

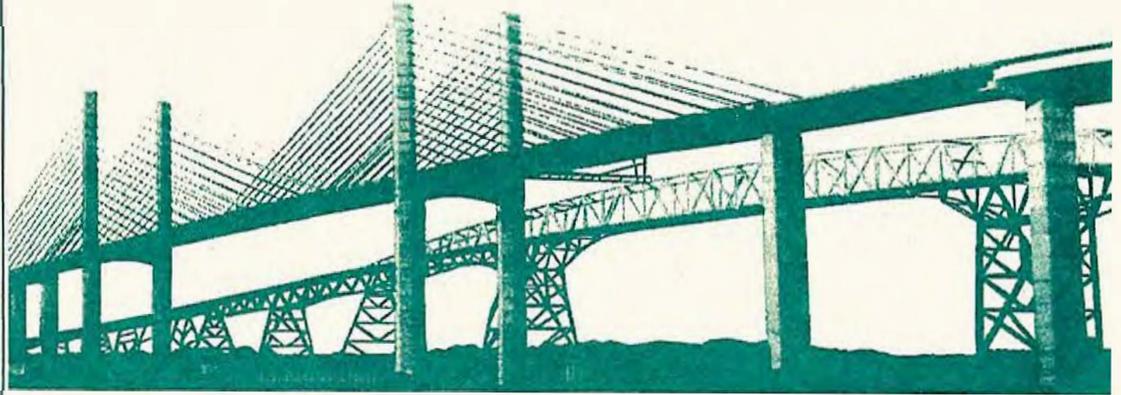
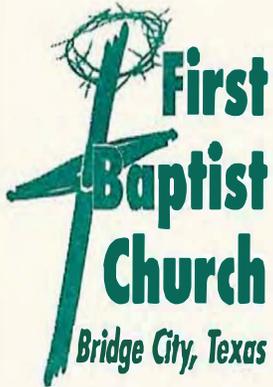
First Baptist Church

Volume LII

BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611

March 13, 2018

No. 10



The Bridge Builder

225/300

CONNECT

CELEBRATE

CONTRIBUTE

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

As he tossed the sheets back and angrily crawled out of bed, he looked at the clock displaying 3:23 a.m. Like a volcano spewing smoke before the full eruption, the man went downstairs for a glass of water. He sat in the dark not bothering with a light, fuming. The hurt was so deep, but he would not cry, and had turned it inwardly, repackaging it as anger and now directing back toward the perpetrator. The guys face was burned into his retinas, forcing him to see it, the pain, whether his eyes were opened or closed. Sleep was not happening. His manhood had been attacked. It wasn't that there was not some truth to what had been said. It was that there was some truth to it and it hit to close to home. It brought up feelings of insecurity, past failings, sins ignored, sins excused, the reality of imperfection. But even still he did not deserve to be treated or talked to like that, and he refused to accept it. Even in his anger, God was speaking, but he was mentally screaming to avoid hearing him. He boiled with fury planning how he could get even. The voice broke through uttering one word, "Forgive." "Forgive." He clinched his fist turning them blood red and screamed out, "Forgive. Never. He does not deserve forgiveness. Never." The grimaced face and contorted tilt of his head gave him a perspective of shadows across the kitchen wall. There it was glaring back at him, now unable to not see. The voice broke through his pulsating mind once again asking, "What did you deserve?" The faucet handle slowly was turned, unleashing the torrent of tears which came now like a raging river. Even through the blurred vision, stained with tears, the shadowy image was present. Two shadows laid across each other forming a cross. Now he knew. He didn't deserve forgiveness, but had been granted it. Now he knew. Forgiveness was never deserved, by anyone. Now he knew. Forgiving someone was not an option. Now he knew. "Forgive."

"Tell Me a Story" sermon series about the parables of Jesus continues by looking at how we will be forgiven in the same measure in which we forgive. The willingness to forgive and the heart wrenching work it requires is a reflection of our understanding of our relationship to Christ, "The Pearl of Great Price." The only reason a person will not forgive is because of a skewed pride and belief of being better than someone else, deserving something better. When we wrestle with the reality of the magnitude of our sin, the dark and ugly truth which nailed Jesus to the cross, we also wrestle with the unbelievable and undeserved grace God shed on us through Jesus on the

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . . (Continued)

cross. When we refuse or deflect forgiving others, we only demonstrate our view that our sin was not grievous or we did not need such forgiveness from God. We minimize God and exalt our self. No person can deserve forgiveness. Do you need forgiveness? Are ready to give forgiveness?

FBCBC is where the "impossible" is a living reality every day 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
Luke 9:62

WORSHIP DIRECTOR

We all sure enjoyed The Joyful Noise, our Pre-K and 1st Grade choirs who sang for us this past Sunday. It's always a joy to see our children singing. The children also joined with our adults to fill the choir loft to sing Old Church Choir to open our services. This next Sunday, we will be singing one of our church's favorites, Days of Elijah. You are invited once again to fill the choir loft to help open our services and get us energized to worship. Our choir is sounding better and better as we practice for Easter Sunday. We are meeting in the sanctuary each Sunday at 4:45 p.m. I ask that you pray for us as we prepare our songs to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Please keep in your prayers our southern gospel concert featuring The Hoppers scheduled for Friday, July 20, 2018. We will be giving out more information in the near future on the details of the concert and about this wonderful singing family. Remember the Reflective Lord's Supper being planned for Good Friday, March 30, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. These are exciting times in the life of First Baptist Bridge City. The Lord is blessing us with visitors each week and we are able to reach out and make the connection with the community for the cause of Christ. Greater things are yet to come And greater things are still to be done In this city.....Chris Tomlin

For His glory,
Debbie Anderson

YOUTH NEWS

Usually when we seek someone's goodwill, we emphasize our own winning traits or accomplishments. Our supervisor, significant other, or family members are barraged with a list of our actions in an attempt to get the other to respond in kind. Often this results in a tug-of-war mentality, basing all we deserve on what we give. But our relationship with God doesn't follow these rules. God's mercy isn't based on what we've done, it's based entirely on His own goodness. The psalmist, realizing this, turns all of his attention to God's mercy in Psalm 25: ***"Remember your compassion, O Yahweh, and your acts of loyal love, because they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions. According to your loyal love, remember me if you will, for the sake of your goodness, O Yahweh"*** In this individual lament, the psalmist reaches out to Yahweh with a cry for forgiveness and guidance. Instead of justifying his actions to obtain Yahweh's favor, the psalmist turns the focus to God's works and His faithfulness in the past. What he deserves isn't what he gets; something he is altogether thankful for.

God's abundant graciousness extends far: from heaven down to earth, where Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sin. We cannot be thankful enough for that great act of mercy. It's a reason for humility and thankfulness, as the psalmist expresses, and an act of faithfulness to us that we can never return. His mercy should completely transform our concept of what we deserve; it should alter us so much that we treat those around us not with expectations of who they should be for us, but with grace and love, as God treated us.

Now more than ever
Be Intentional,
Aaron



REFLECTIVE LORD'S SUPPER

March 30, 2018

6:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

I am so thankful for all the Sunday School classes that have signed up for the "Walk with Jesus" on March 25th. This is going to be such a fun event for the whole family, one that I am praying will help them to experience Easter in a whole new way. Families will get to experience the sights and sounds of the Holy Week, as well as participate in key events in Jesus' life. I am so excited! I am still needing a class to serve Hot Dogs and chips (donations are welcome) for the lunch as well as put Easter Eggs out on the playground and side lot. If you would like to help with either of these very important jobs, please let me know a.s.a.p. It's right around the corner!

We are beginning to put things together for our 2018 Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is "Superhero Training Academy". This is a VBS that we are building from the ground up! I am very excited about this year. I would like to ask you to begin praying about how you can participate in the upcoming VBS event, as well as praying for the children and leaders that will be attending. I will be sending out sign up sheets soon, as well as a prayer sheet for daily prayer, so be watching.

Finally, we are still needing eggs and candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Donations have begun coming in, but we are still needing more. I am hoping for a large crowd of children to attend the "Walk with Jesus" and stay for the egg hunt. This has the potential to be such a wonderful outreach to the community if this goes well! Thank you for all the time you are investing in these children, and their families. I am sure this event will be remembered for years to come.

That the next generation may know,
Chris

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING
anniearmstrong.com

NATIONAL GOAL:	\$70 Million
First Baptist, BC Goal:	\$5,000.00
Receives to date:	\$2,520.00

NURSERY WORKERS March 18, 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

March 11, 2018

Projected need to Date:	\$105,207.30
Actual Offering Receipt to Date:	\$108,241.21
Actual Budget Spending to Date:	\$102,479.73
Weekly Projected need:	\$10,520.73
Weekly Giving:	\$ 6,634.79
Weekly Spending:	\$15,778.14
Digital Sign Goal	\$20,000.00
Digital Sign Receipts to date	\$10,237.00
ATTENDANCE:	
Sunday School Goal	225
Sunday School	119
WORSHIP SERVICE:	
Worship Service Goal	300
Worship	138
Nursery	7
TOTAL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	145

First Baptist Church

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 (409)735-3581
 Website: 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, March 18, 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 No pm Activities

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

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

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

5:30 Wednesday Night Supper
 6:30 Mid-week Worship Service
 Children's Activities
 Youth Activities

The Perfect Study Companion



The FBCBC Cup is available for \$10

The purchase provides the proceeds for our Guest Retention Program and promotional efforts.

First Time Guest are being delivered a gift bag with various items (including a cup) during the Sunday service. Opportunities to serve are to engage guest to fill out cards, deliver packages during the service, bake a goodie for the bags, pray and sign a card for the guest, purchase a cup. Want to serve?

Dorothy Rodham – Guest Engagement

Dewey Stuart – Logistics Coordinator

Ouida Simonton – Hospitality Treats

Herman Walton – Prayer Coordinator

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