

FBC NEWSLETTER

Embracing Our History | Engaging Our Future | Inspiring Worship

Focus on: Ladies' Tea & Floral Arrangement Event

The chapel was full of the wonderful smells of fresh flowers and fragrant teas last month at the Ladies' Tea and Floral Arrangement Event. Nicole Bielenin gave a mini-tutorial on how to arrange flowers and lots of ladies brought tasty tea treats. It was a beautiful fellowship event



Jan Ray selects her flowers

that allowed each lady to go home with their own tea cup, a bouquet of flowers, and some new friendships!

During the event, Katrina West, our guest speaker, shared a lovely devotional about tea.



A Word from Our Pastor

In Romans 12:13, the Apostle Paul tells us that we are to be “given to hospitality.” That word in Greek is *Philoxenia* – or the love of strangers. As many of you have noticed, the Lord has been bringing more and more people to our fellowship. One of the most important aspects of being a Christian church is showing hospitality or loving those who are new to our fellowship. This is not just for the greeters or the staff, but this is a command to all Christians. As we welcome those who are new, we are obeying the Lord’s command. If you see someone who is new, please make an effort to introduce yourself and find ways to make those folks feel welcome.

As you read these words, stop and pray about this. Ask the Lord to help you to meet new people who are coming to our church. Be intentional about not only introducing yourself but also finding ways to show love to those who are new. As we do this, we will fulfill the law of Christ and be pleasing in the eyes of our Lord.

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.” 1 Peter 4:7 – 9.

Grace and Peace be Multiplied to You All,
Pastor Stan

First, she shared a quick lesson on tea and its popularity around the world throughout history. Then she shared what Scripture



Jean Brooks and her lovely daughters

has to say on the subject: “The word tea is not used anywhere in the Bible, but it does say that leaves, herbs, and spices are used for healing.” She mentioned many verses including Ezekiel 47:12 and Revelation 22:2, in which the healing nature of teas is referenced: “...the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations.”

Lastly, Katrina encouraged the ladies to experiment with herbal teas in their own lives to see what effect they can have on their physical and emotional well-being. “The main thing I would like to leave you with,” she said, “is a desire to see how God’s Word and His creation can help bring healing in your life.”

Laura Kitchen

Servants

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” I Peter 4:10-11 ESV

Walking through the empty church building this week, the smell of fresh paint revealed that a church member is investing their week in giving a kids bathroom some much needed sprucing up. A home-bound member shared



Evidence of gifts in action

recently that she was participating in a new daily 9pm Facetime Bible study and prayer time with two other church members. We hear frequently of deacons and other folks ministering to our widows and others in need. Untold invisible events like this should happen regularly in the Body of Christ! It’s so cool to catch glimpses of the Church seeing needs and meeting needs through the gifts and strength that God supplies.

Some years ago, I remember fuming to myself about a need that was in front of me that no one was addressing. “Somebody needs to do something about this,” I said to myself. Eventually, the Holy Spirit got it through my thick head that “maybe since you’re the one I showed it to, YOU’RE the somebody.” And you know, He was right. We can’t do everything, but we do have to consider if God is directing us to serve the need or not.

One way God builds His kingdom is through the connection of serving others. Praise the Lord that our church excels and is growing in that! Every day, let’s learn to be better servants and more faithful stewards of the gifts that God has given us.

Pastor Andrew

Family Focus: Growth = Needs

“Still other seed fell on good ground and it grew up, producing fruit that increased thirty, sixty, and a hundred times.” Mark 4:8

In the Children’s Ministry, we have been working hard to plant the seeds of the Gospel in the hearts and minds of the children that are entrusted to us... in



Awana Derby Race

recent months, we have really started to see growth come from that effort. Not that it is of our doing, because we recognize that the Lord is the One who draws His children to Himself, but we have the privilege of being a part of what He has done in the lives of these precious children. We have also seen a lot of growth in the number of children coming to all aspects of our Children’s Ministry. Our children’s Sunday School classes and preschool classes have been full of life with the addition of several children!

Because of this wonderful growth, we have some needs in the Children’s Ministry. The first, and most important, need that we have is for more volunteers to serve in our nursery on a once-a-month basis. I promise you will be the one to receive the blessing from these precious children if you give of yourself for just one service a month. Please consider and contact me if you have any questions or are interested.

Second, the Awana Ministry needs some toys donated for our Awana Store. The kids earn Awana bucks by learning their verses, doing their lessons, bringing their Bible, etc. and then they get to shop at the Awana Store at the end of the year as a reward. So, over the next month I will have drop boxes set up in the Fellowship Hall and outside the Preschool Department if you would like to donate.

The third need we have in the Children’s Ministry is going to be for VBS supplies. Because we are having VBS during the daytime this year, I anticipate having more children in attendance than in the past. By the end of the month I will have a list of items that could easily be donated to help support VBS. So, be looking out for that as an opportunity to help support our Children’s Ministry as well.

Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement as we continue to plant the seeds of faith in the lives of the children at First Baptist.

Beth Hendricks



Kaid Jenkins

Missions & Media: Experience Good Friday

Walking through the hourly events of Good Friday,



we saw clearly God’s plan fulfilled, prophesy fulfilled and Jesus’ purpose fulfilled. We evaluated several individuals involved, but not all.

This was my take-away...

Jesus was extremely tired, having been awake all night (Last Supper, Garden, Arrest, Trials). Even when we are exhausted, there may be Kingdom work yet to complete.

Jesus was falsely accused by the Jews in both the Jewish and Roman trials. When we are falsely accused in a court of law, public opinion, etc., we are to speak truth!

Daily we are to carry the cross of Christ: demonstrate love, compassion, selflessness. Even in our darkest hours, we are to love others, not focus on ourselves.

This world we live in (that God gave us) is going to go away one day as outlined in Revelation. Our eternal home is being prepared for us. If you could time-travel and were aboard the Titanic, knowing what you know now, you could offer life jackets to your fellow voyagers. Some would reject your prediction, some would ridicule,

Staff



Dr. Stan Lewis
Lead Pastor



Andrew Heathershaw
Worship Pastor



Chuck Walthall
Missions & Media Pastor



Dallas Godshall
Youth & College Pastor



Beth Hendricks
Children's Ministries Director

Our Service Times

- Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
- Live Online @ fbcew.org
- WAAZ-FM 104.7/WJSB AM 1050 @ 10:00am
- 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
- First Baptist Crestview

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Student Ministry Happenings

It seems like the older I get, the shorter the months seem. March flew by, and April doesn't look like it's going to wait for us to catch our breath. Our March was pretty calm by student ministry standards, as we did not have any large events, but just allowed ourselves to rest and recover from a busy first two months of 2024. We know that summer is going to be a fun few months as well, so taking time in March to rest has been a blessing.



FBC Students

With April approaching, so is the end of the high school careers for many of our students. We have six students who will be graduating this year, and I know they are extremely excited about what is happening in their lives as they are moving forward in obedience to what God has called them to. As they are preparing for the end of their school year, please pray for them. Pray that they finish the school year well. Pray that they continue in obedience to what God has called them to. Pray that we would have students who would be willing to become leaders in the student ministry whenever these students leave. Pray for them as they will be going off to college and pursuing job opportunities. God has been so faithful to this church by bringing these students into the ministry, and we praise God for the impact that they have had on our ministry and our church.

Pastor Dallas

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Experience Good Friday

and some would accept it.

Had there been no Good Friday, we would be like passengers on the Titanic with NO life jackets. No Good Friday, No Resurrection. No Resurrection, No Hope! I'm thankful for Good Friday.

Pastor Chuck