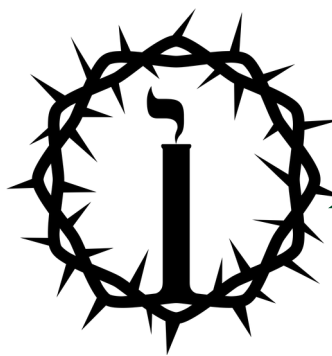




First Baptist Church

Kountze, Texas

Kountze First; Teaching Followers to Deliver Help & Hope

Second Quarter, 2026

The Pastor's Pen

By Br. Daniel White

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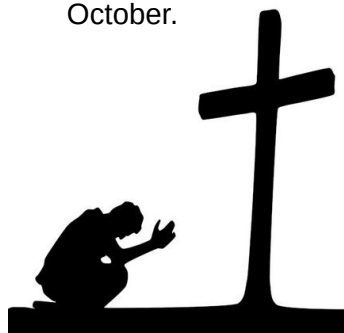
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In April we honored the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus as it is explicitly tied to the Passover and celebrated a traditional Jewish Passover supper by demonstrating how Christ is pictured in each element of the Passover Seder. Also in April, I took the National Association of Parliamentarians credentialing exam and passed. I am now a Registered Parliamentarian and plan to use this skill to help other pastors and churches. I was invited to attend the Pastors Prayer Retreat 2.0 (a next step from the first retreat I attended in 2023), and this time they encouraged us to bring our wife and other ministry staff. D'Ann and Ethan were both able to attend the retreat, and we all had a wonderful time, meeting other ministers, visiting about our churches, and learning from excellent teachers. It was an amazing time of refreshing and realignment.

We completed our 9 month Regenesi s cohort commitment in May. I am so grateful for our Regenesi s team, all their hard work, brainstorming sessions, meetings, and planning. During Regenesi s, we were given great resources, including a weekly scriptural prayer focus for each month. Going forward, we are to create those ourselves, looking forward, planning, and praying with strategy. Using the the 4/4 prayer of Strategic Renewal based on the model prayer of Jesus, our prayer focus each Wednesday begins with *Reverence* of God, our *Response* to God, then our *Requests* to God, and finally *Readiness* for spiritual battle. In order to better prepare for our Regenesi s Launch in January 2027, I am leading our church through a *Prayer Journey* using these four points, covering one point each month for four months. In June, we began our *Prayer Journey* with a weekly focus and a 21 Days of Prayer specifically on *Reverence*. In July, we focused on *Response* followed by *Requests* in August, and finally *Readiness* in September, as we discover that Prayer is the Battlefield. All of this so that we will be prepared to begin *Strategic Prayer* for our city in October.



And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

1 Kings 9:3



Passover Seder



By Beverly McKee

First Baptist hosted a Seder (Passover feast) on Wednesday, April 1, in the place of our evening services. It was well attended by members and a few guests. We had an evening meal after Br. Daniel White and the participants went through the Passover rituals.

Jewish families around the world have celebrated the Passover Seder for centuries, preserving its rituals through times of celebration and hardships. The Seder is intended to paint a picture of freedom from physical and spiritual slavery. Church members and guests enjoyed hearing the historical and religious significance of the Jewish Passover according to their traditions.

The Seder contains storytelling (by Brother Daniel) and activities that engage children and the adults. The adults enjoyed the songs of praise led by Br. Ethan Barnett. The children enjoyed the search for the hidden matzah. Violet Greer found the hidden matzah, receiving "silver coin" candy as a prize, which she shared with her brothers.

A good time was had by all and it was a unique learning experience concerning Jewish tradition. Rather than just hearing the story, we got to experience it. Awesome presentation!

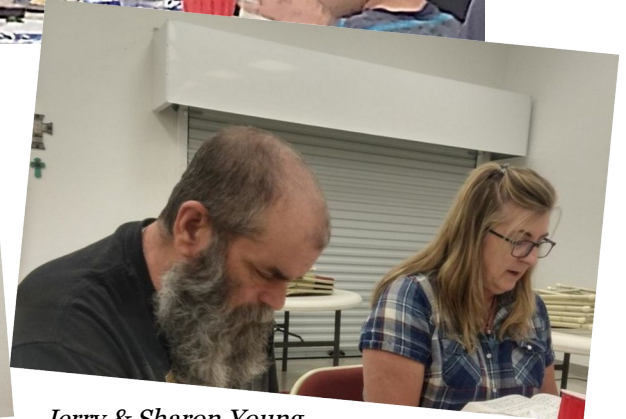


Amy Phillips



*Angel Greer &
Zach Bentley,
Dominic &
Jedi*

*Ethan Barnett &
Daniel White*



Jerry & Sharon Young



Ethan Barnett & Samuel White



And thus shall ye eat it; with your
loins girded, your shoes on your feet,
and your staff in your hand; and ye
shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's
passover. Exodus 12:11



Passover Seder



By Beverly McKee

The Passover Seder Order & Meaning

1. Kadesh (Sanctify)--- The first of four cups of wine set the night apart from the rest of the year.
2. Urchatz (Washing)--- Washing of hands without reciting the customary blessing, preparing to touch the appetizer with ritual purity.
3. Karpas (Appetizer)---Dipping parsley or celery into saltwater and eating it. The green vegetable represents spring, while the salt water represents tears of slavery.
4. Yachatz (Breaking)--- The breaking of the middle matzah of the three on the table. The larger piece is hidden away as the Afikoman, and the smaller piece represents the "bread of poverty."
5. Maggid (The Story)--- Telling the story of the Exodus from Egypt, beginning with the four questions (Ma Nishtana), designed to pass the history down to the next generation. Drink the second cup of wine at the end of this step.
6. Rachtzah (Washing)--- Washing the hands a second time with the traditional blessing. The ritual preparation for eating the matzah and starting the actual meal.
7. Motzi (Blessing Over the Bread)--- Reciting the standard blessing over grain/bread products (Hamotzi) while holding the matzah.
8. Matzah (Blessing Over the Matzah)--- Reciting a specific commandment blessing explicitly for eating unleavened bread, then eating a piece
9. Maror (Bitter Herbs)--- Dipping bitter herbs (often horseradish or romaine lettuce) into charoset (a sweet fruit and nut mixture) and eating it, commemorating the bitterness and harsh labor experienced by the slaves in Egypt.
10. Korech (The Sandwich)--- Making a sandwich out of the matzah and the maror, following the ancient practice of the sage Hillel, who combined the Passover offering, matzah, and maror together.
11. Shulchan Orech (The Feast)--- Serving and enjoying the main holiday dinner, celebrating the comfort of freedom through a festive meal.
12. Tzafun (The Hidden Matzah)--- Children search for the Afikoman that was broken and hidden in step 4. This serves as the final of food for the night, leaving the taste of matzah in the mouth.
13. Barech (Grace after Meals)--- Reciting the grace after meals (Birkat Hamazon) and drinking the third cup of wine.
14. Hallel (Songs of Praise)--- Singing songs of praise and gratitude, opening the door for the Prophet Elijah, and drinking the fourth cup of wine.
15. Nirtzah (Acceptance)---Concluding the Seder with songs and prayers of peace, traditionally ending with the phrase: "Next year in Jerusalem!"

*** A special place setting and cup for wine is placed at the head table for Elijah.

*** A shank bone is also a part of the Seder, representing the lamb that was slain (sacrificial lamb)---a foreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice.

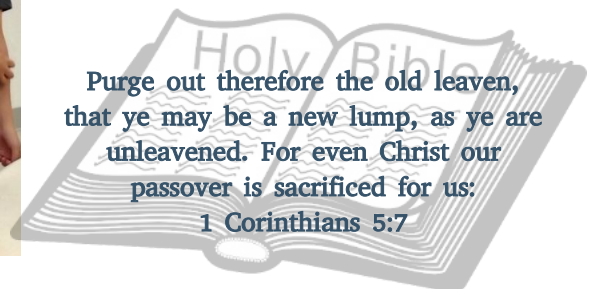


*Cheryl & Ben
House*

*Violet Greer, with brother
Warren, finding the Afikomen*



*Jedi & Dominic Walton enjoying
Violet's prize*



SPRING FLING

By Beverly Williford

The annual community wide senior adult Spring Fling was held by Cornerstone Baptist Church on April 14, 2026. Fifteen of our FBC church family were in attendance and enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Rocking A Restaurant of Beaumont. Pat Overstreet, Cornerstone's Minister of Music, provided a beautiful concert. Door prizes and contests were a fun part of the evening activities. Numerous local churches were represented. Thanks to Bro. Scott Moyer and the Cornerstone church family for hosting this event of food, fun, and fellowship.

*Beverly Mckee
& Jean Massey*

*Beverly Williford
and sister, Kathy
Stephenson*



*Judy Clark
& Betty Teel*



Rhonda Barner & Ginger Brown



Linda & Tom Settle



Jerry & Sharon Young



If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
Philippians 2:1-2

Nursing Home Ministry

By Michelle Chadwick

Summer is here and the Missions Committee at FBC Kountze helped to usher it in with holding an ice cream social at our nursing home, Paradigm at Kountze. The rainy day didn't deter faithful volunteers (ten in all), and we needed them! The dining room was packed with residents eagerly awaiting a treat. They were surprised that the afternoon held more than treats. We all played bingo, and those not playing were visited by one of the volunteers.

The residents enjoyed the event so much that I was still hearing about it two weeks later. Unsurprisingly, what they talked about was more about the visits they had or the games we played, rather than the ice cream float for which they had originally gathered. These residents are starved for interaction and a break to their daily routine, and we're impressed and grateful for all the personal time spent with them.

I think I can also report with confidence that it wasn't just the residents who enjoyed their time at the ice cream float social. We all talked about how much we enjoyed being there.

The Bible study ministry also can report another 2 additions. Sadly, we lost one of our members as well. She loved Jesus and, though she is missed, we know she is free and with her Lord.

Last newsletter, I requested prayer for Ray, one of those attending the Bible study. He continues coming and asks a lot of questions. I believe what holds him back is much of what he learned from his childhood religion. Please pray that God opens the eyes of his heart.

As always, your prayers for these residents are deeply appreciated.



Who is a wise man and endowed with
knowledge among you? let him
shew out of a good conversation his
works with meekness of wisdom.
James 3:13

SNBA New Mexico Vision Trip

By Suzanne Odom

“Yā’ āt’ ééh”

(pronounced Yah-ah-teh)

Navajo (Diné language)

Standard “Hello”--- The Navajo culture has a much deeper meaning. Literally, it translates to “it is good.”

This past May, I had the pleasure of going to Farmington, New Mexico, with a group of leaders from area churches. Some churches already have future trips planned and were making final preparations before their scheduled mission trip. I wanted to get some insight into the Navajo culture and see if there is opportunity for our church to minister to the Diné People on the Navajo Reservation on a future mission trip.

We drove 3 hours onto the reservation and visited 3 different churches to discover their most important needs. One was in desperate need of construction work, while two others needed programs and discipleship ministries (i.e. VBS, men’s & women’s Bible studies).

The need there for the gospel is great! These churches are working hard to fill pulpits, share the gospel, and win the lost. However, there is opposition from family and friends when one of the Diné people turn from their long-held cultural traditions and spiritual beliefs to the life-saving message of the gospel. They are shunned and even tormented by “skin-walkers.” Their long-held belief in these “skin walkers” is hard to escape, even for the saved Navajo.

On the last night of our stay, we sat down with Pastor Loren Johnson to discuss what he would like to see offered in the event our church plans a mission trip to New Mexico. He said the greatest need is men’s discipleship. I’m hoping some of the men of FBC Kountze can prayerfully consider helping with this need.



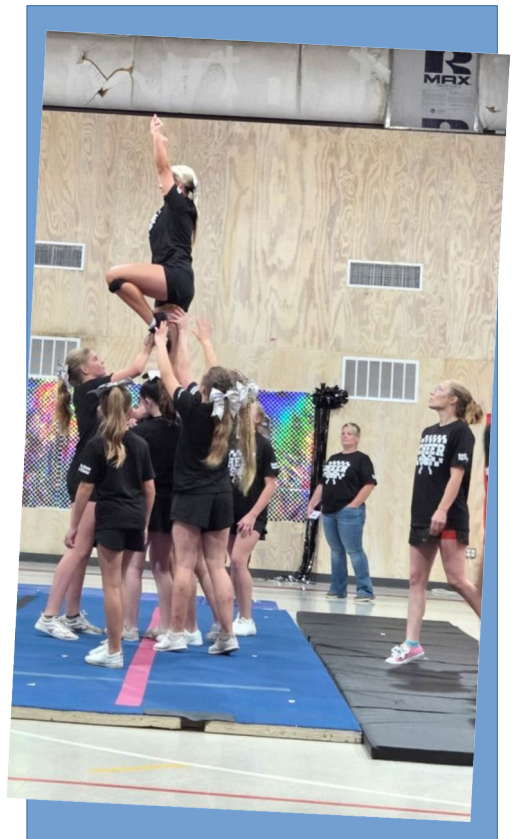
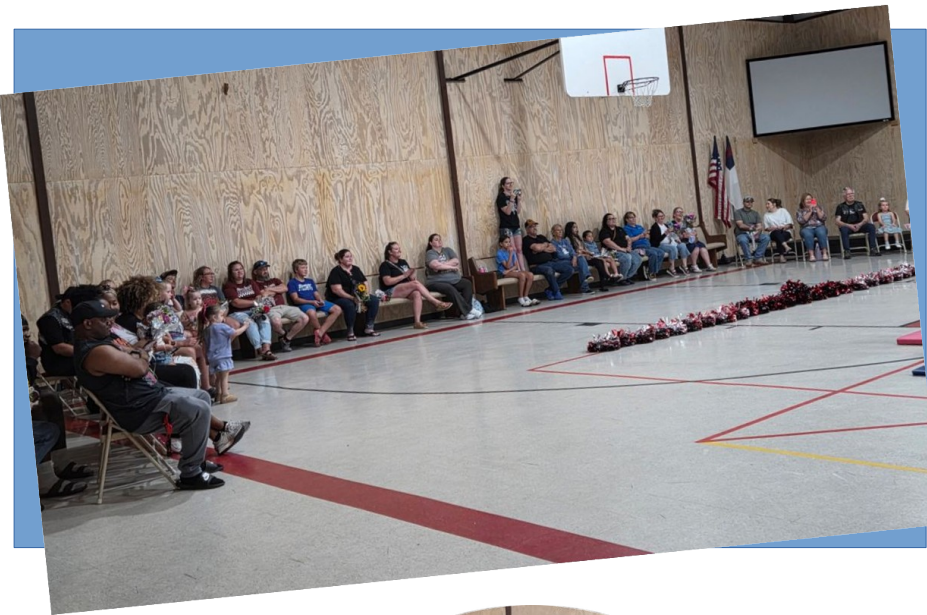
To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.
2 Corinthians 10:16-17

CHEER CAMP

By Suzanne Odom

Cheer Loud, Cheer Proud!!!

We welcomed back, for the second year in a row, Lindsey Walters (Camp Director) and an awesome group of girls that came to camp to perfect their jumps, flips, and cheer voices. The camp was held June 1st-5th, with a parent night to end the week as the girls showcased their skills for their family and friends. It is our pleasure to allow the camp to take place in our gym and share our facilities with the young people of our community. Looking forward to seeing Lindsey and the girls next year!



But let all those that put their
trust in thee rejoice: let them
ever shout for joy, because thou
defendest them: let them also
that love thy name be joyful in
thee. Psalm 5:11

PRAYER RETREAT

By Ethan Barnett

This past May, Br. Daniel, Sis. D'Ann, and I went to the Pastor's Prayer Retreat 2.0 at New Beginnings Baptist Church in Longview, Texas. This was the sequel to the Pastor's Prayer Retreat 1.0 that Br. Daniel went to back in 2023. That 1.0 retreat was for senior pastors only, but this 2.0 retreat in May was for pastors, their wives, as well as other church leadership. There were associate pastors, worship leaders, and deacons present.

The focus of the retreat was very simple; while there were different breakout sessions, speakers, and subtopics, the whole point of the event was Jesus and our relationship to Him in prayer, and the main push in that was "abiding." We should not come to Jesus at certain points of the day, for certain needs, with certain requests, and at special appointed times. While we should pray to Him in all those circumstances, we should come to Him early and stay there in His presence with no end. In John 15:1-17, Jesus tells His disciples (which includes us) to abide in Him. In fact, He tells us that we cannot do anything without Him (vs 4). To abide somewhere means to stay; we call our home our "abode" because we live there: it's assumed that we'll be there since that's where we belong. Jesus told us in John 14:23 "... *If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*" That is not to say that when we come to Jesus, we should have an occasional "spiritual experience." That is to say that we ought to stay in His presence.

Unfortunately, abiding is not something that just happens--- it is not our default state. We do not accidentally fall into a state of abiding in Jesus. Our flesh, the old man, has no desire to abide in Jesus. Our flesh does not feel the call, see the need, nor yearn for a closeness with God. So whenever we walk according to the flesh, we fall out of abiding in Christ. Without Christ, we can do nothing. Our lives become vain, our works become dead, our fruit withers on the vine, and we have no strength to war against our flesh or the works of the enemy. Christ told us to abide--- that means that not abiding is sadly an option, else there would be no need for the command. When we don't seek His presence, we are essentially choosing to not abide in Christ, and the results can be heartbreaking.

For me, the Prayer Retreat was convicting. I realized that I have not been abiding in Christ for years. I have believed in Jesus, I have prayed to God, and I have done my best to serve Him, but to come before His presence just to be with Him; to seek His face and abide where He is; to trust in His strength and to listen for His Holy Spirit's voice in my heart, I have not done. I had gone about good works on my own terms and in my own way, and trusted in my own self to handle it rightly. Thankfully, our God is gracious, and our Savior is faithful, and Jesus calls us to return to Him and teaches us again how to abide with Him.

Of course, there were many other things said and taught, but throughout the event, each topic wrapped back around to abiding in Jesus and having a long-term, intimate, worship-filled, listening prayer with Him as individuals and as a church. An encouraging thing to see was the modeled prayer meeting on Wednesday night. They call that service "The Prayer," and it is their most important church service. In a time when many churches are choosing to give up on the midweek prayer service, New Beginnings and First Baptist Forney (the other church leading this retreat) have renewed their focus on it. Both Pastor Todd Kaunitz of New Beginnings and Pastor Nathan Lino of FBC Forney have made it their priority to seek the presence of Jesus in their own lives, and to lead their churches to do the same.

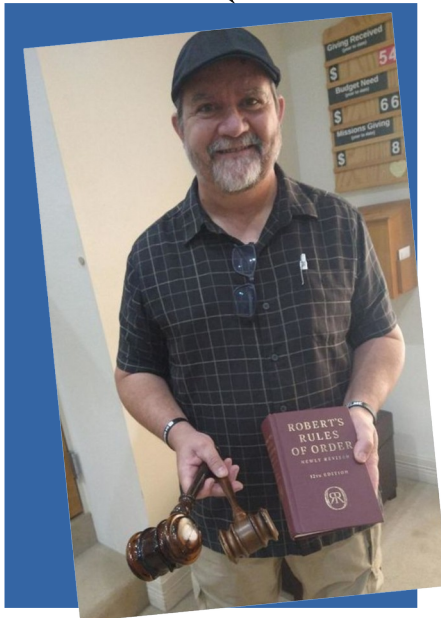
It encourages me to see that Jesus has been leading our Pastor in the same way. He has prioritized spending time in Christ's presence in his own life, and has been faithfully leading this church both in sermons on Sundays, and in modeling this prayer and teaching it on Wednesday nights. If perhaps you have not attended one of our prayer services in a while, please come! You will see worship first: hallowing the name of our Father in heaven; a time of confession and response to God; a time to pray for our needs and the needs of others, but more importantly, to pray for Christ's kingdom and the will of God to proceed here and abroad; and finally, prayer that God would prepare us, and defend us as we go to make disciples as He has told us to do.

I'm very grateful that I was able to go to this retreat; it was a great benefit to my walk with Jesus. I would encourage anyone to go if the opportunity arises. I think you will receive a blessing.

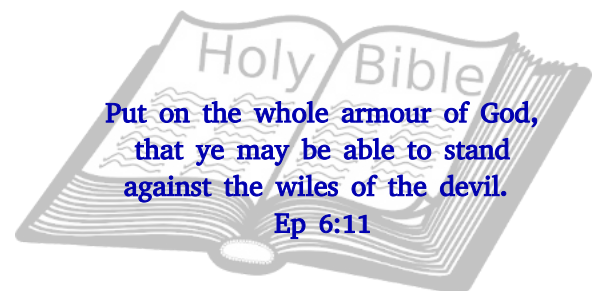




armor academy



Some of the lessons Br Daniel taught in chapel last quarter were about parliamentary procedure, playing the guitar, the lost coin, and about being rooted and grounded in the Lord.



Operation Christmas Child

By Beverly Williford

OCC Shoebox collections for 2026 are in full swing. Two boxes are in the foyer area --- one for the ladies to put their donations in and one for the guys to put their donations in. It has become a fun and fierce competition between the ladies and men each month to see who has brought the most items each month. Thanks so much for your participation so far. We will collect items through the end of September. Please check the church bulletin regularly for the monthly collection items and other important OCC information. We will be scheduling our annual church wide packing party soon and will need everyone to help pack shoeboxes that will be collected at our church during the OCC National Collection Week of November 16, 2026.

Our Big Thicket Area OCC Team met at FBC Kountze on June 20th to plan the OCC activities for the remainder of the year, which include an OCC Fall Workshop to be held Saturday, September 19, at Freedom Fellowship in Silsbee.

OCC Mission Statement: The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children around the world and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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**.



And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
Colossians 3:17



*Zion & Briella
Barnett*



Cristi Beehn & Timothy White



*Mark Chadwick &
Steve Clark*

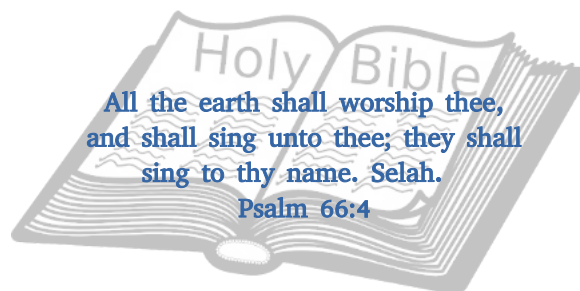


*Suzanne & James
Odom*



Philece Gomez, Samuel White & Briella Barnett

Praise & Worship



REFLECTIONS

Br. Daniel presenting Riley Bentley (2026 graduate) with a Bible.



Angel Greer, Zach Bentley, & Dominic Walton (Kindergarten grad)



Br. Daniel leading prayer service while on Disaster Relief deployment in Louisiana



Jesse playing the piano



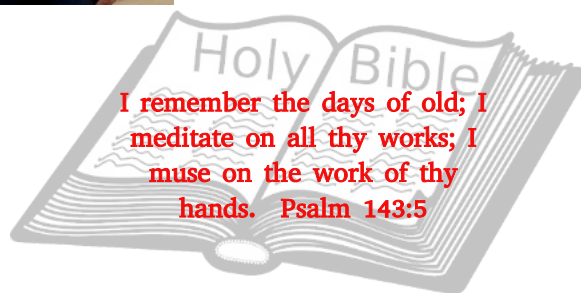
Sharon Clark, and Jesse



Skylar Stephens & Lamar BSM giving Beach Reach report



Ethan Barnett playing the drum for Wednesday night prayer service



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

Nursery

By Sharon Young

We were blessed to attend a Children's Conference in April, and I wish everyone involved in children's ministries could have been there. Our keynote speaker, Wes Smith from East Texas Baptist Encampment, spoke on Matthew 19:13–15. I can't claim to remember every detail of his message, but his central point was clear: there is only one ministry — children's ministry, including the nursery, is church ministry.

Too often the nursery is dismissed as babysitting or seen as less important than other ministries. But consider Jesus' response to the children in verse 14: "*Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for such is the kingdom of heaven.*" The disciples seemed to think the children were not worthy of coming to Jesus--- as if He had more pressing matters. Jesus stopped, rebuked the disciples, and blessed the children. Remember where Jesus was headed at that time--- to the cross. On His way to suffer an unimaginable death, He still paused to bless the children.

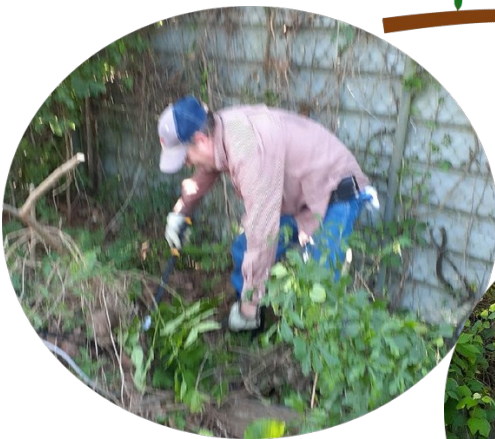
We are called to be like Jesus. I'm thankful for each volunteer who has answered the call to bring children to Him. Our church is growing--- come grow with us as a nursery volunteer. There's always room for anyone who would love to serve Jesus in church ministry!

Deacons' Report

By Gary Freeman

This quarter we have had several opportunities to serve our church and community:

- Randy Beehn, Mark Chadwick, and I removed vines from a church member's fence.
- We are getting ready to build a handicap ramp for a church member. Measurements have been taken, and soon we will check to see who is available to help build the ramp.

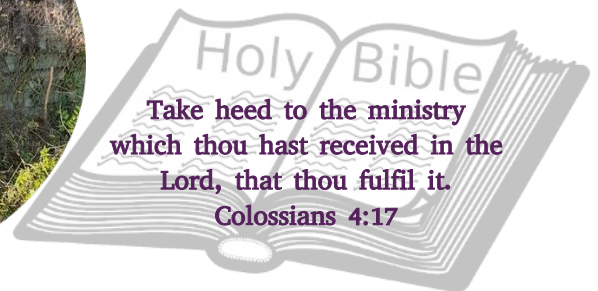


Mark Chadwick

Cleaning Church
Member's yard



Randy Beehn



Farewell

By Ethan Barnett

Church, y'all have been so gracious to me!

It is obvious that Christ is in you since you have that in common with Him. I thank you all so much for allowing me to be your interim worship leader for these past couple years. It was a wonderful and rich experience for me, and one that has caused me to depend on Jesus more. I have seen other folks in ministry in various churches, and seen how they have been treated, and that has helped me to be truly thankful for this church, because y'all have been nothing but kind to me. Y'all were always encouraging, helpful, open to change (IN A BAPTIST CHURCH?!) and gracious to me even when I made mistakes.

I have been so impressed with the willingness of so many members to jump in and help out in the worship of our great God and Savior! When I started to ask folks to sing, I was not prepared for so many to rise to the occasion and publicly lead in worship alongside me. I see that Jesus has been working in this church: leading, giving wisdom and direction, challenging, and encouraging us to use all the talents He has given us for His glory and purpose. In effect, this church has many worship leaders because of your faithfulness to serve.

I do want to also clear my conscience and confess that in the position of Worship Leader, I have not always been faithful. There were times that I was living in my own private sins but still leading worship as if I wasn't. There were more times than I'd like to admit when I was not worshiping Jesus in my own heart but instead just focusing on the music and getting the job done. And I would say that even most of the time, I was not really abiding in Christ and not relying on His leadership and power. I was doing my best in my own ways and power, and I apologize to the church because that is not a private issue within myself, but that is a corporate issue that affects the church as a whole. As a worship leader, I ought to have led by example: lived in Christ, worshiped Him, and repented of my sins quickly instead of living in them. Please, church, accept my apology for being a stumbling block to the worship and communion of our church and her Great Bridegroom.

I am so happy to see what Jesus has done and is still doing for this church. He has not left her, nor forsaken her. I am so thankful for our pastor who is so faithful in prayer and watchfulness for the leading of our Savior, and I am very excited to see Br. Steven Hays and his family come to the church to serve and be members with us. In working with Br. Hays, I am impressed with his humility, graciousness, and maturity in the faith. His talents are exceptional, and to God be all the glory, but more than talents, he has a heart of worship, service, and love. I look forward to see how God will use him and his family in this church and in the Kingdom.

With excitement and sorrow, I say "farewell for now!" to the best church family I have ever been blessed with. I love y'all more than y'all know, and I count y'all closer than family. I myself have no idea how much I am going to miss y'all in the months ahead, and I'm afraid I am not prepared for that realization... Either that or I've just got a hankerin' for some of Beverly McKee's spice crackers...

With all my love and hope,

Ethan



Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

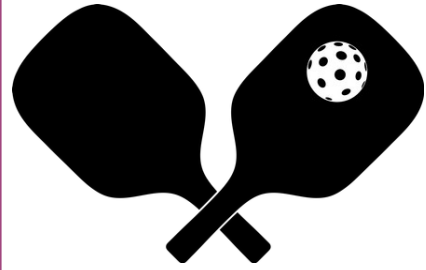
2 Corinthians 13:11



Upcoming Events

August

August 7--- Battle Brothers Fellowship
August 9--- Lord's Supper
August 18--- Armor Academy begins
August 19--- Business Meeting
August 24-26--- Pastor's Prayer Retreat



FBC Kountze has
pickleball courts! See
Gary Freeman to
schedule a time to use
the courts.

September

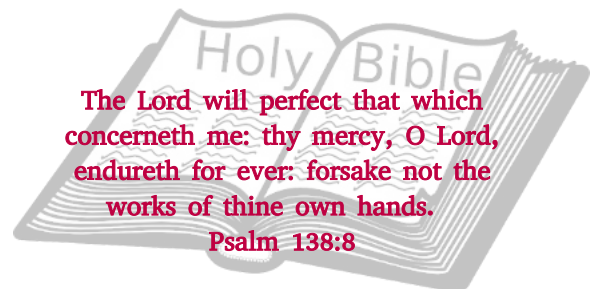
September 9--- Church Council
September 16--- Business Meeting
September 25-27--- Transforming Prayer weekend

October

October 11--- Lord's Supper
October 13-15--- Resilience Conference
October 21--- Business Meeting
October 25--- OCC Packing Party
Minister Appreciation

November

November 7--- Unknown Tour
November 16-23---OCC National Collection Week
November 17--- Hope Gala





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

Worship Leader

Steven Hays

Administrative Assistant

Suzanne Odom

Treasurer

Steve Clark

Trustees

Betty Teel

Rhonda Barner
Mark Finkenbiner

Committee Chairmen

Property Management
Randy Beehn

Budget & Finance
Steve Clark

Missions
Suzanne Odom

Personnel
Tom Settle

Member Care
Daniel White

Nominating
Beverly McKee

Article Submissions Due: October 1, 2026

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

-Dawn

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

DEACONS



If anyone has a need or knows of someone with a need, please 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

*Logo designed by Ethan Barnett