

First Baptist Church

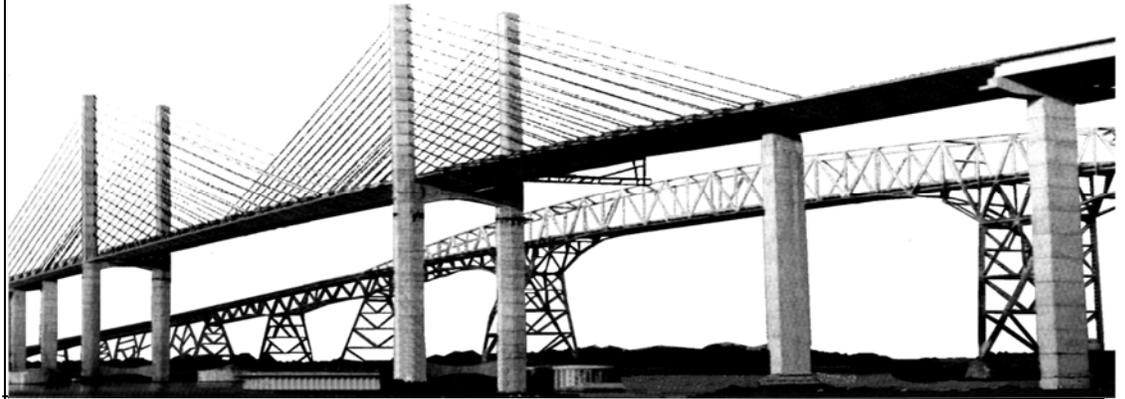
Volume LI

BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611

January 4, 2017

No. 01

The Bridge Builder



Sunday Evening Classes Spring 2017

Begins January 8.

The Book of 1 John / Of Mice and Men

Teacher: Aaron Little

Description:

John wrote this letter to put believers back on track, to show the difference between light and darkness (truth and error), and to encourage the church to grow in genuine love for God and for one another. He also wrote to assure true believers that they possessed eternal life and to help them know that their faith was genuine — so they could enjoy all the benefits of being God's children. Martin Luther declared that "I have never read a book written in simpler words than this one, and yet the words are inexpressible." Join us in going back to the basics, yet being challenged to grow extensively.

Begins January 8.

I Will: Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian – Thom Rainer

Teacher: Troy Woodall

Description:

Could you be the answer to the problems you see? Every day we are faced with the needs of those around us. Emotional. Physical. Spiritual. What are we to do about it? Are these problems for our pastors to address or is there a way for the church member to make an impact that will last?

Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer answer these questions by offering nine simple traits that all church members can incorporate into your life no matter your background, stage of life, or sense of capability.

You can do it. Now it's time to just stand up and say you will!

Begins January 15.

A Biblical Marriage in a Broken World – Danny Akin

Teacher: Douglas and Amy Shows

Description:

In a secular culture that seeks to unravel the threads of Christian values and family life, married couples can flourish. Danny Akin lays out a clear plan for building a satisfying relationship that will go the distance. Whether a couple of many years or newlyweds, whether engaged or hope to be engaged, the presentation of deep biblical truths is so down to earth everyone can benefit.

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

Amy and I are well aware of the blessings of the previous year. The privilege of serving with you at FBC Bridge City and the joy of growing together has made 2016 a wonderful year for us. We thank each of you and the many ways you expressed your love over the holiday season. We are excited about continuing together and being a part of the great blessings God has in store for 2017 at FBCBC.

In the next few weeks we have several exciting events unfolding. Many of you are aware that I will be beginning a Doctor of Ministry at Luther Rice in Atlanta, Ga. The degree is primarily online, but requires me to be on campus four times for week long classes. I will be flying out early Sunday morning (Jan. 8) and returning late Friday evening (Jan. 13) to attend my first class. I covet your prayers during this time (so I do not get lost in the airport). Sunday, January 8, I am excited to have Bill Collier coming to preach in my absence. He has had a fruitful ministry in Bridge City for years and continues it by serving pastors and churches as a Field Representative for the SBTC. Be here and be blessed.

In addition, on Wednesday, January 11, we will be hosting an SETBA Evangelism Rally with Dr. Herb Reavis preaching and the Whisnants singing. We are privileged to have the opportunity to hear a phenomenal and blessed preacher and an outstanding singing group. This is a great opportunity to invite people whom you have prayed for to hear a Christ-centered message and the Gospel in a compelling way. Local churches who are a part of this association will be joining us so we are expecting a large turnout. Be aware though we will suspend our Prayer Meeting the children's and youth ministry will continue with its normal schedule.

Our first Spring Session of Sunday Night Classes will begin January 8 through March 5. On January 8, we will have three opportunities for continued spiritual growth. All the classes are open, meaning no age restrictions, etc. Just choose what will best fit your need or interest. Aaron Little will be teaching 1 John line by line expounding the depth and beauty of a most challenging book within the Bible. Troy Woodall will teaching through the book, *I Will* by Thom Rainer, which challenges believers to invest
(Pastor's Paragraph continued next column . . .)

Pastor's Paragraph continued . . .

and engage the church by being outward focused through serving. On **January 15**, Amy and I will be facilitating a study by Danny Akin, *A Biblical Marriage in a Broken World*. We have personally been through this study and have taught it together several times. We have seen it to be a benefit for newlyweds and well-seasoned marriages. You will also get to hear a lot of stories from us during this study.

2016 was and 2017 will be a continuation of the "impossible" as a living reality every day at FBCBC. Invite others to join you in the experience.

Your Pastor,
Douglas Shows
Matt. 21:21-22

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! God has so much in store for us this year, and I am excited to be a part of it all!

The Children's Ministry is kicking the year by talking about God's promises! Throughout the year we will be studying different heroes of the Bible, God's promises to them, and how it applies to us today.

To start it all off, we have started a four week unit on Joseph. We talked about how God made him special, and had a very special plan for him. God also made us very special... and has a special plan made just for us, too! Our memory verse for the month is found in Psalm 139:14. During the lesson, the kids had a blast getting to act out the story as I read it to them.

In a few weeks we will be beginning a separate class for the 5th graders on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings. The Sunday evening class will be a Bible study on Heroes of the Faith, ending in the Book of Daniel. This class will help with the transition from Children's Ministry to Youth.

We have started learning some new songs during Children's Choir on Wednesday nights, too! We hope to be able to sing them for you soon!

Please encourage every kids of every age to come and have a part of these fun adventures in the Bible!

Chris Bailey

YOUTH NEWS . . .

Winter Retreat 2016 was a huge success thanks to all your prayers and offerings. We had one young man accept Christ as Lord and savior as one of our students personally led them. Such an awesome thing to witness. I would like to personally like to thank Billy Crull, David Dickerson, and Bob Mann for their generous act of helping deliver supplies to Crystal Beach. Brandon Bailey and my Wife Crystal for their attendance and helping guide our students. Doug and Amy Shows for their generous portion of Gumbo, which the students loved and completely devoured. Angel and Derek Milstead for their shopping for food and supplies as well as cooking close to 100 hamburgers. Without you and all the giving up of prayers and resources from our entire church body and mostly God for moving in the lives of our church family, this doesn't happen. I am so grateful to be a part of a church family who is very supportive of this ministry. We all look forward to see what 2017 has in store for our students and greater our church.

Be Intentional,
Aaron Little

Sunday School News

Get ready for a great 2017! We look forward to our Sunday School increasing and all programs of our church growing. Next Sunday we will begin our night classes. Two will begin Sunday and the third will begin the following week. Pick one out and plan to attend. They begin at 5:30 p.m. Attendance Sunday was 124.

See you Sunday,
Troy

Thank You

Deacon body,
Thank you for the Christmas goody bag. Deanna Crull does a great job putting these together. Thank you, Randy and Pat Rick-enbrode, for the visit and delivery. Maxie Neely, and Philip and Hiram Clark also are appreciated for checking on me throughout the year and helping me with things that come up at home. By your actions, I feel loved and cared for.

Lynn Richard

CHOIR NOTES

The Sunday Choir will sing the worship service this Sunday January 8th. The song list is "Doxology", "I Know Whom I Have Believed", "My Jesus I Love Thee", "Worthy of Worship", and "Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty". All ages are welcome and new participants are welcome anytime. This week, the optional pre-rehearsal will be at 8:45.

To God Be The Glory, Suzonne

CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSAL CDS AND BLUE CHOIR FOLDER

If you still have the "Bethlehem Morning" rehearsal CDE or blue Christmas Choir music binder, please return them to the Choir Room, Church Office, or to me directly.

Thank-you, Suzonne

SETBA (Southeast Texas Baptist Area) EVANGELISM RALLY

Wednesday
January 11, 2017
at
6:30 p.m.

Dr. Herb Reavis, Preaching
The Whisnants, Singing

Join us for a wonderful time of worship.



OUR GOAL:
RECEIVED:

\$5,200.00
\$3,449.00

