

FIRST NEWS

Our mission, centered in worship, is to **REACH** people for Jesus, **CONNECT** them in Christian fellowship, **GROW** together spiritually, and **SERVE** our community and world as we become mature followers of Jesus.

June will mark my fifth anniversary in the pastorate. Five years is not very long, but it is a symbolic marker in my life. I have decided to use this anniversary to describe some things I have learned over the past five years. First, I have learned that a church is only as strong as the people who make it up. A church may have the best preacher/pastor, but if the people of the church are not growing spiritually and giving of their time in ministry, the church will be dead. Of course, I believe it is important to have healthy pastoral leadership, but I have learned that it is not enough. What happens, though, when there is healthy pastoral leadership and the people of the church are growing spiritually is that the church becomes a place of deep joy. In my opinion, there is no greater experience than being in a church like this.

Second, I have learned that we live in a challenging time for established (50+ years or older) Baptist churches. Methods that once worked in the past are not as effective. Other activities have quickly been given priority over gathering together for worship and ministry (i.e. if church interferes with another activity, so much the worse for the church). Combine these with the deep-rooted cultural changes of our society, and the result is lots of handwringing in our churches. I hear story after story about Baptist churches struggling with the changes facing the internal life of their churches and how to stop what seems like the quickening death of their church.

Third, I have learned that God has not given up on the church. Certainly, some churches will die, but new churches will be started and established churches will experience renewal. My calling is in leading established Baptist churches in renewal and even though the challenges are great, I am certain, down to the core of my being, that the challenges we face should be seen as opportunities. Some of my fellow pastors around my age have written off the established Baptist church. To them, being the pastor of an established Baptist church is like arranging the chairs on the Titanic. In speaking this way, they believe they are being prophetic. I do not believe they are being prophetic; I believe they lack imagination and leadership. I prefer to see being the pastor of an established Baptist church as an adventure in seeing what God can do (even if it does not make sense to everyone else). I feel called to pastor our church in this way, because I am 100% certain that God is not done with us.

Mainly, though, in these five years, in the midst of preaching, administration, officiating funerals and weddings, and spending time with people, I am beginning to find true what Reinhold Niebuhr wrote in his journal as a young pastor: "I am really beginning to like the ministry." These words are found in Niebuhr's book, *Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*. In the midst of what I have learned over the past five years, the fact that Niebuhr's words ring true in my life is perhaps the most important learning experience. Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor.

Pastor Ross

7th Annual SNBA Sunday School Conference "Embracing Kingdom Growth Thru Biblical Teaching"

The Sunday School conference is just around the corner. This year it will take place at First Baptist Church, Buna, Texas. The date is Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The keynote speaker is Dr. Ken Hemphill the national strategist for *Empowering Kingdom Growth* for the SBC. There will be breakout sessions for teachers and directors of pre-school, children, youth, and adults. We had great attendance from our church last year. It would be great if all our teachers and directors could be in attendance this year. Make plans now to attend. To sign up call the church office at 283-2588.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

202 South Charlton Street Woodville, TX 75979-5293 Tel. 409-283-2588 ~ Fax: 409-283-2580
Prayer Room: 409-283-8557

June 30, 2009 Vol. 50—No. 06



The First Family expresses their Christian love and sympathy to:

*With
Sympathy*

With Gratitude

Dear Christians Friends,

I would like to say a special "thank you" for all your calls, cards, prayers, and concern for me during the healing of my knee cap. If things go well it should be healed by the end of July.

Again, thanks for your prayers and concern.

"God Bless All Our Church"

In Christ Love,

L.C. O'Connor and family

A Window into Jacob's Ladder

Mrs. Ann teaches her 4 year old children about God's love for them and their families. She also teaches them basic pre-school skills. The children were so proud of themselves after they finished their vision and hearing screening this week. Mrs. Niki, their tester, praised them for their politeness, following directions and knowledge of the alphabet.

The children are excited about Bible School. Miss Hannah is turning our hallway into the look of Australia. Don't be surprised to see a koala bear peeking out of a tree! Australia is a wonderful vehicle to teach about Jesus and His love.

In Christ's love
Linda



*Have you spent time
in God's Word
this week?*

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1: Tammy Sanders, Nathan Pilgrim, Jarrett Monzingo, Seth White 2: Eleanor Holderman, Karen Poindexter, Drew Tucker, Haily Derouen, Nicole Turner 3: Gwendolyn Martindale, Mike Maness 4: Kennedy Pate 5: E. G. Sheffield, 6: Lillian Estes, Courtney Elliot 7: Sharon Dickerson, 7: Deborah Hodges, Kaelin Miller 8: Eldon Broom, Laurie Haynes 10: Steve Randall, Laurie Broom, Alyson Rainey, Marcus Wagner 12: Robbie Phillips 13: Eva Foxworth, Amy Bythewood 14: Curtis White, Jacob Watts 15: Michael Neely, 16: Diane Stanley, 17: Robert Carl, Robert Allison Jr. 18: Barbara Allison, Vera Johnson, Patti Tucker 19: Robert Allison Sr., David Bordelon, Betty Spence, Lyndsay Shaw, 20: Kay Katzen, David Hennigan, Neil Hennigan, Shanna Rose, Sarah Reese, Kristina Nash 21: Colette Cotton, 22: Evelyn Pate, Edna Forsythe, Janet Wiggins 23: Barbara Crawford, Elizabeth Kenesson 25: Lillian Pool, Luis Ruiz 26: Lloyd Hendrix, Ryan Lowe 27: Susie Winn, Ashley Burkhalter 28: Todd Pounds, Shelby Ford 29: Faye Miller, Charles Soileau 30: Leeza Blanchette, Lucas Babin, Kirsten Spurlock 31: Jimmie Cooley, Viola Stoops, Truett McCollum, Kade Elliot



Patriotic Musical, Sunday June 28 AM

From Sea to Shining Sea, God's Promise for America.

Join us for a great day of thanks to God for the country in which we live. We will include patriotic hymns, moments of prayer, a guest musician (surprise), as well as the 20 minute musical. This day will be a change from our regular 4th of July service. I am excited to thank God through a new venue. Invite a friend and come join us as we sing. Rehearsals are short and the music is easily learned.

Calling All Men

Father's Day AM Worship, June 21, 2009

We will meet in the choir loft early that day and go over a hymn or two. We will sing and then join our families as we exit the loft! Let's fill every chair this day men!

Classic and Celebration Worship Pray for us as we gear up to offer two services beginning September 13. This is a one year opportunity to continue our efforts to meet the needs of folks in Tyler County. We will assess the service opportunities over a year and make some decisions about the validity of these options. Basically, it will continue if our church family and community responds favorably through worship in these venues. Our main objective is to continue seeking ways to grow our congregation through Worship, Bible study, and prayer. Pray for our musicians who will go the extra mile to lead in these services. They are the best! Do your part and get involved. It's really not about your ability but your availability. Your involvement makes a difference.

New Web Site Under Construction Our church is coming into the modern age slowly but surely. We are excited about our new web site that will be on line soon. We are currently taking photos for the site. You would be surprised to know how many people surf the web even here in Tyler County!

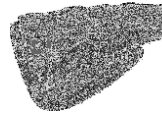
SPAM to Sing At Paramount Baptist Amarillo Our youth choir will lead in the AM worship services in Paramount Baptist Church July 18. This will be part of our youth trip to Glorieta, New Mexico. Your generous gifts help make all this possible. Thanks for being a church that loves young people! They are our future!

Choir Practice moves to New Time in June Our choir will rehearse from 6:30 to 7:30 beginning in June. This is an effort to help young families get home earlier on Wednesday night! Thanks for your support in a change that we believe will benefit all! Also, don't forget **NO CHOIR PRACTICE IN THE MONTH OF JULY!**

Mark

Grades 6-12

MISSION POSSIBLE: REACH SEEKERS – BUILD BELIEVERS

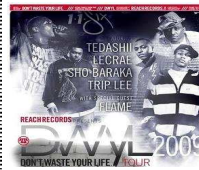


VBS: It all comes back to Jesus!
June 8-12

Open Gym: Beginning Tuesday, June 16 we will have open gym every Tuesday from 6 – 9 p.m. to play basketball, volleyball, x-box, wii, or just hang out. Join us.



Astros Tickets: We have a limited number of tickets available for the Tigers vs. Astros, Friday, June 26 at Minute Maid Park in Houston. Tickets are \$35. You can sign up in the main youth room in the FLC. You will be considered signed up for the game when we receive your payment for tickets. Deadline for sign up is Sunday, June 14.



Mall & Concert: Friday, July 10 we will spend most of the day at the Woodlands Mall and finish the day at the Don't Waste Your Life Concert at Living Word Fellowship in Houston. The concert features Lecrae, Trip Lee, Tedashii, Sho Baraka, and Flame.



FUGE 2009: We look forward to another great FUGE camp experience July 18-25, 2009 in Glorieta, New Mexico. On our way to camp the SPAM Choir has the privilege of leading worship at the Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo.

Lake House Retreat: August 14 & 15 we will enjoy a weekend retreat at the lake with recreation and intense Bible study. Stuart Henslee, Youth Pastor at Humble Area First Baptist, will lead the Bible study time and Adam McAbee, Youth Pastor at Huntington First Baptist, and his wife Kristen, will lead in worship.

Youth Revival: August 31 – September 2 we will have our first youth revival meetings in several years. Our focus will be holiness. Mike Satterfield, Sr. Pastor at The Church at Shelby Crossings in Birmingham, Alabama will preach each evening and the Micah Begnaud Band from Buna, Texas will lead in worship.

God Bless,
Todd

WEEKLY EVENTS AT FBC

SUNDAY

Church Library (FLC)	9:00-9:30 & 10:30-10:40 A.M.
Sunday School	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship Service	10:45 A.M.
Church Library (FLC)	4:30-5:00 P.M.
SPAM Rehearsal	4:50 P.M.
Evening Service	6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY

Library.....	10:30 A.M.-12:00 noon
Pray & Weigh	12:00 noon
Boy Scouts.....	7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Preschool Play Day (FLC).....	10:00 A.M.
Teacher's Meeting (Chapel).....	5:45 P.M.
Prayer Meeting (Chapel).....	6:15 P.M.
ISM (Grades 6-12).....	6:30 P.M.
Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	6:30 P.M.

CHANGES OR NEW EVENTS AT FBC

Friday July, 3:

Church office closed

Saturday July, 4:

Independence Day

Monday July 13:

Deacon's Meeting..... 6:30 P.M.

Saturday July 18:

Youth Trip (Glorietta)

Sunday July 19:

Business Meeting..... 7:00 P.M.

Saturday July 25:

Mission Trip (Eagle Pass)

*Please Pray
For*



Ralph Hatton
Ressie Taylor
Janet Dean
Leo Vinson
Nancy Phillips



**If you can't make it to S.S.
or church, watch the service
on cable channel 2.
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Church 10:45 A.M.
and 6:00 P.M.**

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Ross D. Shelton	ross@fbcwoodville.com
Mark D. Tolar	mark@fbcwoodville.com
Todd Pounds	todd@fbcwoodville.com
Kay Katzen	kay@fbcwoodville.com
Richard McCullough	richard@fbcwoodville.com

VITAL SIGNS

Bible Study

	<u>31st</u>	<u>7th</u>	<u>14th</u>	<u>21st</u>	<u>28th</u>
Preschool.....	26	30	19	17	
Children	23	21	24	17	
Youth	47	41	43	31	
Adults.....	140	149	142	140	
General Officers	4	4	5	5	
Total in House	240	245	232	212	
Bible Study	39	33	6	64	
Nursing Homes	39	39	39	39	
Total	318	317	277	315	
Av. Attendance to Date	289	289	288	290	

Financial Report thru May 24th

Annual Budget.....	\$679,452.00
Budget Required to Date.....	274,394.19
Budget Received to Date	257,603.68
Budget Required Weekly	13,066.39
Budget Received	41,826.81
Designated	3,856.00
Total.....	\$45,682.81

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Office
283-2588

Prayer Room
283-8557

Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Pastor	Ross D. Shelton
Minister of Worship & Music	Mark D. Tolar
Minister to Students	Todd Pounds
Sunday School Director	Richard McCullough
Pastor's Administrative Assistant.....	Kay Katzen
Education Administrative Assistant.....	Richard McCullough
Organist	Anne Garner
Pianist.....	Judy Pool
Director, Child Care Center	Linda Boyt
Building Supervisor.....	Orrill Davis
Chairman of Deacons	Sergio Ramos

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