



# BRANCHES

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19; ISSUE 20

September 24, 2025

### Emus and Kangaroos

Think about it. On the Australian coat of arms is a picture of an emu and a kangaroo. The Australian forefathers made a statement. These animals were chosen because both animals can only move forward, not back. As a church family, we need to move forward, not backwards. We may all need different starting points as we individually process feelings and information. Dr. David Sapp is filling-in in the pulpit for us. He is a wonderful pastor who is also an excellent preacher! If you don't already know him, you will be blessed.

I am teaching Sunday School this month from Philippians. The scripture just constantly seems appropriate and relevant to our situation and the direction we need to go.

**Philippians 2:2: "Make my joy complete, be of the same mind, having the same love, be in full accord and of one mind."**  
**Philippians 2:14: "Do all things without murmuring and arguing."**

Everyone has strong feelings about what has happened and not everyone feels the same. We don't all think alike-that would be miserable! We need to remember why we are here and remember our purpose and then keep working toward those goals. We're not all the same but our mission should be the same...to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

**Philippians 3:1: "Rejoice in the Lord."**

**Philippians 3:13-14: "Brothers and sisters... one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."**

Paul said to forget what lies behind and go forward. One of my children's swim coaches cautioned them to not look back in a race, because every time that happened, you lost time. We will lose too if we are muttering and staying in the past! We can't change what happened, but we can do our very best to press on, to look to the future, and to do our collective best to keep a God-centered focus.

**Philippians 4: 6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."**

*Pray.* Pray for our church. Pray for Philip and Melissa. *Pray* for members who are hurting and unsure of how to move forward. *Pray* for leaders to lead. *Pray* for us to heal and move forward. *Pray.*

Moving forward:

- First, we will reschedule the committee planning meeting (probably next Wednesday night).
- Second, we will continue with Wednesday night suppers and devotionals, to let us connect with and to pray for one another. Jennifer Sanders and I have also talked about focusing on mission projects for a couple of nights. What else would you suggest?
- Third, the Family Fall Festival is back on! On October 26, we will have a chili cookoff, cake walk, and bonfire (and other events too). Pull out your recipes! Sign up for making chili and cakes and with assisting with activities.
- Fourth, think ahead toward other things we can be doing. Volunteer! Above all, pray. Paul said to pray with thanksgiving and with requests. With prayer, comes God's peace.

Thank you for reading through all of this. It is really uncanny how during this month of teaching Sunday school, the scripture speaks to me and I hope to the church with a laser focus. **Philippians 4: 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always."**

In prayer, Ann Rhoads

Deacon chair (for a few more days)

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Food Bank:** We need your help! Food bank is in need of **canned goods and boxed food**. Drop off at FBC during church office hours, food can be dropped off in the bins near the elevator.
- **Wednesday Night Suppers:** Everyone is invited to join the church meal - time and fellowship on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations can be made through REALM or by contacting the church office.
- **Jolly Agers:** Next meeting will be October 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Event is free; Just bring something tasty to share and invite a friend! Guest Speakers will be Commerce Police Chief Jeff Drossman and Assistant Commerce Fire Dept. Chief Adam Stephenson.
- **Family Fall Festival:** October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm Games, Chili Cook Off, Trunk-or-Treat, Hay Rides, Food, and lots of Fun! Please invite the community and bring a friend or two.
- **Christmas is coming!** The Adult Choir invites you to join us for rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 6:15 upstairs. We are preparing for our cantata on Sunday, Dec. 14. Please join us!

## SERVANTS @ A GLANCE

**Deacons:** **September 28/** Don Howard & Johnny Eubanks

**October 5/** Terry Canup & Harold Ward

**Greeters:** **September 28/** Janis Miller

**October 5/** Paula Langston

**Ushers:** **September 28/** Mark Beardsley, Johnny Eubanks, Ron Henderson, and Bob Harper

**October 5/** Susan Harvin, Randall Wardlaw, Karen Wardlaw, and Tracy Wilson

**Nursery Team:** **September 28/** Marsha Perry & Vickie McElroy

**October 5/** Cameron Shirley & Sumer Hill

**Children's Worship:** **September 28/** Carleigh Chandler & Mandy Byers

**October 5/** Renee Chandler & Mandy Byers

## FOOD BANK DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS

Week of September 29: Ann Garner

Week of October 6: Jeanie Whitener

Week of October 13: Ann Rhoads

Week of October 20: Sharon Highsmith



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Monthly Giving Required: \$40,117

Monthly Giving as of Mid September: \$58,968

YTD Giving Required through September: \$455,000

YTD as of End September: \$450,791

## BIRTHDAYS

9/24: Kennedy Totherow

9/25: Johnny Bridges & Lynn Greene

9/26: Geraldine Bridges

9/27: Genny Shirley & Colin Harvin

9/28: Kailey Sosby

9/30: James MacDonald

10/2: Emily Perry & Noah Woods

10/3: Sammy Thomason

10/5: Bryce Bowen

10/6: Megan Suber & William Suber

10/8: Joan Witherington

## MEALS ON WHEELS

9/24: Patsy Simmons & Vickie McElroy

9/25: Susan Harvin

9/26: Randall & Karen Wardlaw

9/29: Bess Stanford & Ann Garner

9/30: Amy Halley

10/1: Bob Harper

10/2: Jon Massey

10/3: Becky Gary

10/6: Bob Greco & Susan Harper

10/7: Bess Stanford & Ann Garner

10/8: Beverly George

10/9: Carol Hodgkins

10/10: Sheila Powell



## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Local Missions in memory of Jim Farr  
Youth Ministry in memory of Darce Chandler  
Food Bank in Honor of Bess Stanford  
General Budget in memory of Dr. Jon Milford  
Building Fund in memory of Dr. Jon Milford



**NEXT MEETING October 7, 2025**

**12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall**

Event is FREE; Just bring something tasty to share, and invite a friend!

## IN OTHER NEWS

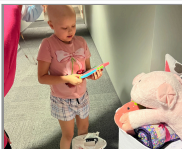
Dear FBC Friends,

On Friday, my mom and I delivered Maisy the basket of love you all put together for our sweet Maisy! It was a joyful experience to watch her open all the wonderful, thoughtful items that were given to her. From arts and crafts, jewelry, a special pig book, coin purse with "real coins", pig pillows, pig socks, pig notecards, beautifully written cards and much more, she felt the love and prayers! Thank you all so much for thinking of her and praying for her. Special thanks to Jennifer Renzetti for the idea and organizing this.

I would also like to thank the quilting group for her prayer quilt. It is so comforting to know that it was made with love and prayers from such a special church ministry. Thank you to Kathy Thomason who made sure to find out her favorite colors! The quilt will be a cherished item for years to come.

Please continue to keep Maisy in your prayers as she transitioned to the Ronald McDonald House for the next 3 months. Also, some of her "numbers" are not trending in the right direction, so please continue to pray that she will fully recover and have complete healing. Thank you, FBC, for showing love to someone you have never met. I am so grateful for the way you have prayed and supported her.

With Love and Appreciation, Tricia Massey



## Family Fall Festival October 26 at 5 PM

Come join the Fun! Games, Chili Cook Off, Trunk-or-Treat, Hay Rides, Food, and lots of Fun! Please invite the community and bring a friend or two.

