

First Baptist Herald

Something to Celebrate!

When we pick up the newspaper or watch the television news, typically we can be overwhelmed with a spirit of negativity. To be quite honest, stories of corruption, political fighting, and the horrors of war seem to crowd out the ones which focus upon positive elements of our world. We need to reverse this whenever possible. We need to celebrate that which is good, hoping that, that which is recognized will be repeated.

As a result, I want to celebrate with you as a church family some of the things which God did in and through our family of faith this year. We added a new tradition to our church's celebration of Easter with the Living Lord's Supper. In the summer we launched an outreach program called G.R.O.W. God has truly rewarded our work. We saw record numbers in attendance at Vacation Bible School. God led us to Brian Clayburgh as a new minister to youth. It has been wonderful to see him grow in ministry potential with every passing day. We saw members of our church family go to East Asia, the former Soviet Union, North Africa, Mexico and Thailand on mission trips. Whether ministering to physical needs, teaching English as a means to share Christ, building churches or distributing Scripture, our people have begun to catch the vision of what it means to be on mission with Christ. In 2006 we emphasized international missions with our parade of nations and we saw our church family give \$38,175 toward the support of overseas mission work. In addition, our family of faith contributed \$14,704 toward missions in North America and \$13,636 toward work here in New Mexico. Overall giving exceeded our budget by 14%. In 2005 a total of 713 family units made some sort of contribution to the church. In 2006 we saw that number jump to 748 families supporting the work of our church. These material blessings are only exceeded by what we saw spiritually. God brought 181 new members into our fellowship, and 41 of those individuals came into the Kingdom by baptism. God is so good! And we can only respond with a firm sense of gratitude and humility. To God be the glory!

Now we look toward 2007 with great excitement and anticipation. We are beginning a long-range study of growth and the ensuing challenges which growth presents. We are organizing mission trips to northern New Mexico, Mexico and Thailand. A number of our members are also planning mission trips to Nicaragua and East Asia. We are a church which is discovering the joy of being on mission with God - both in Las Cruces and through out the world. We will soon present to the church a mechanism to elect deacons, all of whom will expand our potential for ministry. In February we will begin the search for a minister to senior adults and then we will explore God's will for a minister to children. As your pastor, I am excited. I am excited about what was accomplished in 2006, but I am even more enthusiastic about the spiritual potential for 2007. May the Lord be blessed by our faithfulness and by our passion. His love for the world has been manifested in our midst, and that truly is something to celebrate. Can't wait to see what He will do through us in the months ahead!

Bro. Maurice

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Educationally Speaking

University of Life Spring 2007

Begins Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30pm in Assigned Rooms

Step by Step Through the Old Testament

This 13-week study will provide a survey of the message and important events. People, places and themes of the Old Testament. It will also provide a frame work for understanding and study of God's Word. Led by Dr. Hollingsworth and will meet in Room 219. Cost: \$10 for workbook.

The Life You've Always Wanted

What does true spiritual life look like? Are you tired of the status quo of your Christian life? This six-week study by John Ortberg will help Christians discover transformation and a spiritual vigor by developing Spiritual disciplines through which Christ will help you find the life you have always wanted. Led by Clifford Tyree and will meet in Room 208A. Cost: \$5 for study guide.

Odyssey of Paul

This eight-week class will follow the travels of St. Paul and his influence on the founding of Christianity. The study will use geographical, archaeological and secular literary evidence to provide a portrait of St. Paul, the man and his mission. Led by Randy Wuerz and will meet in Room 206.

Developing Your SHAPE to Serve Others

This six-week study will help you develop your God given SHAPE to use at home, work, church and in the community to

extend God's love to others and enrich your life.

The way God has designed you is no accident. God gives every Christian a unique mix of gifts, natural abilities, personalities, values and life experiences. Led by Josh Hunt and will meet in Room 200. Cost: \$5 for study guide.

Biblical Financial Management Study

This 10-week in-depth study of the scriptures will share what the Bible teaches about money and possessions, as well as, growing into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Members will follow a road map to financial freedom and become consistent savers, generous givers and prudent consumers. Led by Terry Dean and will meet in the Conference Room. Cost: \$45/\$55 (individual/couples).

Design for Discipleship

This class will help Christians establish a program of personal study of the Holy scriptures, examine the great truths of the Bible and learn to practice the essentials of discipleship. Led by John Helwick and will meet in the Parlor (behind Fellowship Hall)

Men's Bible Study

Will meet in Room 208.

Ladies Bible Study

Will meet in Room 229.

Baseball Spring Training Trip for Men & Boys

Friday, March 23 & Saturday, 24



Cost: \$100/person and includes one night lodging, tickets for three games, one meal and a lot of memories.

Additional food and souvenirs are at your own expense.

Do you have a friend, co-worker or son who would enjoy attending spring training in Phoenix, AZ? A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at time of sign up. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 7. There is a max of 45 seats on the MCI bus (first come/first seat). Sign up in the church office ONLY. No phone reservations.

NM Mission Trip Information Meeting

Sunday, February 4 at 12:30pm in the Choir Room

Our church has the opportunity to help install steel siding and insulation for the new worship center at Candy Kitchen Mission Church in Candy Kitchen, NM and help supply their food pantry program. If you would like to help or have questions, please attend this information meeting. The trip will be later this spring.

Wofford Reception

Sunday, February 18 following the evening worship service

Please join us for a time of fellowship as we honor Joe Lee Wofford for over 30 years of service to FBC as a church trustee.

Mid-Winter Sunday Study Training Workshop

Saturday, February 3 from 8:30am to 1pm

Did the holiday throw you off your game plan in teaching in Sunday school? Do you need some encouragement or an idea for your Sunday school class? If you work in Sunday school, join other workers in the association for inspiration, ideas, information and help in teaching and ministry. Child care will be available and a Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Food for the mind and body.

Fort Lone Tree Children's Camp

Monday, June 11 thru Saturday, June 16

Hey Kids! It's time to get ready for camp. Sign up to reserve a place (only 42 spots) by Sunday, March 11 (a \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at time of sign up). The cost for camp is \$289/camper (\$50 non-refundable deposit, discounts \$15 sign up by Sunday, March 11 and additional \$15 if full payment is made by Sunday, May 6. A \$34 scholarship is given to every camper for a total cost for camp of \$225/camper.

See Tammy in the church office to sign up for a great time of activities, Bible study, camp fires and much more.



Sundays at 4:30pm
in Fellowship Hall

Schedule

February 4	Dismissed
February 11	G. Team
February 18	R. Team
February 25	O. Team

Media Library



Library Hours

Sunday 9 to 10:45am
 5 to 6pm
 Wednesday 5 to 6pm
 Thursday 9:30 to 11am

A Heart Like Jesus and *Resurrection Morning*
 by Max Lucado.

Monthly Mission Project, Sponsored by Women on Mission

February - St. Luke's Health Care Clinic

A collection box is located outside the Media Library.

eyeglasses empty prescription bottles
 deodorant lotion razors
 Aspirin Tylenol Ibuprofen
 toothbrushes Deep (bug spray)
 small soap shampoo

After Hours Emergency Number

526.9321 - Follow the instructions.

Dear Church Family

Thank you for imitating Christ as you blessed us through calls, letters, visits and especially your prayers. A very successful surgery and six-weeks recovery will allow us to worship and praise together.

Margaret & Gene Norman

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the *Christmas Gifts for Special/Shut-In Seniors* ministry. Your willingness to bake cookies, make cards, contribute gifts/ornaments, money and/or time; and to deliver these special baskets was greatly appreciated. It was such a delight to see the smiles and gratitude of the recipients. God bless you each and every one.

Barbara Davenport
 Christmas Stocking Chairperson

Herald Deadline

Submissions for the March edition of the *Herald* are due in the church office by Thursday, February 15.

First Baptist Church of Las Cruces Staff

Senior Pastor..... Dr. Maurice Hollingsworth
 Education Minister..... Richard King
 Music/Worship Minister.....Mike Edwards
 Student Minister..... Brian Clayburgh
 Student Intern.....Dawson Hunt
 Ministers of Prayer & Spiritual Renewal.....Jim & Sharon McPherson
 Director BCDC & Kid's World.....Sharyn Brown
 Administrative Assistant to the Pastor/Financial Sec... Sharon McCardle
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