

# A Church that equips you to be "Faithful & Fruitful."



I read recently about a man hurriedly pushing his lawn mower around the yard, trying to finish up the mowing job before supper. His 6yr old walked up behind him and, without asking, stepped in front of his dad, placing his hands on the lawn mower handle. Knowing that his son wanted to help, the dad quit pushing. The mower quickly slowed to a stop. Instead of saying, "Get out of here kid. You're in my way," he said, "Here son, I'll help you." The man bowed his back, leaned forward, and walked spread-legged to avoid stepping on his son. The mowing continued, but much slower and a bit less efficient than before, because the boy was "helping" him. Suddenly, it hit him -- this is the way His Heavenly Father allows him to "help" build His kingdom. The man pictured God is at work seeking, saving, and transforming the lost, and himself with weak hands & arms "helping."

That event reminds me of 2Cor.4:7 -- *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.* Our Father could do all the work by Himself -- he doesn't need us to accomplish His will. But God chooses to graciously stoop and allow us to be His co-laborers -- to have the privilege to minister with Him -- to make His name known and His gospel widely spread. It's not what we bring to the equation that makes the difference - - we're just clay pots -- it is the treasure of the gospel that He pours out of our lives that makes the difference.

As you read this, Laura and I are in Kenya, fellowshipping with, ministering to, and equipping church leaders, pastors, and wives to more effectively reach their community and help their people grow. God is here doing all that He is doing -- we are just here as clay pots, with our hands under His hands, co-laboring with Him. Thanks for praying for our safety and success in letting God do His work in lives.

Where can you join God in His work ministering to needs in FBCA?

Where can you join God in His work ministering to those outside of the church walls?

Don't be afraid -- our Heavenly Father wants to use ordinary clay pots like you.

Christie Sampson begins service as our Interim Children's Director. Pray for her and now would be a great time to volunteer to help! Pray for our search committee as they work to bring a person before you to direct this vital ministry.

—Wade

I can remember about a year ago I had too much caffeine before bed and I couldn't sleep. On a whim I decided to search where some of my "heroes" of Christian music are now and what they are doing now, some 30 years later. I was happy to see several of the ones I had kinda kept up with were still going strong in the faith, producing music that is uplifting and God honoring, with a depth that shows a lifetime of growth. However, it was disappointing to see that some had fallen away. Some had just fallen off the map. I couldn't find much about their lives at all. But a few had walked away completely causing me to question everything I had believed about them so many years ago. My heart sank as I remembered what an influence these artists were in my walk with the Lord when I was a new believer.

Fast forward to today. It seems our airways are flooded with music that bears Christ's name, but rarely speaks of the sacrifice He made to redeem the lost. So much of what I hear seems to be self centered, not focused on the Lord. Unfortunately, these artists are extremely successful by the world's standards, while a lost and dying world continues with blinders on, not seeing their need for a savior. What a tragedy!

It makes me think about Acts 17. We all should be good Bereans and check everything we hear from the pulpit/ stage against God's word, everything we hear that bears the label "Christian." It may tickle our ears, but if it doesn't square with scripture, it doesn't deserve space in our hearts. My prayer is that everything that is heard from our platform is from the Lord, completely congruent with God's word and His heart. I challenge you as I challenge myself, search His word to make sure of what we allow space in our hearts.

-Travis Sampson, Associate Pastor of Worship

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

- Aug 7 No Mid-Week Children's Activities  
Children's Workers Meeting 6:30pm
- Aug 11 Youth Parent Meeting—after service
- Aug 14 No Mid-Week Children's Activities
- Aug 17 Youth End of Summer Party—Lake Whitney

### FINANCIAL UPDATE: (8/1/2024)

Current Checkbook Bal	\$33,835.34
Designated Funds Bal.	\$11,951.48
Total Available Funds	\$21,883.86
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2024 Giving Received	\$158,490.70
2024 Giving Needed	\$191,141.70

**JESUS  
LOVES the  
little  
CHILDREN...**

and so do we at



Please be in prayer for our search committee members **Clint Barnett, Dianna Roseberry, Kelly Baxter & Carrie Perkins**, as they prayerfully seek a Children's Director / Adult Education candidate.

Dear FBCA Family,

As we approach the beginning of the school year, the FBCA daycare is all abuzz!

Enrollment is growing steadily. We have only 16 available openings (6-2 year olds; 6-3/4 year olds; 4-school age). We anticipate that to change as the start of school approaches. Representatives from the daycare will participate in the Back-to-School Bash for Alvarado ISD to recruit more students. We will be handing out children's activity books and promotional flyers.

We have a new webpage for the daycare! Simply go to the church website at <https://www.fbcavarado.org/> and select the "Daycare" link. Please check it out and let us know if you have any suggestions.

We are still in need of a few teachers and substitute teachers. If you know anyone who may be interested, they can go to the website for information on how to apply.

A few weeks ago, we applied for a grant to secure an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the church and daycare as ours has expired. We were awarded the partially funded grant. Our discounted price is \$1119.59. If you or your Sunday school class would like to donate to this cause, we would be able to have this life-saving device readily available to our church and daycare family. Please see Laura Estes if interested.

Daycare Prayer requests:

1. In order for the daycare to be comfortably solvent, we need all available openings filled with children. Please join us in prayer that God will bring students to us so we can teach them more about Him.
2. We need qualified teachers to help us to minister to our families. Please pray that God will send us the right people to join our FBCA Daycare family.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are so blessed by our FBCA family!

May God continue to richly bless you all!

Laura Estes  
Interim Director  
FBCA Daycare



New Sunday Morning Bible Study Curriculum will start September 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be moving to "Explore the Bible", you can access the new curriculum on ministry grid the same as before. If you have any questions please ask your Bible study leader or come by the office anytime.

<https://ministrygrid.lifeway.com/#/easy-link/QXTC>

**X EXPLORE  
THE BIBLE.**



As we prepare for school to be in full swing the youth is planning some exciting events this year. Just to list a few:

- Annual chili cookoff (September 15)
- Youth night of worship (October)
- D-now (January 31-February 2)

**FBCA**  
STUDENT MINISTRY

We are excited for this coming school year. The things listed are just a few if you want a full calendar go to the youth room at the church or check out our Instagram and Facebook page. As always making sure the youth have the ability to grow with Christ is vital. Though we will have fundraisers, donations are always welcomed. If you want to know what specific is needed contact TJ, through the church.

Our youth are excited to grow and share the Gospel. Support them in every way and every manner.

-TJ Arango