

“THE VISION”



May 2024

www.firstbaptistwest.com

fbwoffice@firstbaptist.com

536-4227

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings, Everyone,

With the month of May comes big changes for people with graduations all around us. I want to say CONGRATULATIONS to all the graduates of FBW. This is an amazing time to enjoy & celebrate with family & friends & to begin to ready yourselves for the next phase of your life. I know your families are proud of you and want to enjoy this time with you.

I want to thank Gina Hinton & her crew of amazing people who planned & put together a great Retirement Celebration for Linda Whitworth. Everything was so well planned & put together & the meal was extraordinary. I know it was a special day for Linda, her family, & for the church as well. Just remember though that just because we celebrated her retirement, Linda will still be hanging around the office helping us with the transition of our financial duties from in-office to the Oklahoma Baptists who will be working for us as our Financial Administrator. So, you will still get to see her in the office for a short time if you stop in and visit.

One thing that I want to ask is for you to pray about our Summer Connect Groups. I believe Connect Groups are so valuable to the church & its members getting to know each other and to help in growing our fellowship. I am asking for members who feel led to facilitate a Connect Group to contact me and I will help them in understanding what is involved in being a facilitator. I promise, it's not as difficult or intimidating as you may think. So, please pray about this summer.

I want to welcome Bill & Yvonne Brown, Olivia Ferszt, and Jakob McFarland to our church family. I am excited to see how God has already begun to move in their lives and I am looking forward to seeing more happen for them and through them. God bless you, have a great May, and I'll see you in church.

Bro. Harold



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



Sunday, May 12



If you would like to take part in our Child Dedication on **Sunday, May 12**, please use the QR code to register. The deadline to sign up is May 5.

KITE DAY

Sunday, May 26



hamburgers & hot dogs

Schedule for Sunday, May 26:

No Sunday School

One Worship Service only at **10:30 a.m.**
Lunch to follow in the **Fellowship Hall**.
There will be planned activities after the lunch (train rides, kites, games, etc.).

No evening activities.



W.I.T. Ladies' Banquet is 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 30. Watch the bulletin for more details.



Wednesday, May 22, 6:00 p.m.

Come join us as we gather with groups of all ages for an hour of fellowship and activities meant to unite our church family.

FROM THE ASSOC. PASTOR

As we get close to summer, there are many ways you can serve through our church. Please watch the newsletters & bulletins for the ways you can serve. God has given each of us gifts, talents, and abilities to serve Him. We are called to love each other and serve each other. There will be camps & special events you can be a part of. Many of these involve the younger generations that will be making up our churches in the future. Let's take time to invest in them while we can.

We still need greeters and ushers to serve in both services. It is a great way to meet our guests and to make a first impression on them. Please consider helping us in this area that is so important for our church.

Thanks to all those that have stepped up to help us in the kitchen. We are still looking for those who would be a team leader for a Wednesday night meal. They would plan, shop, and cook the meal. Let me know if you are interested in helping in this way.

Keep on loving God and loving others. Show His grace to all people.

Serving together,
Bro. Barry



Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.



Saturday May 25

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



Thursday, 11:30 a.m. May 16



By Baptism: Olivia Ferszt, Jakob McFarland

By Letter: Bill & Yvonne Brown

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FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF WORSHIP & MISSIONS

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt. 28:18-20

The Great Commission is the basis for First Baptist West to be a missions-minded, missions-focused church. Jesus promised us that He is with us always and that it is He that has the authority. So, as we go, we take Jesus' power and authority with us to make disciples of all nations, of all people groups, of all languages and to baptize them in His name and teach them of His commands! Christ has done and continues to do all of the heavy lifting! We are to trust, go, and proclaim!

As we near the summer, we have many opportunities to fulfill The Great Commission through FBW. Be in prayer for our Children's Ministry and leaders as they teach about missions through "Kids: GO Missions." FBW Youth Ministry will be serving in missions in the Tulsa area this June. Please be in prayer for God to open doors to show the love of Christ and for our students as they GO! Also, please be in prayer for the Rwanda Mission Trip. Pray for the nine individuals from FBW that are going, for traveling mercies, and for God to bless this time of dedication of the church! Lastly, be in prayer for Randy Murphy and their group as they go on mission to Malawi. I praise God for all that He is doing and the part that He has for FBW to take the gospel to the nations!

Bro. Brent

FROM THE ASSOC. PASTOR OF STUDENT & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Hello church family!

Thank you for supporting the FBW Student Ministry through our Theatre Luncheon Fundraiser last month! Our students worked very hard putting together the lunch and the skits. All glory to God for how smoothly and successful this fundraiser went! It means a lot to our students and me to have such a supportive church family!

Wednesday Night Recharge and Sunday night Bible studies are continuing to go well and God is moving in the lives of our students. We are wrapping up our Sunday Night series called "3 Circles: Gospel

Conversations for Life." This study guides students through the 3 Circles method of sharing the Gospel. We will not meet on May 12 in recognition of Mother's Day. The last night of our 3 Circles study is **May 19**.

We only have one Monday Night Fellowship this month on **May 13** starting at 6:00 p.m. My wife, Kaylee, and I host Monday Night Fellowships at our home, 403 SW 80th Street. 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!

Congratulations to our graduating seniors, Class of 2024! We will be recognizing all our high school graduates during the 2nd service on **May 19**. Please be in prayer for these students as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives!

Dates to remember:

May 19 - Senior Banquet

May 20 - Summer Kick-Off Party @ Jeremy Welborn's house from 6-9 p.m.

May 22 - Generations

May 29 - Maniac Mansion in Wichita Falls: Cost \$10

I am so excited to see God work through our youth ministry!

Sincerely,
Bro. Keith

FROM THE PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Greetings from FBW Children.

Family Devotional Tips:

1. Intentionally schedule devotions--select a time that works best for you.
2. Be realistic--know the ages & developmental stages of your children.
3. Plan your time together--intentionally know what you want to discuss.
4. Be flexible--it will not always go as planned; remember your family is spending time with God.
5. Give yourself grace--if you miss a day; start fresh the next day.
6. Be creative--use technology when someone in the family is traveling.
7. Keep devotions fresh--incorporate Bible activities or games.
8. Focus on the Bible--the Bible is central to family devotions.
9. Reinforce lessons during daily activities--remind your child of what you have been talking about and learning during family devotions.

Our Spring Schedule:

Preschool Music Makers (birth-preschool) on Wednesday nights teaches us to be creative and learn more about the Creator. Kids: Go Missions! (K-6th) on Wednesday nights 6-7 pm as we travel with Paul on his missionary journeys, we are also learning about what God is doing today around the world.

On Sundays we have amazing Sunday School classes and Kids Church. CrossTimbers Camp, June 1-4.

Coming soon on Wednesday Nights B.E. (Bible Extraordinaires)--following Jesus changes our hearts.

Matthew 5:1-12

God Bless!

Melissa Burke

FROM THE SPANISH PASTOR

It's a pleasure to greet each one of you once again through this medium. It's always a joy for me to share with you what God is doing among us.

Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m., we gather to worship our triune God. By God's grace, we have been increasing the number of attendees.

Every other Thursday, we're having a Bible study in homes, a time where we share the word of God and some food. This time is very special because it gives us the opportunity to get to know each other better. We also pray for our needs.

Last Good Friday, we offered a special service that concluded with a time of fellowship where we shared a delightful meal. We had an attendance of 13 people that day.

Three weeks ago, we started the ESL course as a service we are offering to our Hispanic community. The Lord has favored us with a very good attendance. There are 25 people benefiting from this course. We thank the Lord for the lives of Heather Murr and Jean Petersen for their support in accepting the challenge of being the teachers of this course. They are doing an excellent job. Please pray for us so that we can show the love of Christ to each of these individuals and provide them with good service.

This month, we began intentional discipleship with 10 new people who have expressed their interest in participating in a personalized Bible study.

On **July 20**, we are planning to organize a large event called "Back to School & Clothes Closet." We will soon provide more detailed information, as it is our desire to

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rely on you for the organization and execution of this event.

Please continue praying for us. We continue to support the PRC. We have met 4 people who currently attend our church. It has been a blessing to serve and help in this beautiful ministry (PRC).

Glory be to the Lord always, for He alone deserves all the glory and honor. We are simply servants of the one and only King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Bruno



Church Family,

It is difficult to find the right words to express to my church family how wonderful my retirement celebration was. I especially want to thank Bro. Harold and Gina Hinton who, with the help of many others, made this such an amazing day. To those who spent so much time decorating the Fellowship Hall, it was beautiful and the food was great (and no green beans!). I felt loved and special. Also, thanks for all the hugs, cards, gifts, compliments, my chair, the special video, and the well wishes for my “*eventual*” retirement.

I still have several weeks of work to do at FBW due to the decision to outsource our financial accounting to WatersEdge. There is a lot to do to transition most of the financial accounting to a third party but I will retire after the transition! I will, however, help when needed in the office after retirement.

I loved this job (most of the time!!!) and will miss it. It will be a big adjustment after working at FBW every week for 23 ½ years but it is time to retire. Thank you, Bro. Harold, for always encouraging me & creating a great working environment.

Linda Whitworth

Rwanda Mission Trip Item Donations

We are collecting donations for the children & adults of the Rwanda church: pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, coloring books, blankets, tennis balls, protractors, reading glasses, t-shirts for kids & adults. With limited luggage space, monetary donations are also being accepted to buy items in country (\$5 helps buy a pair of plastic shoes).

Spanish Church English Class



Bible Study & Fellowship



Cache High School
Colton Leaming
Kayla Walls

Eisenhower High School
Reese McCabe

MacArthur High School
Ezekiel Walter

Homeschool
Kaleb Cossette

Cameron University
Mykayla Geis (Bachelor's Degree)

Mid-American Christian University
Gina Hinton (Master's Degree)

If you are graduating from college or high school and your name is not on the list above, please let the church office know as soon as possible. We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, May 19. High school graduates will be recognized only during the 11:00 worship service. College graduates will be recognized during the worship service they attend.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



Memorial Day
May 27

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



“Celebrate Freedom”
Sunday, June 30

This special service to honor our military (active, retired, & anyone else who has served) will include a “video roll call” of our service men & women. If you have ever served in the military or are currently serving and were not part of our video last year, please get a form from the church office or call us or send us an email to request the form. We can email or mail the form to you. Forms are also available at the counter in the foyer. Please fill it out, and, if available, include a picture of you in uniform. PLEASE TURN IT IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE IN PERSON OR BY EMAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

April		Sunday School	
Average		Attendance	
Preschool	14	April 7	191
Children	23	April 14	198
Youth	22	April 21	195
Adults	135	April 28	190
Total	194		

LAST MONTH'S FINANCIAL NOTES

Budget:	\$64,245.00
Receipts:	\$54,555.52
Building Fund Receipts:	\$ 9,158.60
Global Impact Receipts:	\$ 1,437.00
Building Expenses:	\$ 8,493.87
Extra Principal Payments:	\$ 8,000.00
Total in Building Fund:	\$21,424.61
Loan Balance:	\$46,1886.04

Deacons/Yokefellows on Call

April 28 – May 4		
Primary:	Dwain Baxter	591-6071
Alternate:	Ron Callen	704-8014
May 5 – May 11		
Primary:	Jim Green	483-9751
Alternate:	Glenn Hinton	704-6494
May 12 – May 18		
Primary:	Curley Howell	355-7391
Alternate:	David King	595-1026
May 19 – May 25		
Primary:	Quinton Murr	305-0784
Alternate:	Ed Petersen	536-3510
May 26– June 1		
Primary:	Craig Shelton	583-6693
Alternate:	Larry Thompson	595-1799

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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 Administrator	Linda Whitworth
Admin. Asst./Receptionist	Kaylee Sahr
Custodian	Kevin Hill
Custodian	Jim Green
Organist	Sandy Sharkey
Pianist	Diana Webb