

# THE VISION

Exalting Christ . . . Equipping the Church . . . Engaging the Community

VOLUME LVIV ISSUE NO. 25

NOVEMBER 21, 2018



Bruce Worley

Last week I wrote about building bridges to our community. The idea is that just as Jesus bridged the gap between sinful man and a holy God, we too are to build bridges to our community to communicate the message of the gospel. We are to be Great Commission Christians going into a community with the message of love and hope to those who are perishing. In order to do so it takes all of us doing what we can to minister and reach out to our community. As a result we are always looking for ways to expand our mission opportunities in the community.

One of the recent ministries/mission opportunities we have engaged in is sending volunteers to work with students in a reading program. Around 14 Western Heights folks answered the call. Below is a report I received that talks about this program.

“At the beginning of this school year, many of us heard the invitation to engage our schools, students and families in WISD. We saw the need and the needs of our community and responded in a way that is unprecedented! **41 churches** are working in collaboration to help students in **12 elementary schools** in WISD! **839 believers** are meeting with small groups of students in elementary schools, sitting and talking with them, encouraging them and helping them all as they read books together! That translates to over **1,600 students** who are getting to interact with someone from a local church! Those 1,600 students have a least one positive caring adult who is also helping them in reading!

Last week we received a letter from the principal at Crestview.. She said *‘Just the other day, I was helping a student into their car at the end of the day and I heard him say that he cannot wait for tomorrow. I asked him why, and he said, “My mentor comes tomorrow and reads with me.” I believe that a significant reason the reading program is so powerful is that students associate reading with a positive feeling of having an adult demonstrate that they care through showing up each week and developing relationship. Students know you do not have to come. On some level, they know it is not your job, and they know that you are doing this simply because you care. I believe the investment you make each week will multiply, and there is no way to measure the eventual impact you may have on the students you mentor. You may inspire them to be more than they ever thought they could. Your example may show them what it means to give back to the communities they will be a part of when they are adults. What you are doing is important and it has both short and long-term effects. So again, thank you for being a part of our mentor-reading program here at Crestview. Know that we value your support so much and look forward to seeing you each week!’*

We have heard this type of story and many similar to it, many times at each of the campuses.”

My friends, this is hands on ministry and mission. These are children that we can love on and in a small way be the hands and feet of Jesus. I believe we could still use more people working in this program. If you would like to be a part of the program contact Marcy and say “SIGN ME UP!” You will not be sorry you did so.

We also have another ministry/mission opportunity we would like to mention to you as well. This opportunity is more in-house, but extends to other areas. In our brainstorming session last week several people mentioned the idea of having drivers who could help transport members during the week. We have a handful of members that do not have transportation and may need rides to church, the doctor, the grocery store and such places. We would like to put together a list of drivers who could be available when the need arises. Because it is in the planning stages we do not have all the details worked out, but there is no point in planning something if there is zero involvement. The idea would be that you would sign up to be a ministry driver and then when a church member calls the church for a ride we would call the driver with the information. We want this to be a ministry to our church members so that we can come alongside them during this time. What a great way to get to know people and again be the hands and feet of Jesus to our church family. If you would be willing to be a part of this ministry we ask that you call the church office or sign up in the foyer at the missions table. So far there are only a few people that occasionally need rides and instead of one person doing it all, wouldn't it be great if the entire church body was a part?

These are just a couple of opportunities we are highlighting to help us build bridges to our community. In the months to come we hope to have more, and perhaps you will come up with ideas as well. I look forward to working with you as we build bridges to our community so that we can communicate and demonstrate the love of Christ. Remember we have the truth, but our community wants to see the proof. Build a bridge today!

In HIS Service, Bruce

# CHILDREN & EDUCATION



*Marcy Smith*

We have completed our Operation Christmas Child project for 2018. With your help we packed 414 shoe box gifts for children. In addition to those, church families created 55 shoebox gifts, bringing our grand total to 469! We delivered the boxes to the collection center at Highland Baptist Church on Sunday. Please continue to pray for the children who will receive all the OCC gifts. Collection for OCC 2019 will begin in February!

GA Christmas Mail is a service project of the Girls in Action to benefit the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. It is easy to participate! Prepare your Christmas cards for WHBC folks. On each envelope put the person's name and Bible Study class (if you know it). Drop your cards in one of our collection stations, along with a donation of 20 cents per card (you may donate more if you choose). If you write a check, simply write GA Christmas Mail in the memo section. The GAs will deliver your card to the person's Bible Study class the next Sunday. Collection dates are November 25 - December 19 and collection stations will be located around the building. This is a great way to save money and to provide funds for mission work around the world. If you have questions, contact Cynthia Ellison or give me a call in the office.

Kids' Night Out will be Friday, December 14 from 5:30-9:30. KNO is for children ages 6 weeks - sixth grade, and there is no cost to attend. Each child will be placed in a class based on his or her age, and these classes meet in the preschool wing of our church. We serve pizza for dinner, or you may send a sack meal for your child if you prefer. Children ages 6 weeks - Kindergarten will enjoy several activities including art, games, music, a Bible story, and more. Children in our school age class will have a Bible story, and then take a field trip to Jump N Place. Reservations are required to participate; the deadline to reserve a spot for your child is Tuesday, December 11. A medical release form is also required for each child. You may make a reservation by calling the office, or you may register online at [www.whbcwaco.org](http://www.whbcwaco.org). The medical release form is also available online.

Our annual Children's Caroling Party will be Wednesday, December 12 from 6:00-8:00. We will meet in the Garden room to practice our songs, then travel to carol at the homes of some of our senior adults. We will finish with Christmas cookies in the Garden Room! This event is always a highlight of the Christmas season for me as children and adults join together to bless some special folks. Parents, you are invited to join us!

Please note: children's activities will meet Sunday night, November 25. We hope to see your child here!

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Greetings,

The youth would like to express their huge appreciation to our church family and all those who made the youth room renovation a reality. We are so grateful for the countless volunteer hours and late nights spent planning and doing to make the transition to our new space. We are enjoying our time of Bible study, fellowship and fun in the new youth room.

Special thanks to: Ken Orr, Bob Belflower, Bruce Worley, Raymond Hill, Ricky Berrier, Chris Smith, Rachel Ellison, Garrett Ellison, Eugene Garner, Jeremy Wilson, Cynthia Ellison, Kendall Torp-Pedersen, Nate Evans, Isaac Bright, Tamaraefiye Oweiotu-ebi (Isaac), Josh Miller, and WHBC Youth members.

We have developed a relationship with the Trinity Memorial Baptist Church in Marlin. For the past two summers several youth and adults have helped this church provide a VBS for their community. On October 27 a group of our students and adults gave their Saturday afternoon and evening to help the church provide their first Fall Festival for their community. They had 80 people in attendance, and the pastor and members were thrilled with the outcome. Here is a note from the Pastor and Music Minister:

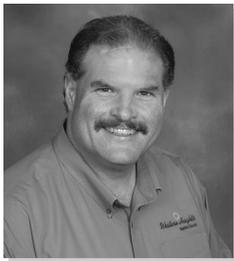
"We are deeply grateful for the generous way you have supported our ministry here at Trinity. This year would not have been the same without your help! A Heart-felt thank you from all of us here! Way to go, youth, for being polity, hardworking, and all around amazing!!

### Upcoming Events-

December 2, 5:30 - Time Out

December 16, 5:30-8:30 - Youth Christmas Party

December 24, 6:00 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



*Kip Osborne*

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE & MUSIC MINISTRY

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA PREPARATION AND SANCTUARY CHOIR** meets at 7:30 PM to rehearse each Wednesday night! Our next rehearsal will be November 28<sup>th</sup> which is also the last possible date to join us in preparing our Christmas Cantata entitled “Breath of Heaven” to be shared Sunday morning, December 16<sup>th</sup> in one joint service at 11:15 AM. The choir hopes to see and hear you join us in worshipping our Lord in song and praise!

**SPRING JUBILEE CONFERENCE IN BRANSON, MISSOURI** - If you would like to attend this “Singing, Laughing, and Preaching” conference from April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup>, please call the church office to sign up. We must have a large enough group to attend, so your commitment is vital. The cost is \$189 per person and includes all concerts, programs, and two nights lodging (double occupancy). The Gaither Vocal Band, Dino, Pastor Johnny Hunt, and many others will be ministering to us during this great event. Sign up ASAP.

**THANKSGIVING MINISTRY** - This year as we enter into the season of giving thanks, I encourage you to make a conscious effort in your personal prayer time to thank the Lord for His work in your life. (salvation, answered prayers, leadership, etc.) In addition it would be meaningful to thank those who have been used of God to bless your life as a way of encouraging fellow believers. We all know that a phone call, card, or kind word is a blessing. May we each be one!

## COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and Your billows passed over me.

Jonah 2:1-3



*Jeremy Wilson*

Our God is gracious. There have been times that I have messed up, but did not have to experience major consequences. Our God is also interested in our spiritual growth. There have been times that I have experienced dire circumstances. God knew that I needed to go through it to grow closer to Him and to become the man He has called me to be. We see this in Jonah 2. In the end of chapter 1, Scripture tells us that God appointed the fish to swallow Jonah. The beginning of Jonah’s prayer and praise begins with Jonah admitting that God cast him into the deep and into the belly of the fish. It is here that Jonah finds himself contemplating his life and his position with God. In verse 6, Jonah declares that “You have raised my life from the Pit, Lord my God.” Again in verse 9, he says that “Salvation is from the Lord.”

It’s interesting that God put Jonah on my mind and heart while Pastor Bruce has been preaching through 1 Peter. The thought that we grow through troubles is written all over this chapter of Jonah. When everything else failed Jonah, when his schemes and plans fell through, when he assumed he would die in the waters and then in the fish, God was faithful. Jonah was anything but deserving of God’s help, but God reveals the true definition of grace: unmerited favor.

Now, I pray that it doesn’t take God letting us sink to rock bottom for us to accept and receive the grace He offers us. This isn’t just grace for those who are lost and in need of a Savior. There is also grace for those who believe. Grace to make it through the tough times. Grace to recognize our blessings in times of rest. Grace to praise our Savior every chance we get.

God bless, Jeremy

**WHBC  
MINISTERIAL  
& SUPPORT STAFF**

**Bruce Worley**

*Pastor*

[bruce@whbcwaco.org](mailto:bruce@whbcwaco.org)

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**Marcy Smith**

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**George Livingston**

*Minister of Administration/Finance*

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**Jeremy Wilson**

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**MaryAnn Bailey**

*Church/Pastor's Secretary*

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**Rachel Ellison**

*Children's Ministry Assistant*

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**Don Deatherage**

*Building Superintendent/Custodian*

[don.deatherage@yahoo.com](mailto:don.deatherage@yahoo.com)

**2018**

	<b>Nov 11</b>	<b>Nov 18</b>
Weekly Budget Goal.....	\$9,588.00	\$9,588.00
Weekly Budget Receipts.....	\$6,296.64	\$8,114.04
Budget Receipts..... Month to Date.....	\$16,076.81	\$24,190.85
Budget Expenses.....Month to Date.....	\$20,871.17	\$24,998.55
Designated Receipts.....Month to Date.....	\$7,044.58	\$7,938.83
Budget Goal.....Year to Date.....	\$431,460.00	\$441,048.00
Budget Receipts.....Year to Date.....	\$394,888.03	\$403,002.07
Budget Expenses.....Year to Date.....	\$438,171.09	\$442,298.47
Designated Receipts.....Year to Date.....	\$96,494.69	\$97,388.94

**Designated Mission Contributions**

<b>Goal</b>	
<b>Receipts To Date</b>	

**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP  
MEALS**

The meals are on hold until further notice.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday

8:00 am-12:00 noon

1:00 pm-4:30 pm

The offices are closed

and telephones are not answered between 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm, and after 4:30 pm.



**AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY**

11/25/2018 thru 12/08/2018

Kip Osborne	254-717-6020
David Parker	754-6725
Mike Ogas	315-4648
Church Phone	254-776-2524

WESTERN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH  
VISION CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES  
November 25, 2018 through December 08, 2018

**Sunday, Nov 25**

8:45 am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 am Bible Study  
10:30 am Church Library Open  
11:15 am Contemporary Worship Service  
5:30 pm Mission Preschool  
5:30 pm Bible Buddies/Bible Drill  
5:30 pm Adult Bible Study with the Pastor  
5:30 pm Youth Sunday Night Live

**Monday, Nov 26**

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
9:30 am With God's Help  
5:30 pm BSF Class

**Tuesday, Nov 27**

8:00 am ECA Instrumental Ensemble Class  
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
11:00 am Men's Weekly Fellowship Lunch  
1:30 pm Ministry Choir  
4:00 pm Colonial Kids' Club  
6:30 pm College Grow Group  
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, Nov 28**

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
9:00 am Financial Review  
6:00 pm Mission Preschool  
6:00 pm Girls in Action/Royal Ambassadors  
6:00 pm Youth Fuel  
6:30 pm Prayer Meeting  
6:30 pm Don Deatherage's Grow  
Group/Canceled until January  
6:45 pm TeamKid  
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, Nov 29**

8:00 am ECA Instrumental Ensemble Class  
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
11:00 am Merry Widows and Friends  
7:00 pm Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

**Friday, November 30**

5:30 am BSF Leaders Meeting  
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
9:30 am With God's Help  
11:00 am Prayer Walk/Bring Your Own  
Lunch  
Mission Team/TX. A &M

**Saturday, December 01**

Mission Team/TX A&M  
8:00 am Prayer Group Meeting

**Sunday, December 02**

Mission Team/ TX A&M  
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 am Bible Study  
10:30 am Church Library Open  
11:15 am Contemporary Worship Service  
4:00 pm Deacons' Meeting  
5:30 pm Mission Preschool  
5:30 pm Bible Buddies/Bible Drill  
5:30 pm Adult Bible Study with the Pastor  
5:30 pm Youth Sunday Night Live

**Monday, December 03**

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
9:30 am With God's Help  
5:30 pm BSF Class

**Tuesday, December 04**

8:00 am ECA Instrumental Ensemble Class  
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
11:00 am Men's Weekly Fellowship Lunch  
1:30 pm Ministry Choir  
4:00 pm Colonial Kids' Club  
6:30 pm College Grow Group  
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, December 05**

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
9:00 am Financial Review  
6:00 pm Mission Preschool  
6:00 pm Girls in Action/Royal Ambassadors  
6:00 pm Youth Fuel  
6:30 pm Prayer Meeting  
6:30 pm Don Deatherage's Grow  
Group/Canceled until January  
6:45 pm TeamKid  
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, December 06**

8:00 am ECA Instrumental Ensemble Class  
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
11:00 am Merry Widows and Friends  
7:00 pm Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

**Friday, December 07**

5:30 am BSF Leaders Meeting  
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall  
9:30 am With God's Help  
11:00 am Prayer Walk/Bring Your Own  
Lunch

**Saturday, December 08**

8:00 am Prayer Group Meeting

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Ramona Russum

## WELCOME VISITORS

**Nov. 11, 2018**

Annabella Deese, Kyndra Williams, Elijah Lively,

**Nov 18, 2018**

Annabella Deese, Samantha Lively, Don & Becky Waddle

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We have completed our Operation Christmas Child project for 2018. With your help we packed 414 shoe box gifts for children. In addition to those, church families created 55 shoebox gifts, bringing our grand total to 469! We delivered the boxes to the collection center at Highland Baptist Church on Sunday. Please continue to pray for the children who will receive all the OCC gifts. Collection for OCC 2019 will begin in February!

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## CHURCH FAMILY

As you attend church meetings and go about God's work in the church facilities, if you see something that needs attention, please let the office know. You may put a note in the rack next to the office door, or give us a call Monday-Friday at 776-2524. Your suggestions will be considered and addressed so that we may do our best to keep God's house in good working order for His glory. Thank you.

## NEEDED ITEMS FOR TENNYSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have an opportunity to help students at Tennyson with some basic clothing essentials. Students need jackets (adult sizes small-XXL) and girls' jeans or khaki pants (sizes 14-16). They are able to use both new and gently-used items. Your donations may be brought to the Children's Ministry office.

## REMINDER FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

A few years back the Trustees opened a Stock/Securities account with Edward Jones Investments. The purpose was for WHBC to be able to receive donated investment-type items. The investment officer explained that when retirees are required to withdraw from their retirement account, they have the opportunity to transfer from their account directly to the church's account. A Capital Gains Tax does not have to be paid on the gain (profit) that the investment item might have accrued. The donor gets the full credit as a donation to the church at the current market value of the item donated. If you have any questions regarding this, please call George Livingston at 776-2524.

## THANKSGIVING MUSIC AT HARRISON SENIOR CENTER

Plan to join other members of our church as we bring Thanksgiving music to the Harrison Senior Center at 11:15 AM on Wednesday, November 21st. Let Kip know if you can sing this day. Our presence and involvement touches the lives of many that need it. We have been making relationships with this community group and are seeking to bless them and minister to them in Jesus' name.

## JEFFREY PLACE CHRISTMAS WISH TREE

One of our outreach ministries has been to adopt this nursing care facility and bless them with music, cards, decorations, gifts, and a Christmas party. The Christmas Wish Tree is now on display in the foyer. You are encouraged to pick an ornament from the tree which contains a name and gift item requested. Purchase the item on the name tag and return to the church by December 9th for delivery to the Christmas party on the evening of December 16th. Let's be His hands and feet this Christma to those less fortunate.