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November 2015

A Word from the Pastor

This past week I had the privilege of attending our community tent revival hosted by Love & Care Ministries. It was wonderful sharing worship and the Word of God with so many different families and individuals outside of our usual congregation! Among the many blessings this revival provided, what resonated most in my life was the vitality of prayer as a believer. Prayer must not be forgotten. As we are entering into a season of thanksgiving and gift-giving, plenty of distractions will be readily available to keep us from calling on the Lord. Just as thanksgiving decorations seem to get overshadowed by Christmas décor earlier every year, the prayer life of believers can become similar to those turkey decorations, easily overlooked. The Bible shows us that prayer is our lifeline to God-

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication,
with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"*
Philippians 4:6 NKJV

Based on the Word of God, prayer is critical and cannot be ignored in our daily spiritual diet. This is true because prayer has the power to put into motion the greatest needs of our lives-

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19 NKJV

How is your prayer life today? Do you call upon God daily to provide you with what you need? Or, is your prayer life in such a state that you cannot remember the last time you honestly spoke to God? No matter the condition of your prayer life, God desires for you to seek and pray to Him now. Before you sit this month's newsletter aside or hang it on the fridge, take a moment to say a prayer to God. Thank Him for all He has blessed you with and let Him know the needs you have – the needs He alone **can** and **desires** to provide.

Praying for you,

Coleman

COMMITTEE 2016 BUDGET WORKSHOP

November 15 at 6:30pm

If you are on one of the following committees, your presence is essential:

- Personnel Committee
- Education Committee
- Youth Committee
- Building & Grounds Committee



Please join us for a baby shower honoring
Tressa Guess

Sunday, November 15
3:00pm

FBC Fellowship Hall
Registered at Kohl's & Amazon
See registries at www.bump.com



MISSION THANKSGIVING

The 4th-6th grade Sunday School class is leading a canned-food, blanket, and coat drive on **November 7th at 4:30pm**. Please contact Marissa Jones at 928-1041 to be included on the pickup list. Following collection of items, our children will enjoy hot dogs and games in the Family Life Center.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

FBC is joining Mission Merkel to help fill Thanksgiving boxes. We are collecting boxed stuffing/dressing. Collection baskets will be in the foyer.

ROMANIA MISSION TRIP - SUMMER 2016 MEETING

Sunday, November 15
4:00pm in the Sanctuary

Annual Church Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday, November 18
6:00 p.m.
FBC Fellowship Hall

Turkey and dressing will be furnished by the church.
Bring vegetable and dessert dishes.



Educationally Speaking

We had a great Fall Festival this last week. To give you a recap, we saw over 300 individuals come through our doors last Wednesday. Of those individuals, over 135 indicated that they are members of First Baptist Merkel family. Over 94 indicated that they do not have a church home, and 108 indicated that they attend another church. We passed out roughly 80 pounds of candy.

I want to thank all of those that participated in setting up, running and operating one of our booths. We had 14 various booths scattered throughout our Family Life Center. I believe everyone enjoyed the various booths from the cake walk, hot dogs/nachos, and the vast assortment of candy that was given out.

Our church is participating in Mission Merkel Thanksgiving by providing boxes of stuffing/dressing as we have in the past. Our goal is to have 100 boxes of stuffing by November 22. Baskets have been set up around the church for collection points. We also have an opportunity to contribute this month by way of canned food and coat drive. Fourth thru sixth grade will be collecting these items Saturday, November 7th. Marissa and Phil Jones will be happy to come by and pick them up. Give the office or Marissa a call to set up a time between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. This will help our community in providing needs to the less fortunate.

Have a blessed day,
Dennis



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

We would love to have you help us celebrate the birth of our Savior. Please join us at 4:30 every Sunday for choir rehearsal if you would like to participate in this year's Christmas cantata.

Bill's Notes 🎵

November is here! What a thankful season, with weather changes, time changes, and even some lives change. From my family; a big thank you for continuing to remember my father, Kenneth Jones, in prayer. November is national Alzheimer awareness month, and again thank you for remembering Dad.

In 1860 Fillmore Bennett lived in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and had a good friend named Joseph P. Webster. Joseph was wonderfully musical and at the same time extremely nervous, and agitated. One day Fillmore asked, "What is the matter now?" and was answered, "it is no matter, it will be all right by and by." With that phrase, both men took up pen and paper, and the hymn we know as "In the Sweet By and By" was born. It was written not at a piano, but on a violin! Afterwards, a friend came by while Fillmore and Joseph were singing this new hymn, and with tears in his eyes, uttered this statement. "That hymn is immortal." Well, the song may not be immortal, but the heaven it proclaims IS!

Bill

OCTOBER GIVING & ATTENDANCE

Total offering for October	\$23,077
Budget Requirement for October	\$27,944
Average Attendance for Worship	140



MEN & BOYS BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 21
7:00am
In the Fellowship Hall

To My Church Family,
Thank you for all your loving support and generosity shown to me. You are the best church family anyone can have.
Sandra Doan

Ryan's Ramblings

Have you had someone give you a task or project that was simply impossible to do, like dunk a basketball or lift a heavy tv? In the book of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar demands the people around him tell him his dream and interpret it for him. When they couldn't, he was furious. Even Daniel tells King Nebuchadnezzar there is no man who can do what he was asking. Daniel understood that no one can be looked to for the impossible except God! Luke 1:37 gives us that promise. What is your impossible that you want to see God do? Now putting \$1,000,000 in an account is not what I am saying. But what does God want to do for you, through you, that you say can't be done?

Don't forget this Saturday November 7th. We will be meeting at the church at 4:15pm and go on our Wilderness Fellowship! I know the Dotsons have a great time planned for us! Invite your friends. We will be back at the church about 8:30!

Set those alarms and let's see your beautiful faces in Sunday School this Sunday.

Spur on,
Ryan

Nursery Volunteer Schedule (Worship Hour Only)



Sunday, November 8:

Shawna Reatherford, Sabrina Gilbreath,
Morgan Reatherford

Sunday, November 15:

Pam Arendall, Barbara Gilbreath,
Kelly Gilbreath

Sunday, November 22:

Shayla Beaird, Tricia Cunningham,
Shaylie Dahar

Sunday, November 29:

LuAnn Williams, Kerry McCurdy,
Tricia Dotson

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please coordinate a volunteer in your place as far in advance as possible. **After** confirming a substitute volunteer, please inform the church office.

VAN ROTATION

November 8	Dennis Allen, Andy Gilbreath
November 15	Dennis Allen, Shawn Gilbreath
November 22	Ronny Whisenhunt, Justin Richey
November 29	Ronny Whisenhunt, Shawn Gilbreath

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Glenn & Barbara Sandusky