



THE ANCHOR

“so we do not drift away”

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A Heart Condition...

I just checked the weather for today, and if I didn't know better I would not guess that it was the last day of January. Projected high for today? 78! But as you know we are in South Texas, so if you don't like the weather, just wait fifteen minutes. Projected high for tomorrow? 38. You have to love it.

Don't you wish that change in our own lives could be so easy? That one day you could be one way and the next find all your problems solved? I think that we would all love it if we could simply shed all of our issues, attitudes, problems and habitual sins of today and tomorrow become the kind of disciple that we long to be. Of course we know that kind of change is not reality. More often than not what we see in our lives is an astounding amount of sameness. We know our struggles, we know our wishes, and we know that nothing much seems to change between the two. As a matter of fact, there is a good chance that as you examine your life you wonder if you've made any growth and change overall. We long to be the kind of people who truly love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength yet are faced with the reality of living daily with a sinful nature that seems centered on pleasing self and ignoring God. It can get to the point that we do not even desire to examine ourselves because we feel like we are failures and that nothing will ever change.

But is that reality? Think about where you were a year ago today. What you knew about God, how much you allowed Him to be involved in your life, how intimate you were with Him. Now compare that to where you are today. While you are most likely not where you would like to be, chances are you have changed in your walk over the past year. Change often occurs in very small and slow ways, and often we miss it because we are too close. It is kind of like watching children grow. Your own children seem to grow slower to you than other children that you only see every couple of months. The truth is growth continues to occur, but the closer you are to it the harder it is to notice.

I say this to you because I know that in the middle of winter, with the holidays past, the busyness of life pressing in, it can become very easy to feel stagnant and stunted in your relationship with God. Like you've quit growing and are not changing at all. When we feel like that, it is easy to desire to give up and quit trying to be a disciple. Instead, I would like to encourage you to do the opposite. Right now when things seem hard and your walk might feel stale, press in! Find new ways to worship and spend time with God. Take a walk and just talk with God, try journaling for your quiet time, start reading a new book of the Bible. Stay involved with your church community...Satan loves it when struggling believers isolate themselves from the support of the body of Christ. Growth spiritually is usually in baby steps and is hard to notice, but even baby steps really start to add up over time. The important thing to do is to keep taking those steps and not give up or despair just because you have a long way to go. Remember that life is a journey and know that I am glad to be on it with you!

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:

Ephesians 2:13

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.”

The Love Story to Remember:

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

“My love is patient and kind; it does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. My love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. It never ends.”

“We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whomsoever loves God must also love his brother.”



Sound Bytes

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. ---Psalm 42:1

Many of you probably know the hymn “As the Deer.” Several of you may also know that it is based off of Psalm 42. What you may not realize is the sweet, mellow music of the hymn is only half the story of this psalm.

If you read a little further down, you would see the phrase, “my tears have been my food day and night”, and a little further: “As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, ‘Where is your God?’”

At this point you might be asking yourself, why in the world did the composer of this song write such a smooth flowing melody to go with such a harsh picture. The answer lies in the other verses of the psalm. Verses such as: “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.” At another point the psalmist writes: “By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.”

When you take these seemingly contrasting thoughts into consideration, you might discover as I have that the psalmist is speaking a tremendous truth into our lives. The truth that even when life is at its most difficult, we can cling to the salvation we have in Christ Jesus and know that He will never forget nor forsake us. His word promises that He is always with us. Even when we see nothing around us but adversaries taunting us, we know that our hope is not in any earthly thing, but in our eternal God. I hope this is as comforting a thought to you as it has been to me.

Announcements: Please come join us for choir practice after our Sunday evening activities for a great time of fellowship and music. And as always, if you have a special you would like to perform, let myself or Mary Anna know.

~Nathan Jones

Stewardship

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Received</u>
Month:	11,705.14	16,099.72
Year:	140,461.68	178,847.96

Announcements & Upcoming Events

*** The College Ready Class continues to meet on Thursday evenings in Feb. at 6:30 in the Karnes City High School Library. It is available for all high school seniors in Karnes County with the cost of \$5 per student. If you have any questions, you can contact Will Johnson.

*** FBC will be hosting a marriage conference here in April. Be watching for upcoming details and sign up list.

*** Youth, don't forget to sign up for D-Now 2011. We have a great weekend ready for you Feb. 4-6. You can contact Kayla Jones for more details.

*** Youth hosted “Parent’s Night Out” is on Friday, Feb. 18 from 5:30-8:00. Sign up now in the back of the sanctuary! All donations will be sent to Jan and Erika to help finance the needs of their new missionary family.

Kitchen Shower



RIVER MINISTRY SEED PACKTES



Beans (pinto, green, bush-type)	Cauliflower
Beets	Corn
Broccoli	Cucumber
Cabbage	Leaf Lettuce
Cantaloupe	Okra
Carrots (short and sweet)	Onion (sets)
	Peas (sweet)
	Radishes
	Squash (yellow and zucchini)
	Tomatoes
	Turnips
	Watermelon
	Peppers (hot and sweet)



The WMU ladies are collecting seed packets for the River Ministry through February. Please place your donations in the church foyer. Contact LaVon Johnson with any questions.

Why am I going to Africa?

When the opportunity arose, I was immediately interested BUT I was hesitant. My hesitation came from my fear of many things. I feared leaving my son, getting on a airplane for the first time in my life, and I feared that I wasn't capable of doing something as big as a mission trip. Most of all, I feared all the possibilities of the unknown.

When I became a Christian in 2009, I had no clue what lie ahead of me. The only thing I knew was that something in me had and was going to change. Since I accepted Christ into my heart, that's all that's been happening...change. As I've grown in my relationship with Christ in the last year and a half, he has shown me how to trust and how to love. I've been broken in every aspect of my life and didn't realize it until my heart was opened. I feel that in preparation for this trip, God has tested, broken, and built me back up in several ways.

I love helping others and feeling like I can be of importance to someone or something. Little did I realize how misconstrued my version of love was. Love is all about what you can get from others and what they can do for you, right? WRONG! Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, does not boast, and is not conceited. It does not act improperly, is not

self-seeking, not easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) Wow, I was way off base. During the last year I have taken part in several discipleship classes, Experiencing God and Masterlife, and I have come to the realization that as long as Christ is at the center of my life, anything is possible. I have found that there is one common factor in each study, and that is LOVE; love for God, love for others, and love for myself. God has changed my idea of love and shown me how to love others in ways I could have never imagined. In developing this love for others, I have in turn learned to rely on God and completely trust him in the most seemingly impossible situations. He has answered prayers by opening my heart and showing me how to love others and through kindness. He has taught me that we are called to love. I want to do what I was called to do by my Father, and that is to show love to others who are broken just like me and help them to see that there is hope in Jesus Christ.

So why am I going to Africa? The answer is simple. Love.

~Kimberly Brassell



First Baptist Church
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February Birthdays

1– Lynelle Starling

19– Roxanne Sinesh

5– Avis Sommer

21– Leonard Riedel

10– Kevin Cornelius

22– Lloyd Kellner

10– Kayla Jones

23– Michelle Merritt

11– Maxie Lou McNally

26– Brenda Gilley

17– Margaret Balderamos

26– Dylan Wright

17– Nathan Jones

