-Bone Tom's on July 12th; leave the church at 11:00 am
- ♦ **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)

The Youth Pastor

The youth pastor fell asleep in staff meeting. So we laid some clothes on the chairs and exited quietly.

Then we blew a trumpet!!!



A Good Sermon

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.
- George Burns

Sunday School Test

A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven

She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?"

"NO!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again the answer was, "NO!"

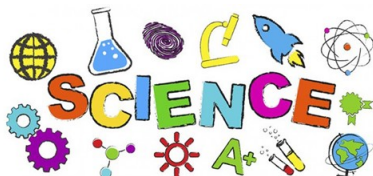
Now she was smiling. Hey, they're getting it, she thought! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" she asked.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."

Source: <http://www.swapmeetdave.com/Humor/Religious.htm>



Science Was Right

Science says that we need at least 4 basic elements to survive.

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

And look what the Bible tells us about Jesus:

1. I am the source of living water.
2. I am the breath of life.
3. I am the bread of life.
4. I am the light of the world.

Science was right, we need JESUS to LIVE!

Recipe Corner



TACO CASSEROLE

Delicious Taco Casserole that has a meat and biscuit base and is topped with sour cream, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese and olives.
Serves: 8

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 pounds ground beef | 2 packets taco seasoning |
| 4 large eggs | 3/4 cup milk |
| 1-1/4 cups biscuit/baking mix | Dash pepper |
| 1/2 cup sour cream | 2 cups chopped lettuce |
| 3/4 - 1 cup chopped tomato | 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese |
| Sliced black olives | |

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400.
2. Cook beef over medium heat in a large skillet until no longer pink. Drain meat and add taco seasoning and prepare according to package directions.
3. Add meat to a greased 9x13 pan, and set aside.
4. Beat eggs and milk in a large bowl. Stir in biscuit mix and pepper and mix until combined well. Pour over meat and bake until golden brown (about 20-25 minutes).
5. Let cool for a few minutes and then spread on sour cream.
6. Top with lettuce, tomato, cheese and olives.
Serve warm and ENJOY !

Source: lilluna.com



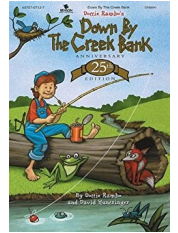
AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed)



It's hard to believe at the end of this month we will be closing out our AWANA year! **We will have our awards presentation on Wednesday evening May 23rd in the sanctuary at 6:30.** Kids still need to be at the church by 6:00! The kids have worked hard. Many have finished their books and will be receiving medals and trophies! Every student will be recognized! Very exciting!

Themes for our last month are: **May 2 - Boot Camp / Obstacle Course Night, Wear Camo! May 9 - Club Attendance Awards / Duct Tape Night; May 16 - School is almost out! Wear your favorite vacation t-shirt! May 23 - Awards Presentations!**

Children's Spring Musical - We are presenting our Children's Musical this month! The children are excited! They have been working hard since January on the music, speaking parts, and solos. **The children will present Down by the Creek Bank on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** We have 25 children participating! Hope you will join us for a fun evening!



PreTeen Camp - We have 29 campers registered to date! We just had our last fundraiser on April 29! I will get you the totals from the children's bake sale in next month's newsletter! **The kids raised a record-setting \$1,335.00 from our BBQ sandwich fundraiser. (Whaaa? YEP!) Thank you, Wil Leach, for making our BBQ sandwiches; and thank you, church family, for supporting our preteens!** This was such a huge gift to help our preteens raise money to go to camp! Delish!

Registration is still open! Forms are available in the foyer and in the children's ministry office! 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, so don't delay! Looking forward to 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 a fun and busy month planned for May! We will have our pre-k graduation on Thursday morning, May 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary! Join us to see these 46 cuties -- *very bright cuties* -- walk across the stage to receive their diplomas! They are officially ready for kindergarten! 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 have 135 registered for the summer and 163 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 already have 126 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) .



AFBCS AUCTION - We held our 7th Annual AFBCS Auction Friday evening, April 6, 2018. **God continues to set records here at AFBCS! We raised over 28,000 and still going! Donations are still coming in! God is so good!** Thank you **Katy Wheeler** who serves as the backbone of this huge event each year. She is priceless! She has an auction leadership team who has been helping her all year consisting of **Donna Ruffner, Crissy Moore, Elizabeth Casady, Hayley Debolt**, and countless others! What a blessing they are! **Gene Newton** has been our auctioneer since we began, but he gave us a head's up that it looked like he may get held up at work. So **Jarrad Moore** stepped in to run the live auction and did a great job! He kept everything moving and everyone laughing! Thank you, Jarrad! We had tons of items and gift cards and you name it in our silent auction! We had lots of donations from businesses in the surrounding communities. It made us want to say "Harvey who?" God has His hand upon this ministry!



Thank you, **church body**, for being a part of what God is doing through our school ministry. Thank all of you who donated items, purchased items, helped throughout the year putting it together; or if you just bought a meal and came for the fellowship, we appreciated your physical presence and support! We also sold a record number of tickets -- over 300! **Texas Roadhouse** catered this year as well! They served ribs AND portabella mushroom chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, and tea; and we enjoyed brownies for dessert! The evening could not have gone any better! **JESUS IS THE REASON!**

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!! The winner of our Easter Box Tops contest was **Marshall Johanson**, one of our mother's day out kiddos! **Congratulations, Marshall!**

Keep those box tops coming! They add up quickly! 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 **projectA-plus.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



Arcadia First Baptist Church Graduate Sunday May 20th, 2018

CONGRATULATIONS to all our Graduates! We invite you to be part of the 10:30am Graduate Recognition Service on Sunday, May 20th. We would also like to know a little bit about you and your future plans. Please contact Crystal Leach in the church office as soon as possible, for a graduate information packet.

Deadline is May 6.



Youth Activities.....

- 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; 5:00pm 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
- July 23—27 Mission Santa Fe @ Runge Park