August 6, 2023



Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Evening Worship Tonight!

Come back here tonight at 7:00 p.m. for Evening Worship!

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Youth at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study and Wacky Wednesday at 6:45 p.m.

Senior Saints' Bible Study

Tom Keller' will begin a series on Isaiah this Thursday, August 10!

Senior Saints Outings

Karen Peck and New River will perform at Southside Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, **August 11**. Sign the list in the hall, meet here in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. for a Chick-Fil-A dinner, then you'll travel together to the concert.

Also, don't forget about the trip to Jesup on Tuesday, August 15. Sign up!

Adventure Club!

Adventure Club will begin on Wednesday night, **August 16**, at 6:30. We will serve pizza to the Clubbers. We have clubs for preschoolers through 6th graders.

Home Fellowships

Home Fellowships are rolling around again on Sunday evening, **August 20**! Please let Dawn know if you would like to host a group! We need just 1 more home.

Help needed for Wednesday Night Suppers!

Our Wednesday night suppers are beginning again on **August 23** and we need help. We need individuals or teams of four who can volunteer for a month of Wednesdays. If you are willing and able please see Pastor Bob or Richie Mills. Thank you!

CMI Speaker!

Sunday, **August 27**, at 6:00 p.m., Dr. Jonathan Sarfati from Creation Ministries International will speak to us. Invite your friends and family to this special event! Poster on page 7!

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 33:1-3 Pew Bible p. 463

Baptism

Hymn #23, bulletin p. 8

"Come, We that Love the Lord"

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Posner Galatians 3:7-9 Pew Bible p. 973

Hymn, bulletin p. 9

"Jerusalem"

Scripture Reading
Psalm 90
Steve Jackson
Pew Bible pp. 496-497

Hymn #393, bulletin p. 8

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Message
Bob Dimmitt
Nothing Left to Chance
Matthew #6
Matthew 2:1-8, Pew Bible pp. 807-808

Hymn, bulletin p. 10

"Now Unto the King, Eternal, Immortal, Invisible"

A.M. Notes

Nothing Left to Chance Matthew #6 Matthew 2:1-8

Herod the Great ruled Israel from 37 - 4 BC by Roman imperial appointment. So the birth of Jesus occurs in the final years of his reign somewhere between 8-4 BC.

Who are the Magi or Wise Men?

How did they know a Jewish king had been born? And, even if they knew about it, why would they have chosen to come and worship him?

Observations concerning the star: It is referred to as "his" star. It appeared and disappeared. It moved from east to west. It moved from north to south. It literally came down and hovered over.

Conclusion:

Numbers 22-24 - Zechariah 6:12-13

How would they (the magi) have known when to look for the star? How would they have known that when a super bright light appeared in the heavens it was the star that signaled the birth of the Messiah King?

Some background: Daniel 2:1-12 and Daniel 2:46-48

Daniel 9:24-26

Why did the Magi go to Jerusalem?

How Many Herods Are There in the Bible?

- **1. Herod the Great (ruled 37-4 B.C.)** He's the guy in the Christmas story. Super powerful client king answerable to Rome. Tried to trick the wise men. Killed the babies in Bethlehem (not to mention some of his own sons and wives).
- **2. Herod Archelaus (ruled 4 B.C.-A.D. 6)** He was one of Herod the Great's three sons mentioned in the Bible. He received one-half of his father's territory, the area surrounding and near Jerusalem (Judea and Samaria). Joseph was unwilling to move Mary and toddler Jesus to Bethlehem after fleeing to Egypt because Bethlehem was in this Herod's territory and, like his father "the Great," Herod Archelaus wasn't known to be very cuddly. He got replaced by a Roman procurator less than ten years into his reign; that's why Pontius Pilate is the man in charge at Jesus' crucifixion rather than one of the "Herods."
- **3.** Herod Antipas (ruled 4 B.C.-A.D. 39) Jesus called him "the Fox" (Luke 13:32). Received a quarter of his father's territory (Galilee and Perea). Divorced his first wife and married Herodias, the wife of his brother (who was yet a different "Herod"). Killed John the Baptist. Pontius Pilate sent Jesus to see this Herod as part of Jesus' trial since this Herod was visiting Jerusalem at the time Jesus was sentenced to death.
- **4. Herod Philip the Tetrarch (ruled 4 B.C.-A.D. 34)** Got the remaining quarter of his father's territory (north and east of Galilee—ruled over Syrians and Greeks). Married his niece, Salome, the daughter of Herodias (Herod Antipas's wife-of-sin).
- **5. Herod Agrippa I (ruled A.D. 37-44 [41-44 in Judea])** Grandson of Herod the Great and nephew of Herodias, Herod Antipas's wife. Eventually ended up ruling over even more territory than did his grandfather, Herod the Great. In the book of Acts he is known as the one who put Peter in prison (Acts 12:1-5)...although he couldn't *keep* him there (12:6-19)! Also..."He did not give God the glory" when referred to as a god by the people of Tyre and Sidon and was thus struck by an angel and "eaten by worms" (Acts 12:20-23).
- **6.** Herod Agrippa II (ruled A.D. 50s until long after the end of the Jewish war; died around A.D. 93) Like his father Herod Agrippa I and great-grandfather Herod the Great he ruled over a large territory. He's the one who interviewed Paul along with the Roman procurator Porcius Festus when Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea (in Palestine) after Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 25-26).

Brief Summary:

Herod the Great: Christmas story

Herod Archelaus: Joseph to Nazareth instead of Bethlehem because of him

Herod Antipas: Killed John the Baptist

Herod Philip: Ruled area north and east of Galilee

Herod Agrippa I: Eaten by worms

Herod Agrippa II: Trial of Paul in Caesarea �

Balaam lived at Pethor

"Pethor" has made some historians wonder, but they think they know where it is. It is located 400 miles north of Moab on the banks of the Euphrates River, twelve miles south of Carchemish. Carchemish was the location of the early seventh-century BC battle Pharaoh Necho was hastening toward to aid the Assyrians against the Babylonians, when he was confronted by King Josiah of Judah. Josiah was, at the time, allied to Babylon. He took his army and met Necho at Megiddo—the famous place of battles, Armageddon. Judah was defeated there, as Necho had a much stronger army. A stray arrow happened to hit Josiah, and he was taken from the battlefield, mortally wounded.

However, the engagement at Megiddo stalled Necho long enough for the Babylonians to defeat the Assyrians, probably near Haran where Abraham had lived for a while—where Terah, Abraham's father, died. The defeat forced the Assyrians to retreat. A couple of years later, Nebuchadnezzar faced the Assyrians and Egyptians again at Carchemish. This colossal battle changed the direction of the Middle East at that time, because, by defeating Assyria again, Nebuchadnezzar gained control of the entire region.

Balaam lived just a stone's throw away from this place of future fame. This is important to know because of the connection between Abraham and Balaam. They were from the same general area near Haran, which was less than fifty miles away. It was generally known that where Balaam lived, Pethor, was famous for its *baru*, "priest-diviners" (which some have tried to connect them with the Magi, but the evidence is scanty). They were sorcerers, magicians, diviners, soothsayers, and such.

It is believed that Balaam was from a long line of celebrated diviners, and that he and his family had made their living for several generations cursing or blessing people. It was their family trade. They passed it down, giving their sons names that went along with it, names like "Burning" and "Devourer." Their family reputation had traveled throughout the entire region. If anyone wanted someone cursed, they would send for a *baru* from Balaam's family, since they were the best in the world at cursing people. These *baru*—regardless of the requester's religion or political stripe—would, for a price, perform their auguries, say their incantations, make their sacrifices to some particular god, and then curse the other party in the name of that god. •

Summary Daniel 9:24-26

The prophet Daniel was a Jewish exile who lived during the time of the Babylonian Captivity, about 500 years before the birth of Jesus. During Daniel's lifetime, the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and had taken many Jews as captives to Babylon. Daniel, while in Babylon, delivered a prophecy of what would happen during the centuries that followed.

Here is a summary of Daniel 9:24-26:

- 1. There would be a decree to rebuild Jerusalem. (Given around 445 BC)
- 2. Jerusalem would be rebuilt.
- 3. Then an anointed one [ACCORDING TO THE PROPHECY 490 YEARS AFTER THE YEAR 445 BC THE MESSIAH WILL COME]. (Messiah) would be "cut off" (an idiom for "rejected" or "killed") around 32 AD.
- 4. Then Jerusalem would be destroyed again.

All of these events later happened, in the same order in which they are described in Daniel 9:24-26:

- After the Medes and Persians had conquered the neo-Babylonian empire about 2500 years ago, they ruled a vast empire that included the land of Israel. About 2400 years ago (about 445 BC), Persian king Artaxerxes gave permission to the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem, which was still in ruins after having been destroyed earlier by the Babylonians.
- 2. The Jews rebuilt the Temple and the city of Jerusalem.
- 3. Then, about 2000 years ago, Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Messiah who had been promised by Old Testament prophets. But, many people rejected Jesus as the Messiah and he was crucified by the Romans.
- 4. About 40 years after Jesus was crucified, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. (The Temple has not been rebuilt since then). ❖



Important Upcoming Dates

Augus 13 16 20 26 27	St: Sunday School Promotion Sunday Adventure Club Kickoff Home Fellowships Back to School Bash CMI Speaker: Jonathan Sarfati	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Septe 4 17	ember: Office Closed for Labor Day After Church Fellowship	7:00 p.m.
Octob 15 15 25 28	ber: Quarterly Members' Meeting Ice Cream Social Fall Festival Homecoming Work Day	TBA 7:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m.
5	mber: Homecoming Women's Retreat Ghost Pirates hockey game Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, & Carols	6:00 p.m.
Decer 6 6 13	mber: Adventure Club Christmas Party Youth Christmas Party Christmas Banquet	6:30 p.m.
15 18, 19 24 31	Young Adult Christmas Party Caroling Christmas Eve Service Annual NYE Cookoff: Chili	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.



We send our most sincere thanks for your kind expressions of love and support in our recent time of sorrow. We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and your kindness will always be remembered.

In Christ, The Family of Rion L. Plummer





Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

Sunday August 27, 2023

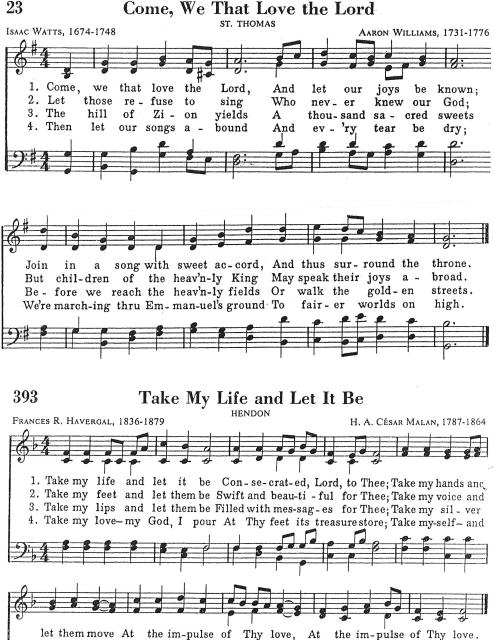
6:00 p.m. - Design, Deluge & Dilemma

Dr Jonathan Sarfati - CMI Scientist & author

Remember to invite your family & friends!

Creation resources available

Come, We That Love the Lord



Αt

Al-ways, on - ly, for my King.

Not a mite would I with-hold.

Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

for my King,

all for Thee,

8

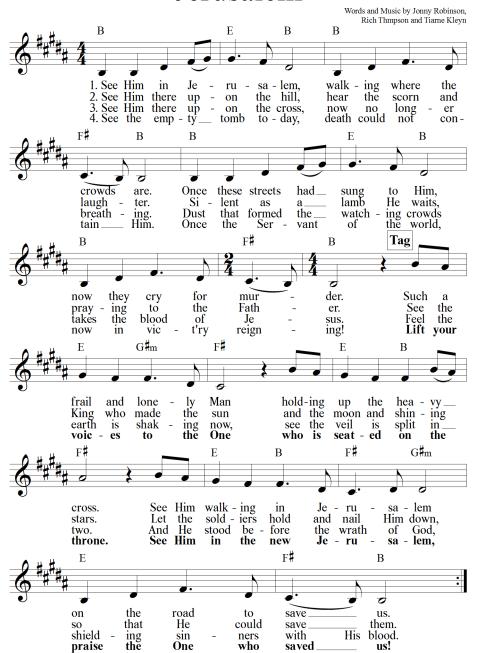
let me sing Al-ways, on - ly,

will be

and my gold- Not a mitewould I with-hold,

Ev - er, on - ly,

Jerusalem



CCLI Song # 7003218 © 2014 CityAlight Music CCLI License # 2358754

Now Unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible



CCLI Song # 18077
© 1972 Dawn Treader Music
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CCLI License # 2358754



Book Review Rediscover Church: Why the Body of Christ is Essential Collin Hansen & Jonathan Leeman

Rediscover Church was published at the tail end of the Covid-19 period and addresses a trend of folks leaving the practice of publicly gathering in church, even before they were ordered to stay home. The mandates accelerated this decline in church attendance, so the authors present an argument to persuade Christians to return in person to their local church bodies to worship and serve together.

The book is structured on their formulated definition of a church:

A church is a group of Christians who assemble as an earthly embassy of Christ's heavenly kingdom to proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King; to affirm one another as his citizens through the ordinances; and to display God's own holiness and love through a unified and diverse people in all the world, following the teaching and example of elders.

Each phrase of this definition is elaborated upon in its own chapter, so it is very easy to follow. At the beginning of each chapter, this definition is given in list form, with the current phrase set in bold print. The two authors have taken turns in writing the chapters, and each share interesting and relevant stories from their personal faith journeys. Scripture is cited throughout as they explain each part of their definition, ultimately calling us to see the value and necessity of serving and glorifying God by worshiping together, in person.

I come from a varied church background, growing up Episcopalian, getting saved in spite of that, being exposed to some extreme charismatic practices, then settling in a Baptist church that split while I was on the mission field. I was very encouraged to compare our church body here at Ferguson favorably to the ideal that is presented in this book. We're not perfect, of course, but we are headed in the right direction.

After the authors' thorough explanation of what a local church body should be, the challenge to those who need to rediscover church is stated on page 147: Just show up and ask how you can help. Collin tells us his promise for new members, "I promise that if they show up consistently (in our church, that means corporate worship on Sunday and home group on Wednesday) and seek to care for others, they will get everything they want out of the church. That could be spiritual growth, friendships, biblical knowledge, or practical help. They will get whatever they want from the church by fulfilling just those two simple tasks."

All the references to Covid-19 date the book a bit, however the overall message of the book is timeless. I suggest reading it and passing it to someone you know and love who needs to "rediscover church."

Dawn Stanford

Free copies of this book are available on the steps up to the podium.

Articles

"Avoid such people"

By T. M. Suffield

There are a number of people that Paul seems to not want Timothy to associate with. He lists some individuals but then at the start of chapter 3 describes a long list of character traits before saying "avoid such people" in verse 5.

The question is "why should we not associate with them, surely we want them to hear the gospel?" You might go in thinking you're going to pull other people out but actually you will be pulled in. For our own sakes we should be careful who we eat with (1 Corinthians 10).

I'd like to draw out two threads that the questions reveal in our thinking, that I suspect are quite common.

Who are these people?

The assumption is that these people need to be preached the gospel, because they're sinners. That's a reasonable inference. What I think we miss is that, most likely, these people—these lovers of self and of money, proud, arrogant, disobedient to parents, abusive... he goes on at length—are within the church.

How do we know that? Context helps, Paul is instructing Timothy on how to deal with false teachers and quarrelling within the church. Beyond that though, the passage directly tells us: one of the dispositions listed is "having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power."

To have the appearance of godliness, you need to be within the visible church.

Now, you might want to say that these apparent sinners within the church need to be called to repentance in the gospel. You're right that they do. It's fascinating then that Paul's advice to Timothy is to avoid them.

What does he mean? In this instance something slightly different to his instructions to not share a table with demons (1 Cor 10). The context is Timothy passing on the deposit to others, so these are not the people to invest in as elders and deacons and teachers and pastors of the future. These aren't the guys to stick on your leadership development program.

Those of us who aren't making those decisions should be careful in the same way though: don't use all your time associating with Christians who don't build you up in the love and worship of the Lord Jesus.

"For the gospel"

I like that Christians want to tell people the gospel. Evangelism is good. In 2 Timothy Paul tells Timothy to "do the work of an evangelist," (4.5).

The problem is when it becomes the only lens we can look through. Is the church supposed to grow through conversion? Yes!

Is God's mission to fill the cosmos with the image(s) of his Son? Yes!

Are Christians therefore here to tell other people about Jesus? No. No, we're not. Not primarily. We're here to worship Jesus, that's what the church is for, and to build the kingdom around us, which will include some evangelism but also includes a whole bunch of other stuff under the heading of "make disciples."

It's always worth noticing that the command to make disciples is not just make lots of new Christians, but also therefore to grow all those Christians up into maturity. Maturity might include sometimes not associating with certain people for your own sake—immaturity definitely should.

Churches are here for Christians—I'm just not convinced that the classic quip that the Church is the "only organization that exists for the sake of its non-members" is true. We exist for the sake of God.

We aren't here for the sake of the gospel, but for Jesus.

If you encountered a faithful church that preached the word but didn't grow numerically through conversion of outsiders (it might grow through the conversion of children, perhaps), even over the course of many years, I suspect many of us would think that church was failing.

I want to say that we need more information to make that judgment.

If instead everyone is growing up into maturity through the ministry of Word and Sacrament, through eating and crying and living together, then that church is succeeding. Now if no outsiders are coming in because they are so insular that no one is telling their friends about Jesus at all, then there are some problems here (though no more so than in the church that does lots of telling about Jesus and sees conversions, but no one progresses to maturity). But if instead they do some evangelism, but it hasn't as yet yielded fruit in conversions, but they grow in faith nevertheless—I suspect many of us want to see this as failure, I think I want to see it as failure, but it isn't.

What's the takeaway here? Maturity matters. Worshipping Jesus matters. That's the church's calling and purpose. �

What Is the Gospel?

What is the gospel? I'll put it in a sentence.

The gospel is the news that Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, died for our sins and rose again, eternally triumphant over all his enemies, so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe, but only everlasting joy.

That's the gospel.

You Can't Outgrow the Gospel

You never, never, *never* outgrow your need for the gospel. Don't ever think of the gospel as, "That's the way you get saved, and then you get strong by leaving it and doing something else."

No! We are strengthened by God through the gospel every day, till the day we drop.

You never outgrow the need to preach to yourself the gospel.

John Piper

real church as set forth in the NT is not a support group. It's not a social club or a counseling center. It's a family of redeemed sinners who have God as their Father through their union with Jesus Christ. It's a body knit together by the Holy Spirit so that together all are built up and strengthened and loved. Church is God's idea.

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Missionary of the Week

ThriVe Express Women's Healthcare Savannah, Georgia

ThriVe Express provides NO-COST health care to women and couples considering abortion and provides life-affirming options and free services like pregnancy testing, life-saving ultrasounds, and more. Since their opening February, 2018, through June, 2023, ThriVe Express has seen:

- 1,161 abortion minded women choose to carry their babies to term.
 - 937 women make a decision to commit or recommit their lives to Christ.
- 5,314 patient visits
- 2,295 pregnancy tests
- 2.220 ultrasounds
- 7,905 STD tests
- 2,818 Gospel presentations
- 1,280 Bibles given out

ThriVe Savannah's Annual Fundaraising Gala



Thursday, September 7 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Palmetto Club at
The Landings

The evening includes testimonials, a silent auction, passed hors d'oeuvres, a sit-down three-course dinner, and live entertainment provided by Danny Gokey. Nearly 300 adult guests who loyally support businesses and vendors who share their love for life, freedom, and faith will be in attendance. Tickets are \$120 per person. For more info and to get tickets, visit

https://www.unitedforlifetohisglory.org/imagine-if

Information cards and brochures are available on the podium steps. Feel free to grab one and remember to pray for this vital ministry!

ThriVe Express Women's Healthcare is under the umbrella of United for Life to His Glory.

Its Mission

- To provide life affirming alternatives to women in our community who are the most vulnerable to poverty, predators and exploitation
- Informing those in the Body of Christ of the current tragedy in our city regarding abortion, sexual exploitation of women and children, and how our children are being misinformed by the world.
- Introducing solutions and techniques that will allow the truth and the restoration power of Jesus Christ to influence those currently in harm's way.
- Inviting those who are able to see the vision to invest in the solutions!

Its Vision

• To encourage and engage the Body of Jesus Christ to stand UNITED for the eternal lives of those perishing and the lives of the unborn.

he price of refusing to forgive is high. Unforgiveness produces hatred, bitterness, animosity, anger, and retribution. It not only clogs up the arteries but also the courts with thousands of vengeful lawsuits. Refusing to forgive imprisons people in their past. Unforgiving people keep their pain alive by constantly picking at the open wounds and keeping it from healing. Bitterness takes root in their hearts and defiles them (Heb. 12:15). Anger rages out of control and negative emotions run unchecked. Life is filled with turmoil and strife instead of joy and peace.

John MacArthur

Nursery August 6 Babies:

Carolyn Blanton, Sonja Clements, Cindy Wise

Toddlers:

Jan DeLoach, Rebekah Helmick **Preschoolers:**

Rachel Beatty, Amy Keller

Nursery August 13 Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Beth Lewis, Jeanie Groover **Toddlers:**

Michael & Karrie Walker
Preschoolers:

Logan & Stacey Kelly

Right Now Media

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https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fabchurchga or scan this QR code:



If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service,

drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week	at FABC		
Today			
Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.		
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.		
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.		
Evening Worship	7:00 p.m.		
Tuesday			
Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.		
Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.		
Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.		
Wednesday			
Youth	6:30 p.m.		
Wacky Wednesday	6:45 p.m.		
Bible Study	6:45 p.m.		
Thursday			
Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.		
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.		
Young Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.		
Friday			
Southern Gospel Concert	5:00 p.m.		
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Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for August

Jimmy Kicklighter, Napoleon Martin

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

"Systematic Theology" Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"Young Marrieds" Gym Overhang: Tom Keller
"John" Piano Overflow: Steve Jackson

Children and Students

Babies Room 3: Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges Toddlers Room 24: Susan Su, Deborah Focht Pre-K Room 25: Emily Wise, Kamee Roberson/ Michael and Ruth Kleinpeter K, 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John and Pam Humphrey Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Boys Room 202: 3rd-6th Grade Girls Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton Youth Guvs Room 206: Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion Youth Girls Room 206: Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach