

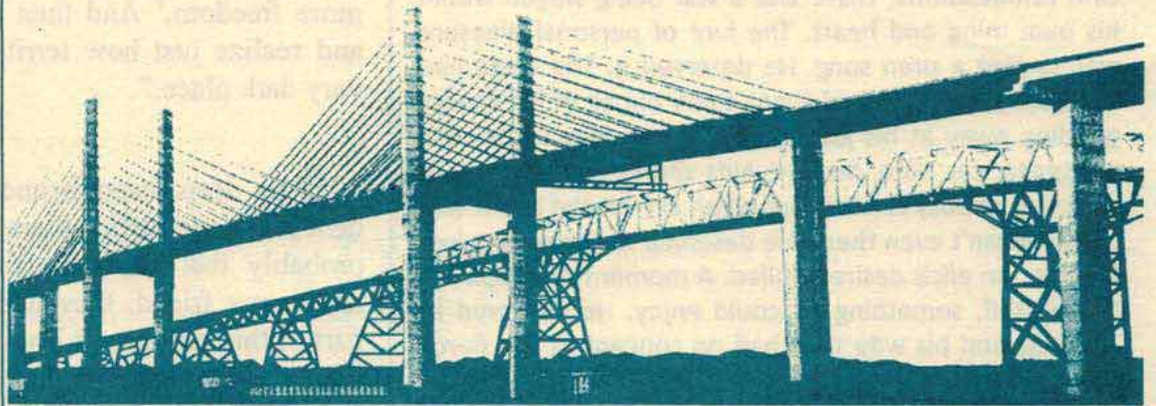
# First Baptist Church

Volume LII

BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611

February 21, 2018

No. 08



# The Bridge Builder

## East Texas Baptist Encampment



## Inspire Womens Conference

March 2-3, 2018

If you are interested in signing up cost will be \$71 per person. Ladies interested in attending Please get your money to the church office by February 25.

# HOPE

Women's Resource Clinic

LIFE IS HOPE

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

### YOUR SPARE CHANGE CAN SAVE A LIFE

What can you do in the fight for life? What can your spare change accomplish? It doesn't take much to give hope! We can't continue to provide these services without your help Will you partner with us in this simple way to save lives? Just fill your bottle with change, bills, or checks and bring it back to the church on or before February 25.



## PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

The moment was here, a crossroads of sorts. The next decision would be a decision which would have significant ramifications. There was a war being waged within his own mind and heart. The lure of personal pleasure was singing a siren song. He deserved it. The week had been long, hard. He had spent every ounce of his energy grinding away at his job to have the money to pay the mortgage, car note, buy the kids sports equipment. His wife was so busy chasing kids when she hit the bed it was like he wasn't even there. He deserved it. Something just for him. An elicit desire fulfilled. A moment of happiness for himself, something he could enjoy. He deserved it. The kids and his wife they had no concept of the fierce battle. They would follow his lead. The battle was intense with an assault taking place up the hill of Right and Wrong. Already the army had overrun the valley of Love of Family. The Fortress of the Cross, the last remaining stronghold was under siege. It appeared it was inevitable that his selfish sin-driven desire would win out. The time for a counterattack was evaporating; soon retreat or surrender would be the only options left. He felt it. The smoke of battle cleared just enough. He saw it. His mission. His purpose. His strength. He turned away from the rod and reel perched seductively in the corner. His feet weighed like cement as went up the stairs. He could do this. This mattered. He was a man. Not a boy. His throat strained as he drew the breath to shout out with the force of a roaring lion. "Honey, kids, get up. It's Sunday morning. Time for church."

Christ changes everything. In our final sermon of the "All in the Family" study of 1 Corinthians, we look at Chapter 16. Paul gives some final instructions and updates on activities and people. But in the middle of it, Paul sums up the whole of his writing to the Corinthians in a succinct and memorable way. If we have Christ, if we have resurrection living, what does that look like in everyday terms? "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:13-14) Christ takes us from being a reactionary being into being a proactive intentional person spreading the Gospel through everything we do. It takes diligence, solid commitment, courageous acts, strength from above, and devoted love to spread the Gospel. It is never easy and always costly. Are you ready to commit? Are you ready to act? Christ changes everything. Are you ready to be changed?

FBCBC is where the "impossible" is a living reality everyday and Christ is who we seek to exalt. Invite someone to be a part of what God is doing at FBCBC.

For His Glory,

Douglas Shows  
Colossians 3:17

## YOUTH NEWS

"Even though I know it's wrong, I sometimes think, 'If I hadn't accepted Christ, I would have so much more freedom.' And then I venture down that road and realize just how terrible it is. It takes me to a very dark place."

This deep, heart-wrenching statement by a student made me realize there are countless people who probably feel this way about Jesus. And what if, unlike my friend, they hadn't figured out the latter part of this statement? They were probably walking a road closer to legalism than the road Christ envisions for our lives. Or they could be so far from experiencing grace and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that they have yet to see how incredible a life lived for Jesus can be. Jesus promises freedom: "Then Jesus said to those Jews who had believed him, 'If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free'" (John 8:31-32). What we often gloss over in this passage, though, is that Jesus is speaking to *believers*. If you haven't begun to fully trust in Jesus, the thought that He gives us freedom is difficult to understand. Someone could ask, "Isn't He creating a system that forces us to live a certain way?" The answer is no: Jesus is setting up what will be a natural response to His grace.

The context of this verse also makes me wonder if someone who hasn't yet truly sacrificed for Jesus, beyond just a simple tithe, would fathom what freedom with Him looks like. The Jews Jesus is addressing would have already been experiencing some sort of social ostracism for their belief in Him, they would have understood that sacrifice brings spiritual freedom. This concept isn't easy to grasp, but in the simplest terms possible, Jesus frees us from religious systems and gives us the Spirit to empower us to do His work. This Spirit guides us and asks us to make sacrifices for Him, but those sacrifices are minimal compared to the eternal life He gave us through the sacrifice of His life. These sacrifices don't become a system with Christ, but something we strive to do because we want to. That's the freedom of the Spirit.

Be Intentional,  
Aaron



## CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

We will be finishing up the "Messy" unit we are teaching in Children's Church this Sunday, by learning about how God helps us to clean up all the messes we've made! I'm reminded of the scrubbing bubbles you used to see in commercials on television. You remember... "We work hard, so that you don't have to." In that commercial, they showed the funny little bubbles whisking away dirt and leaving everything shiny like new. They told us that the foaming bubbles cleaned for us, and could even get into those hard to reach places! You know, Jesus blood is kinda like that... it cleans us from the inside out, leaving us shiny and new when we accept Him as our Savior. Unlike the scrubbing bubbles, however, Jesus didn't die as a sacrifice to help make cleaning ourselves up an easier task, He did it because we could not do it ourselves, at all. No amount of cleaning by our own power... good works, kindness, money, etc. can make us clean and new. Jesus can get into all those "hard to reach places" and clear away the sin dirt and cobwebs of our past and create in us a new heart... Please pray that seeds are planted in these young hearts, that will grow in the warmth of Christ's love and that they will one day come to know a personal relationship with Him.

Thank you to those who have come to me about working in Children's Church! There are still a few spots open if you would like to join the Children's Church Team! I will be making a new schedule soon, and if enough workers sign up, we may be able to expand the calendar so that you would only have to work every 7-8 weeks. Don't wait, come and help us introduce Jesus to the next generation!

Finally, Easter is right around the corner, and it is almost time to begin collecting those eggs and candy! Beginning next Sunday, you can bring your donations and place them in the bins in the foyer of the Sanctuary, the Welcome Center, or the Church office. I am excitedly planning the events for this year's Easter fun!

If you would like to be a part of this event, or any of the upcoming children's events, please let me know!

That the next generation may know,

Chris

## WORSHIP DIRECTOR

EVERY PRAISE IS TO OUR GOD.....

*Sing hallelujah to our God....*

*It was a wonderful sight to see our children and adults together fill our choir loft to lift up praise to our Lord this past Sunday!!*

*Our Easter choir practice is in full-swing and the choir is sounding great! Our hearts are full as we gather each week to prepare to celebrate Resurrection Day on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. There is still room for more singers and still plenty of time to learn the songs, so come on out and join us each Sunday at 4:30 p.m.*

*The multi-award winning southern-gospel family group, The Hoppers will be with us in concert on Friday, July 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The Hoppers have performed throughout the United States as well as in Israel, Europe and Africa. They are known as American's Favorite Family of Gospel Music and are favorites on the Gaither Homecoming videos and tours.*

*Be sure to come next Sunday and be a part of what the Lord is doing at FBCBC and bring someone with you to hear about Jesus and His saving power! It's a great time to be a member of First Baptist Bridge City!*

*Psalm 34:3 Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together!*

For His glory,  
Debbie Anderson

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### *Spiritual Gifts Class*

Sunday evenings  
at 5:30 pm.  
in Adult 6

Link for online assessment:  
<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/>





## NURSERY WORKERS February 25, 2018

Sunday School      Brittany Ernst  
                                 Connie Claus

Worship Service      Thelma Wheelis

Volunteers always needed. Please call  
Brittany Ernst at 409.313.1215.

### LOOK AT THE RECORDS

February 18, 2018

Average Weekly Needs	\$ 10,520.73
Sunday Receipts	\$ 5,961.46
Y-T-D Avg. Weekly Receipts	\$10,814.03
Digital Sign Goal	\$20,000.00
Digital Sign Receipts to date	\$8,245.00

#### ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School Goal	225
Sunday School	136

#### WORSHIP SERVICE:

Worship Service Goal	300
Worship	140
Nursery	6
TOTAL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	146

## First Baptist Church

200 W. ROUND BUNCH RD.  
BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611  
(409)735-3581  
Website: [www.fbcbc.org](http://www.fbcbc.org)

Doug Shows      Pastor  
Aaron Little      Minister to Students  
                                 Minister to Senior Adults  
Chris Bailey      Director of Children's Ministry  
Debbie Anderson      Worship Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
8:00 — 4:30  
MONDAY — FRIDAY

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

### Sunday, February 25, 2018

9:15 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship Service  
Children's Church  
for 4 yr. old — 2nd grade  
4:30 Easter Choir Rehearsal  
5:30 Adult Classes  
Youth Activities  
Children's Activities

### Tuesday, February 27, 2018

10:00 Ladies Prayer Meeting  
7:00 Men's Prayer Meeting

### Wednesday, February 28, 2018

6:30 Mid-week Worship Service  
Children's Activities  
Youth Activities

### Thursday, March 1, 2018

9:00 Quilting for Buckners  
4:30 Golden Harvest Game Night

### Friday & Saturday

#### March 2 & 3

Women's Retreat in Newton

## Men's Bible Study



### MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

at 9:15 a.m.  
in the East Wing

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