



Lay Leader's Corner

It was an absolute pleasure to attend Annual Conference and represent FMC Bryan this year! I, along with our other delegate, Steve May, enjoyed being at Conference. Annual Conference was conveniently located at Christ Church in College Station and was an amazing time of worship, praise, and equipping. The entire conference was positive and uplifting from beginning to end! Here are some take aways from conference this year.

On Conference leadership, our long time Bishop, Rev. Scott Jones, will be stepping down soon. While he will be handing over that role to another, he plans to still be present and participate in the Trinity Annual Conference. Beyond that, he will be teaching classes at Truett Seminary in Waco and the Houston area. Rev. Jason Burnham, our Conference Superintendent, and Rev. Ben McGehee, the Conference Executive Officer, are both continuing in those roles. We all had a chance to meet Jason and Ben last summer when they came to lead us in worship and to support our church during the pastor search.

Last year, a position of Equipping Elder was created on a part time, trial basis. The fruits from these Elders were good, and this year, these positions were made permanent and full time. There are three Equipping Elders for the Conference, each with his or her own area. Our Equipping Elder is Brad McKenzie, whom we met last summer as well when he led us in worship. The Equipping Elder's role is exactly what it sounds like; they are to help, train, and support the local churches towards our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ!

To improve the connection between congregations, a new role of Area Lay Leader was created. The Area Lay Leader serves alongside the Presiding Elder to encourage communication, relationship, and mutual support between the laity of the various churches in an area. We are a part of the Brazos Area, along with 36 other congregations. Our Presiding Elder is Rev. Polly Standing in Franklin, and I guess they were short of choices, because I was named our Area Lay Leader.

The Trinity Conference, and the Global Methodist Church more broadly, continues to grow. Constituting the eastern half of Texas and the states of Arkansas and Louisiana, the Trinity Conference has now reached 400 total congregations! Stewardship is still a focus, and a desire continues to keep resources as local as possible. The Trinity Conference remains an effective, efficient, and transparent organization with a budget only marginally larger than ours at FMC Bryan! Current levels of Connectional Giving are sufficient; there was no discussion about increasing these amounts.

To meet the demand of our expanding number of congregations, we continue to see more ordinations and those seeking ordination with over 20 Elders and 20 Deacons ordained on the last day of the Conference, with our choir participating in leading the music. Among those ordained Elders was Rev. Joshua Bynum, Rev. Jonathan and Rev. Marjorie Lea's son. Over 30 new Candidates for ordination were also announced, including our very own Eli Reyes! God has blessed the GMC with clergy who have heard His call and made the commitment to serve Him!

A month or so ago, we had a chance to meet Rev. Tim Turner who will become the Conference's first missionary. For the last several years, Tim has been the Dean of the School of Ministry. Tim is turning that role over to Rev. Jason Huffman as Tim heads to Tanzania and our partner, the Tanzania Annual Conference. Some of us had the chance to meet the Tanzania Conference Superintendent, Upendo Likondi, when he visited us in Bryan last year. The partnership in Tanzania seems to be going well.

Back to the School of Ministry, it has been a resounding success in equipping laity to make disciples of Christ, and there were over 50 individuals who were recognized as Certified Lay Ministers this year. To make the School of Ministry more accessible, a Regional Hub concept has been developed, spreading the classes out geographically. If you are interested in any of the training from the School of Ministry, please let me know!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Emmaus Gathering
August 1

Youth Back to School Bash
August 7

Church Council
August 24

Children's Worship Festival
August 30

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship
(Gym)

10:00 a.m.
Bilingual English/Spanish
Worship
(Chapel)

11:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

CHURCH OFFICE

506 E. 28th St.
Bryan, TX 77803
979-779-1324
979-775-2173 (Fax)

Monday-Thursday
8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Friday
8:30 am to 3:00 pm

www.fmcbyryan.org

Ministry Calendar

8/1	5:00 PM	Brazos Valley Emmaus Community Gathering	<i>Gym, Heritage Room</i>
8/2	2:00 PM	Worship - Crestview Retirement Center/Arbor Oaks	
8/5	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	<i>Chapel</i>
8/6	11:45 AM	Men on Main	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	1:30 PM	MYF Open Gym Day	<i>Gym</i>
8/7	7:00 AM	Meals of Love	<i>Fellowship Hall Kitchen</i>
		Youth Back to School Bash	<i>TBA</i>
8/9	8:30, 9 & 11 AM	Blessing of the Backpacks	<i>Sanctuary & Gym</i>
8/10	8:30 AM	Fannin Back to School Lunch	<i>Fannin Elementary</i>
8/12	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	<i>Chapel</i>
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
8/13	11:45 AM	Men on Main	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>
8/16	8:30, 9 & 11 AM	Teacher Blessing	<i>Sanctuary & Gym</i>
8/17	6:00 PM	Finance Committee	<i>C-105</i>
8/19	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	<i>Chapel</i>
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
8/20	11:45 AM	Men on Main	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>
8/21	7:00 AM	Meals of Love	<i>Fellowship Hall Kitchen</i>
8/24	6:00 PM	Church Council	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>
8/26	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	<i>Chapel</i>
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
8/27	11:45 AM	Men on Main	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>
8/30	11:00 AM	Children's Worship Festival	<i>Sanctuary</i>
	7:30 PM	Lighthouse College Ministry	<i>Bass Parsonage</i>



To receive a copy of our newsletter, please e-mail leeann@fmcbyran.org, and let us know if you'd like a paper or digital copy.

Annual Conference Report Cont'd

What was amazing about the Certified Lay Ministers this year was the diversity of believers in age, gender, and background, as well as the amazing success of the Hispanic School of Ministry. Of the 50 CLMs this year, around 20 were from the Hispanic School of Ministry. On top of this, there were 19 certified in the newly formed Panama Annual Conference, another partner Conference in South America. The GMC continues to plant churches and equip the people of Panama to spread the Gospel and Scriptural holiness throughout that country.

In about a month, the GMC will be holding another General Conference, where representatives from around the world will meet in Johannesburg, South Africa. Pastor Jonathan will be in attendance as a reserve delegate and Pastor Marjorie Lea will be a volunteer helping with registration and hospitality. There will be a lot of legislation to amend our Book of Doctrine and Discipline. Maybe the most significant work will be a rewrite of our Articles of Faith, the foundational beliefs of our church. At present, we affirm two different historical statements, one from the Methodist Episcopal Church brought to us by Wesley and another brought by the Evangelical United Brethren Church when the two merged to become the United Methodist Church. A single set of Articles of Faith in modern language should emerge from General Conference. Please pray for those attending conference as they work out this very important statement of faith!

-Luke Addington, Lay Leader

FMC BRYAN CLERGY & STAFF

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bynum
ext. 105
jonathan@fmcbyran.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Jeremy Bass
ext. 106
jeremy@fmcbyran.org

Director of Children
& Family Ministries
Jeff Hobbs
ext. 111
jeff@fmcbyran.org

Director of Youth & Young Adult
Ministries
Meredith Pennington
ext. 110
meredith@fmcbyran.org

Director of Adult Ministries
& Member Involvement
Natalie Patterson
ext. 102
natalie.patterson@fmcbyran.org

Director of Music & Worship
Ministries
Chris Caffee
ext. 107
chris@fmcbyran.org

Contemporary Worship Leader/
Financial Administrative Assistant
Kaitlyn Zimmerman
kaitlyn@fmcbyran.org

Organist
Angela Corbett

Director of
Business & Operations
Eileen Winkle
ext. 109
eileen@fmcbyran.org

Administrative Assistant
LeeAnn Broeker
ext. 101
leeann@fmcbyran.org

Custodians
Hosea Morriel
Rocio Hitt
Jeff Conger

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Volunteers Needed for Funeral Hosting Duties

Do you have a heart to serve? We are in need of volunteers for Love, Comfort, Serve. LCS assists with funeral receptions, which includes preparing food and desserts and acting as hosts or hostesses during receptions. Volunteers are called upon as needed throughout the year.

If you are interested, please contact the lead hostess, Beth Williamson, at kwbw67@yahoo.com or 979-574-8704.

Brazos Valley Emmaus Community Gathering

The Brazos Valley Emmaus Community warmly invites you to join us for our August 1st Community Gathering!

**5:00-6:00 p.m. – Communion & Worship
in the Gym**

**6:00-7:00 p.m. – Potluck Dinner & Fellowship
in the Heritage Room**

Whether you've participated in an Emmaus Walk or are simply curious about what Emmaus is all about, we would love to have you join us! This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to experience Christian fellowship, worship together, and learn more about the Brazos Valley Emmaus Community and the Emmaus Walk experience. Everyone is welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact Doug Avery at dpavery92@gmail.com or Haley Sprott at haley.sprott@yahoo.com. We'll be happy to connect you with someone who can provide more information.



FMC Bryan will NOT be having our church-wide garage sale this year. Here are a list of places in Bryan you may take clothing, furniture, and household donations:

Clothing

Twin City Mission Second Chance, 3808 Old College

Clothing and Household Items

St. Vincent de Paul, 307 South Main Street

Furniture and Building Materials

Habitat for Humanity Restore, 2211 Maloney Ave.



ENDOWMENT SPOTLIGHT

Celebrate a Legacy: Give to the Heritage Endowment



At First Methodist Church of Bryan, we are blessed by the faithfulness and generosity of those who have come before us. One meaningful way their legacy lives on is through our Heritage Endowment Fund—a vital resource that helps meet the present and future needs of our church.

The Heritage Endowment is our church's largest and most flexible endowment fund, supporting both special ministry and mission projects—locally and beyond—and extraordinary needs related to our church property, such as major repairs, expansions, and improvements. This fund ensures that we can respond when opportunities arise or unexpected needs emerge.

Unlike general fundraising, endowments are designed to last. Gifts to the endowment are invested, and the principal remains intact, with only a portion of the earnings used each year. This allows the Heritage Endowment to provide a reliable and predictable source of funding for the church's mission, not just today—but for generations to come.

We invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift to the Heritage Endowment Fund in memory or in honor of someone special—a loved one whose faith shaped your life, a mentor who inspired your service, or a friend who walked with you in your spiritual journey. Your gift becomes a living tribute, helping ensure that our church continues to grow, serve, and shine Christ's light well into the future.

To learn more or make a gift, please contact the Eileen Winkle, Business & Facilities Manager at eileen@fmcbyran.org. Let us give thanks for the legacy we've inherited—and be part of the legacy yet to come.

THANK YOU!

HOPE
PREGNANCY CENTER

FIRST METHODIST BRYAN RAISED \$1,015.55



Baby Bottle
Boomerang

Veteran Voices: Celebrating 250 Years as a Nation

Gary Kent

Texas National Guard 1968 – 1974

From fall of 1963 thru spring of 1968 I excelled in higher education's extracurricular activities. Academic activities not so much. Therefore, in early summer of 1968 my Selective Service changed from 2S to 1A. Uncle Sam wanted ME!

In those days Reserve and National Guard waiting lists were five years and Uncle Sam was Impatient. Due to an act of pure Providence, the Texas National Guard established an Airborne Brigade and I signed up to become an Airborne Infantry Warrior. Hooo Yahhhh!

I went through Basic and Advanced Infantry Training in Fort Ord, California. The training was intense and I fired every weapon an infantry soldier uses including light and heavy machine guns, grenades and even a bazooka.

Airborne Training was in Fort Benning, Georgia. The Cadre in jump school was excellent and the most caring of all our trainers. We were honored to be among the last troops to be privileged to jump out of C-119 Boxcar cargo planes. It was a relief to get out of those antique rattletraps. I recall flying in many helicopters, but never had the opportunity to land in one. Training included jumping numerous times out of a perfectly good helicopter.

I returned to Houston and the Armory on OSR in July of 1969. I resumed my civilian life with meetings once a month doing infantry training and camp outs in pup tents at Addicks Reservoir, which is about 17 miles west of downtown Houston. The coldest I have ever been, was at Addicks in 34-degree weather in a steel helmet. We attended two-week summer camps in garden spots like North Fort Hood and Fort Bragg.

In '70 or '71 we transitioned to riot control training due to the violent race riots throughout the Nation. Fortunately, the riots never materialized in Houston although all the components and perpetrators were there. Someone had control of that situation thank goodness.

I was honorably discharged as a Buck Sergeant, E-5 in 1974.

While I did not see combat, riots or hurricane relief, I met my duty of service to my Country and I take pride in doing so. I learned a great deal about teamwork, leadership, responsibility and above all respect for our great Nation, its heritage and those who fought and died to preserve it.



As we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, we want to honor the brave men and women of our church who have served in the Armed Forces. We'd love to feature your experiences in our church newsletter. Your stories of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism will inspire our congregation. Please contact Eileen Winkle at eileen@fmcbyran.org to share your story!

Scripture Readers
Needed for Summer Worship
All Ages Welcome!



SIGN UP!

Oasis of Hope | Oasis de Esperanza

Esperanza (hope) in our culture seems to have been reduced to wishful thinking about something we desire or an objective we hope to attain. We have all heard our children say, “I hope for _____,” or “I hope that _____,” perhaps we have expressed those same words ourselves.

But Christian hope goes far beyond human sentiment. It places us in a posture of confident expectation—not in what others can do for us, nor in the strength of our circumstances, but in the character, promises, and saving work of God through Jesus Christ, made alive in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

But what about you? Have you found yourself looking at the world around you and wondering whether there is any reason to hope? Do the contradictions within our culture, our politics, and even within the life of the Church sometimes leave you discouraged, weary, or uncertain?

The truth is that, apart from Christ, we cannot find a hope strong enough to bear the weight of all that is broken around us—or within us. Human promises fail. Institutions disappoint. Political movements divide. Even the Church, when it loses sight of Christ, can wound the very people it is called to love.

But our hope does not rest in the perfection of the world, the faithfulness of institutions, or the strength of other people. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ. And because Christ is present, still speaking through His Word, still meeting us at His table, still healing, delivering, and restoring, hopelessness does not have the final word.

Who in your social circle needs to encounter hope amid difficult circumstances? You do not have to look far to find someone who is wounded, discouraged, or searching for a reason to keep believing.

And you do not have to travel far to carry hope. God has commissioned us as ambassadors for Christ—as though God Himself was making His appeal through us: “Be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:20). Through our words, our presence, our prayers, and our faithful witness, God continues to speak reconciliation, healing, and hope into the lives of others.

The more deeply we trust the work the Father has begun in us, and walk in the good works He has prepared beforehand for us to do, the more clearly we will recognize that each of us has been called to participate in the *missio Dei*—the mission of God. We enter our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities as representatives of Christ, embodying our shared ethos: Love, Witness, and Serve.

Elias R. Reyes
Oasis of Hope Ministries
FMC Bryan



Wednesday Prayer Meeting

Noon in the FMC Bryan Chapel

Strengthen your faith through prayer.

Adult Ministries



The Asbury Sunday School Class needs a full-time teacher or teachers with extensive Biblical knowledge and will teach from the Bible and have weekly lecture and discussions.

Contact Natalie Patterson at

natalie.patterson@fmcbyran.org

FIRST FAMILY DINNER

Wednesdays at 5:15 PM in the Heritage Room

September 9th – December 9th

➤ Bible Studies for All Following Dinner at 6 PM ➤
Everyone is welcome to the table!

Adult Bible Study

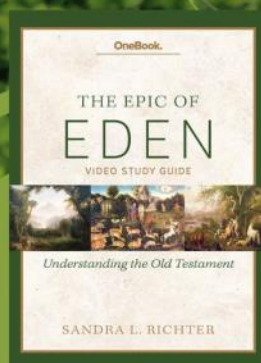
With Pastor Jonathan

6 PM

Wednesdays in the
Heritage Room

Sept. 9-Dec. 9

Following
First Family Dinner



The Epic of Eden

Journey Through the
Old Testament

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

As July winds down and August arrives, we find ourselves at the close of another summer. Soon, backpacks will be packed, calendars will fill, and familiar routines will return. As we prepare for a new season, it's worth pausing to ask: **What will shape our family's priorities this year?**



I love attending the students' activities throughout the year. The link below or the QR code allows you to give me all the details about your student's upcoming events.

[Youth Activity Calendar Request](#)



A Better Time Never Comes

"Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts."

— Psalm 90:12

As parents, we live in seasons.

Once soccer is over...

Once this work project is finished...

Once school starts...

Once summer ends...

Once things calm down...

We tell ourselves that when life becomes less hectic, we'll have more time for church, Bible study, serving, or simply slowing down to be with God. But have you noticed? Another season always arrives. The calendar fills again. The practices multiply. Work demands increase. Before we know it, another year has passed.

In Luke 10, Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. Instead of sitting at His feet, she became consumed with preparing, serving, and making everything just right. None of those things were bad, they were good things.

Yet Jesus gently told her:

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:41–42

Jesus wasn't condemning Martha's service. He was reminding her that even good things become unhealthy when they crowd out the best thing for us and that is being with Him. Isn't that where many of us find ourselves?

We're busy doing good things for our families, but unintentionally neglecting the One who gives us the strength to care for them well. Our children are always watching. They learn what matters most not from what

we say, but from what we consistently prioritize. If church is something we attend only when nothing else is scheduled, they may begin to believe that God simply fills the empty spaces of life. However, if they see us protecting time for worship, choosing community, serving others, and making Christ our foundation, even during busy seasons, they learn that faith isn't another activity on the calendar. It's the center of it.

Time with God

- Take a quiet moment this week and ask yourself:
- What has become my "busy" that keeps me from sitting at Jesus' feet?
- What message does my calendar communicate to my children about my priorities?
- If I continue living exactly as I am today, what spiritual legacy will I leave five years from now?

Don't answer quickly. Sit with those questions. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Forgive me for the times I've convinced myself that You can wait until life is less busy. Thank You for Your patience and Your grace. Help me to recognize that there will always be demands on my time, but there is only one thing that is truly necessary.

Teach me to seek first Your Kingdom. Give me the courage to rearrange my priorities so my children see a home where Christ is not simply included but honored above everything else. May my calendar reflect my faith, my choices point my family toward You, and my life bear witness that You are worthy of my first and best.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

My prayer for each of our families is not that life becomes less busy, but that Christ becomes more central. The seasons will continue to change, but the invitation from Jesus remains the same: **Come. Sit at My feet. Let everything else flow from there.**

Beyond the Walls 2026 - Hold Fast - Port O'Connor





Young Adult Ministry: The Vine

At FMC Bryan, we believe young adults thrive in authentic Christian community. The Vine is a Sunday School class for ages 18–30ish focused on connection, spiritual growth, and honest conversation—with Jesus at the center.

"I am the vine; you are the branches..." — John 15:5

 Sundays | 10:00–10:50 AM

 Room C206

- Current Study: *Walking Through the Book of John*

Community & Fellowship

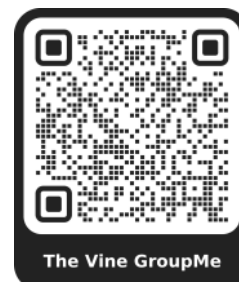
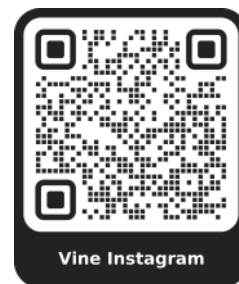
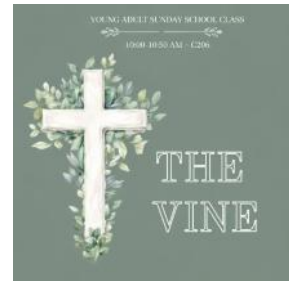
Young adults continue building strong friendships through shared meals, meaningful conversations, and growing together in faith.

Upcoming Vine Events

- Lunch out - 8/2/2026 - Place TBD
- Comal River Day Trip - 8/15/2026

Stay Connected

- For more information, visit our website: www.fmcbyran.org/ministries/youngadults
- Follow along on Instagram
- Join GroupMe for updates



Children & Family Ministries



The winner of the summer ping pong tournament is Tim Freeman (again). Tim has won four consecutive tournaments. \$280 was raised for the Brazos Church Pantry.

Blessing of the BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 9
at all worship services.

Come receive a blessing
for the school year and
some cool stuff
for your backpack!

TEACHER BLESSING SUNDAY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH
AT ALL WORSHIP SERVICES

WE WILL BE SAYING A
BLESSING OVER ALL
TEACHERS AND SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS.
TEACHERS WILL ALSO
RECEIVE A GIFT.

506 E. 28TH STREET
BRYAN, TX 77803

WORSHIP SERVICES AT 8:30, 9:00, & 11:00 A.M.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP FESTIVAL

SHORT STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH
11:00 A.M.
IN THE SANCTUARY

THE CHILDREN'S WORSHIP FESTIVAL IS A WORSHIP SERVICE ENTIRELY GEARED TOWARDS CHILDRENS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN ADULTS' TIME.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

The 3rd Grade Bible Presentation will be Sunday, September 13th at every worship service. If your child is entering 3rd grade, please send Jeff Hobbs your child's name as you want it engraved on their Bible by Sunday, August 7th. You can email Jeff at Jeff@fmcbyran.org



BRYAN, TEXAS

506 East 28th Street
Bryan, TX 77803

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR APP

Our church is now on MinistryOne, the church app that keeps you up to date and in the loop. Access giving, upcoming events, prayer requests, member directory and much more!



DOWNLOAD

Church by Ministry One
in your app store



SEARCH

for First Methodist
Church Bryan

