

First Baptist Church

Kountze, Texas

First Quarter, 2024

The Pastor's Pen

By Br. Daniel White

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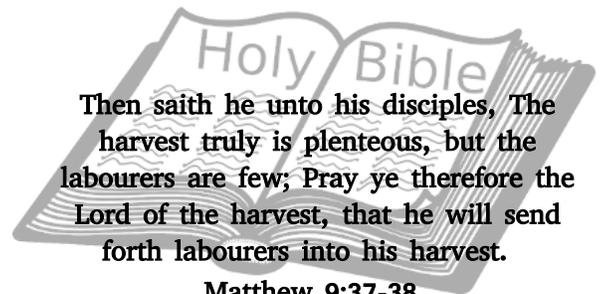
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I am very excited about having a newsletter. This is something that I have wanted for our church for a long time. I hope that you will help us make YOUR newsletter a great addition for our church. We hope to have articles, photographs, spotlights, highlights, current events, celebrations, and much more. You can help out by writing articles, taking pictures, and promoting your ministry.

It is always amazing to watch God work, to watch older believers continue to grow in the Lord, and to see newer believers become disciples of Jesus. Our Sunday morning sermon series on the Life of Christ has been a great encouragement to me as we have studied Jesus, his teachings, his methods, and his life applications. Sunday nights have been very interesting as we have delved into a deep verse-by-verse examination of Isaiah: the prophecy as it related to Israel then, as it is applied to Israel in the future, and the similarities seen in our own nation.

Discipleship is the key to growing in faith, and Sunday School is a central avenue for discipleship. We have a great Sunday School department and wonderful teachers. However, I am equally encouraged by the several discipleship groups that are meeting at other times to study God's word and fellowship together.

We have a wonderful group of disciples, and a number who are capable of discipling others. As Jesus said, the harvest is truly great, and the labourers are few. We need help in several areas, and many are already wearing multiple hats. I am praying for God to bring in and raise up labourers to help with the great work. Please join me in praying for our church, and for God to bring in and raise up those who can help with the work.



Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:37-38

Empower Conference

By D'Ann White

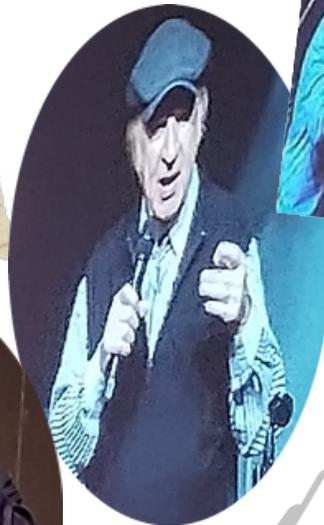
Every February, the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention hosts an evangelistic conference in Irving. The conference this year was held on February 26-27. This year's special speakers included David Jeremiah, Jeremiah Johnston, and many others. I've been to many conferences over the years, but this was the first Empower Conference that I have been to. In my opinion, it was the most enjoyable conference I have attended. The preaching was fabulous. David Jeremiah, a well-known Christian author and pastor, was the keynote speaker on Monday afternoon. He has suffered from a debilitating disease in the last year; so it was a blessing to be able to see him still preaching, even if it was from a chair. He admonished us to "Stay Holy, Healthy, Humble & Hungry." Jeremiah Johnston, who is also a Christian author, specializing in Apologetics, was one of the speakers on Tuesday morning. He spoke on the evidences of a bodily resurrection of Christ, and presented a video tour and various artifacts from Israel.

The music was really uplifting. The Gaither Vocal Band led us in worship on Monday afternoon, which for me, was a highlight of the whole conference. Many people don't realize that Bill & Gloria Gaither wrote quite a few of the songs in our hymnal, such as "Let's Just Praise the Lord," "I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary," "There's Just Something About That Name," and the one song we sing every Wednesday night at the close of service, "The Family of God." It was really fun to see the Gaither Vocal Band in person after so many years of singing their songs. I got to hear some of my old time favorites: "The King Is Coming" and "Because He Lives," performed by the songwriter, Bill Gaither. I had never heard the Gaithers sing in person, so for me, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity, as Bill Gaither is becoming older and might not be traveling as much in the future. Bill Gaither is celebrating his 88th birthday at the end of March, and we all sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

Notes from David Jeremiah's Sermon Romans 13:11-14

- Walk Vigilantly (v. 11)--- know the time (1 Chr 12:32, Mt 16:3, 2 Pt 3:3-4)
- War Valiantly (v. 12)--- put on armor of light, cast off work of darkness (Mt 5, Ep 5:8)
- Walk Virtuously (v. 13)--- reject public sins, renounce private sins
- Wait Victoriously (v. 14)--- put on Christ, make no provision for the flesh

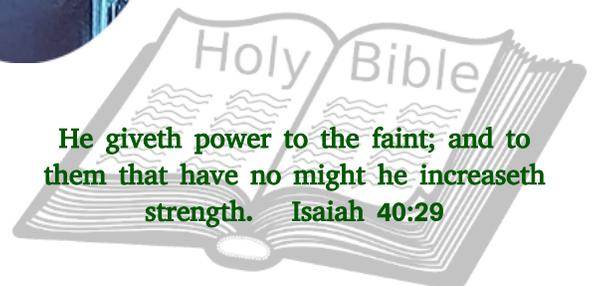
Bill Gaither



Gaither Vocal Band



Jeremiah Johnston,
exhibiting a scroll



Empower Conference

Five of us attended the conference this year: Betty Teel, Suzanne Odom, Beverly McKee, Daniel & myself. I think everyone would agree that it was an all-around fun time, with encouraging words of Scripture and inspirational music. Next year's conference will be February 24-25. If you have a heart for evangelism and reaching your community, I hope you can make plans to attend.

Betty Teel, Beverly McKee, Daniel & D'Ann White



Betty Teel



Betty Teel & Beverly McKee



Suzanne Odom



Scottie Stice, Disaster Relief Director, & Br. Daniel standing outside the DR taco truck, giving away free tacos

Artifact brought by Jeremiah Johnston: Temple Tax coin



Beverly & Betty looking at a scroll from the book of Numbers

Br. Daniel, D'Ann, Suzanne & Betty in front of convention center



Nursing Home Ministry

By Michelle Chadwick

Unexpected Window of Opportunity

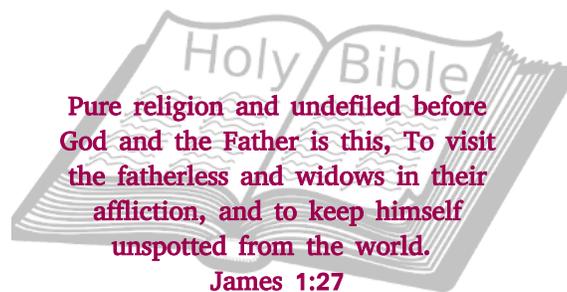
Sometimes God opens a window of opportunity at a most unexpected time, and when we climb through, we find a blessing awaits. A small little Bible study at Paradigm at Kountze (formerly known as Kountze Nursing Center) is that blessing to me. The number is small and fluctuating, but the people have captured my heart.



The core group consists of four faithful members, but the number grows between 10 and 15 each week as residents drift in and stay to listen. In fact, we even have nurses and CNAs who occasionally stop by and listen for a time.

The need for hope in that facility is great. Many of the residents have mostly been abandoned by family, and suffer rejection and loneliness. Some grapple with devastating diseases, such as dementia or cancer. Others are trapped by failing bodies. Yet, despite these struggles, our small little Bible study group is putting their faith in Jesus and reaching out for the hope He gives. Those who can, encourage each other and share their hope with other residents.

Windows of opportunity abound in this nursing home. Jesus tells us that when we visit the sick, we visit Him (Matthew 25), and the majority of these residents are in desperate need of people who would sacrifice a few hours of their time to visit with them, speak to them about Jesus, and encourage them. Who knows, maybe like me, one of these windows may be calling out to you.



Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James 1:27

Ghana Gala

On February 24, our church hosted the annual Ghana Gala for the third year in a row. This event is an annual fundraiser for Therefore International, a mission organization that focuses on missions in Ghana, Africa. The purpose of this year's gala was to raise \$45,000 for a new or slightly used Subaru Outback that would enable them to minister in remote places. They divided the amount of miles they expect to get out of this vehicle (300,000 mi) by the various ministry areas in which it would be used. Our mission committee recommended to pledge \$3,150 to go toward evangelism out of our designated missions funds for this event. The church also set a goal of \$1,125 from donations to go toward Bible distribution. Together, this would represent 28,500 miles of their ministry.



21,000 mi
Evangelism
\$3,150

7,500 mi
Bible
Distribution
\$1,125



The proceeds from the silent auction of handcrafted items goes to the national pastors and the teachers of the schools they support in Ghana.

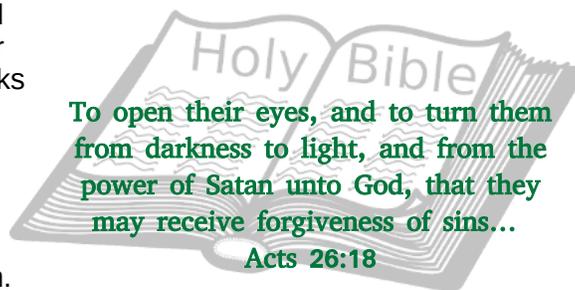


Patti & Joey Romero, missionaries, in front of a handcrafted table, made from African wood, that was in the silent auction

**Donations for Bible
Distribution Received:
\$1,125**



There is always a meal served at the gala, and we get to hear testimonies of the various works in Ghana. This year, we saw video testimony of a village receiving a water well, and a little girl, born with a crippling disease, learning to walk on a parallel bar that she was given.



Warrior Women

Field Trip to Shangri-La Autumn Fair-- October 28, 2023

On October 28, 2023, 10 ladies (along with 1 toddler & 1 infant...only a week old!) attended the Autumn Fair at Shangri La Botanical Gardens in Orange. We toured the gardens and saw the scarecrows that were submitted and judged by various organizations. The one caveat for the scarecrows were that they had to be made out of recyclable materials. There were several activities for the kids that day. The kids got to decorate a pumpkin and take it home with them. After the garden walk, several of the ladies took a hayride and rode the boat on a tour of Adams Bayou.



René Freeman, Mae Digmon, Beverly McKee & Catherine Brandenburg on boat trip

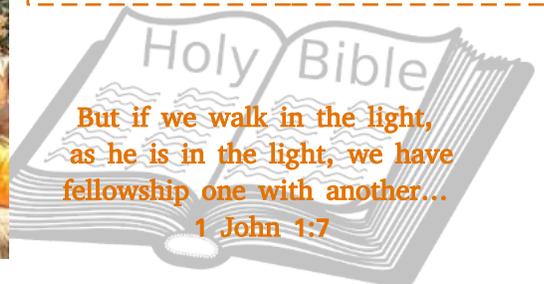
Suzanne Odom, Ginger Brown, & Betty Teel on boat ride



Hay ride



For November's service project, the ladies took food, blankets, & socks to the shut-ins.



But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another... 1 John 1:7

Warrior Women

“As the Deer Panteth” Women’s Conference-- February 17, 2024

By Suzanne Odom

We had a great time at our women’s event on February 17, “As the Deer Panteth.” We had a good turn out with approximately 20 women in attendance. Some Cornerstone Baptist women joined us as we fellowshiped with food, games, and song (performed by Joanna White). Special guest speaker, Kim Price gave us an encouraging word on “Living Water” and taught us to take a “deeper drink” from Christ’s well, and to recognize and identify our “broken cisterns.” The main takeaway we received from her message was to be free and content in Christ. Thank you, Catherine Brandenburg, for organizing this event.

*Joanna White sang
“As the Deer
Panteth,” and
“Gratitude”*



*Suzanne Odom & Keynote
Speaker, Kim Price*

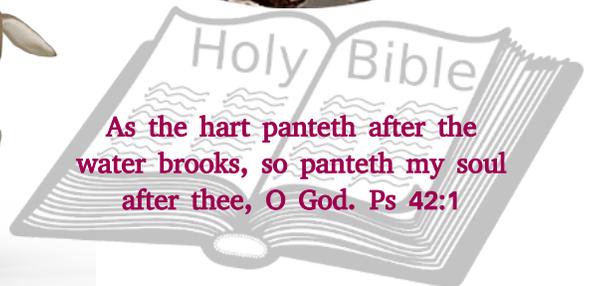
*Mae Digmon &
René Freeman*



*Vesta Boone,
Betty Teel, &
Linda Settle*



*As the hart panteth after the
water brooks, so panteth my soul
after thee, O God. Ps 42:1*



Sassy Seniors

Ginger Brown

By Betty Teel

Brenda George

Chair Exercises



Linda Settle, Cynda Willis, & Beverly McKee



First meeting was September 7, 2023. In attendance were Vesta Boone, Ginger Brown, Mae Digmon, Evoynne Gates, Beverly McKee, Suzanne Odom, Linda Settle, Joan Valentine-Bass, and Brenda George. We meet every Thursday at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Sassy Seniors group is open to the community.

We open with prayer and a short devotional. We have light snacks to eat while we are playing games, and sometimes we just sit around and visit, laugh, and lift one another up. Dominoes seem to be the big favorite. Evoynne is usually the big winner. We reserve a time for chair exercise each week with a video as our instructor. Sometimes we have special programs or work on service projects.

We have had a Sourdough bread demonstration given by Sarah Barnett and Daniela Góes. We all went home with our starter dough to feed and make some wonderful bread and pastries.



Gena Rogers, Program Manager for Main Street Ministries, located in Vidor, along with two employees and a recovering resident, gave her testimony and what the ministry has done for her. They are a non-profit organization.



Daniela Góes & Sarah Barnett making sourdough bread

Sassy Seniors (Vesta Boone, Beverly McKee, Brenda George, Linda Settle, & Mae Digmon) fellowship together



He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

Psalm 104:14-15

Sassy Seniors

Brenda George & Joan Valentine



Making resin ornaments:
Ginger Brown & Beverly McKee



Joan Valentine-Bass held a class on working with Epoxy Resin. Each participant chose a project to work with. This was a wonderful, fun experience, plus we made some beautiful ornaments.



Some of our service projects included making sandwiches for the free dental clinic in Lumberton in February, as well as stuffing bags for Operation Christmas Child. We are open to helping with the needs of our church and community.



Linda Settle, Cynda Willis, Vesta Boone & Mae Digmon



Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

2 Cor 8:4



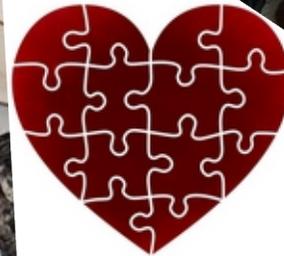
Armor Academy



By Rhonda Barner & Catherine Brandenburg

Armor Christian Academy incorporates community service activities throughout the school year. In October, we helped with Operation Christmas Child. The students put the boxes together, put items prepared ahead of time in the boxes, put labels on them and transported them to the gym. They also collected items for the shoe boxes. November's project was a canned food drive for the Christian Loving Care Center.

February's activity was "Valentines for Veterans." These valentines were handmade and personalized by the students of Armor Academy and delivered by a teacher to the local nursing home. The students wrote positive messages, and their favorite Bible verses. Our students enjoy doing things for others and helping out.

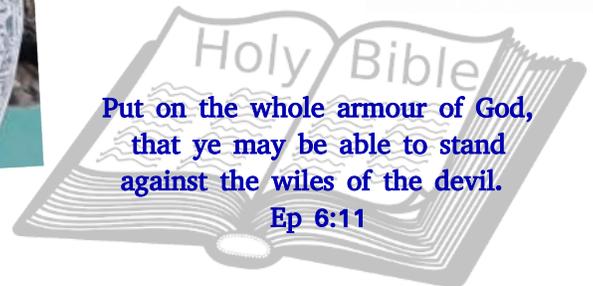


"We are truly blessed to have such an amazing group of children, parents, teachers and helpers at our school. I consider the school a mission field for spreading the Gospel."

--- Rhonda Barner

**Put on the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil.**

Eph 6:11





Armor Academy



Armor Academy Staff: Catherine Brandenburg, Rosie Flower, Barbara McPherson, Rhonda Barner, René Freeman, & Beverly Williford

Pledges during morning assembly



Randy Beehn giving a presentation on bluebirds and their nesting habits.



Br. Daniel holding some of the visual examples he uses in his sermons during weekly chapel. This is a painting made by his prodigal son, Josiah, & a photo of the prayer letter for him in the Wailing Wall in Israel.



The children got to look at and feel a Braille New Testament in chapel.



Holy Bible
Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
Ep 6:13

By D'Ann White

Over the years, I have been working to develop a game that would be fun for the kids on Resurrection Day, but would also place the focus on what the holiday is really about: Christ and his death, burial, and resurrection. I have actually been developing this game for the last fifteen years or so, and it is constantly evolving as I add more items for the kids to "hunt." Rather than eggs, which has nothing to do with Christ, the kids search for rocks with Scripture references on them... because Jesus is the Rock of our salvation. All the passages have to do with Jesus being the Rock, with a few passages included concerning the rocks during the crucifixion and resurrections (i.e. when the rocks rent at his death and the stone rolled away from the tomb). A few of the rocks spell out J-E-S-U-S, to really bring home the fact that Jesus IS the Rock. There are also other items besides the rocks that they hunt for: 3 crosses; 3 nails; vials of oil, vinegar, and water; a sponge; dice; 30 silver coins; cloths of purple, red, and white; and a crown of thorns. After, the kids find all the items, we then sit down and discuss each one and show them what the Bible says about each item. Then, they get to trade the items for some candy...that way they can take something home!

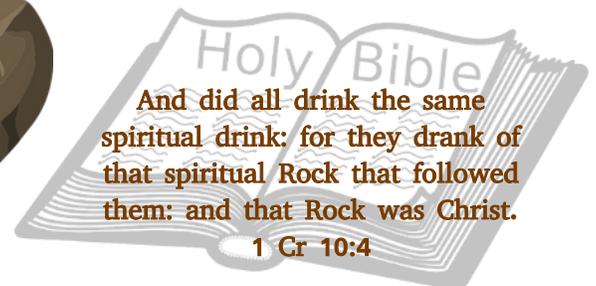
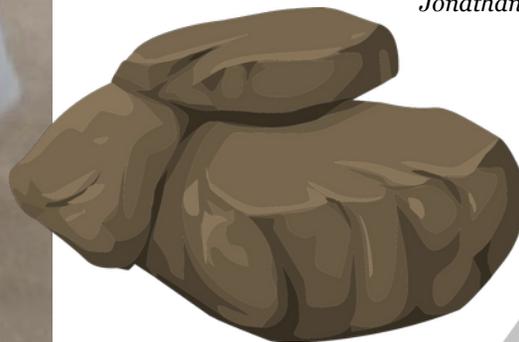
Sterling



Jonathan



Amelia





Jairah



Looking at their finds



Briella holding the crown of thorns



And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

Mt 27:35

Operation Christmas Child

By Beverly Williford

Praising God for a new record of shoebox gifts in 2023!

The numbers are in! Join us in praising God for 11,330,126 shoebox gifts collected worldwide in 2023, and 10,051,570 in the U.S., the most that have ever been packed and donated nationwide. Each of the 11,330,126 shoeboxes represents a child and a Gospel opportunity made possible through your partnership in ministry.

Our Big Thicket Area collected 7,740 shoebox gifts, and our FBC family packed 534 shoeboxes. For March, and probably April, FBC will collect items to pack 250 pencil pouches. We need 208 scissors, 100 large erasers, 140 boxes of crayons, 435 pens, and 500 pencils. There is a large box for these items near the nursery entrance. Feel free to collect any other shoebox items you find on sale. We will schedule a time for us to get together and get these pencil pouches packed after items are received. Be on the lookout for a time and date for this in the church bulletin in the next few weeks.

Millions of these children will go on to complete *The Greatest Journey* discipleship program, learning from faithful Ministry Partners in their region about how to follow Christ and share the Gospel with friends and family. Over 2.9 million children came to Christ through *The Greatest Journey* in 2023.

Please continue to pray with us. We are asking God to open the hearts of these children and their families to receive the Gospel in faith. Please also pray for the Ministry Partners who will be leading outreach events and teaching discipleship classes throughout the year. We eagerly anticipate seeing how God will advance His Kingdom through these shoebox gifts this year. It is a privilege to serve alongside you in this ministry.

We praise God for you!



Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Heb 13:20-21

Community Outreach



During the Little League picture days, several volunteers from the church gathered to give away goodie bags to every player that came by in uniform. Over 30 bags were given out to these kids. This was a two-day event on March 11 & 12. The hand-decorated bags included a water bottle, drink mix pack, sunflower seeds, trail mix/fruit snacks, pop rocks, gumballs, baseball trading cards, baseball stickers, and a gospel tract.

They prayed with every kid that came by, and each bag had a QR code attached asking how we could pray for them. If they scanned the QR code, it would send an email to pray@fbckountze.com with their prayer request.



For several months now, Ethan Barnett has been leading our church in Praise & Worship, and now it is official! He has just been hired as our Interim Worship Leader. Be sure to let him know what a great job he is doing. If you would like to sing along with us, please let Ethan know.



Celebration!!!



Debbie Clark just graduated from Cosmetology school. Congratulations, Debbie!



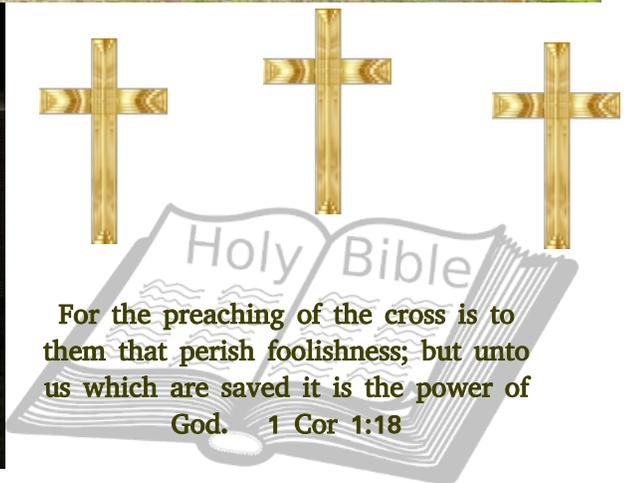
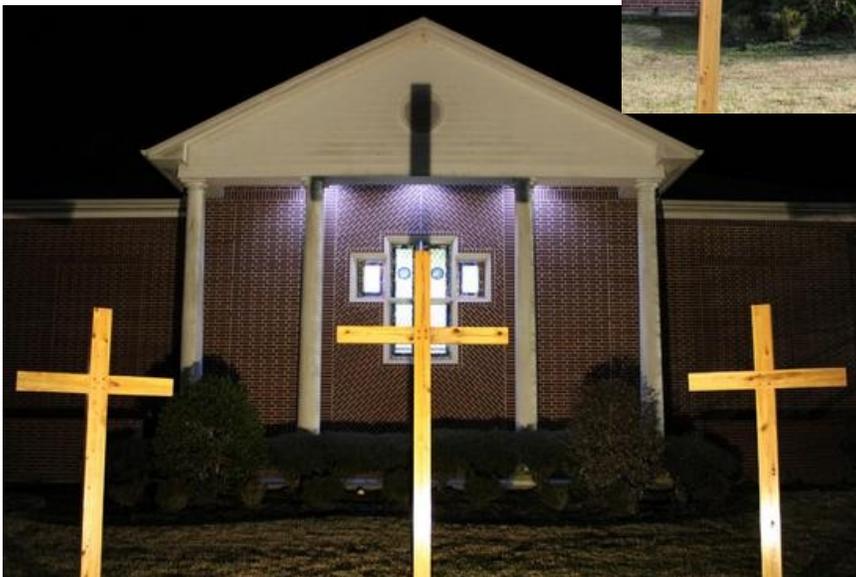
Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the Lord with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped. 2 Chr. 29:30

Praise & Worship

KUDOS

We would like to thank the following people for all their hard work and time they donated to make and install the wonderful crosses we have out front:

- Randy Beehn
- Gary Freeman
- Wayne Williford
- Henry Willis
- Br. Daniel White
- Leah Beehn
- Elana Beehn
- Suzanne Odom
- Mark Finkenbiner



For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor 1:18

REFLECTIONS

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023*



Luke 2:34; 20:17
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6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; [Is. 7:14; Luke 2:11] And the government will rest on His shoulders; [Matt. 28:18] And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, [Is. 28:20] Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace. On the throne of David and over his kingdom, [Luke 1:32, 33] To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness [Is. 11:4, 5]



*Baby Dedication--- February 11, 2024
Zapporah Barnett with parents, Aaron & Sarah Barnett and Malachi Hamm with parents, Shon & Susanna Hamm*



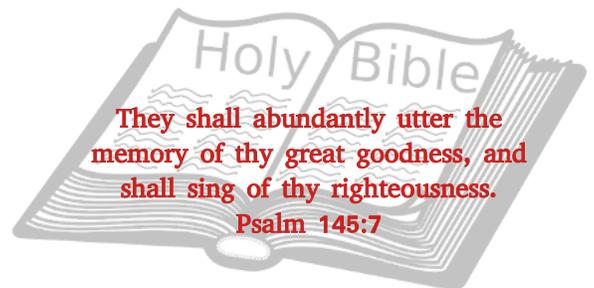
Carolyn Graham's Sunday School Class-- 12/24



*Operation Christmas Child Celebration Dinner--- July 29, 2023
Hee-Haw Band (Steve Clark, Reggie Brandenburg & Daniel White)
singing & telling jokes*



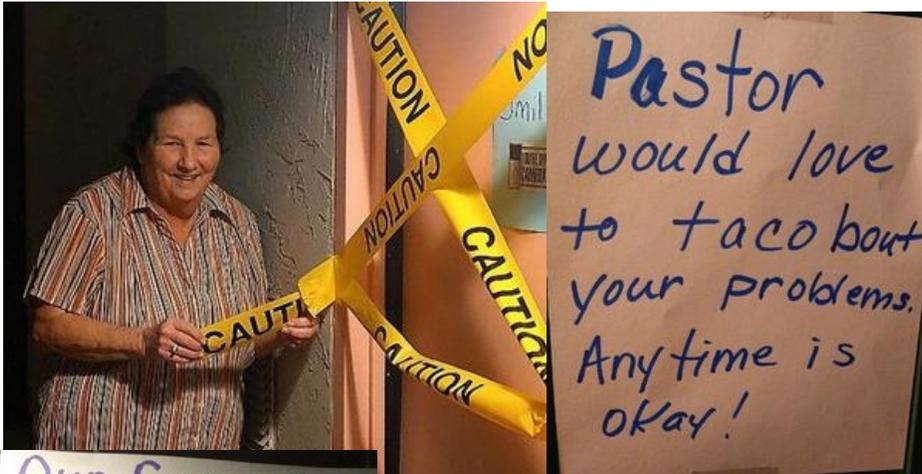
"Soggy Bottom Boys" [AKA Suzanne Odom, Ethan Barnett & Daniel White] singing "Man of Constant Sorrow" September 17, 2023



**They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.
Psalm 145:7**

TOMFOOLERY

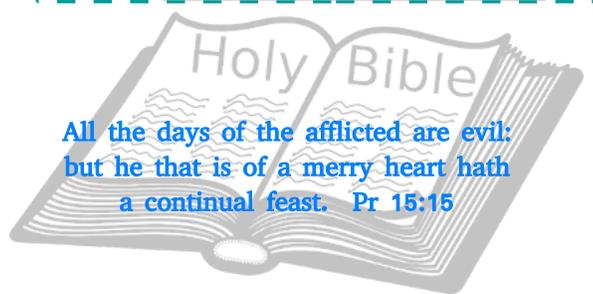
Sometimes, the world has this perception that being Christian means you can't have any fun. Obviously, they have not met Beverly McKee & Suzanne Odom! Whenever they are around, you can be guaranteed to have a laugh. While at the Empower Conference, Beverly along with her partner-in-crime, Suzanne, decided to tag Br. Daniel's motel room door. The signs are all "Taco" themed since he was helping with the Disaster Relief taco truck.



Our favorite song is "Rise & Shine & Give God the Glory". Please start singing at 5am to wake us up so we can make tacos!
Thanks

Baptist Preacher inside.
Free taco comes with 90 minute sermon.
Disclaimer:
The Holy Spirit could make him preach longer!

Suzanne Odom, along with the College & Career Class celebrated James Odom's Smallest Fish Award by having a "Smallest Fish" party.



Upcoming Events

April

- April 7-21-- Baby Bottle Campaign for Hope Women's Resource Clinic
- April 10--- Church Council Meeting
- April 16--- Armor Academy Pre-Registration begins
- April 17--- Business Meeting
- April 20--- Springtime on the Square Evangelism Booth (FBC & Armor Academy will both have one), 10 am-4 pm
- April 21--- Lord's Supper (morning service)
Passover Seder meal (evening service)

May

- May 8--- Church Council
- May 9--- Armor Academy Luncheon, Recognizing the Mothers
- May 12--- Mother's Day
- May 15--- Business Meeting
- May 23--- Armor Academy Pre-Registration ends
- May 27--- Memorial Day, church office closed
- May 30--- Armor Academy Last day of school & Year End Rewards program

June

- June 9--- Lord's Supper (morning service)
- June 12--- Church Council
- June 16--- Father's Day
- June 19--- Business Meeting
- June 23--- Mission Dignity Sunday
- June 24-28--- Vacation Bible School

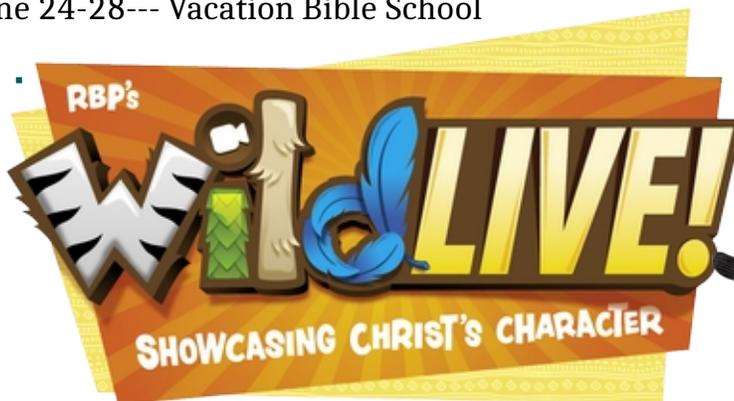


Freepik.com

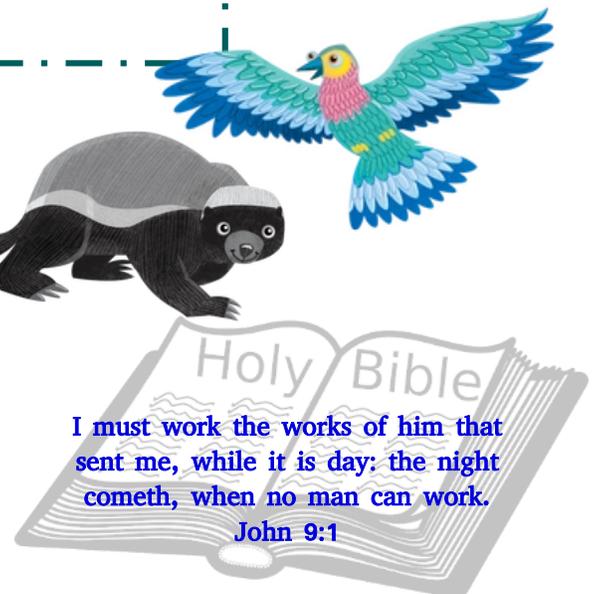
Passover Seder

I am excited to announce that on April 21st at 6:00 PM, we will observe "Christ in the Passover." Michael Solomon, a saved Jew, will be leading the observance, demonstrating how Jesus is represented in the elements. Please RSVP with the church office, so we can know how many to plan for.

~~Br. Daniel



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 24-28
9 AM-12 PM



I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.
John 9:1

INFORMATION

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL

<https://www.fbckountze.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistKountze>

***Both services on Sunday are Livestreamed on Facebook

info@fbckountze.com (Email for general information)

pray@fbckountze.com (Email prayer requests)

Article Submissions Due: June 1, 2024

Email me any pictures or articles you would like to see in our next quarterly newsletter! My email address is danielwhitefamily@gmail.com.

~D'Ann

OFFICERS

Pastor

Daniel White

Administrative Assistant

Suzanne Odom

Treasurer

Steve Clark

Trustees

Tom Settle

Betty Teel

Rhonda Barner

Mark Finkenbiner

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMEN

Property Management

Randy Beehn

Budget & Finance

Steve Clark

Missions

Personnel

Tom Settle

Member Care

Daniel White

Nominating

DEACONS



Randy Beehn, Aaron Barnett, Richard Warden,
& Gary Freeman (chairman)

If anyone has a need or knows of someone with a need, please contact one of these gentlemen, or leave a message in the church office for them.

Service Times:

Sunday

Sunday School.....9:45 am

Morning Service.....11:00 am

Ladies' Discipleship.....4:30 pm

Bible Study.....6:00 pm

Wednesday

Discipleship Class.....10:00 am

Ladies' Discipleship.....4:30 pm

Prayer Service.....6:30 pm

First Baptist Church

100 West Monroe Street

Kountze, Texas 77625

409-246-3850

And he [Christ] is the head of the
body, the church: who is the
beginning, the firstborn from the
dead; that in all things he might
have the preeminence.

Col 1:18