

A monthly publication of First Methodist Church, Bryan, TX  
**Vol. LXIV, No. 7**

**July 2023**



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## JULY 31st-AUGUST 3rd

**6:30 - 8:30 P.M**

**AGES 4 YEARS OLD - COMPLETED 5TH GRADE**



**Thy Kingdom Come**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

9th Annual Sweet  
Freedom, 4th of July  
Ping Pong Tournament  
July 2

Worship & Arts Camp  
July 9-13

Vacation Bible School  
July 31-August 4

GMC Annual Conference  
July 20-22

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

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

**11:00 a.m.**  
Bilingual English/Spanish  
Worship  
(Fellowship Hall)

### 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.fmcbyran.org](http://www.fmcbyran.org)



Find the registration link at:  
[fumcbryan.org/ministries/children](http://fumcbryan.org/ministries/children)  
or scan the QR code.



# Ministry Calendar

7/2	1:00 PM	THE 9TH ANNUAL FMC BRYAN, SWEET FREEDOM, 4TH OF JULY PING PONG TOURNAMENT
7/2	2:00 PM	Worship - Crestview Retirement Center/ Arbor Oaks
7/3-7/4		Campus Closed - Independence Day
7/5	6:00 PM	BIG
7/6	11:45 AM	Men on Main
7/7	12:00 PM	Meals of Love
7/7	6:30 PM	Generation of Power
7/9	5:30 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)
7/9-7/12	5:30 PM	Worship & Arts Camp
7/13	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study
7/13	11:45 AM	Men on Main
7/18	6:00 PM	Stephen Ministry
7/19	6:00 PM	BIG
7/20-7/22		GMC Annual Conference @ Christ Church
7/20	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study
7/20	11:45 AM	Men on Main
7/21	6:30 PM	Generation of Power
7/25	6:00 PM	Board of Trustees
7/27	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Bible Study
7/27	11:45 AM	Men on Main
7/30	12:00 PM	VBS Volunteers Meeting
7/30	5:30 PM	MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)
7/31	6:30 PM	VBS 2023



## Prayer Requests

**Rehab/Nursing Care:** Jim Allega, Joy Allega, Frances Allen, Ray Anthony, Jim Bradford, Marilyn Colby, Dixie Copeland, Donna Durocher, Daphne Eller, Billie Gray, Donna Lamar, Bob Prock

**Prayers of Healing:** Frances Allen, Pat Atmar, Zoe Ann Broughton, Betty Carter, Nancy Conlee, Janice Elsik, Sue Futrell, Billie Gray, Ed Janosky, Buddy McGown, Esther Mancillas, Judy Miller, John Millhollon, Linda Millhollon, Bill & Martha Pishek, Linda and Bob Prock, Nancy Janosky Schnell, Helene Steck, Ann Marie Vick, Grace Ashley, Chuck Schroepfel, Alma Fonsceca, Sandy Lewellen, Delia Garza, Sharon Dent, Ben Winkle, Ann Fancher, David Kipp, Myrl Sims, John Lillie

## FMC BRYAN CLERGY & STAFF

Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Rick Sitton**  
ext. 105  
rick@fmcbyran.org

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

Associate Pastor, Hispanic Ministry  
**Rev. Dr. Augusto Sarria**  
ext. 104  
augusto@fmcbyran.org

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

Director of Youth and Young Adult  
Ministries  
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**Angela Corbett**

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**Lynn Knowles**  
lynn@fmcbyran.org

**Custodians**  
Hosea Morriel  
Rocio Hittt  
Josh Sweed

# Church News & Upcoming Events

This past month I wrapped up a sermon series on Nehemiah. This series focused on rebuilding, and as we look at our own church, how is God rebuilding us. If you didn't get a chance to listen to this series, you can catch up on it by searching "The Awakening at FMC" on anywhere you find podcasts.

As I am wrapping up this series there is one thing that has stood out to me over and over throughout the weeks as I read this book. It is this: God is the one who rebuilds and the one we should focus on in rebuilding. Throughout the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem there is this divine hand of God that is working and moving behind the scenes. The Lord gives favor to Nehemiah before the King, the Lord puts this passion to rebuild on Nehemiah's heart, the Lord provides the materials for the wall, the Lord thwarts the enemies of Nehemiah again and again, and the Lord has the people supernatural finishing building the wall in 52 days!

As we read the book of Nehemiah it reads a lot like my own life and probably yours as well. In the difficult seasons it seems like God can be distant, it can seem like God isn't moving. But when we look back at our lives, we realize how God has made things work out, and we can see the fingerprints of God working in background when we reflect.

Throughout this series I have thought a lot about our own rebuilding and how do we a church look forward. Our own rebuilding always starts by looking up before we look ahead. In other words, we need to look at the God who rebuilds, the God who redeems, the God who fixes broken thing, the God raises dead people to life. God is the one who will rebuild us. He is faithful, He is good, and He is trustworthy. And we trust that He will not abandon His Church.

-Pastor Jeremy Bass



## Women's Retreat

When: Saturday October 14

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Place: FMC Bryan

## Amazing Grace Bible Study

Fall 2023

September 14 - November 2

E209

Now That Faith Has Come



The goal of Kairos Prison Ministry is to develop a Christian community on the inside of a prison. Free-world volunteers show the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ with 42 inmates (residents) during a 31/2 day weekend through talks, meditations, chapel visits, music, and fellowship. After the weekend, small groups called Prayer and Share are held weekly and Reunions groups are held months with free-world volunteers to help the residents remain accountable for their walk with Christ.

Team meetings to prepare for *Kairos 40* will be conducted at First Baptist Church from 8am-2pm on the following dates: August 19, September 2, September 16, and September 40.

For more information, please contact Mark Jurica at (979) 777-4283 or markjjurica@yahoo.com

Letters of thanks from Kairos 39:

*"Kairos ended Sunday April 30, 2023, however, Christ gained 42 new Soldiers in His Church forever. Monday, May 1, 2023, I accepted Christ in my life for the first time and I'm happy with this wonderful gift. This Kairos Weekend has been the most loving weekend U ever had in my 51 years living on Earth, and I promise God I'm going to continue to love my brothers in Christ"*

***"It made me realize that the freedom I've been missing, or thought I was, in fact was not one of the "outside" but of Jesus' love, and the warm embrace of a family member. There is no other way to express this gratitude other than to give the brothers back in the dorms and lines and the chow hall. This just makes one want and need to give others. That's how you know what God's love is."***

*"I've been incarcerated for 19 ½ years and this was the greatest weekend of my time in prison. I was not a big believer, I had a few doubts but after this experience, my heart was opened and I left with a totally new outlook of life and religion. Please understand that your sponsorship of Kairos is life changing for us and makes a difference in our lives."*





Is life more that you can handle alone right now? Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move or just experiencing a lonely, or difficult time in your life? Could you benefit from having someone who would listen, care and walk with you through this difficult time? We all go through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing. God does not intend for you to struggle alone.

Consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you on your journey to wholeness.

#### **A Stephen Minister is...**

- **A child of God who walks beside a hurting person.**
- **A caring Christian who really listens.**
- **A member of our congregation who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care.**
- **A person who is ready to focus on your needs.**
- **A trustworthy confidant who will keep everything you say and your identity confidential.**
- **Someone who will faithfully meet with you on a weekly basis for as long as your need persists.**

Contact Natalie Patterson at 979-779-1324, ext. 102 or [natalie.patterson@fmcbyran.org](mailto:natalie.patterson@fmcbyran.org)



### **CCC: Community Clothes Closet**

A wonderful and new program has begun in our church called "CCC", Community Clothes Closet. The CCC will be run by the Hispanic ministry.

Jesus invites us to be generous and share with the people of our community who are in need: "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none" *Luke 3:11*.

The creation of this closet will be a wonderful opportunity to donate clothes in good condition, to bless others, and to enjoy the joy of giving, as John Wesley did with the neediest people in his community. The program begins in the month of August, we have enough time to pray and begin to select our best clothing donations for the glory of God. **You may drop off your donations in the church office.**

Please consider the dignity of those you are donating to - we would never provide clothing to others that we would not wear ourselves. In general, we accept adult and children's clothing.

- All clothing must be freshly laundered
- In addition to clothing we accept shoes, bags and accessories such as hats, belts etc. — Shoes must have their laces

#### **Items we do not accept:**

- No clothing with permanent stains
- Ripped or torn items
- Bedding such as pillows, duvet covers, sheets etc.
- Costumes
- Used underwear, socks or swimwear. *Unworn undergarments with tags still attached may be donated.*

### **Update: Fiesta of Hope**

On June 3rd at Wesley Methodist Church, we held an evangelistic party called Fiesta of Hope. More than 60 people attended. Everyone was very happy: the people from the community, the Wesley church brothers, the volunteers from FMC Bryan, and the volunteers from the Hispanic ministry.

It was wonderful to meet many people from the community and to be able to talk with them about Jesus Christ. We had bounce houses, water games, Christian music, hotdogs, lemonade, cookies, and, at the end, an evangelistic meeting. We thank all the volunteers who supported us! Thank you to Pastor William and his wife, Mike, John, and the other members of the Wesley Methodist Church.

We are very motivated to hold our own Hope Party for our neighbors at First Methodist Church in October. We invite you to start praying for this evangelistic party, and to sign up as volunteers. Please contact Pastor Augusto Sarria at [augusto@fmcbyran.org](mailto:augusto@fmcbyran.org) to volunteer. Together as a church, we can continue the mission of evangelizing, growing disciples of Jesus Christ, and transforming the world.



# Church Financial Update

## FMC, Bryan Financial Updates As of May 31, 2023

	Annual Budget	Year-to-Date	Actual for the May	Budget Remaining	% Spent YTD
<b>BUDGET INCOME</b>					
Total Income	1,196,160	434,823	152,078	758,337	39.%
<b>BUDGET EXPENSES</b>					
GMC Connectional Giving	20,548	20,548	-	-	100.%
Administrative Ministry	73,040	28,992	5,866	44,048	40.%
Building Maintenance & Supplies	318,000	134,553	29,953	183,447	42.%
Parsonage Maintenance & Ins	20,633	16,476	7,621	4,157	80.%
Evangelism & Advertising	10,000	5,425	926	4,575	54.%
Missions	21,500	7,055	1,906	14,445	33.%
Fellowship Team	2,400	1,577	951	823	66.%
Worship/Music Ministry	22,400	13,945	1,427	8,455	62.%
Children's Ministry	27,600	6,090	1,688	21,510	22.%
Youth Ministry	16,400	4,572	961	11,828	28.%
Adult Ministry	7,700	2,804	756	4,896	36.%
Personnel Expenses	922,051	328,645	68,752	593,406	36.%
Total Expenses	1,462,272	570,682	120,807	891,590	39.%
		<b>Year-to-Date</b>			
Total Income		434,823			
Total Expenses		570,682			
<b>Budget deficit</b>		<b>(135,859)</b>			

The church's budget operates on a calendar year. As of May 31, 2023, our deficit is \$135,859. Thank you to those who have stepped up their giving! Don't be alarmed. Operating cash and investment funds are available for use to make up any remaining deficit at the end of the year. Please continue to pray that we can continue to serve as a beacon of hope in the local community.

Operating cash-on-hand	\$243,862
Operating investment (CD)	\$250,697
Total Operating funds	\$494,559



# Adult Ministries

## Tree of Hope

Shortly before midnight on Saturday June 3, I lost a very special friend. My beautiful Golden Rey Elm was uprooted and broken.

Here is a bit of history about this special tree: the Golden Elm\* was a special cultivar created by my grandfather Lt. Col. Bruce Rey. *\*(Chinese Elm cultivar Ulmus parvifolia 'Golden Rey' an American clone patented by B. Rey in 1990)* "Grandpappy" learned his love of horticulture from his father. After he served in the military, he took over the family business "Rey's Nursery". My family still owns this property in Oklahoma City, which is now leased by another successful nursery business.

The loss of this special tree crushed both my heart and my spirit. I was reminded about why I loved this tree. "Grandpappy" taught us to love plants and to love life! His life lessons were learned through the cultivation of plants and cultivating his faith in God. His life reflected both faith and courage, setting strong foundations for my mother and his granddaughters.

After the tree was removed and placed at the curb, I still mourned. . . .

Now as I write, I am looking at the empty space where the tree was once growing. It now represents Hope, Renewal and Faith. The faith and life lessons that my Grandpappy taught us.

We as believers in Christ have many trees in our lives that fall. Allow yourselves to mourn but then turn to the Lord for strength. Receive the Holy Spirit to renew your soul. Move forward in hope, faith and love. Support one another in their walks of faith. Plant New Trees and Grow!

*At least there is hope for a tree:  
If it is cut down, it will sprout again,  
and its new shoots will not fail.  
Job 14:17*

*Natalie Patterson*



# Youth & Young Adult Ministries

**LIFTED**  
METHODIST YOUTH  
MISSIONS RETREAT 2023

Jesus said, "When I am Lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32; NLT). For 4 days the youth gathered at the river to Lift up Jesus in prayer, fellowship, service and love! Our mission was to begin the process of renovating the inside of a house for a woman who clearly saw the love of God at work through the youth at FMC Bryan. In tears she praised God each

day learning all our names and working alongside of us. We even had an opportunity to take her a huge box of food.

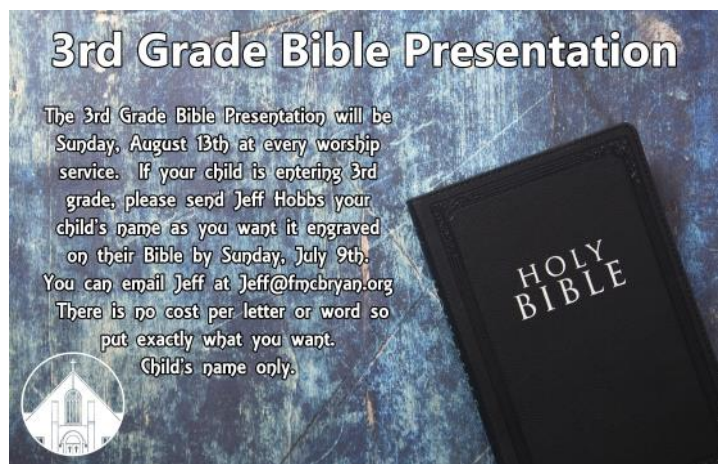
Mr. Jeff Hobbs and Pastor Jeremy Bass came out as guest speakers two separate evenings. Their talks on prayer and identity were timely and powerful! Nina Moutray and Cameron Liotta lead the worship every night preparing our hearts for the Word. This year's Youth Missions Retreat (LIFTED) was an amazing experience! The youth are looking forward to finding time to finish the work we started. We thank you for your prayers and support and keep lifting up the name of Jesus!

William Pepper, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries





# Children & Family Ministries







BRYAN, TEXAS

506 East 28th Street  
Bryan, TX 77803

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH



**September 8-9**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**8 AM - 2 PM**

### **DONATE YOUR TREASURES!**

**Drop Off Dates:**  
**September 5-6**  
**Drop Off Location:**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Items MUST be priced when  
dropped off!**

**For assistance or to schedule a  
large item pick up,  
please contact:**  
**Pastor Augusto Sarria**  
**[augusto@fmcbyryan.org](mailto:augusto@fmcbyryan.org)**