

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ALEDO | MARCH 2017

## **Pastor Luke's Perspective**

"Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored..." 2 Thessalonians 3:1

I was sitting in my office yesterday, reading a book someone gave me about Israel, when someone knocked on my door. Marty South had been in the sanctuary praying, and came to talk to me afterwards. Much of our conversation was about prayer. We also agreed that the Lord is moving in mighty ways in our church, and shared the excitement of what God is going to do in the near future. I have these conversations with a lot of people. Many people I talk to these days have a sense that God is getting ready to do something extraordinary in our church. It seems we are on the verge of something big. I have felt that many times over the last ten years at First Baptist. I am always amazed that God seems to pay so much attention to our little community, but I'm so grateful that He does. We constantly see God working in people's lives through this ministry. Much of what He does is probably in spite of our efforts much more so than because of our efforts. I still agree with Paul when he asks for prayers that the message of the Lord would spread rapidly and be honored. That is our heart's desire. The question becomes, how does it spread and how is it honored? And the answer is multi-faceted, but the way God chose to spread His message in the past was through people. I have a role as pastor to preach and teach God's Word as accurately as I can. That's a great honor, and it humbles me to be able to do so every week. However, that's only

a small part of how the message will spread rapidly and be honored. The other part is how all of us speak, live and treat others. In the past few years I've helped a few people move. In most of those cases the moving process only took a couple hours because so many people helped. Imagine on the other hand moving your entire home all by yourself. You might be able to do it, but it would take forever. The rapid spread of the Gospel is the product of many people sharing it with everyone they come into contact with. That leads to the last part. The part about it being honored. Honor is earned. It is earned through consistency and authenticity. It's not enough to simply proclaim the Gospel, we have to authentically live our Christian lives privately and publicly. When people see our faith is real, it is honored. One of the greatest criticisms of Christianity has always been the hypocrisy people see from Sunday morning at church to Monday morning at work. And so, I believe God is moving in our church. He will move in even more profound ways in the days to come. And we all have the great honor of being part of what He's going to do. It begins with prayer, so please pray for all that God wants to do in our church. whether that's the kids and youth ministry, the preaching, the building project, missions, or your own personal witness. In Christ, Pastor Luke

## **Church Events**

 March 3 \*Youth All Night Out-6pm-6am

#### • March 4

\*Men's Ministry Council – 7:30am \*Women's Ministry Think Tank – 9am

March 7
 \*Deacon Meeting – 6:30pm

#### . . .

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- March 12 \*Trustee Meeting-11:30 \*Nursing Home Services-1:30pm
- March 17
   \*Women's "Better Together"-6:30pm
- March 19
   \*Hearts at Home Registration Deadline
- March 20-29
   \*Pastors Luke & Seth on Holy Land Tour
- Just a reminder First Baptist's 150th Celebration is June 10th & 11th, 2017!

# **Collide Youth**

I want to tell you about a student God has brought to us recently in the bus ministry. I love to see how God works and I'm always amazed when He chooses us to love on young people.

There was a young, 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl who started coming to prayer group on Tuesday's at MCIS. One day, a few months ago she came up to me after prayer group and said, "Heather, I want to go to Collide." I said, great! We'll find you a ride and get you there! Some great folks at First Baptist stepped up to the plate and started picking up her for Collide. Soon after that, I found out she had a younger sister who could go to Kids Club and so she started coming each week to learn about Jesus, along with her sister. I met with their parents and got to know them more.

This young 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl had only been coming to Collide for a couple of weeks when she told me she wanted to start coming to church, so we started picking up her and her sister for church each week. I love the hugs I get from her little sister every time I see her on Sunday. I love seeing their smiles and their excitement to go to church so they can learn about God.

I'm thankful for a church that has stepped up and bought a bus for the youth and children's ministry. It has been put to great use. In fact, we maxed it out on Wednesday evenings! Therefore, we decided to start renting a bus and driver through Johannes, and this has proven to be a fruitful investment. Each week, these two young girls, along with about 22-30 other students (depending on the week) hop on that big yellow school bus to come and learn about Jesus at Kids Club and Collide. These are students that might not be at church had it not been for the bus ministry.

Would you pray with me for God to connect more of these students to the church body for Sunday morning worship? My prayer is that we would get to the point where we need a school bus to pick up kids for church on Sunday mornings too. Ask God to send us students who need a safe place to land. Ask God to show you what your role might be in loving on these youth. As the bus ministry grows, we'll need more leaders and volunteers. We'll need people invested in these students' lives if we truly want to see them transformed from bus kid into fully devoted follower of Jesus.

We'll also need people to give lots of hugs too as we extend God's love to a community of teenagers who need to see God's love in action.

In Christ's Love, Heather Q.



## **Upcoming Youth Events**

Parent Informational Meeting for CIY Summer Conferences -Sunday, March 12th - 11:30am In the Collide Room

Summer Conference and Mission Trip Fundraiser Comedy Sportz and Taco Dinner fundraiser" Sunday April 23rd, 5:30-8pm at FBC.



## **Summer Conferences**



SUMMER CIY CONFERENCE REGISTRA-TION now open online only until Sunday, April 2nd. Cost is \$200 for JH Camp- July 30th-Aug 2nd and \$225 for HS Camp July 10-15th. There are 12 students spots available for each trip. You can only register for the trip ONLINE. Please contact Heather for financial assistance and go to <u>http://</u> <u>www.firstbaptistaledo.com/registration-hs-</u> <u>conference/</u> for High School Conference and <u>http://</u> <u>www.firstbaptistaledo.com/registration-jh-</u> <u>conference/</u> for Junior High Conference.

# Volunteer & Giving Information

Date	Nursery	Kids Worship
3/5/17	Betty Williams, Cathy Griswold, Emily Baldwin & Katie Loving	Tina McCaw, Lisa & Shay Litwiler & Mollie Dunn
3/12/17	Betty Williams, Ronda Moffitt, Vivian Kopp & Veronica Moffitt	Sarah Kellett, Shannon Sedam, Paul Hedrick & Mollie Dunn
3/19/17	Betty Williams, Marcy, Rusty & Shaylee Smet	Terry & Stephanie Leonard, Denise Bowker & Mollie Dunn
3/26/17	Betty Williams, Sharon Moffitt, Dianne Hessman & Bryce Moffitt	Felicia Bonynge, Cimion Norwick,

If you are unable to serve the day you are scheduled in the Nursery, please make arrangements in advance to switch with another person on the schedule. Please contact **Ronda Moffitt**, **Nursery Coordinator**, for all concerns on her Cell:(309) 371-3021. Thank you! **Kids Club Worship**—PLEASE come to the Fellowship Hall by **10:00am** so you can help & prep. \*Please continue to let me know if you are switching with somebody. I have it set up so there are two adults plus myself helping at a time. Please do not switch with a couple if you are an individual. Thank you so much for your service! ~Mollie. If you need to contact Mollie about Kids Club Worship, call –309-371-6962.

### Finance Board Member of the Month for March – Lisa Litwiler Trustee of the Month for March: - Josh Dixon Prayer Team Assignments:

March 5– Kay Hedrick, MaryLee Finch, Peggy Johnson & Ron Moffitt March 12– Jeanne Barber, Barb Bryant & Kurt Diesch
March 19 – Deb & Dave VanderHeyden, Troy Riddell, & Laurie Louck March 26 – Tina McCaw, Jason & Shelly Snyder, & Vickie Korns

DATE	1/29/17	2/5/17	2/12/17	2/19/17
8 AM	74	82	99	76
10 AM	292	227	246	259
TOTAL	366	309	345	335
Date	1/29/17	2/5/17	2/12/17	2/19/17
Current Expense	\$6,887.02	\$10,238.00	\$6,907.09	\$12,205.94
Designated Giving	\$6,394.87	\$1,294.53	\$860.00	\$774.42
Total	\$13,281.89	\$11,532.53	\$7,767.09	\$12,980.36

## Weekly Attendance & Offering

\*\*Weekly Current Expense offering needed to meet 2017 budget - \$9,557.25

# Kids Club

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Every year we celebrate Easter as a church family and we make a big deal about it because it is a BIG deal! If Jesus were just born and then He just died, He would be like every other person. But as most of you know, Jesus had a job to do and that was to be the perfect sacrifice on the cross for our sins. If Jesus hadn't died for our sins, we would be lost to God forever. But because God loves us so much, he gave His Son so that we could have life in Him and through Him. And that is exciting news!

## **Upcoming Events**



We have a few special Easter events coming up!

#### Kids Club Sunday, Palm Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>) @ 10:15am

All kids who attend Sunday School & Kids Worship (prek -4th gr) and Kids Club (pre -k-5th grade) will be bringing in the palms & singing at the beginning of the 10:15am Worship Service on Palm Sunday (April 9th). Kids are asked to join us for a final practice in the sanctuary at 9am. If they cannot attend practice, please have them in the Fellowship Hall area 10am ready by to sing. \*Families and all kids ministry volunteers are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall after service for pizza, salad, & Rootbeer floats.

\*We encourage parents to attend this program but if you are unable to and your kiddos still want to come, please contact Leslie Connell at 309-738-2268 no later than Wednesday, April 5th. Seats are limited.

Kids Easter Event: Good Friday (April 14<sup>th</sup>) 9am-Noon

All kids ages 3-5th grade are invited to our annual Kids Easter Event on Good Friday, April 14th from 9am-Noon. Kids will have fun with hands-on stations while learning about the true meaning of Easter. Kids will also enjoy a fun egg hunt so make sure you mark your calendars! \*Parents are welcome to join their kids during this fun event. \*Kids must be age 3 on the day of the event. \*\*There will be an egg hunt for parents to bring their 1 & 2 year olds from 9-9:20 in the back yard of the church. If your child needs a ride for this event, please indicate this when registering for this event on our church website at www.firstbaptistchurch.com or call the church office at 582-7812.

## Want to help us out for the Kids Easter Event?

We need lots of candy to fill our Easter eggs. A basket will be placed in the church foyer by Kids Corner. All donations are appreciated. No candy with nuts, please!

We want kids to not just know a bunch of Bible stories and how to make good choices, we want kids to KNOW Jesus and desire to live for Him. This is why we offer programs like Sunday School, Kids Club, Kids Worship, and special events to get kids ready to make a life-long decision for Jesus.

It's never too late for you and your kiddos to jump into our church family! What kids are learning at church will have a greater impact if their parents are making Jesus a priority in the home. We invite all ages to keep growing and learning together. We never graduate from church or from needing Jesus and FBC has lots of studies for youth and adults to grow, too. Check them out in the church foyer or on our website at <u>www.firstbaptistaledo.com</u>. ~ Mollie



# Women's Ministry

**Women's Ministry Think Tank**—All women are invited to the March Women's Ministry Think Tank meeting. The meeting is on the 1st Saturday of the month. Join us Saturday, March 4th at 9am in the Enon Room.

## New women's event! "Better Together at FBC"

The Women's Ministry is excited to introduce this new event. Have you been wanting to get to know the other ladies at our church better? Are you ready to make some new friends, have fun laughing together, and sharing what God has been doing in your life? Well that is what "**Better Together at FBC**" is all about; building community and connecting women to Jesus.

Our "**Better Together at FBC**" events will simply be **casual conversations** (with food of course) held in various host homes throughout the year. Watch the church announcements for upcoming events, make sure you have the First Baptist app on your phone and be sure to like the Women's Ministry Facebook page (@firstbaptistwomensministryaledo) to stay up to date on all of our events and classes.

When you come to a Better Together event, you'll learn about other women's walks in the faith as they **testify about what God is doing** in and through them, you'll have opportunity to share your own journey (if you'd like), we'll be addressing current life issues and you'll receive godly encouragement. We'd really like to get to know **you** better too!

As with all of our women's events, confidentiality is the rule. What is said there, stays there. Right ladies?

Our **first event** is scheduled for **Friday**, **March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** at Sheri Olson's home (720 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Aledo). Bring a snack to share (if you'd like - this is not a requirement as we generally have plenty to eat) and come join us as we give God glory for what He is doing.



Who's been to Hearts at Home in the past? Did you not love it??

Well, it's that time of year again! This refreshing conference is for ALL women in ALL seasons of life. The conference is in Peoria, IL on April 21st and 22nd. The church is graciously covering <u>\$55</u> per lady towards registration. Registration forms are on women's ministry table in the foyer. There is a one day or a two day option. Please see registration packet for details.

Registration packets and fees are due by March 19th. If you have questions, see or contact:

Felicia Bonynge(937)620-2574 Brooke Loving (309) 738-2319 or Crystal Clark (309)339-5586



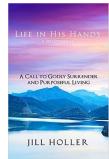


First Baptist will be taking a group to Buchanan, MI on Nov. 3rd-5th, 2017 for a women's "Thrive" Conference. Cost is \$160 and covers lodging and meals

for the weekend. Conference contacts are Brooke Loving (309) 738-2319 and Jenny Dixon (309) 373-0104, please let them know if you are interested in attending and they will register you. More info can be found at www.lifeactioncamp.com/thrive.

**J.O.Y. Circle**—(Jesus, Others, Yourself) All ladies are invited to JOY Circle. We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month. In March, we will meet Tuesday, March 28th at 7pm in the Enon Room.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY		HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Jason Snyder	March 1	
Molly Dixon		
Renee Diesch	March 2	
Joshua Norwick	March 3	
Amy Boswell		
Caleb Miller	March 4	
Betty Williams	March 5	Joe & Brooke Loving
Gary Dellitt	March 6	
Pam Ricke	March 7	
Rhonda Carlson	March 8	
Justin Ewing		$\sim$
Robby Young		
John P. Kelly	March 10	
Penny Dixon		
Katie Hoerner	March 11	
Bill McKinley	March 13	
Bill Smock		
Emily Hessman	March 14	
Kason Loving	March 15	
Lance McCaw	March 16	
Ed Kelly	March 17	Mick & Laurie Louck
Lynn Finch		
Cody Ruggles	March 19	
Alex Ruska		
Johna Dellitt	March 20	
Susan Potthast	March 21	
Chris Schultz		
	March 22	Ed & Gerry Kelly
Clint Huffstutler	March 23	
Marion Hay		
Andrea Mercier	March 24	Steve & Peggy Johnson
Heather Quiroz		
Arianna Rentfro		
Walt Finch	March 26	
Anita Parkinson		
Nadine Coulter		
Paige Garner		
Drue Baugher	March 29	



### **RECOMMENDED READ**

As a new addition to the FBC Newsletter we will periodically recommend a "good read" to help you on your faith walk. Our first recommendation has a tie to our church. Read more about Jill Holler and her new devotional, A Life in His Hands. If you are interested in reading Jill's new book, we have several copies in the church office for \$7 each or you can purchase them on Amazon.com

Do you long for a deep connection with God? One that goes beyond the surface and deep into His heart? Do you long for a purpose that transcends the fading glory of this world and touches the eternal things of His Kingdom. *Life in His Hands* is a call to seek the heart of God through the pages of His living word and discover the abundant life of faith that unleashes the full power of God s sovereign love and power in your life.

These devotional readings are a testament to the unstoppable power of God's word to change a person's heart, mind, and actions. They are an authentic voice of truth and love that offers strength to those struggling to gain victory over sin and the challenges to their faith. Readers will discover the amazing, life-giving nature of Scripture, which elevates the voice of God above all other competing voices in this world and brings peace to the soul.

*Life in His Hands* offers eternal purpose to those seeking a deeper relationship with God. Be awakened through the power of a living, active God. Find out how to live with purpose and passion through prayer and surrender.

Jill Holler (the daughter of our own Doug and Diane Hessman) grew up on a farm in western Illinois, enjoying a life of running free through the pastures during the day and gazing at the countless shimmering stars at night. All around her, she could see the work of God's creative hand, and she knew He was real. Yet it wasn't until years later that she would discover the abundant life of faith that comes from taking hold of the living power that resides in God and His word.



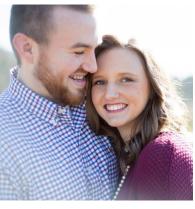
After struggling to find purpose and meaning for much of her young adult life, she found that it resides simply--yet powerfully--in Jesus Christ, her God and Savior.

## **Men's Ministry**

## **General Announcements**



Men's Ministry Council Meeting Set— We will meet Saturday, March 4th at 7:30am in the Enon Room.



# Brídal

## Shower!!

The ladies of the church are cordially invited to a Bridal Shower for Kate Baugher (the future Mrs. Matt Norville) on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am at First Baptist Church in the new

addition. Light refreshments will be served. Kate is registered at Target, Bed Bath and Beyond, and Crate and Barrel. RSVP by calling or text Jenny Dixon @ 309-373-0104.



What: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study Where: Every Sunday at 7am at FBC in Fellowship Hall Cost: FREE! Who: All men are invited to attend. No need to RSVP, just show up hungry!

Questions: See Pastor Luke or Pastor Seth



Online Giving Now Available at First Baptist Church! Use the QR Code below for easy access or

### **Minute for Mission From Jenny Dixon**

Hi all, I'm Jenny Dixon. I am a member of First Baptist Church, a member of the mission board and a part-time employee of the church. My husband Josh and I have 4 kids, live in Aledo and have just returned from our 3<sup>rd</sup> mission trip to El Salvador. First off, I would like to thank all that helped contribute to the trip in any way. From monetary donation to prayers, we appreciate all the support the church body provides. This trip the church took 14 adults to El Salvador to minister to children and adults. We have a faithful partner in Rigoberto our missionary, who helps coordinate our trip and place us where the gospel needs to be spread. We visited 4 churches and 3 schools and spoke to over 500 children and countless adults. We were also able to do a few work projects and visit some of the churches that have been using the support

from First Baptist to update their facilities. These projects range from tearing out walls and making more room for worship to installing real restrooms (Can you imagine not having one!!) The progress and changes are a blessing to all those in the communities we serve. I can't wait to share all the exciting things our mission work does! Stay tuned for monthly updates on the church's mission work!



# A word from Pastor Seth



**History:** This all started during the Merco Serve that our youth participated in last year. The Merco board wanted to bless a family in our church. You may know the family they are Jack, Bev Applebee and Alex Ruska. Jack is a double amputee, having recently lost both of his legs.

**The Pause:** The board considered building a small home, buying property for sale, and Habitat for Humanity. The youth mission trip was fast approaching and the family renovation was put on pause because of all the hoops and complications.

**The Wait/The Prayer:** In the meantime, it was then passed to me (Seth) to take the lead on this project. I can honestly say I thought it would die in my hands. I wanted to help, but did not know where to start. I read their prayer requests asking for

help. Bev asked for blankets to cover one wall in their trailer that needed insulation. This drew my attention back to the need. They have one wall that is covered with a tarp, paneling and blankets. They asked for blankets because the wind was still getting through. You can see this picture below.



**The Answer:** I spoke to Pastor Luke about the desire that I had to help and questions about how to begin. Pastor's wise direction was to call 5 people and ask them to pray for two weeks. During those 2 weeks, God answered with a huge movement. Within the week of prayer someone donated \$3000 to the Ruska family fund. We then sent the Ruskas to local trailer parks to submit applications. They found a trailer for \$500 but it needed renovation. I called the Park Manager and explained what we are trying to do for this family. Hauck Homes Board voted to give them the trailer for \$1 and to allow our church into the park to revitalize the trailer. I received a phone call saying that the Park is willing to wave lot rent for a month or more while we work on this trailer.

**The Call:** Church will you help me in serving this family of our church. There are so many needs that I would use the entire newsletter but please check out our Website—firstbaptistaledo.com to get the list. We have many ways to help but please start with prayer. Ask the Lord to open the hearts of the people to serve from their gifted areas and fill the need. ~ Pastor Seth

# Ruska's Renovation

Photos of the Jack, Bev & Alex's current home





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			11am - Vashti Bible Study With	10:30am - Prayer at Brookstone	9:15am - Home School Co-Op @	9 am - Women's Ministry Think
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## PRAYER AND CONCERNS—IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PRAYER CHAIN PLEASE CALL: THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 309-582-7812 <u>HEALTH & WELL BEING</u>

Family of Shirley McCormick, Bud Schaefer, Matt Gates, Family of Lori Hodge, Family of Donnie Hunt, Theresa Gowdy, Family of Darlene Mayhew, Barbara McPhinney, Daryl Kadel, Janet Rind, Jennifer Miller, Rocky Svoboda, Keiley Stoterau, Herb Bowker, Family of Everett Moreland, Family of Bill Bewley, Helen King, Richard Rockhold, Family of Danny Lloyd, Family of Darlene Mayhew, Marilyn Zielke, Stephanie Murphy, Sherry Brown, Bettie Monts, Vickie & Terry Kondora, Nadine Coulter, Darla Ball, Megan Klauer, Sandi Williams, Paige Johnson, Scott Yager, Maddie Wells, Martha Bernridge, Donna Fisk, Betty Adams, Mary Rillie, Kathleen and Dennis Carlson, Matt Martin, Allen & Mary Jo Retherford, Donna & Brian Bushnell, Tiffanee Lloyd, Howard Andress, AJ Artus, The youth of our church & community, Vickie Korns, Larry Bull, Charlotte Thompson, Marc, Doris, Elizabeth and Alicia Dewey, Brenda Leng, Deb Corson, Karen Burnham, Connie Decounter, Susie Hall, Henry Leichty, Mercer County Jail Ministry, Jim Eager, John Atkinson, Merrick LeClere, Stew Klink, Vickie Anderson, Sharon McCormick, Judy Leighty, Jeannene McNall, Marilyn Staley, Gay Youngblood, Marilyn Heine, Bob Sell, Colette Hawkins, Gerald Mitchell, Lauryn Russell, Chad Peterson, Connie Freeman, Alec Bowen, Jo Kernan, Carol Schaefer, Shelly Upson & Tim Snyder

#### **NURSING HOME**

Danika Higgins & Rigoberto Cruz Betty Weeks, Bettie Monts, Bob Sell & Kathryn Baugher

#### **MISSIONARIES & MILITARY**

Jackson McKay, Joe Elliott, Spencer Zielke, Jon Szalonek, Christopher Schultz, Austin Weir, Tyler Mattson, Kyle Mandle, Charles Schultz, Terry Schaefer, & Matt VanderHeyden

OTHER CONCERNS - The church & all decisions