

The Beacon

NEWS AND INFORMATION | FBC ALVARADO, TX
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2020



Pastor's Ponderings

2020!!! We've anticipated it for years...it seemed so far away...but here it is!!!

"2020 Vision"

I have visited with our staff, church council, and deacons about a new vision statement for FBCA: **"A Church That Equips You To Be Faithful & Fruitful"**

Equipping is one of the chief purposes of your staff – even of the church as a whole, as Eph.4:12 says, "...to equip the saints for the work of ministry..." That ministry includes being faithful and fruitful.

Being Faithful means that we are applying what we know about God and from Scripture. It means that we are consistent in our Scripture reading & study, praying, attending worship, giving, outreach, and in our commitment to grow Jesus' church and God's kingdom.

Being Fruitful means that we are growing personally, producing more and more the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23). It means that we are also fulfilling the Great Commission (Mt.28:19-20) in bringing others to know Jesus as their Savior and discipling them to walk as a part of God's kingdom.

Good vision sees God for who He is...sees mankind for what we are and are to be...sees the church as how God designed it. If the spiritual life of FBCA depended solely on your vision (and your service), what kind of church would it be? Let's catch this vision together in 2020 and be all that God intends us to be!

Journey Through Mark

Join us each Sunday for great worship together and for the breaking of spiritual bread as we chew our way through and digest the wonderful gospel of Mark!

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Wade

Church Events

- Jan 1 Church Office / Daycare Closed
No Activities - New Years Day
- Jan 5 Deacon's Breakfast - 8:00 AM
- Jan 12 Youth Chili Fundraiser
- Jan 25 Youth/Adult 2 Game Night
- Jan 26 Committee Meetings
- Feb 2 Deacon's Breakfast - 8:00 AM
Super Bowl Party
- Feb 9 Youth Steak Dinner Fundraiser
6-8:30 PM
- Feb 16 Prayer & Business Meeting

— HERE'S WHAT'S —
GOING ON
SAVE THE DATES

Discipleship

For almost 50 years I have had near perfect 20/20 vision but a year or two ago I began to see things a little differently. This change was subtle at first and it seemed to be an occasional thing of really needing work hard to focus on something or hold the item a little farther away. From time to time, while reading, I might have to wear my wife's "readers" but I usually would just tell myself that I was tired and need to rest my eyes. My wife would truly enjoy teasing me about needing glasses, since she has wore them most of her life. She almost seemed excited about the possibilities of me needing glasses to correct my vision. To be completely honest I was pretty sure the vision problem had to do with spending too much time looking at computer and phone screens. Regardless of the cause of the change in my vision, I got hit right between the eyes one day when I went to renew my driver's license. So I am waiting and waiting and waiting then I step up to express my need to renew my license. The lady says "OK" and she take my license does some typing on the computer and then says "Mr Arthur, let's check your vision" so I look into the little box, she tells me to read off the letters. I do so. She pauses and then says look at that last letter again. I do, focusing very intently, and call out apparently the right answer. She says "Good job Mr. Arthur you passed!" I was feeling so good about myself and honestly relieved. I struggled with that last letter but I did it! Then she dropped a truth bomb. "Normally you fail the vision test if you miss two letters but I thought I would give you a second chance" then she dropped the second truth bomb..." You need to have your vision checked." It was a moment of uncomfortable relief. It was shocking to find out that my vision was worse than I believed and relief that grace was demonstrated on the official's part so that I could continue driving. But her message was loud and clear, a correction was necessary.

As followers of Jesus from time to time we need to have a spiritual vision test. To see if we are really being and doing what God asked of each of us. Our Pastor has laid out a new vision for the church that encourages us to be faithful and fruitful and I would like to encourage you with some truth and action steps as we look at the year ahead.

FAITHFUL: In the last couple of years there has been much research done about the benefits of regular attendance in Church services. Much of the research indicated that people of all ages are happier, better adjusted and even live longer from having practiced faithful attendance in Church. However there are many people who are crowding their lives with so many things that they are making choices to forfeit the very thing that can provide so much good in their lives. Faithful, regular, consistent Church attendance is good for you...so be here!

FRUITFUL: Thom Rainer does an incredible amount of research about the Church and its effectiveness. He shares that 70% of unchurched people have never been invited to church in their whole lives. Knowing this fact alone should bolster our confidence to invite people along with another statistic that states; 82% of the unchurched are likely to attend church if a friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member invites them. The sad news is that many Christians think that the unchurched are not interested in spiritual matters and Only 8% of regular church attenders believe that sharing their faith is "very important." according to a study by Baylor University. If you think like this... It's time to get your vision checked! The truth is that the odds are in your favor.

As we begin the new year and decade we need to have 20/20 vision of God's plan for his world. I encourage to start with these two action steps that will help you be faithful & fruitful. Be here and bring others with you. Two simple steps to help you see better.

Scott

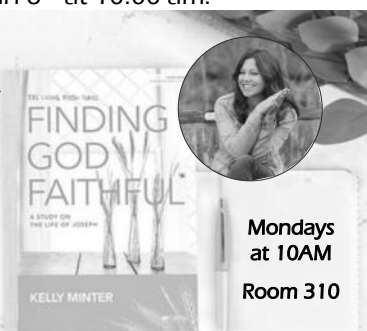
Women's Corner

WOW – Women of the Word:
During this 6 week study we will journey through the book of Philippians. Starting Wednesday, January 8th, with everyone meeting at the church at 6:30pm. There are several meeting days available; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday so please attend Wednesday the 8th to join a group and to find out where to go. We look forward to seeing you!

Coming In February: - Flourish discipleship groups – Weekly small group meetings centered on living life together while studying the Word of God. Please be in prayer regarding a small group that you would like to participate with and how you are growing in discipleship for God.

Join us as we go through Kelly Minter's 8-week Bible study
"Finding God Faithful".
Starting Monday Jan 6th at 10:00 am.

Trace the path of Joseph's life in the Book of Genesis to observe how God's sovereignty reigns, even in our darkest moments. Learn to recognize when God is working during periods of waiting, trust God's plan when life doesn't make sense, and rest in the sufficiency of His presence in every circumstance. His provision is enough, His presence is constant, and His purpose is unstoppable.



**Mondays
at 10AM
Room 310**

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

1/5	The Vision of Future Justice	(Youth/Adults)
U17 S1	Obadiah the Prophet	(Children)
1/12	The Return of Exiles	(Youth/Adults)
U17 S2	The Captive Came Home	(Children)
1/19	The Rebuilding of the Temple	(Youth/Adults)
U17 S3	The Temple Was Rebuilt	(Children)
1/26	The Promise of a Coming King	(Youth/Adults)
U17 S4	Zechariah the Prophet	(Children)
2/2	God Saves His People Through a Queen	(Youth/Adults)
U18 S1	Esther Saved Her People	(Children)
2/9	God Uses a Cupbearer	(Youth/Adults)
U18 S2	The Walls Rebuilt	(Children)
2/16	God Revives His People Through a Scribe	(Youth/Adults)
U18 S3	God's People Repented	(Children)
2/23	God Warns His People Through a Prophet	(Youth/Adults)
U18 S4	Malachi the Prophet	(Children)

Worship News

Greetings!

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas! Christ was born, Christ has risen, and Christ shall come again! The choir did a fantastic job singing "Christmas Alleluia" Sunday, December 22, and I count it a joy to have been able to work with them. The songs from our cantata have been ringing in my ears as I celebrated the birth of Jesus last week.

As we look towards 2020, I'm excited to pursue worshipping God at Alvarado in the way that God wants us to worship. There are several "rhythms" that we see in Scripture that outline how we can joyfully engage with God in worship. One of the most important of these rhythms is that of 'Revelation and Response'.

As God reveals Himself in His Word, we respond in with praise and adoration. This means that our singing, prayer, and more should be our reactions to who God is and what He has done. Instead of responding to sentimentality or the music itself, we respond to God! As 2019 ends, I look forward to worshipping with you in this way as we respond to the glory and greatness of our God in the new year.

In Him,

Caleb Norman - Associate Pastor of Worship

Daycare News

In a continuous effort to provide the highest level of child development we have been attending in-depth trainings on Conscious Discipline .

Conscious Discipline® is a way of organizing schools and classrooms around the concept of a School Family. Each member of the family- both adult and child-learns the skills needed to successfully manage life tasks such as learning, forming relationships, communicating effectively, being sensitive to others' needs, and getting along with others.

Conscious Discipline links social-emotional learning with behavior management for overall success. It is based on the principle that children learn best when they feel safe, loved, and calm. It is based on current brain research, child development information, and developmentally appropriate practices. Conscious Discipline® has been specifically designed to make changes in the lives of adults first. The adults, in turn, change the lives of children.

Our collective goal for our program is to build on the aspects we have implemented and continue to add more and insure all remaining staff receive Conscious Discipline training.

Christie Pippin
Director, FBCA Daycare



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2020

FBCA
STUDENT MINISTRY

Chili Lunch

MEAL SERVED BY YOUTH
DONATIONS ONLY · YOUTH CAMP 2020 FUNDRAISER

Sunday, January 12th
DIRECTLY AFTER SERVICE

Formal
Wear suggested

FBCA
STUDENT MINISTRY

Steak NIGHT

FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY FEB 9, 5:30-8:00 PM

\$15 PER MEAL
SERVED WITH YOUR CHOICE OF SIDES AND DESSERT

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT - TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

LET'S EAT DINNER TOGETHER!

Wednesday FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Wed. Night Meals are available 5:45-6:20 pm
Adults \$5, Kids \$3, Max \$15 per family

We will have at least one item on the menu from our Church Cookbook each week. Do you have a favorite? Cookbooks are available for \$10

JANUARY

Jan 8 - Pulled Pork

Jan 15 - Pancakes

Jan 22 - Kielbasa
"Old Country Supper"

Jan 29 - Cilantro Lime Chicken

FEBRUARY

Feb 5 - Tater Tot Casserole

Feb 12 - Mexican Chicken

Feb 19 - Smoked Sausage
& Potato Casserole

Feb 26 - Slow Cooked

CURRENT BUILDING LOAN BALANCE

\$ 131,684.90

Contribution Statements for 2019 will be available in the foyer January 12 & 19. You may also come pick them up Mon-Fri during regular office hours 8:30-5:00.

We are updating the
CHURCH DIRECTORY

There is still time to get your current directory photo updated! Please send photo to office@fbcalvarado.org or drop it by the office. Also, if you have moved or changed phone numbers please update those as well.



P.O. Box 362
Alvarado, TX 76009

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

Fax: 817-790-8511

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

Worship
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

www.fbcalthvarado.org
Email: office@fbcalthvarado.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchalvarado

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U.S. Postage Paid
Alvarado, Texas
Permit # 7

A CHURCH THAT EQUIPS YOU TO BE FAITHFUL & FRUITFUL

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



Howdy!

Christmas is over, but that doesn't mean any of the carols have stopped playing or ringing in my head. Songs such as 'Hark! the Herald Angels Sing' contain such rich theology, as it states:

"Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth."

Amen!

2020 also has a nice ring to it! We're looking forward to all God had in store for our student ministry here! Keep an eye out for upcoming youth camp fundraisers and service opportunities! Our first fundraiser will actually be a chili Luncheon after our morning service on January 12! We are only accepting donations! Let us provide lunch for you that day! (Camp is June 8-13 and the cost is \$260 per student!)

Also in January we will be having a Sunday Night Hangout on the 19th from 6PM-9PM and a game day on the 25th starting at 2PM.

On February 9th we will be having our third Valentine's Steak Dinner youth camp fundraiser!! Plates will be \$15 each and our tickets can be purchased from a student in the youth group starting on the 19th of January! This event goes from 6PM-8:30PM. We hope to see you there!

As always, I ask that you continue to pray for our students and our leaders here in our student ministry. It is a blessing to have a church family so committed to praying for one another! Thanks for all your support!

In Christ,

Ethan Yates

Associate Pastor of Students