

First Baptist Church

Kountze, Texas

First Quarter, 2026

The Pastor's Pen

By Br. Daniel White

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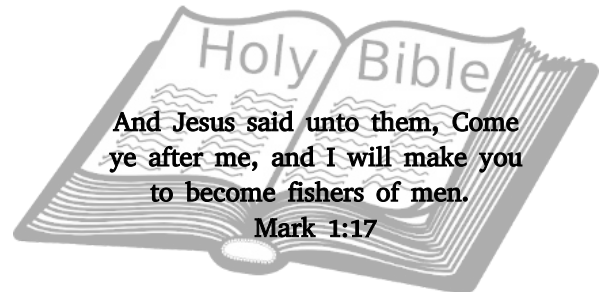
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We are now entering the final stages of our Regenesiis study. The special committee has completed great work to develop a good mission statement and strategy. This new mission statement will help us to focus our efforts and align all that we do with the mission that Jesus gave the Church. "Kountze First; Teaching Followers to Deliver Help and Hope" will begin to be our mission strategy, along with a focused path to becoming a disciple we are also developing. Our mission broken down:

1. Kountze First--- encapsulates not only that we are Kountze's First Baptist Church, but also that we as a church need to focus our greatest efforts on Kountze first. Kountze is our mission field, Kountze is our Jerusalem, and we as a church need to love and minister to our community.
2. Teaching Followers--- summarizes the mission that Jesus gave us, to teach others to observe all that He taught so that they might become followers of Jesus who will then do the same.
3. To Deliver Help & Hope--- encompasses the mission of the church, actively doing, intentionally giving, being the Hands, Feet, and Voice of Jesus to one another and also in our community.

Additionally, we are developing a pathway for new believers to grow and become true followers of Jesus... to become a disciple. What does that mean? What does it look like for a new believer to grow into a disciple? How does that happen? It will not happen accidentally; we need to move from a passive hoping it happens and begin to be intentional about providing opportunities for believers to learn to be disciples. We have identified 4 overarching characteristics: a disciple should be a Fisher, Learner, Prayer, and a Server (not in any specific order, but all of equal importance). A Fisher identifies, gets to know, and intentionally pursues a person with the gospel, hoping to catch them to salvation. A Learner discovers the Bible (how it was preserved and why it is the trusted authority), how to study it, and the teachings of Jesus. A Prayer learns how to pray privately and corporately, to worship God, and become an intercessor. A Server learns how to observe unmet needs, volunteer, and ask for help.



And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Mark 1:17

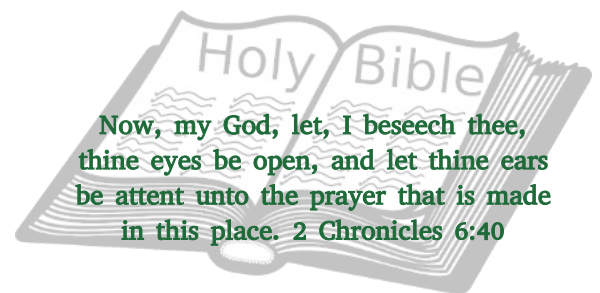
Prayer Summit

By Daniel White

Again this year, I was able to be a part of the Southwest Regional Prayer Summit. This is a Friday evening through Saturday intensive time to learn about a deeper experience with God in prayer... learning to seek his face, not merely his hand. The Prayer Summit examines each section of the 4 point prayer pattern given to us by Jesus as a template in his model prayer:

1. Reverence
2. Response
3. Request
4. Readiness

Friday night is dedicated to Reverence; we explore several different methods to encourage corporate participation in worshipping God in prayer. Then, Saturday morning we look at the Response portion; aligning our mind, will, and agenda with God. Afterward, we spend time alone seeking God's face... seeking his presence. We all find a solitary place and spend quiet time with God. After lunch, we meet back and examine making our Requests known to God, based on a portion of scripture. Finally, we pray to be made ready for Spiritual Battle and end with an observance of Communion. It is a transformative event, and I encourage you to plan to attend next year.



Empower Conference

By Denise Spencer

This year I attended my first SB Convention. Due to the focus of my grandchildren and great-grandchildren on their phones and gaming, etc, I wanted help on how to refocus their attention on people and Jesus. I went to a small group entitled, "Empowering Students to Live on Mission," led by Kyle Riley, a youth minister.

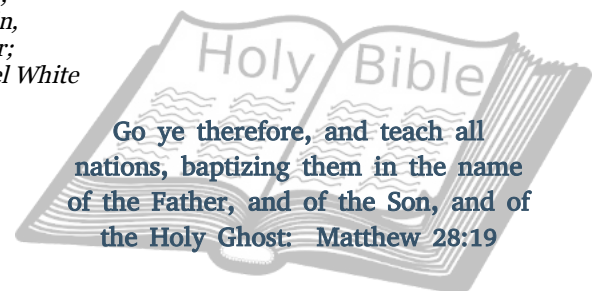
His first question was, "Are the youth on a crew ship or a battleship for Christ?" The answer should be Matthew 28:18-20, The Great Commission, however, he, like others in the room, remembered that the youth didn't learn how to be a disciple until adulthood. He began to see that his youth program had a short message and great game nights, wonderful ice cream socials, etc. His program had great numbers, but no firm foundation to build upon for Christ. Acts 1:8 and Acts 4:30-31 became his prayer and focus for the youth. Bro. Kyle began sharing strategies on how he told others about Christ...the common questions people asked, and how he responded personally and with scripture. Step 2 was the youth practicing with each other, and 3rd the youth took ownership. He said that when students panted for water like a deer, Salvation exploded (Psalms 42:1-4).

In the beginning, when he began to lead them in discipleship, the youth group decreased 30%, but 6 months later, it increased 60%. He had each youth write the names of 2 friends who did not attend church or someone that did not show knowledge of Christ. They began praying for these people in small groups, before he took individuals to visit. The 1st time he took a youth to visit a person, Kyle presented the gospel and invited them to the church. The second time, the youth did the social talking and let the minister present the salvation plan. The 3rd visit, the youth was told he/she would do everything as they walked up the driveway, but he would help, if they needed him. He also taught them to pray, like Jesus did in Matthew 6.

The Youth Pastor said that he changed from an exhausted leader to a supportive, excited leader. He had been responsible for Prayer at the Flag Pole, prayer at school programs, speaking to youth groups, etc. Then, the youth began studying the Bible and putting together presentations, asking if they could present or pray. He became a supporter. Prayer Rally night, held once a month, is the most attended event of each month! They celebrate changes in people, and they continue to add a new person to the list when one gives his life to Christ!



*Beverly McKee;
Beverly's cousin,
Denise Spencer;
D'Ann & Daniel White*



Nursing Home Ministry

By Michelle Chadwick

Spring Blooms

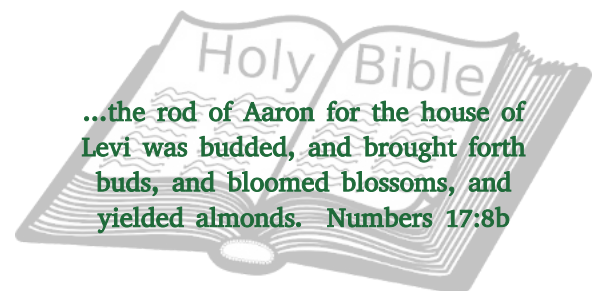
Last time I wrote I spoke about hope in valleys. Our Bible study group had dwindled because of illness, death, and some lethargy from the holidays had crept in. So, we put our hope in God and trusted Him to lift us out of that discouraging valley. Today, I'm writing to declare God's faithfulness and thank each of you who prayed for us.

It's Spring, and our Bible study is blooming. Happily, a previously ill member who had been unable to attend for months has now rejoined the group. We also have two new and enthusiastic residents faithfully joining us each Sunday. My heart is full, and God is faithful.

We have a prayer need for a man, Ray, who is drawn to our group. He is intensely interested, but is reticent to commit his life. Please pray that the Lord will break down his barriers, and that Ray surrenders his life to Jesus. Thank you for your continued prayers.



Doris Burnett



Beach Reach

By Cristi Beehn

What a pleasure it is to talk about our mission team's efforts in supporting "Beach Reach" with the Lamar Baptist Student Ministries. Beach Reach is a Christian Outreach where students volunteer to travel to Padre Island, offering transportation and pancake breakfast to the Spring Break crowds. Volunteers use this time to serve and witness to those they encounter. Our mission team decorated and packed small bags filled with things from lip balm to sunscreen, including cards with prayer and encouraging words. Our mission team's relationship with Skylar Stephens at the Lamar Student Baptist Ministry opens the door for us to serve with them.

Skylar writes:

Good afternoon! It's been a weekend of sleeping and being sick after getting back from Beach Reach, but regardless it's been restful. It's always so wonderful to see how much the LORD moved! There's many stories to be told, but I'll choose a select few to share. On the last night of Beach Reach, we had the early shift and went back to the hotel at 11. One of our students, Caleb, ended up sitting out in the lobby, and a young man named Victor sat down next to him. They chatted about fishing, cars, and all the standard country things until Caleb changed the conversation to talk about how our team has been fishing people to share the Gospel to. They ended up talking and praying for about 2 hours until Victor decided to rededicate his life to Christ! Second is related to our group. We were commended by Texas Baptist staff members for how close our group was. They talked about everybody knowing each other's names and showing genuine care for one another! It made us proud to see that fellow believers saw the family God is building here at Lamar and encouraged by it! Y'all's prayers are effective and God's faithfulness great. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel, and I hope to be able to share about God's love to us soon. Stay blessed!

P.S. If you have any questions about his experience, you are free to ask Skylar at skylar17721@outlook.com.



A special thanks goes to Amanda Bones for creating the design for the bags!

Beverly McKee



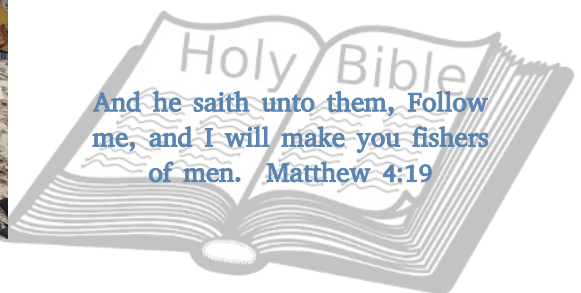
Beverly Williford



Suzanne Odom & Cristi Beehn



Michelle Chadwick



Ghana Gala

By Sarah Barnett

Running with Purpose: A 5K for Ghana

On a bright and energetic morning, our community came together for more than just a race, we gathered with a shared purpose. The 5K event was organized to raise support for missionaries serving the Lord in Ghana, and it turned into a meaningful and memorable day for everyone involved. Runners of all ages and experience levels lined up at the starting point, some aiming for personal bests, and others simply walking in support of the cause. I participated in the race as well, pushing a stroller filled with my children along the course. It wasn't the fastest run, but it was one of the most rewarding...sharing the experience with them made it even more special.



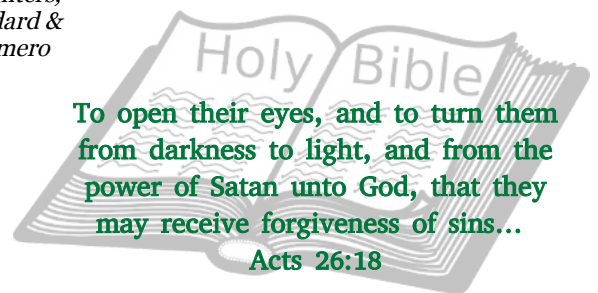
The atmosphere was filled with encouragement, laughter, and a sense of unity. Whether sprinting toward the finish line or strolling with friends and family, each participant played a part in something bigger. The funds raised from the event will go directly toward supporting the missionary's work, helping provide essential resources, outreach efforts, and care for the local community in Ghana. It was a powerful reminder that even small steps—literally—can make a lasting impact across the world. Events like this 5K show how a simple idea can bring people together to make a difference. By combining fitness, fellowship, and generosity, our community was able to support a meaningful mission and be part of a story that reaches far beyond Kountze.



*Joey Romero,
Missionary to Ghana &
Br. Daniel*



*Joey's daughters,
Katie Woodard &
Claysey Romero*



Ghana Gala

By Sharon Young

This year's Ghana Gala included a car and bike show. It was great seeing all the beautiful cars and motorcycles! Priesthood Motorcycle Ministry and C.U.R.E Motorcycle Ministry were ready to bless and minister to the attendees. They were both excited to represent their ministries--- and mostly Jesus Christ--- at the Gala and looking forward to attending next year!

It was a blessing having these ministries join us this year! Here's a couple statements from the Priesthood:

It was definitely a great atmosphere, with a lot of Spirit. Brothers and sisters definitely felt the love from everyone that I met... looking forward to seeing what the Lord has in store in the future. Great food and fellowship! Thank you for giving us an opportunity to make ourselves available to pray with folks.

Much Love,

---Priesthood TX State Rep President "Bear" Pastor Joe

Jerry & Sharon Young

The woodwork presented was very beautiful. It was explained to us where the wood came from and what type it was.

--- Doris 'Apache' Veliz



Handmade wooden cross

Silent Auction Items

Sea Urchin Ornament



Theresa Mitchell & Candace Tate



Car "Shine"--- the local Corvette club and other classic car owners came out to show off their cars to help draw community interest to the event. They even paraded through town.



Priesthood President, "Bear"



Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16

Sassy Seniors

By Beverly McKee

Every Thursday--- mid-morning, 10 am---Sassy Seniors begin arriving at our fellowship hall for exercise. Chairs scrape across the floor, laughter echoes, and someone announces "If we bond any further, we may need a search party to help us back up." Right on cue, in walks the kind lady (Amanda Bones) who leads the group in exercise--- a busy lady by every measure, yet never too busy to spend a little time encouraging others. She sets down her armload of stretch bands and weights, and with a cheerful smile she says, "All right, ladies, let's loosen up gently. We're exercising, not training nor auditioning for the Olympics."

The warm-ups begin, arms lifted slowly, knees marched carefully, and every movement comes with a commentary (seriously). This is the only class where we count to eight and celebrate when we make it to four. Yet through laughter something special happens: stiff joints warm up, shoulders relax, and spirits are lifted. "We don't check ages at the door--- just bring your smile and move whatever still moves."

We share a daily devotional before exercise and share simple thoughts about strength for each day--- not just physical strength but the kind that comes from faith, friendship, and finding joy in small moments. We end our devotion with prayer--- thankful for moving muscles and faithful friendships. It's cheaper than therapy and twice as much fun.

As the Sassy Seniors shuffle out the door, everyone is standing a little taller, laughing a little louder, talking about the good workout they had, and speaking of the anticipation of seeing everyone next week.



Jean Massey



Amanda Bones leading the group



Brenda George, Joan Valentine, & Linda Settle



But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8



armor academy



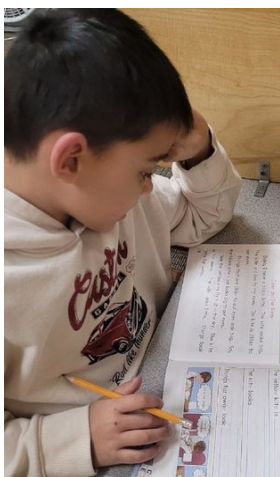
Praying...not napping during chapel



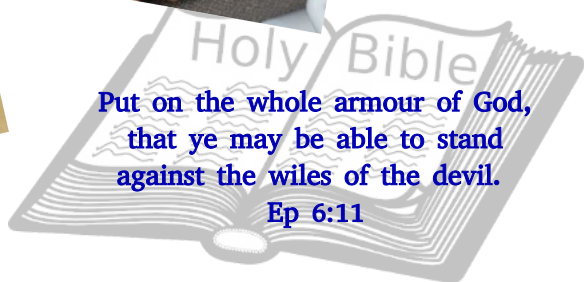
Br. Daniel taught about the treasure hidden in a field (Mt 13:44) & D'Ann showed them the rocks they found while rock hunting.



Br. Taylor led chapel while Br. Daniel was on vacation



Silas & Nolan Burke napping after school



**Put on the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil.
Eph 6:11**

Operation Christmas Child

By Beverly Williford

SAMARITAN'S PURSE CELEBRATES 12.2 CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Samaritan's Purse is celebrating a successful season after collecting 12.2 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2025, sharing the love of Jesus with children in need around the World.

This milestone reflects the generosity of millions of shoebox packers helping to fill shoebox gifts with toys, school supplies and personal care items. Across the US, the project collected 10.9 million shoebox gifts in 2025. Combined with those collected from partnering countries, the ministry is now sending over 12.2 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including those whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Melissa, a category 5 storm that recently struck Jamaica.

"Each shoebox gift is an opportunity to remind boys and girls around the world that God loves them," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "We are so thankful for the generosity of every person who packed a shoebox. These gifts are bringing joy and the hope of the Gospel to children in need."

For many children, a shoebox gift is the first gift they have ever received. Each one is a tangible expression of God's love, offering hope to children facing war, poverty, disease and disaster. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

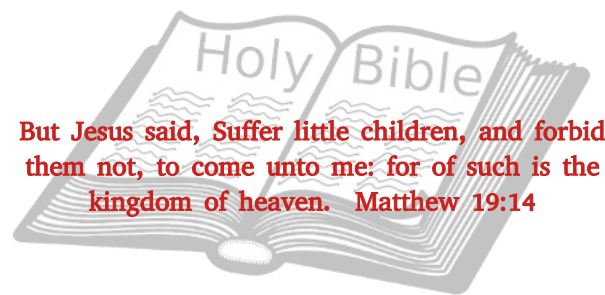
While local drop-off locations are closed until National Collection Week, Nov. 16 – 23, 2026, anyone can participate year-round by packing a shoebox gift online at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. These shoebox gifts built online go to the hardest-to-reach areas in the world—whether deep jungles, city slums, or steep mountainsides.

--- copied from Samaritan Purse's Facebook page

I am excited and thankful that our church family and our Big Thicket OCC Area collected and sent 1590 of these shoeboxes in 2025.

We are off to a good start for 2026 for collecting shoebox items. We are doing collection a little differently this year. Please note, that in April, we are collecting Sunglasses, Caps, Hats, and Bandanas for Boy & Girls all ages. We have 2 boxes in the foyer area - one for Women or Girls to put their donations in, and one for Men or Boys to put their donations in. We are keeping count of who brings the most items each month! Check the weekly church bulletin for items to be collected each month. Other small shoebox items are readily accepted, also.

For more information about OCC shoebox collections, etc. please contact Beverly Williford or Cheryl House. Thanks again, and we are looking forward to another successful year. The goal we have set for FBC for 2026 is **300 Shoeboxes**.



But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 19:14

Jerry & Jerri Young



Mark & Michelle Chadwick



Burke family



Randy Beehn



Linda Settle & Beverly Williford



Suzanne & James Odom



Beverly McKee



Cristi Beehn



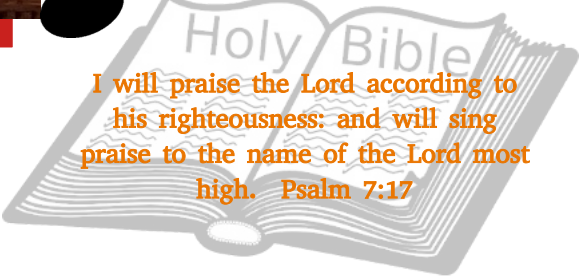
Aaron & Briella Barnett



Sarah & Zion Barnett



Philece Gomez



I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the Lord most high. Psalm 7:17

Praise & Worship

Baby shower



On March 8, we had a baby shower for Susanna Hamm to help her prepare for the arrival of Kathryn Roseanna.



Amos helping his mama open the gifts.



Suzanne Odom, Shelby Burke & Beverly McKee playing the diaper game.



Debbie Gates guessing Susanna's belly size



When you think of a church nursery, what comes to mind? Maybe you see it as simply a place for babysitting while parents attend services...but our nursery is so much more than that!

It's a place where our future evangelists, teachers, and pastors begin learning about Jesus, God's Word, and His love. You may see children playing, scribbling on paper, or gluing pieces of construction paper— but Jesus is present in their playtime, in every scribbled line, and in each torn piece of paper.

Our amazing teachers pour Scripture and Bible stories into the hearts of these children— our future. A thriving nursery is vital to the growth of any church.

If this sounds like a ministry you'd like to be part of, please reach out to Jerri Young or Sharon Young. We would love to welcome you to our nursery— there's a place for everyone!



Zapporah Barnett



Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. Psalm 127:3

Nursery

By Sharon Young



Church Bell



By Beverly McKee

Our Church Bell

The church bell rings with a sweetness that seems to settle over the whole place. Its clear tone drifts across the yard, calling hearts to pause, to listen, to remember (ladies' retreat, lol). Each note feels warm and familiar, like a welcome that never grows tired. It mingles with the bright laughter of children playing nearby in the playground. Their giggles bounce like music of their own, light and carefree, as if they are answering the bell with joy. There's something about that moment--- the bell ringing and the children laughing--- that makes you think of heaven. It's easy to imagine that somewhere beyond the clouds, the "bells of heaven" echo with the same sweetness, celebrating hope, faith, and simple happiness. The laughter of children is the scene of joy, pure and unburdened. As the tone fades into the distance, it leaves behind a peaceful reminder: one day, the "bells of heaven" will ring clearer than ever, and every heart will hear the most beautiful welcome of all.

The church bell was given to the church by the SNBA Association. It came from a church in Rayburn country. A special thanks goes to Randy Beehn, Henry Willis, and Ryan Oliver for working so hard to refinish and set the bell. If you haven't taken the time to ring the bell, shame on you. It was placed on the property February 5, 2026, near the playground for children of all ages (0-73+) to ring. One day I will enjoy ringing the "bells of heaven"--- until then...



Before it was refinished



Henry Willis

*Randy Beehn
& Ryan Oliver
setting bell in
its final place*



Beverly McKee, first to ring the bell



Burke boys ringing the bell



In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Zechariah 14:20

Cry Room

By D'Ann White

The cry room, located at the back of the sanctuary, has had a makeover. The cry room is a place for parents to take crying children, if they feel their child is being disruptive, and mothers to go to nurse their infants, and still be able to participate in the service. A special thanks goes to the Youngs for their hard work in revitalizing this important room to make it more cozy & appealing!



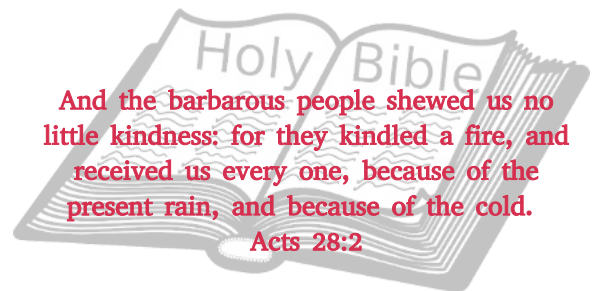
Ryan Oliver

It's Hot Out Here!

Guess what, FBC family? We have a fire pit! I'm so excited to be able to have fellowship events around the fire. Any active church member may use the pit, but you must fill out a "Facilities Use Agreement" first, then be approved by the office. Always check local guidelines for burning to make sure it's safe to burn (no burn bans!). I look forward to seeing you at the "pit" to exchange stories, roast marshmallows, sing songs, or just relax! Thank you, Randy Beehn and Ryan Oliver, for building the pit for us!



By Suzanne Odom



REFLECTIONS



Debbie Barnett, & Sharon Clark with little Jesse



Silas & Nolan Burke wrestling with Timothy White



Mae Digmon giving Jean Massey a ride on her walker



Daniel Thompson, Mae Digmon, & René Freeman singing at Cynda Willis' funeral



SNBA Director of Missions, Jimmy Neel, filling in while Daniel was on vacation



Sunday morning fellowship (Burke family & Jean Massey)



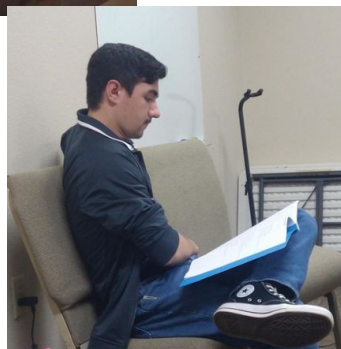
Daniel White & Ethan Barnett leading worship during prayer service



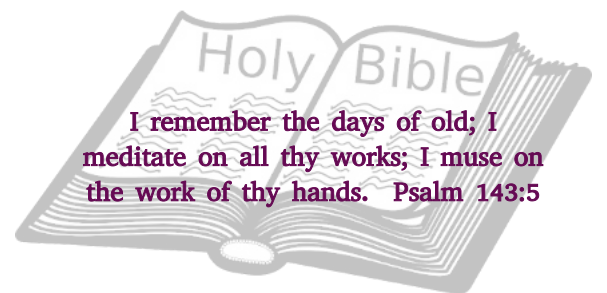
Suzanne & James Odom



Rachel Williams at Nursing home in Denton



Timothy White



I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands. Psalm 143:5

In Memory



Evoyne Gates
December 27, 1930-March 6, 2026



Cynda Willis
October 19, 1941-March 21, 2026

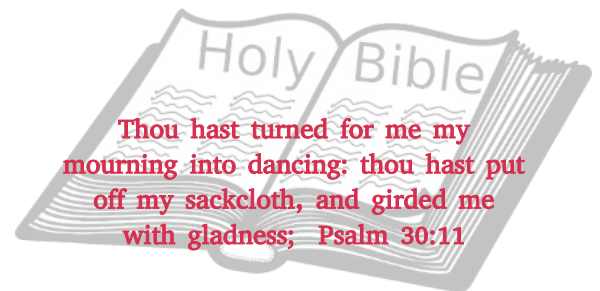
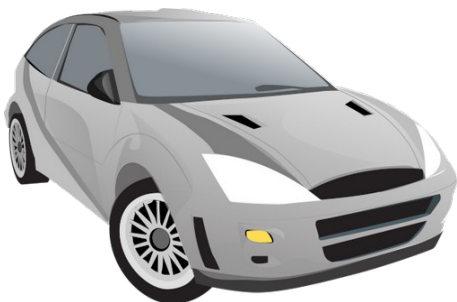
Both of these women greatly loved their church family and were great prayer warriors. We mourn their loss and look forward to seeing them in the resurrection. Until such a time, they will be missed.

Deacons' Report

By Gary Freeman

This Quarter the Deacons have been involved in serving both church members and also our community:

- Helping with repair work at a home.
- Helping with transportation.
- Helping get a person on a list to receive a handicap ramp.



Upcoming Events

April

- Apr 1--- Passover Seder
- Apr 5--- Resurrection Sunday & Lord's Supper
- Apr 7--- Regenesis meeting
- Apr 8--- Church Council
- Apr 10-11--- Disaster Relief Training
- Apr 12--- Hope Clinic Speaker, morning service
- Apr 14--- Spring Fling @ Cornerstone
- Apr 15--- Business meeting
- Apr 18--- Regenesis @ Old River BC
- Apr 25--- World Soccer Outreach Training



July 13-17
5:30-8:30

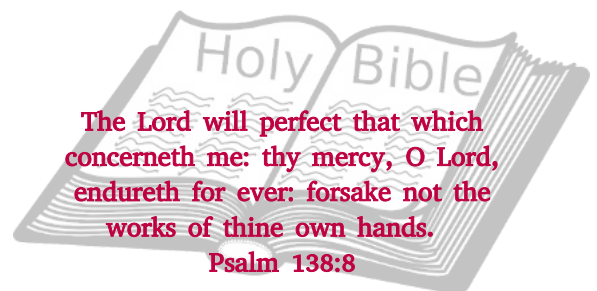
May

- May 10--- Mother's Day
- May 12-14--- Pastor's Prayer Retreat
- May 16--- Regenesis @ Old River BC
- May 20--- Armor Academy Registration ends
- May 20--- Business meeting
- May 21--- Armor Academy Awards Program
- May 23--- Reclaim Conference
- May 24--- Guest Speaker—Dennis Henderson, morning service

June

- June 1-5--- Cheer Camp
- June 17--- Business Meeting
- June 21--- Father's Day & Lord's Supper
- June 27--- Women's Self-Defense Class

Armor Academy
Registration for 2026-
2027 is open now until
May 20. New year will
begin Aug 18.





INFORMATION



WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL

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

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

*****Both services on Sunday are Live-streamed on Facebook**

info@fbckountze.com (Email for general information)

pray@fbckountze.com (Email prayer requests)

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
Suzanne Odom

Personnel
Brenda George

Member Care
Daniel White

Nominating
Beverly McKee

Nursery
Sharon Young

Article Submissions Due: June 1, 2026

Email me any pictures or articles you would like to see in our next quarterly newsletter!

-DAnn

What Does the Logo Represent?

- **The Crown** — represents Jesus Christ: our King and the rightful King of the whole world. – John 18:37 / Revelation 19:16
- **The Thorns** — represent His suffering to purchase us through His death on the cross. – Isaiah 53:5 / Ephesians 5:25 / Mark 15:17
- **The Candle** — represents our church: we are in Christ and connected to Jesus. – Revelation 1:20 / Romans 12:5 / John 15:5
- **The Flame** — represents the Light of the world: Jesus, while He was here, and us, in this present age. – John 8:12 / John 9:5 / Matthew 5:14-16
- **The Letters** — represent the name of Jesus: His first initial is I in Latin and Greek, and ' in Hebrew. So, our church is built up in Him. – John 19:19-20 / Colossians 2:6-7 **Logo designed by Ethan Barnett*

DEACONS



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

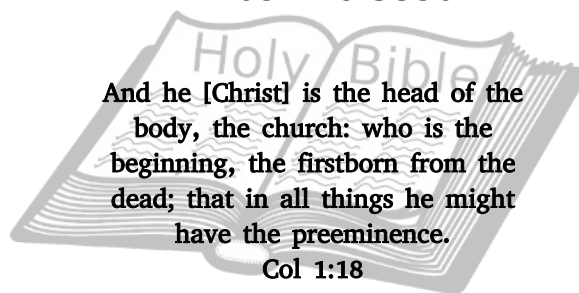
- Sunday School.....9:45 am
- Morning Service.....11:00 am
- Ladies' Discipleship.....4:30 pm
- Bible Study.....6:00 pm

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