

# This Month

April 5  
Easter Celebration

April 9-10  
Lone Star Biker Rally Conference



April 12  
Baby Dedication –Morning service  
Church wide potluck-immediately after worship

April 14  
Women on Mission– 9:15 am

April 16  
Jolly Elders-Noon

April 18  
Deacon's Meeting-8:30 am  
Judson Group– 9:30 am

April 19  
Church Council-4:30 pm

April 25  
Amp on the Street-Youth Outreach



April 26  
Men's Breakfast-8:00 am

# Kids Korner



Awana's Cubbies class created their own shepherd and sheep to remember Jesus is the Shepherd who leads us.



Elizabeth Carnes and her father Jay Carnes, welcoming everyone to the Sunday Morning Worship Service



Leela Samuel getting Katherine Murray ready for baptism



(Right) Kylie is looking up the Bible story (below) the elementary class is practicing the positions of prayer.



# THE HERALD

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

# 175

Celebrating YEARS

April 2015

# Welcome new members joining the church family



Taylor Aiken



Zeb McDowell



Isabelle Teague



Katherine Murray



Naomi Smathers baptized by her Grandpa Leland



Matthew Teague



Jacob Morgan





## Bro. Ray's Reflections...



### RENEWAL 2015, May 1-3

God is doing some great and wonderful things in the life and ministry of FBC, Galveston! In the first four months of this year, we have baptized almost as many as we did all of last year, and this is true for our total additions! God is blessing us in a wonderful way! Please place on your calendar the weekend of May 1-3 for a series of worship and sharing events we are calling **Renewal 2015**. This will be a time of worship which will be led by our preacher, Keith Tomlinson and our worship leader, Dennis Johns. Keith is the founding pastor of The River of Life Church in Judsonia, Arkansas. On an average Sunday they will have 500 in worship. Dennis is the Associate Pastor of First Baptist, Texas City. Both Keith and Dennis bless me with their love for the Lord, and their gracious ways of living, relating, and serving people. I am praying that this weekend will be bathed in prayer. If you feel led to host a prayer meeting in your home during the week before our meeting, please let Nathan or myself know. We are also asking anyone who would be willing to spend an hour in prayer from 6:00 pm Thursday, April 30 to 6:00 pm Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> to volunteer and sign up on a list we will have prepared after Easter. Our scripture of the week is found in Hosea 6:1-2:

*Come; let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.*

### EASTER—HE IS RISEN!

There is no greater phrase ever spoken or written!

Jesus Christ was betrayed, denied, and abandoned by those He had poured His life into for the previous three years. He was then arrested, tried by ignorant and unholy men; tortured by their minions; sentenced to die the most horrible of deaths—death by crucifixion. This death was a sacrifice to His Father for sinners. Jesus said, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* After His death, His body was surrendered to a rich man who placed Him in a newly hewn grave.

However, at sunrise on the first day of the following week, women went to minister to His body and found none! Two men in white garments said, *“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He is risen!”* This Risen Jesus was seen by His disciples and many others. He gave them many convincing proofs that He was alive. After forty days, he met with them and commanded them to make disciples *“When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* He then ascended into the clouds and now sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for each of us!

**This is what Easter is all about! Celebrate it by inviting your family, friends and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the fact HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS RISEN!**

Please continue to pray for me as I pray for you.  
I Love You,  
Bro. Ray

## Renewal 2015 Schedule

### Friday:

6:30 Main Session with Keith Tomlinson and Dennis Johns  
7:30 Small Group Discussion Time  
8:00 Coffee and Desert (Fellowship Hall)

### Saturday:

9:00am Breakfast with Keith and Deacons  
6:30 Main Session with Keith Tomlinson and Dennis Johns  
7:30 Small Group Discussion Time  
8:00 Coffee and Desert (Fellowship Hall )

### Sunday:

9:29 Sunday School  
10:30 Morning Worship  
5:00 Fellowship Meal  
6:00 Testimony Service

The Celebration of the Brother Ray and Sherry's Birthdays. The children gave them a basket of oranges, a big card, and sung Happy Birthday.



We were joined by Josanne Smathers mom, former North American missionary, Jo Ellis, during or Week of prayer for North American Missions (Annie Armstrong)

Wednesday Night Ladies Bible Study celebrating Sherry's Birthday.



## Angie's List

### You've Been Egged! #fbcgalveggston2015

We're opening our church to families in our community this Easter by egging them! The church congregation was invited to pick up a sack with candy filled eggs, take it to someone's house they could invite to church and then take a selfie and post it to the FBC Facebook page using #fbcgalveggston2015. On the front of the sack was information about our Easter Extravaganza and family egg hunt on April 5th. Go to First Baptist Galveston Facebook and like us.

### Family Baptism Celebration

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, we heard the stories of how 5 children became new Christians. We watched a video of their testimony, heard their small group leaders speak, and through it all, saw the people who helped them grow. We closed out the celebration with our three new prayer partners. The chapel was filled – you are making an eternal impact!

### Baptism Process: Jumpstart

JumpStart is a program where parents and kids learn what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and is designed to help kids begin their spiritual journey. There are three steps leading up to the baptism and family celebration: individual sessions are scheduled with the child, personal time is spent with the family, and homework is completed. Together with the family, we decide on baptism date and celebration.

### Baby Dedication 'Baby-D' April 12th

Baby-D is an event that we hope will be the beginning of a partnership between new parents and the church that spans the lifetime of the children participating. We're inviting these new families to link arms with our church – because we believe this relationship can impact their child's faith and life forever. A baby dedication is the process of asking parents to commit to raising their child in a home that will lead them into a relationship with their Heavenly Father. Baby-D will be April 12<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary followed by a celebration in Fellowship Hall.

### Welcome to our ministry team

We welcome Rachel Holden to our children's ministry team. Rachel helps tell Bible stories during chapel in a creative and interactive way and leads children in worship with fun music full of hand motions and movement! Rachel is investing in what matters most and we are glad to have her as part of our chapel production team.

You are valued,  
Angie



Have you ever tried to garden? I have done a little bit, but I would like to attempt to do much more gardening in the near future. One thing that I have learned about gardening in my short experience is: things respond to what is done to them. The soil responds to the seed being placed in its care. The seed responds to being placed and nurtured in the soil. The soil and the seed respond to the sun and to being watered. The ultimate response of the seed however is growth, and ultimately producing fruit. Growth and fruit have much to do with how much care and attention things are given. If I do not water the soil will contract, crack, and choke the life out of the seed. If I over water I will drown the seed and it will not grow. I must pay careful attention to the care that I give the plants.

Jesus tells a familiar story, to many of us, when he talks about a guy who goes out and sows seeds because he wants to grow some stuff. As he is throwing seeds some falls on the path, some falls in the weeds, and some falls in good soil. If we read on we learn about what happens to each of the seeds. However, I want to encourage you to think about the soils; especially in terms of your spiritual growth. The interesting thing about spiritual growth is that my spiritual life responds to what is done to it. If I fail to care for it, it becomes abused, tightly packed, and full of rocks. Ultimately incapable of receiving what God wants to give. If I neglect it weeds grow up in my life, and the thing about weeds is they choke the life out of healthy things. However, if I work to cultivate it, and care for it, I will become good soil capable of receiving and responding to the seed that is sown. The best thing about good soil is that it can bear good fruit.

I say all of this is first, to challenge you to take stock of your spiritual condition and discern where you are. Second, I want to encourage you, no matter what type of soil you are, to join your church family May 1-3, 2015 for a weekend of spiritual renewal and growth. This will be a time for some gardening work in our lives. Maybe it's trimming the weeds, tilling the soil and pulling some rocks out, or maybe it's adding some compost to refill already good dirt. No matter where you find yourself on the path to spiritual maturity there will be something for you in being renewed. Please join us and let God work in you and on you.

Blessings  
Nathan