

"THE VISION"



April 2024

www.firstbaptistwest.com

fbwoffice@firstbaptist.com

536-4227

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings, Everyone,

We have had some great things happening at FBW in March. With the AWANA Grand Prix Rally, Men's Breakfast, Oklahoma Blood Institute Blood Drive, United Weekend, M-28 Ministries Day, W.I.T. fellowship, the ordination of Keith Sahr into the Pastoral Ministry, an amazing Walking with Jesus on Good Friday (thank you, Carrie Scales, and others who helped her again this year), and our Easter Services, there is plenty to give God praise for as He has shown great favor on FBW.

It is good to have such an active church, especially when it involves reaching others for Christ. With so many activities, there is a great need for people to serve to make things run well. That is a part of the call that God has given to every church member of FBW. As I shared a few weeks ago, our mission work begins in the local church and I pray that you are seeking God on where you might fit in on our missions' endeavor. The more that serve, the more we are able to do and the more we do, the more opportunities we have to lead someone to the Lord. Isn't that our purpose?

I want to thank all of you for praying for my family and me as we continue our journey and battle we are going through right now. Your love, prayer, support, and encouragement has meant so much to all of us, especially to me as your pastor. To know that I have a church that understands the struggles and allows me the time I need to recover each week takes a ton of stress away from me. Also, to have such a wonderful and understanding staff that will step in without any notice to help is as important as anything. So, thank you all for everything you have done and will do for me. God bless you, have a great month, and I'll see you in church.

Bro. Harold



Pray for those going on the Rwanda mission trip in June: Diana Boyd-stun; Yvonne Garrett; Philippe, Polly, and Joseph Kelly; Tony Langford; Margaret Perry; Finn and Josh Walter.

Retirement Celebration for Linda Whitworth Sunday, April 28, Noon

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (no 8:30 a.m. service) Lunch reception to follow.

Linda Whitworth has announced that she is retiring from her position as FBW's Financial Administrator where she has faithfully and sacrificially served for 23 years. Her spirit, knowledge, and financial skills along with her love for, and loyalty to, FBW will be greatly missed in the office and by the entire staff. Many have no idea what all Linda has taken upon herself to do for the church over the years and has done so without fanfare, praise, or even compensation. She has been protective of the church's finances and personal givers as well as the FBW Staff and Pastors which on their own made her a valuable asset to us all. Although she will continue to be a member of FBW, she will be greatly missed as a staff member and can never be fully replaced. We are excited to see what she and Trevor will do in this next phase of their lives. We are sure it will involve their granddaughter, Madeline. There is no way that we can repay her for the things she has done or thank her enough but we can sure try. Linda, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for all you have done for FBW. We love you and will be praying for you. With that said, we would like to invite and encourage you to join us as we celebrate the retirement of Linda Whitworth on April 28. We will not be having our 8:30 service but will be having Sunday School & the 11:00 service with a Lunch Reception in our Fellowship Hall to follow. Let's spend some time celebrating a special woman and all she has done for us.



**Thursday,
April 18
11:30 a.m.**

We want to encourage all our Senior Adults to join us for lunch which includes Bible study. Contact the office or sign up in Sunday School or in the church foyer if you plan on attending.

**Next Men's
Breakfast
will be
May 4,
9:00 a.m.**



FROM THE ASSOC. PASTOR

In John chapter 8 is the story of the woman caught in adultery. The crowd said she should be stoned. Jesus knew their hearts and knew that none of them were without sin. When He told them to cast a stone, none of them did because they knew that they were all guilty of sin. Our world today is quick to condemn people for many different things. But Jesus said He came not to condemn but to save. (John 3:17) Let me encourage you to not be quick to judge and condemn. We are all sinners, saved by the grace of God. We are all different and have many different views. You may be right, or you may be wrong. We should all extend grace to those around us. I don't know about you, but I am glad Jesus did not come to condemn but to save and extend grace.

Because of His love and grace, we should be willing to serve Him through the church. There are many opportunities to serve here at First Baptist West. Just let us know that you are willing and want to help and we will find you a place. So many have come before us and planted trees so that we can enjoy the shade that they offer today. As we serve today, we are doing things that we may never see the benefits of in our life, but we must think of others in the future. We must plant and water now so others can reap the benefits in the future.

Serving the Lord is our way of saying thank you Jesus for your love and grace; let me show love and grace to others by meeting their needs.

Serving together,
Bro. Barry



**Thursday,
April 25,
at 6:00 p.m.
in the FBW
Fellowship Hall**



**Saturday
April 27**

Volunteers are needed at 9:00 a.m. to set up and to serve at 10:45 a.m. Contact Susan Thompson at (580) 678-9195.

Rwanda Mission Trip: Monetary donations are best but for those who want to donate: pens, pencils erasers, rulers, protractors, coloring books, tennis balls, soccer balls, inflatable balls, blankets, \$5 for shoes. Money donated will be used to buy needed items in Rwanda. There are at least 150 kids in the New Hope church.

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FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF WORSHIP & MISSIONS

FBW Church family, what a tremendous honor we have to be sons and daughters of the King! Having just celebrated Resurrection (Easter) Sunday and the miracle of Jesus rising from the dead victorious over sin and death, with all power and all authority, yet allowing us mere humans to play a part in bringing lost souls to salvation! What a calling we have! What lofty work before us!

Missions, local and abroad, are one of the key areas in which we can fulfill the work of spreading the Gospel to those who need to hear. Missions is our church's emphasis this year, & there are many opportunities to participate in missions through First West. For our children there is Kids GO Missions, and our youth have a local mission project with the Salvation Army this week as well as a mission trip planned to Tulsa this summer. There is, of course, the monthly local mission opportunity with M28 Ministries where we are always in need of volunteers, as well as several church members are going to be involved in the Rwanda Mission Church dedication in Rwanda this summer.

These are just a few of the missions that FBW is involved in and that you can pray for, support financially, or even participate in the work! God has greatly blessed us and has given the church a holy calling to "GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

Whether it's across the street, across town, or even across the ocean, God has opened the doors for FBW to spread the Gospel and He wants to use you, He wants to use all of us to complete the mission.

Bro. Brent

FROM THE ASSOC. PASTOR OF STUDENT & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Hello Church Family!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Resurrection Sunday celebrating our risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

April 6 is a local mission project with the Salvation Army in Lawton. Our students will be packing personal care/hygiene packages & in the warehouse putting up toys for the Angel Tree program. This is a great opportunity for our students to get involved in serving the Lawton community!

We are starting a new series for our Sunday Night Bible study called "3 Circles." This 6-week study will guide students through the 3 Circles method of sharing the Gospel. The most important mission we

have on earth is to share the Gospel with the lost. This series will equip students to do just that! We must share the Gospel in every opportunity we get.

Monday Night Fellowships are a great way for students to build relationships with one another. My wife, Kaylee, & I host Fellowships at our home, 403 SW 80th Street, every other Monday. Fellowships will be on **April 15 & April 29** starting at 6:00 p.m. This is a great time for students to bond, unwind after a long day, ask for help on homework, play games, play with dogs, or just need time to fellowship. Dinner is provided!

The Associational VBS training is on Monday, **April 8**, starting at 5:45 p.m. at Crossroads Baptist Church in Elgin, OK. It is recommended that anyone who is interested in volunteering for VBS this summer attend this training.

The FBW Student Ministry is having a Theatre Luncheon Fundraiser on **April 21** following the 2nd service. Students will help prep food, serve food, refill drinks, clean up tables, wash dishes, and/or participate in skits or showcase a talent. Admission for the luncheon is by donation. All funds will go towards lowering the cost of summer activities, such as Super Summer, Falls Creek, the Tulsa Mission Trip, etc.

It is a blessing to see God work in the lives of our students!

Sincerely,
Bro. Keith

FROM THE PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Greetings Preschool and Kids,

"The very practice of reading the Bible will have a purifying effect upon your mind and heart. Let nothing take the place of this daily exercise." -Billy Graham

Evenings are my favorite time. It's a time when our family gathers in the living room and reads. Most of the time, I read for about 30-45 in the living room and another 20 minutes in Joshua's room. I started reading to him when he was a baby. One or two board books, then sang lullabies, prayers, and bed. Around the age of 3, we would read 2-3 picture books (usually about trucks or dinosaurs), a preschool devotion with scripture, prayers, and bed. Around 1st grade we added chapter books, children's devotional, prayers, and bed.

Now, we read several books at a time. I start off reading history, it's part of our schoolwork, but I figured out several years ago that for us reading it in the evenings brings up more discussions and it didn't get pushed aside. Next, we read a chapter

from a good book (Narnia, Wingfeather, or other classics). Then we read the Bible. We are reading it chronologically and using a family devotional that includes great reflections and activities. Joshua then gets into bed, and we read some more. Currently, it is two chapters in the Dead Sea Squirrels series, Bear Grylls autobiography (we've been reading his books for about 4 years now), and we just started Streams in the Desert for Kids devotional (I read the adult version in college, one of my favorites), prayers, and bed.

Why do I put so much effort into choosing rich literature and great devotionals? Because I know that research indicates that reading the Bible and praying regularly as a child greatly impacts their spiritual life as an adult. As parents we can encourage and model Bible reading and prayer through family devotions. Parents are the spiritual leaders of their children. (To be continued)

-Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Melissa Burke

Children Ministry Director

THANK YOU

Thanks to all donors & supporters of the Blood Drive. 25 people were able to donate. Due to the number who gave & a matching monetary donation, \$765 was raised for M28 Ministries. To God be the glory!

Jean Petersen



Congratulations to Joel and Jillian McFarland on the birth of their son, Titus Jackson, on March 4. He weighed 9 lbs. Grandparents are Glen and Debi Coleman.



on Saturday, April 6, 10:30 a.m., for Mitchell and Tori Barbontin who are expecting a girl in May. Registries are at Walmart, Target, and Amazon.

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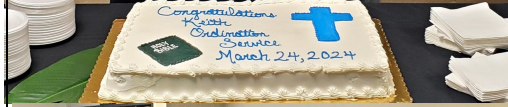
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ORDINATION OF KEITH SAHR AND RECEPTION



on April 20 at 10:30 a.m. for Joshua Swinford & Mykayla Geis. Regis-tries are at Amazon, Target, and Box, Inc. in Frederick.



To Ed and Jean Petersen and Family on the death (March 13) of Jean's Aunt Phyllis who lived in Mississippi.

To David and Sunok King and Brian & Holley Floyd and Family on the death (March 25) of David's sister in Dallas.



A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Paula Booker passed away on March 28. She was an FBW member for over 16 years. Our condolences go out to Stan and their family.

LAST MONTH'S FINANCIAL NOTES

Budget:	\$64,245.00
Receipts:	\$79,690.48
Building Fund Receipts:	\$10,147.33
Global Impact Receipts:	\$ 1,438.00
Building Expenses:	\$ 8,493.87
Extra Principal Payments:	\$30,000.00
Total in Building Fund:	\$28,759.88
Loan Balance:	\$476,585.53

Deacons/Yokefellows on Call

March 31 – April 6		
Primary:	David King	595-1026
Alternate:	Randy Murphy	678-8468
April 7 – April 13		
Primary:	Quinton Murr	305-0784
Alternate:	Ed Petersen	536-3510
April 14 – April 20		
Primary:	Craig Shelton	583-6693
Alternate:	Larry Thompson	595-1799
April 21 – April 27		
Primary:	Trevor Whitworth	536-5001
Alternate:	Jerry Wood	284-5003
April 28 – May 4		
Primary:	Dwain Baxter	591-6071
Alternate:	Ron Callen	704-8014

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Love God, Love People, See Lives Change.

FIRST BAPTIST WEST WEEKLY SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:30 A.M. EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE
CHILDREN'S CHURCH
9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE (Livestreamed)
CHILDREN'S CHURCH
4:30 P.M. AWANA
5:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDY
6:00 P.M. YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Go to firstbaptistwest.com AND click on "WATCH ONLINE" or First Baptist West on Facebook. Archived services are available by clicking on "Videos" on the "WATCH ONLINE" page.



Spanish Services

Sundays, 11:00 a.m., Spanish Church Room
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., Spanish Home Bible Study
(twice a month)

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY 5:00-5:45 P.M. FAMILY MEAL
5:30 P.M. YOUTH MEAL/RECHARGE
5:45 P.M. PRESCHOOL
6:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
PRAYER MEETING
6:00-7:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDIES
7:00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Harold Gaches
Facilities Administrator	Barry Cornish
Executive Administrator	Randy Murphy
Worship Pastor	Brent Bennight
Spanish Pastor	Bruno Rojas
Student Pastor	Keith Sahr
Preschool/Children's Director	Melissa Burke
Financial Secretary	Linda Whitworth
Admin. Asst./Receptionist	Kaylee Sahr
Custodian	Kevin Hill
Custodian	Jim Green
Organist	Sandy Sharkey
Pianist	Diana Webb