



The new year has arrived! The Preschool department wants to wish all of you a Happy New Year. We had a wonderful Christmas party and the children had a great time. My New Year resolution for our class this year is that each child will grow in knowing more about Jesus and His wonderful plan for all of us. Our class has grown and we cannot wait to see what God will do this year. Make your plans (resolution) to have God the center in your life by bringing your children to Sunday School and church. May God bless you and watch over you and your family.

Lou Neff  
Preschool Coordinator

As we begin the new year, it is always a good time to reflect on the previous year. The year 2019 was an exciting year as we saw several of our children accept Christ as their Lord and Savior and follow Him in baptism. What a joyous time to see these children grow in their love for the Lord.

This year, we will focus on scripture memorization in all our classes. We will pray that those who have not accepted Christ, will come to know Him.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 14-18. This is the largest evangelistic outreach for our children for the entire year. What a wonderful time for our church to reach the families in our community for Christ!

In June, the children who are in grades 3-6 will be attending the Pineywoods Preteen Camp. The Camp has shown to offer a tremendous growth opportunity for our preteens. Throughout the year, we will be sponsoring several bake sales to help them earn their expenses for camp. At \$220 per child, it is quite a strain on families, especially when there is more than one in a family attending. Your sponsorship and donations are truly appreciated.

Thank you for your encouragement and support of FBC Warren children and workers.

Karen Standley  
Children's Coordinator



Happy 2020 New Year everyone! The new year is a great time to recommit yourself to spending time alone with the LORD every day. Students, I challenge you to spend at least 15 minutes each day reading your Bible and praying. Let God use this time to speak to your heart and grow in your relationship with Him. Instead of another typical New Year's resolution, set yourself a goal to share your faith in a new way each week with those you know at school. Let's start 2020 with a renewed vision for what Jesus can do in us and through us for His kingdom.



The weekend of January 24-25 will be here soon and that means Hot Hearts time! It is amazing to see what God does at this conference every year when thousands of students from the Southeast Texas area come together to worship and hear God's Word preached. This year, we will once again spend Friday and Saturday night in Beaumont and return Sunday morning for Sunday School and Worship at FBC Warren. Pray that God would use Hot Hearts to be a time of revival in your life and in the lives of all those in attendance.

Robert Craig  
Minister to Students




**Team Kid**  
**Kids in Discipleship**

**Wednesday Evenings**  
**6:00 PM**  
**For all kids through 6th Grade**




Exciting things have been happening with Missions at FBC Warren! Here are a few of the activities that have gone on recently:

Meals on Mission: Ladies prepared 55 individual dishes and froze them to be used when someone comes home from the hospital, is sick, or otherwise unable to prepare food for themselves. If you know of such a need, please call JoAnn Surrey at (281) 785-6983 and she will see that meals are delivered.

Harvest House: Our fundraiser for Harvest House was a huge success raising almost \$800.00.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry: Our church family donated over 40 boxes so that children around the world can have a Merry Christmas!

Prayers & Squares: Quilts continue to be given out. We need people to help with this ministry.

Nueva Vida: Karen Lee goes every Thursday night to this Spanish church in Woodville and teaches a Bible story to children. Right now there are seven children and they are adorable!

Food Pantry: There were 40 Thanksgiving baskets given out and 40 more will be given out for Christmas. If you have not picked up your Reverse Advent Basket yet, please do so. This is the way we restock our Food Pantry after Christmas.

GA's, RA's and Mission Friends: The children are having a wonderful time on Monday afternoons learning about Jesus and Missions.

Christmas with Buckner Children: The children from Buckner Children's Village will be here December 19.

Hospitality House Mission Trip January 19-22: Let Annabeth Willis know if you will be going.

Brazil Mission Trip May 31-June 12: Let the office know if you will be going.

Ukraine Mission Trip September 11-18: This trip is still in the planning stages...let the office know if you are interested.

As you can see, Missions really are happening! Get involved...you will be blessed more than you can imagine!

# Opportunities for Service

## HOSPITALITY HOUSE MISSION TRIP January 19-22, 2020

Our Mission Trip to the Hospitality House in Huntsville is coming soon, and it is time to make that decision as to whether you will be joining us. It promises to be an inspiring week of helping with a ministry that our church has been involved in for many years. We will spend our time there helping Debra organize, paint, put things back together after the Christmas rush, and whatever else she needs us to do.

We will leave on Sunday afternoon and return shortly after lunch on Wednesday. We will prepare most of our meals at the Hospitality House, but may eat out a couple of times. You will have your own private room. A donation has been made for the cost of our rooms, so the only cost will be groceries and meals eaten out. If you plan to go on this trip, please sign the sheet in the foyer or let Annabeth Willis know by January 5, 2020.

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## Wednesday Fellowship Dinner Every Wednesday 5:15 PM

*Followed by Adult Primetime, Student Afterglow, and Team Kid, and The King's Musicians*

January Menu: (subject to change)

- January 1 New Year's Day - No Services
- January 8 Black-eyed Peas, Cornbread
- January 15 Sausage Links, Potato Salad, Beans
- January 22 Chili, Rice, Hot Dogs, Frito Pie
- January 29 Soup & Salad Extravaganza

*Suggested Donation:*

- \$ 1.00 Child
- \$ 3.00 Adult
- \$ 12.00 Maximum per family

# The Vision

THE VISION...

"...where there is no vision, the people perish..."

Proverbs 29:18

Volume 3 No. 25

JANUARY 2020

First Baptist Church  
Monthly Newsletter

First Baptist Church  
Warren, Texas



First Baptist Church  
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Warren, TX 77664

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**Church Phone**  
(409) 547-2215

**Church Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Caring is Sharing**  
308 S. Beaver  
Woodville, TX 75979  
(409) 283-5800

**Food Pantry/Clothes Closet**  
Tuesdays 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

**Regular Sunday Schedule**

9:00 AM - Church Library Open  
9:45 AM - Sunday School  
11:00 AM - Worship  
6:00 PM - Worship

**Regular Wednesday Schedule**

5:15 PM - Family Meal  
6:00 PM - Team Kids  
6:00 PM - Student Afterglow  
6:00 PM - Primetime

**PASTORAL MINISTRY**

Dr. David Mahfouz, Pastor  
Rev. Robert Craig, Minister of Students  
Phil McClure, Minister of Music  
Karen Standley, Pastoral and  
Educational Ministry Assistant  
Patricia Bounds, Financial Ministry Assistant  
Ed Lee, Orchestra Coordinator  
Monica Mahfouz, Accompanist  
Nellie Statum, Accompanist  
Jean Brown, Child Care Coordinator  
The King's Musicians  
Jo Seiley, Librarian

**Church Email: fbcwarren@att.net**  
**Website: fbcwarren.org**



## Your Pastor's Heart

### The Grace of Giving

Sam Houston is an authentic American hero and a Texas legend. When Texas first became a republic in 1836 he was elected its first president. In 1845 he was elected our first senator. Then in 1859 he was elected the sixth governor of our state.

Life was rough in Texas. Men molded on the frontier knew how to fight, curse, drink, and kill. Houston fit this lifestyle comfortably.

Houston married a devout wife who was a member of a Baptist church. For years she prayed that he would be saved and join the church. The Texas hero claimed to be a believer but he had never followed through in baptism and church membership.

Houston would come under conviction, walk the aisle of a Baptist church in Independence, Texas. On November 19, 1854 in Brushy Creek he was baptized.

When Houston was baptized, his life was changed. He faithfully tithed to the church in Independence and gave religious scholarship to students studying for the ministry at Baylor University. Why did Houston give? It was because God's grace touched his heart. Salvation should not only touch our hearts, but also our worldly possessions.

The Apostle Paul writes of this type of conversion when he writes of the grace bestowed on the churches of Macedonia. People there were going through a time of great economic difficulty. In spite of their "deep poverty" they gave generously to an offering. More than their money Paul says they gave of themselves in a new and deeper commitment.

Last year our Finance Committee embarked on a mission to encourage you to be faithful in your tithe. When you support the budget you support the ministries of the church and the work of the Lord. The sharing grace is the motivating force for Christian stewardship.

When Grace touches our hearts...

*Hard times will not be a hindrance to giving,*

*We won't offend God by just supporting our own areas of ministry and neglecting other ministries,*

*Low expectation will not be an excuse for not giving,*

*We will come to understand our responsibility to support God's church and His work, and,*

*Money will not be a substitute for self-giving.*

I read a plaque a number of years ago..."In this world of give and take, there are not enough people who are willing to give what it takes."

Are you? When God's grace touches your heart, as it did the hearts of the Christians in Macedonia and Sam Houston, you will be.

Grace and Peace,

David Mahfouz, D.Min