

The Beacon

NEWS AND INFORMATION | FBC ALVARADO, TX
MARCH - APRIL 2020



Pastor's Ponderings

The times are changing – no, not just the dreaded semi-annual clock movement from and to Daylight Savings Time (on March 8th this year) – but times in general. Change comes to us, whether we are ready for it or not! You've heard it said, "If there is one constant in life, it's change." I think it comes from Greek philosopher Heraclitus that wrote, "Nothing endures but change." But that's not true!

More constant in life than change is the Changeless One we know as Jesus. Heb. 13:8 is often quoted and even misapplied: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. The verse speaks of God's immutability – His "unchangability," if you will.

Life is full of changes – like when a much-loved and faithful Associate Pastor of Students resigns or when some election results don't go the way you expected. But one thing does not change – the opportunity to know and have a relationship with One who is unchanging. Malachi the prophet penned it plainly for us: "For I the Lord do not change." (Mal.3:6)

It has been said that history repeats itself – it might just be because most of us don't listen the first time. Change causes us to listen when nothing else will. God often uses change to get our attention and cause us to look to Him.

Winston Churchill is reported to have said, "A fanatic is someone who can't change his mind and won't change the subject." Hey, believer, won't you please be a fanatic for Jesus? Don't change your mind about how important our unchangeable Savior is and don't change the subject when you talk to your friends, neighbors, or co-workers about the unchangeable One we are privileged to know.

Your Pastor, Wade

Church Events

- March 1 Deacon's Breakfast
- March 8 Daylight Savings Begins
- March 16-20 Spring Break
No Mid-Week Services
- March 27-29 D-NOW Weekend
- April 4 Ladies: Brunch & Baskets
10am-Noon FBC Fellowship Hall
- April 10 Good Friday
(Church Office / Daycare Closed)
- April 12 Resurrection Sunday

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

Discipleship

One question that everyone ask at some point in their lives is, "What on earth am I here for?" The issue of trying to find purpose in life is one that continues, in one form or another, for most people's entire lives and mainly because we try to find the answer to the question in places, things and even people that never give us the right answer. Life is short and seems shorter everyday as your get older. The average lifespan is currently about 79 years. That is 28,855 days. What if, in 40 days or less, you could fully understand why you are on this planet and what to do with all those days? That is exactly what 25 or so of us are doing right now as we study through the classic book by Rick Warren "The Purpose Driven Life". We are about half way through our 40 days but I would encourage you, if interested, to join us even now. We are having a wonderful time learning and sharing together. If you cannot join us now, there will be additional offerings of this study in the future as well some small group/home group gatherings of "purpose" happening soon.

Coming in April, we will be offering a great practical tool being made available to everyone on Wednesday night called "Share Jesus without Fear" by Bill Fay. Many people who are believers never share the good news of Jesus with anyone. This is an unfortunate truth that plagues far too many believers today and it is completely correctable. You would be making an extremely wise decision to invest just 4 Wednesday nights to become a confident presenter of the Gospel and experience the joy of being used by God to fulfil his mission.

The Gospel Project makes it to the New Testament! In the fall of 2018 we started a new Sunday Morning Bible Study Curriculum that takes us through a chronological study of the entire Bible in 3 years. We teach the same lessons from Children through adults (age appropriate considerations made for children) so that families can discuss what they are learning together. Since we are beginning the New Testament this is a great time to invite new people to join your Sunday Morning Study and remind some of your people that have not been attending to come back and join in again.

There are many things going on in area of Discipleship in our Church currently, The Women's Ministry has new studies and small groups and makes available several women's conferences to increase your understanding and encourage you in your walk with the Lord and even the Men have an opportunity coming this summer to be a part of Promise Keepers Men's Conference.

Discipleship is process of becoming more like Jesus. I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to do just that.

Scott

FBC Alvarado

Women's
Corner

"Flourish" small group women's studies have begun! As of February 26 we are only into the second week. There is still plenty of time for you to join us as we live life together studying God's word and sharing what we have learned with each other. There are three groups which you can participate in; Monday evening, Wednesday evening, or Thursday evening. If you have any questions about "Flourish" or where to meet at see Laura Taylor.

Brunch & Baskets - April 4th from 10 am to Noon. We will be making baskets for the nursing home residents and those that are unable to travel about easily. The items collected during the December CCCC event will be assembled and then delivered that afternoon. Your participation is essential for a wonderful fellowship time.

Daycare News

Everything is running smoothly for the Daycare. We have 95% enrollment and are fully staffed at this time and our finances are holding steady.

Our quarterly Board Meeting was productive as we discussed a few projects we want to pursue this year.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to minister to the families God has sent our way.

Christie Pippin - FBC Alvarado, Director

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

3/1 U19 S1	Jesus Is the Last Adam From Adam to Jesus	(Youth/Adults) (Children)
3/8 U19 S2	John, the Herald, Is Born John Was Born	(Youth/Adults) (Children)
3/15 U19 S3	Jesus, the Deliverer, Is Born Jesus Was Born - Jesus the Deliverer	(Youth/Adults) (Children)
3/22 U19 S4	Jesus is Dedicated Jesus was Dedicated	(Youth/Adults) (Children)
3/29 U19 S5	Jesus at the Temple Jesus as a Child	(Youth/Adults) (Children)
4/5 U20 S1	Jesus is Baptized Jesus' Baptism	(Youth/Adults) (Children)
4/12	Alive with Christ Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection	(Youth/Adults) (Children)
4/19 U20 S2	Jesus is Tempted Jesus' Temptation	(Youth/Adults) (Children)
4/26 U20 S3	John Points to Jesus John Pointed to Jesus	(Youth/Adults) (Children)

Worship News

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Notes from the Worship Pastor: The Rhythm of the Triune God

The choir is currently preparing for our Easter program (join us on Wednesday nights at 7:15!), and the worship team is continuing to faithfully serve each week. I'm humbled that I have been blessed to be included in FBC Alvarado's loving family and as a student at Southwestern Seminary. As I give thanks for these blessings and responsibilities, I recognize that they are given not by my own merit 'but through Christ in me' as the song says.

Songs like 'Yet Not I' remind me of the rhythms of worship that I've been learning to incorporate in Sunday services. I already mentioned one last month (the Rhythm of Revelation and Response), but in order to worship at all, there is a greater rhythm we must understand. The Rhythm of the Triune God and Man is foundational to how we understand worship.

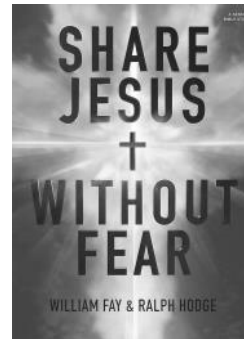
The communion of the Trinity was going on in eternity past—before the world was made—and it was perfect in every way. Perfect worship took place in the relationships between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit even as it continues to take place now. We were created so that we might partake in this worship through the Voice of the Father, the Message of Jesus, and the Call of the Holy Spirit. The Triune God invites us into communion and worship with Himself that is only possible through each part of the Trinity. Our response to God's invitation is through the Holy Spirit in us, by the sacrifice of Christ, to the Father Himself.

Without this rhythm, we begin to believe that worship is about us, or that we must control and direct it. Without the Trinity, we place a heavy burden on worship leaders and head towards Unitarianism and divisive arguments over style. My prayer for our church is that we will delight in the Rhythm of the Triune God and Man as we humbly respond to God's glorious grace in grateful worship.

-Caleb



The current Wednesday night Bible study by best selling author, Rick Warren answers the question: "What on earth am I hear for?" And here's a clue to the answer: "It's not about you...You were created by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense. It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. This study is currently offered as a small group on Wednesday nights now through the end of March. Additional studies will be offered for those who would like to participate in the upcoming months ahead. Be looking for more information in your Sunday Morning Bulletin.



Ever wish you had an easy way to express to others the joy you've found in Christ? Ever regret not sharing the simple Truths because you were afraid? If you answered yes to either, you are not alone. **Share Jesus Without Fear** can help you learn practical helps to present the compelling message of God's saving grace from author Bill Fay.

Share Jesus Without Fear equips you to communicate your faith in Jesus with confidence and without fear! This easy-to-use, relational approach to witnessing teaches that you cannot fail in sharing your faith if you depend on the power of God for the results. Discover ways to guide a witnessing conversation without fear of failure or rejection. Join us as we start this study on **Wednesday Nights beginning April 1st**.

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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

MARCH	APRIL
March 4 - Spaghetti	April 1 - Baked Ham
March 11 - Hamburgers	April 8 - Taco Salad
March 18 - Spring Break	April 15 - Lasagna
No Services	April 22 - Breakfast (Biscuits & Gravy)
March 25 - Enchilada's	April 29th - Pulled Pork Sandwiches

CURRENT BUILDING LOAN BALANCE
\$ 124,040.90

If you have not picked up your contribution statement for 2019 you may come by the office anytime during our regular office hours Mon-Thurs 8:30-5:00 or Friday 8:30-1:00.



**First
Baptist Church
Alvarado**

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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.

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Email: office@fbcalthvarado.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchalthvarado

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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!

By now, most of you have probably already heard the news that Krysta and I will be moving to Nashville, Tennessee at the end of March. God has opened doors for us, and I have been given the opportunity to pursue a career that includes both recording and writing music. While we are excited for our upcoming journey, we are saddened to leave such an incredible church family. Words could never express how much this church

family has meant to us, and we can't ever say thank you enough for all that you've done.

My last Sunday as your Student Pastor will be March 29, the closing day of our DNow Weekend. Leaving on any day was going to be difficult, but I am glad that I can finish my work here on a student ministry-related weekend. The dates for the event are March 27-29 and the cost is \$50 per student. Please be in prayer for this event; for the students as well as the volunteers. Also, please prayerfully consider sponsoring a student financially, as many will want to participate but cannot afford to!

As I close, I want to share how difficult it is to write this article, as the purpose of writing these is partly to share our future plans with the church regarding the student ministry. I cannot share that information, because I do not know what lies ahead. I do, however, know who holds that future and am confident that He will lead and direct in the best interest of His church for the furthering of His Kingdom. I have been blessed with an incredible support system during my tenure here, and I trust that this support will continue for the students in my absence!

Please be in prayer for Krysta and I during this bittersweet moment in our lives, and also for your church and its leaders during the process of maintaining a Christ-centered student ministry for years to come.

With great love and thanks in Christ,

Ethan Yates

Associate Pastor of Students