

First Baptist Church

Volume XLX

BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611

November 15, 2016

No. 46

The Bridge Builder



I have baptized you
with **WATER;**

but he
will baptize you
with the

**HOLY
SPIRIT.**

Mark 1:8



PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

We had wonderful time of fellowship this past Sunday. The opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal together was an enriching time for all present. We are blessed to have a group of silent servants that make it possible for the whole church to enjoy these opportunities together. The ministry in which these servants participate helps fill us spiritually and not just physically. Our heartfelt thanks to each of you.

We continue our sermon series, "Here Comes the King", by moving into the Book of Luke. Last week we utilized Mark's introduction of Jesus to highlight the aspect of Jesus being a transforming King. We were also introduced to John the Baptist making the proclamation of the coming King. John is an essential element in the story of Jesus' intervention into human history. John is the promised prophet who would blaze the trail for the King to walk upon. In Luke we witness John's miraculous birth story which precedes Jesus' birth. John was born with a purpose and a calling upon his life.

John's father, Zechariah, is a Temple priest married to Elizabeth who is from the lineage of Aaron. They are noted to "both be righteous before God" but they had not been blessed with a child. In the culture of the day, this was an indictment upon a couple and a cause for great shame. However, God was about to intervene on their behalf even though they "were advanced in years." They are promised a son who "will be great before the Lord." Their son, John, will be endued with the Holy Spirit and manifest a prophetic power like Elijah. He will be dedicated to and spend his life declaring the glory of Jesus, displaying Jesus the Christ, the King, as the way of salvation for the people. John cleared the path so others could come to the Christ. Are you a path clearer or an obstacle? Are you blazing a trail for others to know the King?

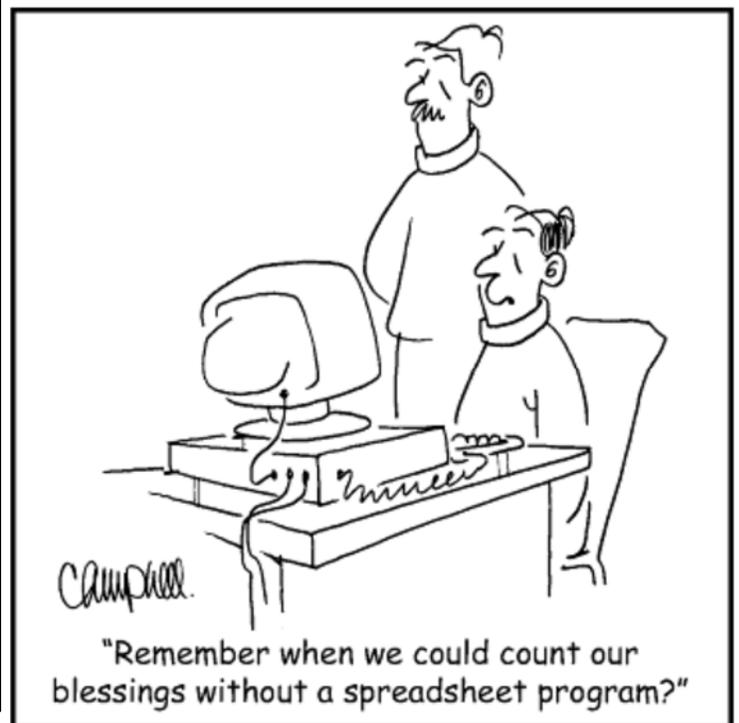
Let us carry the "good news" of Jesus outside the walls and make a way for others to come to Him and join us at FBCBC, where the "impossible" is a living reality every day.

Your Pastor,
Douglas Shows
Isaiah 52:7

Youth News . . .

One of the laments of mankind is that we refuse to take responsibility for our actions. We want to blame others for our problems: Our parents did not raise us well; our friends let us down; our pastor was not a good enough preacher; our children are rebellious; our employer is not sensitive enough; our spouse is not understanding; there is not enough time in the day. The excuses are plentiful! Yet forgiveness and restoration cannot happen until we accept full responsibility for our actions. An obvious indication that we have not genuinely repented is that we make excuses for our sinful behavior. Nowhere in Scripture does God excuse one person's sin because of someone else's actions. If we make a habit of blaming others for our failures, we will not reach a point of honest repentance. God will hold us accountable for our own actions, not others. Strive always to acknowledge and take responsibility for your own sins. It will free you to receive God's forgiveness and to press on to spiritual maturity.

Be Intentional,
Aaron



CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR . . .

We are having such a great time learning about having an "Attitude of Gratitude" this month! Sunday, we talked about giving thanks in bad times, and that it is just as important to remember to give thanks in the good times, too. We read from Luke 17, and learned about the 10 lepers and how one of the ten remembered to give thanks. Next week, we will be learning about having a thankful heart. We will be learning about David and being in the habit of giving thanks!

We are having a wonderful time during children's church and on Wednesday nights practicing and preparing for the upcoming Christmas program. We are excited about getting to share our songs with you! The kids are inviting friends and family to practice!

We have several dress rehearsals coming up with the adult choir, and we need the kids to attend. The first rehearsal is Sunday, November 27th at 5:30 p.m. It will not take long, and there are no classes scheduled for that night. The second rehearsal is Saturday, December 3rd (the day before the program) at 9:30 a.m. Again, it will not be a long rehearsal, but it will be beneficial for the children to be at both practices.

Please make sure the children are practicing with their Christmas cds, and preparing for the program!

That the next generation may know,

Chris

Sunday School News

Sunday School is a great place to be. You can see your friends, learn how to live your life, get answers to important questions, make new friends, and, last but not least, sometimes get great refreshments! See what you are missing if you are not here?

**See you Sunday,
Troy**

Choir Notes

What a wonderful choir we had yesterday! I want to extend a BIG thank-you to all that sang. There were very few empty seats. My desire is for the FBCBC Sunday Choir to be a means of participation in music ministry for everyone—no special gifts are needed—just a desire to be a part. The choir is open to all ages and whole families are encouraged to participate together. The Sunday Choir's next scheduled sing date is December 18th. Mark your calendar and plan to be a part.

Suzonne Vann

Sympathy

Bro. Doug and Amy Shows and the First Family wish to extend their sincere love and sympathy to Betty Lormand and Family in the home-going of her husband, Curney Lormand.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

November 23	No PM Services
November 24, 25	Church Office Closed
November 27	No PM Services
December 11	No PM Services
December 18	No PM Services
December 23 — January 3	Church Office Closed
December 24	Christmas Eve Service 6 pm
December 25	10:00 am Worship Only (No Sunday School or Evening services, enjoy time with your family!)
January 1	9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship No pm Services

