

The Beacon

NEWS AND INFORMATION | FBC ALVARADO, TX
MARCH - APRIL 2019



Pastor's Ponderings

For those of you who are very time conscious, I have news! Soon after you read this newsletter, time change leaps upon us – on Sunday, March 10th – yes, it's here already! In our hectic-paced lifestyles, it is rough to lose an hour, isn't it? We try so hard to get (and stay) ahead of things.

A pilot announced to his passengers, "Folks, I have some good news and some bad news for you. The good news is that we are ahead of schedule! The bad news is that we are lost." That kind of describes many of us on our spiritual journey – we are ahead of schedule in the "stuff" we do, but may have lost our way in terms of where we are going.

Romans 13 instructs us, *...knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provisions for the flesh...* (Rom.13:11-12,14)

Over the next couple of months we seek to purposefully return to some basic spiritual disciplines and how to build them into our lives. These priorities of spiritual growth include Bible reading & study, meditation on Scripture, prayer, worship, and discipleship. Join us for this sermon series and for our Home Bible Study Groups that meet on Sunday evenings. Sign up now!

April ends with a "bang" – the explosive truth of the resurrection of Jesus! Join us for that celebration on Resurrection Day, April 21ST with music from our worship choir and an encouraging message.

I challenge you to earnest prayer, especially in the following ways:

*For our Associate Pastor of Worship Search Committee and for God's choice

*For our Deacon nomination process and for God's provision of a few new deacons

*For a nursery worker that would provide consistent service and teaching in our pre-school area

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Wade

Church Events

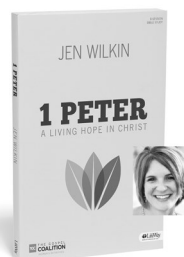
- March 1&2 Youth Guys/Girls Night
- March 3 Deacon's Breakfast 8:00
Women's Early Bird Breakfast 8:15
Youth Bible Study 5-7 PM
- March 6 Youth Camp Deposit #2
- March 10 Daylight Savings (Spring Forward)
- March 13 No Activities (Spring Break)
- March 17 Home Bible Study 6:00 PM
Youth Bible Study 5-7 PM
- March 24 Home Bible Study 6:00 PM
Youth Bible Study 5-7 PM
- March 29-31 D-Now 2019
- March 31 Church Wide Pancake Breakfast
Fellowship Hall 8:15-9:15 am
Home Bible Study 6:00 PM
Youth Bible Study 5-7 PM
- April 3 Youth Camp Deposit #3
- April 7 Deacon/Widows Luncheon 12:00 PM
Home Bible Study 6:00 PM
Youth Bible Study 5-7 PM
- April 14 Home Bible Study 6:00 PM
Youth Bible Study 5-7 PM
- April 19 Office Closed (Good Friday)
- April 20 Youth Fundraiser - Yard Sale / BBQ
- April 21 Easter Sunday (Special Choir Music)
Youth Bible Study 5-7 PM

Discipleship

Did you know that surveys continue to tell us people will come to church if only they have an invitation? And that people who might not come at any other time are open to being invited to church during the Easter Season? It's this realization that leads us to encourage you during the next few weeks to begin to seek out and pray for people to come hear the beautiful and life changing Gospel and experience the fellowship of our Church Family. In the weeks ahead we want to challenge all of our members to commit to invite at least one person to come hear the gospel this Easter season. To help you in this task, we will be providing a special invitation card for you to use as you invite people to attend at anytime but especially on Resurrection Sunday (April 21). The invitations will be available in the foyer of the church or in the church office. Also you may consider using text, email or social media as way to invite people. As we grow in the area of discipleship we begin to understand God's plan is for all people to hear and know the good news of Jesus and for each of them to begin their own discipleship journey. It all begins with a simple invitation to come and see.

Men's Mid-Week Study:

Embark with us on a journey of Faith with Ray Vander Laan; in which he explores different Biblical topics from on-site locations in Israel.



In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope...
1 PETER 1:3

JOIN US!

**Monday Morning
Ladies Bible Study**
Beginning
March 25th
at 10:00 AM
Books available \$13

**BEGINNING
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 20TH**



Spring 2019
Women's Bible Study



AT 6:30 PM AFTER THE FAMILY MEAL.



**JOIN US FOR SHORT STACKS
MADE BY THE STAFF
SUNDAY MARCH 31ST
8:30 AM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**VBS
2019
JUNE 3-7**



**BE
PRAYING
ABOUT
WAYS YOU
CAN SERVE**

Make plans now to attend 2019



RA & GA Summer Camps

July 23-27, 2019



Monthly payments can be made through-out the year at the church or through e-giving using the GIVE+ app. Please indicate RA/GA Camp and child's name on offering envelope or type students name when making payment online.

Cost is \$230.00

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3/3 | The Rebellion of God's People | (Youth/Adults) |
| U7 S1 | Joshua and Caleb | (Children) |
| 3/10 | The Promise of God's Provision | (Youth/Adults) |
| U7 S2 | The Bronze Snake | (Children) |
| 3/17 | The Blessings on God's People | (Youth/Adults) |
| U7 S3 | Balaam and Balak | (Children) |
| 3/24 | The Promise of God's Presence | (Youth/Adults) |
| U7 S4 | Moses' Farewell | (Children) |
| 3/31 | The Call to Courage | (Youth/Adults) |
| U8 S1 | Crossing the Jordan | (Children) |
| 4/7 | The Promise of Victory | (Youth/Adults) |
| U8 S2 | The Battle of Jericho | (Children) |
| 4/14 | The Provision of Peace | (Youth/Adults) |
| U8 S3 | Taking the Land | (Children) |
| 4/21 | Fear Gives Way | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Easter</i> | Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection | (Children) |
| 4/28 | The Pattern of Rebellion | (Youth/Adults) |
| U9 S1 | Israel's Unfaithfulness | (Children) |

Daycare News

MARCH - APRIL 2019

First Baptist Daycare has proudly been a Texas Rising Star provider since 2010. At that time we were a 2 star provider. In 2014 Texas Workforce Commission revamped the TRS program, increasing the requirements for each Star level. After our assessment in 2015 we qualified as a 3 Star provider. With a lot of prayer and a lot of hard work from everyone involved with First Baptist Daycare, we are very proud and thankful to say that our last assessment was July 31, 2018 and we are now a 4 STAR PROVIDER. We are also the only 4 Star provider in Johnson County. I've included some general information regarding the TRS program, how we qualify and what it means to the families in our community.

The Texas Rising Star program is "a voluntary, quality-based child care rating system of child care providers participating in the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program." TRS Certification is available to Licensed Center and Licensed and Registered Child Care Home providers who meet the certification criteria. The TRS Provider certification system offers three levels of certification (Two-Star, Three-Star, and Four-Star) to encourage providers to attain progressively higher certification requirements leading to a Four-Star level.

A Texas Rising Star (TRS) provider is a child care provider that has an agreement to serve Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)-subsidized children and that voluntarily meets requirements that exceed the State's Minimum Child Care Licensing (CCL) Standards. Across Texas, parents and families enroll their children into child care programs, including center-based and home-based programs. Numerous research studies have shown that at-risk children who attend higher quality child care programs are more prepared for school entry than children who do not attend quality child care programs.

Those providers that voluntarily achieve TRS provider certification, offering quality care that exceeds the State's Minimum Child Care Licensing Standards for director and staff qualifications, caregiver-child interactions, age-appropriate curricula and activities, nutrition and indoor/outdoor activities, and parent involvement and education, are in a better position to contribute to the early development of children. As providers progress through the levels of TRS provider certification, they contribute progressively more to the development of the children they serve on a daily basis.

Blessed to Serve,
Staff of First Baptist Daycare

Resurrection **April 21st**
Sunday

Sacrifice. Love. Death ... yet beautiful resurrection, hope, and renewal! Experience true renewal this Easter. Join us Easter Sunday at First Baptist Church as we celebrate the new life Christ gave through His death and resurrection. The Choir has prepared some beautiful music. We invite you to join us as we worship together!

Worship Ministry

Please continue to be in prayer for our Associate Pastor of Worship Search Committee as they seek to fill this position.

Committee members: J. Murdock, D. Stout, M. Wheat, K. Biggs, C. Perkins, and Alt. B. Tatum.

Current YTD (as of 2/28/18)

Giving \$71,402.15

YTD Giving Needed \$59,680.00

Current Building Loan Balance

\$170,536.22

EXCHANGE
Gaining Through Giving Up

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



MARCH 29-31

\$50 PER STUDENT

FBCA

STUDENT MINISTRY

DNow 2019



**P.O. Box 362
Alvarado, TX 76009**

**Phone: 817-783-5181 or
817-790-5181**

Fax: 817-790-8511

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Alvarado, Texas
Permit # 7**

**Bible Study
Sundays at 9:15 a.m.
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

**Worship
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

**www.fbcvarado.org
Email: office@fbcvarado.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/first
baptistchurchalvarado**

PROVIDING STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE CHRIST LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

Church Staff: Wade Taylor/*Senior Pastor* • Scott Arthur/*Associate Pastor ; Admin, Edu, & Children*
• Ethan Yates/*Associate Pastor of Students*

FBCA
STUDENT MINISTRY

Almost three months into the New Year, and I am still having a hard time remembering to write “2019” instead of “2018” when I am writing down the date. It has been a busy year so far personally, but God has been doing some amazing things in the student ministry here!

I want to give a special thanks to my volunteers who helped with our Steak Night fundraiser, as well as to many of you who participated and gave your time and money to this event! We were able to raise a significant amount of

money to help our students go to youth camp this summer. We are so grateful for our wonderful church family!

As for our upcoming events, I just want to mention two that are so important to us. Our DNow weekend is March 29-31 and the cost is \$50 per student. We are so excited and are looking forward to another incredible weekend with the students! If you are looking for ways to help, prayer is always the best place to start. Our students, speaker, band, and leaders are all in need of your prayers that weekend! You might also consider sponsoring a student financially, as many students would love the opportunity to attend, but can't quite afford the cost.

Youth camp will be here soon! The dates are June 10-15 and is \$250 per student. Many students have participated in our fundraisers and have already been given a good amount of money towards their camp cost. We know, however, that some students are still trying to decide whether or not they want to attend camp. With that being said, I'm asking you to consider praying for these students. Not only for the ones who are planning on attending, but also for the ones who are either contemplating camp, or who haven't even heard about camp yet but will soon. We want as many students as we can to hear about the amazing truths we find in God's Word! Consider praying and giving. Both are always needed!

As always, thank you for all you do! It means so much to me, as well as my team and our students!

In Christ,
Ethan Yates
Associate Pastor of Students