

FBC NEWSLETTER

Embracing Our History | Engaging Our Future | Inspiring Worship

Focus On: David Phelps Bio

We are so excited to be hosting David Phelps in concert at FBC on March 14. If you're wanting to know a little bit more about who he is, read on!

David Phelps is credited among today's most spectacular voices. His seemingly endless vocal range, which extends more than three octaves, coupled with his gift for communicating a song, has brought the house down in the world's most prestigious venues.

With a career spanning multiple genres, Phelps has wowed audiences from a variety of iconic stages. From his international performances at The Sydney Opera House & The O2, his work with Stephen Schwartz that brought him to The Lyric Theatre, Lincoln Center, and The Metropolitan Opera, to his hometown performances at Nashville's iconic Grand Ole Opry - his diverse style truly transcends



A Word about Children

Children hold a unique and vital role in the life of our church. They are not merely attendees or the “next generation,” but full participants in God's kingdom right now. Jesus affirmed their value when He said, “Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). Their faith, curiosity, and joy remind all of us what it means to trust God with open hearts, and their presence strengthens our entire church family.

We are encouraged by the strong start our Kingdom Kids Children's Church ministry has seen under the leadership of Rett and Jess Williams, with the Courtneys. Because children matter so deeply to God, they matter deeply to us. When we invest time, care, and spiritual guidance in their lives, we are responding to a biblical calling: “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). By nurturing faith early, we are planting seeds that can grow for a lifetime—shaping not only individual lives, but the future health and witness of our church as a whole.

As a church family, we invite every member to take part in this calling. Pray regularly for our children and those who lead them, speak words of encouragement to the young people you see each week, and look for ways to support families as they raise their children in faith.

Check out Rett Williams' article on page 4 for more about Kingdom Kids Children's Church!

classification.

As Matthew Boyden stated in his exhaustive historical study, *The Tenor: A Cultural History*, "...[Phelps has] one of the most completely impressive voices of any century."

He has received numerous Dove Awards, Grammy Awards, and multiple platinum-selling recording projects. David has topped the Billboard charts time and time again. The various recordings have been featured on numerous television networks, including the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and have received acclaim in both secular and gospel music genres. He has also made his mark on the Youtube landscape. Phelps says of his work, "I am and always have been a stylist, and that makes my music and career very eclectic."

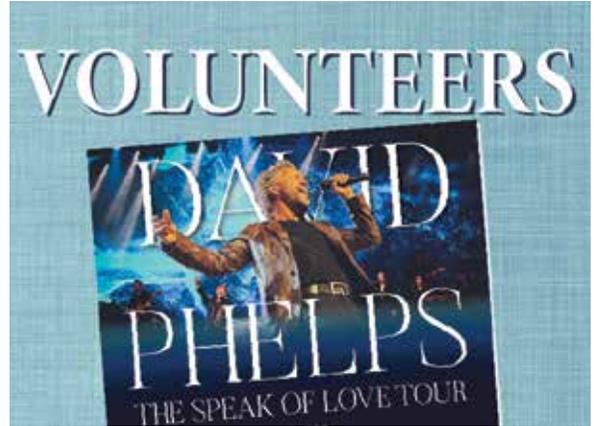
While studying vocal performance at Baylor University, David met Lori, who has been his wife and a constant source of support throughout his career spanning three decades. Together, they have four children and were recently promoted to grandparents. They reside on their farm outside Nashville, Tennessee.

Tickets to his concert are being sold **ONLINE ONLY** - head to fbcew.org/events for the link. Community interest is already significant, so be sure to get your ticket soon!

Laura Kitchen

Thoughts from Pastor Andrew

Things are coming together for the David Phelps concert that will be held in our facility on Saturday, March 14! Publicity is out and we are receiving a lot of interest from the community about this event. What an opportunity to open the doors and throw out the welcome mat for those who come. It will be a joy to greet hundreds of new faces and share the kindness of hospitality with them.



If you would like to be involved with serving and supporting our guests, please let me know or contact the church office and we will send you a link to register. Volunteer teams include load-in/load-out, ushers, ticket takers, parking, merch tables, and safety. Most, if not all, volunteers will be able to see at least a large portion of the concert for free.

If you aren't able to volunteer and want to come, tickets are online only and going fast so get them soon! Go to fbcew.org/events to find the link.

On another note, WORSHIP CHOIR is gearing up for a fantastic spring and summer ministry season! If you have a heart to sing in worship, please consider joining us Wednesday nights at 7:15pm. (By the way, you DON'T have to read music to participate.) In addition to Sunday morning worship leadership, the Worship Choir will be involved in the *Inspire the Choir* training event in Pensacola, FBC Good Friday Service, FBC Easter Sunday, and a brand new Faith and Freedom Community Musical event our church will be hosting in late June. (More details to come!!) Get in touch with me in person or andrew@fbcew.org if you have questions or want to get connected into choir. Open to 7th grade and up.

Kids' Choir and adult Handbells are also resuming in February! Don't miss those opportunities as well!

Pastor Andrew

Missions & Media

Missions is not a trip. Missions is the gateway to new relationships.

Too often missions is perceived as ‘missionaries’ and ‘mission trips’, but the purpose of missions is to develop relationships and share your personal testimony that He can (will) use to reveal Himself to others.



Our faith is based on a personal relationship, not a religion or a denomination! Likewise, missions should be based on developing personal relationships, not promoting a religion or a particular denomination. Paul taught throughout his letters salvation is received by Grace through Faith, not following specific laws, rituals or ceremonial events. Paul developed personal relationships with those he encountered, from which many became fellowships (churches).

We do not have to go on a trip to do missions. Every step we take, in every geographic location they land is the mission field. Greet those you encounter. Cultivate new relationships. Share what He’s done in your life when asked. We are to be willing to do so. The Spirit will lead you and open the door of communication to you.

Pastor Chuck

Family Focus

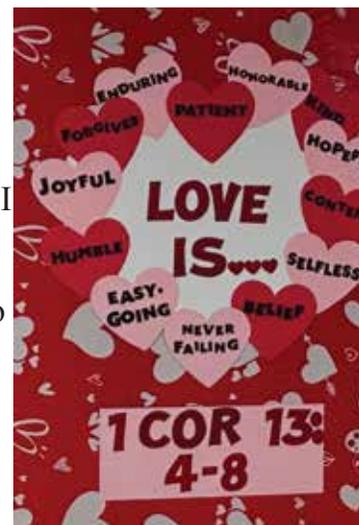
A couple of weeks ago, I was working on the big bulletin board wall in the Preschool Department. I was transitioning from the Christmas theme to a Valentines theme, and I usually try to incorporate a Bible verse into the design. So, I chose I Corinthians 13:4-8 as my theme verse.

“Love is patient, love is kind, love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”

But, when you work with young children, it is best to use positive statements. So, I set out to make all of the “is-nots” into positive statements.

Love is patient, love is kind, love is content, love is humble, love is selfless, love is easy-going, love forgives, love is joyful, love is honorable, love is belief, love is hopeful, love is enduring. Love is never failing.

And, by the time I finished making them into positive statements, my heart was very convicted. I knew that there was a situation in my life where I was choosing not to show love. I was choosing not to forgive, I was choosing to be selfish, I was choosing not to believe someone and was not being kind. And, as always, when we are confronted by our sin, we have a choice either to repent and change or continue in sin. So, I did make the decision right then, while putting letters on a bulletin board, to forgive and to love. I love how God can take even what is seemingly just a menial task and use it to teach us, if we allow Him.



As we go throughout our lives, I pray that whatever we do, that we have a heart that is sensitive to the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that “the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Beth Hendricks

Staff



Dr. Stan Lewis
Lead Pastor



Andrew Heathershaw
Worship Pastor



Chuck Walthall
Missions & Media Pastor



Beth Hendricks
Children's Ministries Director

Our Service Times

- Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
- Live Online @ fbcew.org
- Sunday School 9:00am
- Wednesday Scripture Studies 6:00pm
- Plus Worship Choir, Student & Children's Ministries and more!

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- www.fbcew.org
- First Baptist Church of Crestview
- Firstbaptistcrestview
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www.fbcew.org

Kingdom Kids Ministry Updates

Hi, my name is Rett Williams and I, along with my wife Jess and Channing and Morgan Courtney started a new children's church program called Kingdom Kids. We first started to see this need arise over the past few months and began to pray about it. We just could not shake the feeling that this was something that God was calling us to do and when the Courtney family volunteered to help as well, we knew we needed to get this new ministry going. We have been doing this for a few weeks now and I am so encouraged by the children's participation and enthusiasm for the songs and lessons.



Each Sunday, we begin Kingdom Kids with Praise and Worship consisting of five or six songs followed by a Bible lesson. The program that we are teaching is Foundations of Faith which lays the groundwork for what it means to be a Christian. The curriculum is divided into four quarters: "Who is God?", "Who does God say I am?", "How do I fit into God's family?", and "How do I live?" Throughout the weeks we use specific Biblical examples to explain these topics in a way that the children can understand and relate them to everyday life.

This time is different from Sunday School in a couple of ways. First, it brings kids from all age groups into the same room to learn and grow together. Second, it develops a connection to God using unique worship experiences. We model our Children's Church after our church services here at First Baptist and take this time seriously to prepare the children to sit in our regular church service with hearts ready to worship and ears ready to listen.

We would love to have your children join us this Sunday for Kingdom Kids!

Rett Williams