



THE ANCHOR

“so we do not drift away”

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A Heart Condition...

Hard to believe it, but as I sit writing this Christmas is only 26 days away. As I ponder this thought it is even harder to think about how a little over 2,000 years ago Jesus was born. What a momentous day that was, a day that changed the world and the lives of every single person ever created in just the instant Jesus was born. From the time of the Fall, when Adam and Eve sinned and creation was broken, all of creation had been waiting in hope of a Savior. The one promised by God who would come and change everything, who would redeem God's people and creation and finally set right all that went wrong. We read passages like Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Over 300 old testament prophecies concerning Jesus, from where he would be born to what he would do, and on that day He appeared fully human and yet fully God, as a tiny baby born in the manger. How exciting, how improbable.

Fast forward roughly 33 years and we come to another momentous day. This day also focuses on Jesus, but where before the world celebrated His coming and all that it meant for them, this day they celebrate something else entirely. Today the crowds clamor, but this time they clamor for Jesus death. As the world looks on, this Savior sent as a baby is mocked, beaten, nailed to a cross and finally killed by the very people He came to save. Those 300 prophecies He fulfilled, including another from Isaiah 53:5-6 "But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." How exciting, how terrible.

Three days pass...and the world changes again because Jesus is back! Again all focus is on Jesus as He rises from the dead because the grave could not contain Him. He rises that we might not just be forgiven of our sins, but that we might be fellow heirs with Him and one day dwell with the Father as we were created to do in the beginning. Jesus returns and spends many days with His disciples until He leaves and as He goes gives us this command in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Then Jesus disappears and returns to heaven with a promise that He will come back for us. How exciting, how perplexing.

So we find ourselves today, some 2,000 years later still waiting for Jesus' return, and about to celebrate His birth. When you stop and think of what all that means, and about how Christmas is about the eternal hope you have of one day being made completely whole, and the horrendously wonderful price that was paid for that hope, I pray that you celebrate Christmas this year with all that you have and all that you are. Knowing that you are celebrating the Gospel. How exciting, how much to look forward to.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

SS	9:45
Worship	11:00
FBCU	6:00
Youth	6:00
Praise Service	6:30
Choir	7:30

Wednesday:

Awana	6:00
Prayer Meeting	6:30

Prayer List



Spiritual Growth
Unity as a church
The 414 Project
Africa Trip
Youth/Children's
Minister

Monthly Memory Verse:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Sound Bytes

As I begin this article, I must give credit to my lovely bride who gave me the idea for this article. Here are the stories of three of my favorite Christmas carols:

What Child is This: A popular Christmas carol written in 1865. At the age of twenty-nine, English writer William Chatterton Dix was struck with a sudden near-fatal illness and confined to bed rest for several months, during which he went into a deep depression. Yet out of his near-death experience, Dix wrote many hymns, including "What Child is This?", later set to the traditional English tune "Greensleeves."

O Little Town of Bethlehem: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), an Episcopal priest, Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, was inspired when he was visiting the little town of Bethlehem in 1865. Three years later, he wrote the poem for his church and his organist, Lewis Redner, added the music.

Do You Hear What I Hear?: Noel Regney wrote the lyrics for the song, while Gloria Shayne Baker

composed the Christmas carol's music in October 1962. The pair also composed the classic children's song "Rain Rain Go Away." Regney was inspired to write the lyrics "Said the night wind to the little lamb, 'Do you see what I see?' " and "Pray for peace, people everywhere," after watching babies being pushed in strollers on the sidewalks of New York City. Baker stated in an interview years later that neither could personally perform the entire song at the time they wrote it because of the emotions surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis. "Our little song broke us up. You must realize there was a threat of nuclear war at the time."

As the Christmas season approaches, be reminded that many of our favorite carols came from real people with a tremendous desire to share the gospel of Christ through song. I hope you have a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends, and Christ at the center.

Announcements: Please don't forget about the choir's presentation of our Christmas Cantata : "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" on Dec. 12th during the morning service.
~ Nathan Jones



Announcements & Upcoming Events

*** The WMU is still collecting Kans for Kids. These can donations will go to South Texas Children's Home in the Middle of December.

*** First Baptist Church is on the list of the Karnes City Home and Garden Parade of Churches this year. The event takes place on December 16 and starts at 5:00 pm. The Karnes City Home and Garden Club is asking \$6 donation for tickets. If you would like more information please contact Cathy Passmore, Maxie McNally, Clare Kaufman, or Gordon Lawson.

*** The church office will be closed for Christmas on December 24 and December 27. It will also be closed for New Year's on December 31.

Stewardship

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Received</u>
Month:	11,705.14	11,919.01
Year:	128,756.50	161,229.64

**Includes 3 out of 4 weeks



The Youth Group would like to invite everyone to the our annual Church Wide Christmas Party!

Sunday, December 19
6:30 pm

We will provide drinks, entertainment and music.

Each family, please bring your favorite holiday snack food to share .

We will have a White Elephant gift exchange again this year. Please wrap and bring something from your home that you no longer need, but someone else might use.

Please contact Kayla Jones with any questions



There's no question that college is a big and important step in the life of anyone and is one of life's most defining moments. It's full of new discoveries, eye-opening experiences, and personal

challenges. And students don't want to stumble into college blindly, without clear direction or know-how. That's why I am so excited about this new ministry opportunity that we are undertaking. It's called *College Ready – Living Past the Moment!*

This program will help to map out and understand the college experience and allow students to draft a plan and personal vision to help make the most of those all-important college years. Most high school seniors and college freshman are busy living in the moment, but this high-impact program empowers the high school senior with a clear direction for starting college right and finishing well. It offers sound biblical wisdom, eye-opening insight, and practical advise for what's ahead – thriving and winning there – and living past the moment.

Statistics show that nationwide 30% of college freshman drop out their first year, and that figure is even higher in Texas. But our high school seniors can be successful in their college careers. It all starts with vision. That is the goal of *College Ready*, to develop a vision for college. Proverbs 29:18 states "*where there is no vision, the people perish.*" And it's the same in the lives of our students, where there is no vision, college life gets out of control. Vision also helps students to recognize opportunity and make the most of it. This is best emphasized in Ephesians 5:15-16

"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Vision keeps students focused and disciplined to "win big" in college. *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way that you may win"* 1 Corinthians 9:24. And this is where *College Ready* further focuses, looking at the five "Big Win" areas of college: empowering friendships, excelling academically, dating right, having fun, and growing spiritually.

College Ready is open to any high school senior in Karnes County. The sessions will meet six consecutive Thursdays starting January 20, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the Karnes City High School Library. The cost for each student for the entire program is \$5.00. We also know that college is a financial challenge, as well as a personal challenge, and so we are going to offer each high school senior who attends at least five of the six sessions the opportunity to compete for the chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship. The winner will be determined from the judging of a 1,000 word essay that each student will write about what they learned during the program. There also will be prize drawings during each of the six sessions, with the prizes being CD's, books, t-shirts, movie tickets, and more.

You have the opportunity to join me in this great ministry opportunity by praying for each of the Karnes County high school seniors that may take part in this program. If you would like to have a more active part of this ministry, please contact me. College should be one of the best experiences of these students' lives, a launch pad to their future, but they have to be *College Ready – Living Past the Moment!* ~Will Johnson

The WMU will be celebrating the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering from Sunday, November 28 to Sunday, December 5. Our goal for this year is \$2000.

The theme this year is, "Are we there yet?", and the emphasis is on the Great Commission which tells us to follow God's lead, and to focus attention on bringing all the world's people to him.

For the first time in history we can identify the people groups that remain untouched by the gospel and we can get there in our generation. This last part will be the hardest and will require all of us to be a part by giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We must pray strategically, and we must own the Great Commission as never before to see that all people know Him. ~LaVon Johnson



When Brother Kevin gave the invitation to those in the church to go on a mission trip to Africa, right away I said that I was definitely going. I didn't hesitate to think about it or stop to pray about it. Then as the weeks went by, I wanted to back out but not knowing why. After I finally started praying specifically for the mission trip, I realized that I didn't put God first when I decided to go. Instead, I put myself first. I was wanting to go for me and not Him. Now, I am putting God first and talking to Him about my involvement in the trip and I am excited! Sure, I am scared, apprehensive, but even with these fears I am still fine with going. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths." Now that I am praying about the trip, God has shown me that this is the path I need to take. My prayer is that I keep the reason for going about Him and not myself! ~Dara Camber



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December Birthdays

4– Cindy Chesser

6– Landon Hays

6– John Braudaway

8– Erik Balderamos

8– Bryan Camber

11– Debby Martin

12– Charlene Anderson

12– Neccia Braley

13– Courtney House

15– Quinton House

18– Susan McCarty

19– Michaela Kunschik

21– Mark Wishert

22– Taylor Griffin

22– Charlene Braudaway

29– Mitchell Rees

31– Amanda Meegan

