

First Baptist Church News

Loving Christ by Loving Others



BURN THE BOATS

This time of year is filled with clichés. “Where did the time go?” fills our conversation. The past year is behind and a brand new one lies ahead. Our conversation is also filled with the inevitable question “What’s your New Year Resolution?” Yes, it is that time. Our minds are filled with various life-changing and improving ideas that we set our commitment toward. Soon will be the time when we fall by the wayside and simply continue on as always – you know, January 15th. The custom of making and breaking our resolutions within two weeks is as American as apple pie.

Unfortunately, we may have learned this short-lived process from our spiritual lives. It seems that we are really good at hearing the message from God that guides His purposes in our lives. We fall at the altar and make our commitment only to loose our follow-through before we leave the front door (yes I have been listening to Casting Crowns lately). We live the “typical” New Year resolution spiritual life over and over. Is there a way to overcome this cycle? Can we truly keep the commitments that we make to God in our every day life?

The answer may lie with a man named Herman Cortez.

Cortez was a Spanish explorer who came to South America around the year 1515 to “explore” the Aztec world. The rumors of gold and riches had caused the Spanish Empire to seek this “exploration”. (They were really just after the treasure.) Cortez arrives with a military force that was aimed at conquering this newfound land of wealth. They found the Aztec world well defended by a larger military force than they brought. This “exploration” was not going to be a fiesta at all! His men were fearful and ready to head back to Spain and who could blame them.

It was then that Cortez gave a rather odd command to his troops. He told them to BURN THE BOATS! He elaborated that if we burn the boats, we commit to the battle because only in victory can we get back home! He wanted to use the desire to go home as the motivation to victory – and it worked! Cortez and his band vanquished the Aztecs and Spain gained its foothold in South America.

Now, no one really knows if this story is true. We know Cortez conquered parts of South America but as the burning of the boats no one knows if that really happened. It does make for a great story though as well as a reminder about commitment. There is another story that is older and is very true that adds to this thought as well. Joshua was standing the far side of the Jordan River. The spies had returned with news of giants and great walled cities that stand in the way of their objective. Yet, with great trepidation and anxiety, Joshua and the nation of Israel step toward the Jordan River to begin an arduous task of conquest. As they begin this journey, all they can “see” are the obstacles. They only see the deterrents to their command and commitment. Yet they start out anyway. As they go, the Jordan River stops flowing and the entire nations tread across on DRY GROUND! They come to Jericho and are faced with the literal immovable object of the Jericho wall. They are given strange commandments to march, play instruments and shout at this immovable object. In spite of all the impossibilities and silliness (to them), the walls fell, the city was conquered and the Lord was glorified which paved the way to the ensuing victories.

These events all have one thing in common – burn the boats. These armies vowed to not turn

back. Even if the commands seem silly, we won't turn back. Even if we are outnumbered, we will not back down! They saw the early evidences of God's hand upon them at the Jordan River drying up to allow passage. Both groups “burned the boats”. They fully committed to the cause – regardless of the work, seeming impossible nature and personal fear.

As we face a new year at 1st Baptist Dublin, God has given us a command to burn the boats! He has assured us recently of His presence with us. He has given us the task at hand that may seem impossible by human standards and in which has struck trepidation and consternation in our hearts. But knowing the God we serve, I believe it is time to burn the boats. Lets fully commit to the leadership of God this coming year. Lets cut ties with the hindrances and forge ahead knowing that His leadership will only take us to places that are better and more glories than what lies behind or at hand! Will you join with me and pile the kindling, strike the match and burn the boats.

- Bro. Weldon

CAMINO AL REINO

We are so happy for many reasons:

1. We had two baptisms the month of December and two more people decided to come to the Lord and declare Him as their Savior.
2. We have a new couple that are praying about joining Camino al Reino to help us work in the ministry. Help us pray that the Garcia family will stay in the area and be a tower for God's ministry.
3. The Christmas Festival was a huge blessing, thank you to all of you that made it happen!

Best of all God is in the making of miracles. We know it's been a while, but we are happy to have Pastor Weldon and his family. We believe that God will end this year with amazing surprises and blessings to come in 2019.

Romans 8:28

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

-Escobar Family

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Office Closed January 1st

*Office closed in observance of
New Years.*

Churchwide Luncheon January 6th

*Join us for food & fellowship!
There will also be an AirEvac
Presentation given.*

Sanctity of Life January 20th

*Sanctity of Life Sunday;
Choices baby bottles will be
distributed at this time.*

MLK Day January 21st

*The office will remain open
on MLK day.*



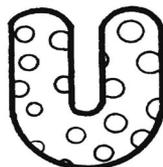
KINGDOM KIDS PRESCHOOL

Hi First Baptist Family!

We are in for an exciting new year at Kingdom Kids Preschool! We are still enrolling new friends and are about to introduce a brand new curriculum. Our new Waddler class is doing exceptionally

well, and our little infants are getting lots of attention until we add more classmates to their room. We will send out more updates next month- be prepared for lots of fun things to come!

– Cameron Hill



KINGDOM SEAMS

As 2018 comes to a close, many projects are being finished up. Santa's chair has been reupholstered, the cowboy bar-high chair has been donated to the Western Heritage Museum, sparkly vests were made for the Christmas Festival, and several fidget

quilts were donated earlier this year. The blessing of sewing thread was amazing! Additionally, several tote bags have also been made for Kingdom Threads, with material donated from the peanut plant.

-Dawn Turney

PARSONAGE FACELIFT COMPLETE!



ACROSS THE STREET AT KINGDOM THREADS

It has been a busy month. We gave away a record amount of Christmas decorations thanks to a generous donor who showed up with 6+ totes full of decorations in addition to the full tables we already had and blessed a lot of people.

On another day we filled the tables in the fellowship hall with stuffed toys that had been washed and had new ribbon bows. The Dolls had been dressed and books were put out. But at the end of the day we still had two huge totes of stuffed toys left over.

Then we celebrated with a party. New decorations went up, gifts were wrapped, extra tables were set up and chairs brought in and then the people and food appeared. One of my goals was to create a safe place to have community between cultures.

God arranged for nobody to show up for Bible Study one day so that Kathy had time and privacy to lead one of our regulars to the Lord. Then last Sunday one of our hard working volunteers was baptized.

The best fun I had was when a young man brought his bag to the front "ready to check out" and nobody seemed to be interested. When we told him that the next thing to do was take his bag and leave you should have seen his face. He stood at the door and said he was almost afraid to leave. Since no one looked like they were going to stop him, he left but said "God bless you" and we told him "He does, we get to do this."

Needs: men's coats, blankets

- *Wilma Earles*



AROUND THE CORNER AT SERVE

Serve was used as a work station as volunteers who used the space to organize the decorations and toys. We maintain a room there to store out of season decorations and the gently used toys we will give away.

Most of the people we have served here are a result of conversations at Kingdom

Threads. We have bilingual volunteers who take the time to engage people in conversations and see how we can help. We are out of furniture except for bedsteads.

Needs: volunteers with time, muscle, and a pickup to move donations

- *Wilma Earles*



YOUTH NEWS

Our youth really did a fabulous job at the Christmas Festival! A large number of students participated in the event and they were impressive in all they did. I am always impressed with their talents and how they are eager to use them to bring people closer to God. Singing, playing instruments, and puppets are just a few of the things they were involved with. Thank you for a great night.

We have been having a really large group, about 15-18, on Wednesdays. David Fritts graciously stepped in to teach several nights and the youth really enjoyed his lessons. It is a fun group to teach, they will jump in, ask questions, and participate in the discussion. It is always more interesting when everyone is involved and engaged. Sorry if we are loud and rowdy, we seem to find crazy and funny things in all our lessons!

The youth are looking forward to some time off from school and the activities it holds for them. The holiday will kick off for them with a night participating in the live Nativity. As soon as that is over, we will take over David and Lisa Fritts' home and have our annual

Christmas party. The youth always enjoy spending some time together, playing games, eating, and just hanging out and goofing off. Thank you David and Lisa for letting us invade your home for the night!

The first of the year the youth will be on a new Sunday night schedule. We will be meeting from

5-6pm for bible study, then joining the adults, after their study, for snacks. We look forward to spending time getting to know each other better over good food and friendship.

The youth are anticipating a wonderful new year filled with lots of learning and fun activities.

- Donna Riley



YOUTH NEWS CONT'D...





Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday

Prayer Group 8:00 AM

Bible Study 9:15 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Study 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Kingdom Threads 9:00 AM - Noon

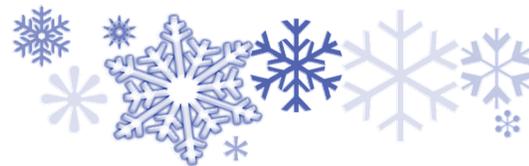
Brown Bag Lunch 12:00 PM

Prayer Group 5:00 PM

Children's Ministry 6:00 PM



January 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year! Patty Shumate	2 ♥ Tommy & Christine Watson	3	4 Jaylee Black	5
6 ♥ Bret & Terri Greenway	7	8 Mike McFarland	9 Blake Reeder	10 Joy Springer Cory James Jaclyn Turley	11 Gus Martin	12
13 Church Luncheon & AirEvac Presentation	14 Gay Sparks	15 Chase Timmons	16 Christian Killingsworth	17	18 Jacob Branham	19 John Kelly Brady Riley
20 Sanctity of Life Sunday Nicole James Suri Cedillo	21 MLK Day Rodney Schneider	22 ♥ Darren & Deanna Turley Pam Black	23	24	25 ♥ Mike & Ginger Gilder	26
27	28 Jessa Bamber	29	30 Sandra Cogburn Susey Cortez	31 Larry Walker	Happy New Year!	