

# FBC NEWSLETTER

Embracing Our History | Engaging Our Future | Inspiring Worship

## Focus On: New Breezeway Photo Wall

Last month our quiet breezeway was transformed into a welcoming space filled with friendly faces! Now the space has been lined with more than



a dozen framed photos of some of our church members and friends.



The goal of the project was to help reflect the warmth, diversity, and spirit of our congregation...smiles, familiar expressions, memories, and joyful moments now greet everyone who passes through.

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## A Word from Our Pastor

As we start the month of March, we are closing out the current HVAC project. I want to thank you all for your patience and help in getting this project done. So many people have contributed their prayers, time, and financial support to bring our church's physical plant back to a place of good operation. I particularly want to thank Duane Jones who worked so hard to manage this project, even while dealing with a major back operation. We were also blessed to have Mark King lend his expertise and labor to this as well.

I know this has been a long process and I continue to reflect on how blessed I am as a pastor to have such a loving and patient congregation. There are many churches and organizations where Lucifer would have used something like this issue to cause division and conflict. You have done well to live out your faith with a Christian spirit when there were many days that our building was too hot or too cold. Thank you for being such a blessing.

One final thing, let us always remember how God met our financial need regarding this project. There was a dark day when we were facing the unpleasant prospect of having to secure a loan to pay for the project. However, in just the right time, the Lord met our need and gave us a wonderful answer to prayer. We give Him praise and credit for all that He has done.

May the Lord multiply His mercy, grace, and peace to you all,  
Pastor Stan

More than just a display, the breezeway photos are an invitation to help turn faces into names and then into



connections! This is just one little way to remind us that we are not merely attending church in a building but are part of a growing family.

The frames have been set up in such a way that over time the photos can be changed and updated, switching out current pictures for new ones.

As I worked on this project, my heart overflowed with love for this church family that I am blessed to be a part of! Photos that represent different ministries (AWANA, Mission Trips, Easter, etc.) and different outreach events (SMAAC, Experience Christmas, VBS, etc.) are reminders of the many ways FBC is working together to reach others for Christ...all with a joy that only God can give!

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”  
(Philippians 4:4)

Laura Kitchen

## Thoughts from Pastor Andrew

*And [how] can it be that I should gain an interest [a benefit] in the Savior's blood?*

*Died He for me, who caused His pain?*

*For me, who Him to death pursued?*

*Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me?*

(“And Can It Be” by Charles Wesley, verse 1)



Shortly after his conversion, Charles Wesley wrote this magnificent hymn articulating an incredulous wonder that Christ would die for him. The one who had sent Christ to the cross was the one who was now saved by it! Paul writes to Timothy of a similar wonder he experienced: “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” (I Tim. 1:15 ESV)

What a forgiveness we have experienced!

This year's Good Friday Service will focus on the WONDER of this truth and feature a beautiful new setting of “And Can It Be,” presented by our Men's Quartet. Please join us Friday, April 3 at 6:30pm in the Chapel for this unique time of worship led by our Worship Choir, Worship Vocalists, and Men's Quartet. We will also experience the Lord's Supper together and Pastor Stan will share a message from the Word.



Our concert with David Phelps is just around the corner! Saturday, March 12 at 7:00pm. If you haven't purchased tickets yet, you can access David's website through [www.fbcew.org/events](http://www.fbcew.org/events). Tickets will also be available at the door.



We still need some men to help with guest parking as well as load in (10am-noon) and load out after the concert. If you can help, please contact me or the church office.

Pastor Andrew

## Missions & Media

This week we resolved an intermittent network door access issue at First Baptist. What great relief to have finally resolved the problem after copious months, if not years, of trying!

Have you ever paused for a moment and considered ‘the door’?



Doors lead to different spaces; they are a portal of transition from one space to another, from the outdoors to indoors. Doors allow and restrict access through the portal. Doors are everywhere and we encounter them daily.

What does scripture tell us about doors? Numerous analogies are embedded in scripture in regards to doors. For example:

Jesus, in John 10, identifies Himself as the ‘door of the sheep’, the way to safety and salvation. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians and Colossians references ‘open doors’, representing ministry opportunities and life changes God offers those who put their faith and trust in Him. Scripture also reminds of the occasional ‘closed door’; not always enjoyed by us but best.

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## Family Focus

This past month I was blessed by two different events related to our children’s ministry.

First, I was able to go to the VBS Showcase at the Ark Encounter with a few of our VBS leaders. We had a wonderful time learning all about this year’s VBS theme, Emerald Crossing. This year in VBS we will be going on an Irish Adventure through Psalm 23, where we will learn all about the Good Shepherd and how He cares for his sheep. We were able to attend sessions teaching the biblical background for this theme and we had a great time preparing our hearts for this year’s VBS.



Second, we were gifted with a huge, very heavy, Awana game mat for our Awana program from a church in Tallahassee. Since we started our Awana program five years ago, we have never been able to play the Awana games because we didn’t have an Awana game circle. We still had a lot of fun playing different games, but it just wasn’t the same. But this gift of an Awana game mat now makes it possible to play all the fun games that go with our Awana curriculum. As one leader said to me, “It is literally a game changer!” The kids have had so much fun learning and playing new games that encourage teamwork and sportsmanship. And we can fold it up and put it away when the chapel is needed for other activities! What a blessing Thomasville Road Baptist Church has been to our children’s ministry!



Coming up in March, we have our Awana Grand Prix on Wednesday evening, March 11 at 6pm in the chapel. Everyone is invited to join us for this fun, family-friendly event!

**Beth Hendricks**

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I like to consider doors as invitations leading to adventures authored by God as well as restricted access to areas I need not explore.

How did we resolve the door access issue at FBC? We consulted an authority on network door access systems, explained our issue and allowed him to provide detailed instructions to fix the problem.

As we encounter doors in our walk, we should stay in communication with the Authority. He will provide us with exact directions and guidance; which doors to enter and which doors to avoid. He is our doorkeeper and His system never fails!

**Pastor Chuck**

First Baptist  
Crestview

## 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
- First Baptist Crestview
- Podcast on Spotify & more

[www.fbcew.org](http://www.fbcew.org)

## Student Ministry Updates

Recently I had the blessing of serving in youth Sunday School. It is interesting looking back on how God prepared, provided and prompted me on what to say when I thought I had no idea what to say. Like Brother Stan, I have a love and interest for apologetics, or reasoned understanding and defense of our faith. I also recently had the honor of speaking for my grandmother's funeral service where God burdened me with a desire to defend the faith in a world that tries so hard to deconstruct it.

A few things I shared with our youth: Statistics show about 70 percent of youth raised in the church get into their adult life and fall away from their faith - either disbelieving it or not sure what or why they believe. My message to them was about two basic things. Firstly, there are very good reasons for why we believe in God, Jesus, the Bible, the resurrection and our salvation. All of it! And you need to know them! Questions and doubts need to be asked and especially answered with the truth. Not knowing the truth leads to believing the best answers the world offers, which often sound great but are not the truth. The best lies are often the biggest ones that go without question.



Knowing the truth leads to the second point: read your Bible completely, or all the way through. I like to go in a chronological order over reading front to back, but, either way, the totality of God's message to us and how truth, history, prophecy and fulfillment is better understood when you have read it all. Many passages and books we have read and reread in Bible study, but, context is essential to understanding; reading all of the Word puts so many things in context. Decide to work through all of your Bible.

I then opened up to what their questions were - their struggles and doubts. There are good reasons and answers to these things and you need to know them! God's Word is so very good! "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

Please continue to pray for our youth, their faith and the leader and teachers God is calling to them and our church family.

Chris Howard