



From the Pastor

There was a man who in a fit of rage, brutally beat another man to death. The murder didn't go unnoticed, and soon, rumors started swirling. Out of fear, this man moved far out into the country and took a job farming hoping to just disappear. He loved his country and tried to do the right thing, but his past loomed heavy. Time went by, and he settled into a routine of obscurity in his new life. Then one day, it all changed. In a miraculous way, God encountered this man and made it clear to him that God himself had a great plan for his life. Many people who were suffering and had prayed continuously for relief were having their prayers answered. God was answering their prayers by sending this murderer to save them. When God told this man all that had happened and how he would be used, the murderer responded by saying, "Who am I?".

The man I'm writing about was Moses. God would send him to the Pharaoh, and ultimately Moses would lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and start heading towards the promised land. Moses' initial response is what I'd like to focus on today. Instead of responding to God with, "Here am I," Moses responded with, "Who am I?". The God of the universe can do anything, yet Moses didn't believe God could use him. He had a past. He had a speech impediment. He had issues.

Often we want to respond the same way that Moses did. We question God's decision-making skills when it comes to using us. We remember our past and all of our shortcomings, and we forget God is bigger than all of them. Trusting that God can use regular ol' sinners like me and you takes faith. I believe God has great things in store for us looking ahead to 2022. I want to encourage you now to start preparing yourself to have faith that God can use you for His purposes here, there, and everywhere this next year!

Have a great week,
Pastor Greg

Carols &
Candlelight

First Baptist Church
Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 24
6 pm in the Sanctuary



What a wonderful day of Christmas worship we experienced yesterday here at FBC! Our worship choir, combined praise teams, praise band, piano/organist, and Christmas orchestra all did a fabulous job of celebrating and telling the true Christmas story. I was overwhelmed by the talent, dedication, and hard work our singers and instrumentalists did in preparation for this service. I don't believe that I could be any prouder than I am of these wonderful friends. I trust that the story of God's overwhelming love for us was communicated effectively to all who heard. My thanks to all involved in this production.

I want to especially thank Dr. John Irish and Dr. Fagnar Rocha for assembling our fabulous orchestra. These men have done this for several years as we have presented the Christmas story. I am indebted to them for their help.

Elaine and I were overwhelmed by the kind words and incredible generosity of this great church and its people. As we began to accept thanks from many of you Sunday following the service and as we began to open cards later in the day, the feeling of love and generosity was indescribable. You have all been so good to us these past 11 years. We have been made to feel at home from the moment we arrived.

There were friendships made that will last for eternity. I could never mention by name all who have made such a large contribution to this ministry. The worship choir has been an incredible blessing to us through hours of rehearsals and worship services. The numerous individuals who helped me lead on mic in all services have been talented and gracious to my many wild visions and dreams. The worship band that was formed during our time here has been one of those dreams. We are blessed by their talents and belief in our vision of worship. Linda Bratcher and Janet Faulkner have endured my stretching of their gifts and talents with much graciousness. Those like Charlie Millspaugh, Tom Dufresne, AJ Deardorff, and Brian Thomas have used their abilities to make things happen that I could only dream of pulling off. To all of these and more, I say thanks from the bottom of my heart. Finally, there are not enough words to adequately express my thankfulness for Joanna Sturgill. She has assisted me with patience, long-suffering and grace for these past 11 years. What a blessing she has been!

It has been an honor to work alongside some wonderful staff members who patiently endured my wild dreams and aspirations for worship to the entire community. It has also been a joy to meet the many retired pastors, missionaries, and church workers that make up so much of our senior membership. Their wisdom and prayers have been a constant source of strength in my life.

Finally, thanks to Father God for allowing Elaine and me to spend these twilight years of full-time church ministry at this great church. In the words of one of my dear friends, "I pray that I have left the music/worship ministry of this church better now than it was when I began here 11 short years ago."

I love you all and look forward to what God has for Elaine and me in the coming days.

May the Lord bless and keep you all.



Year-End Giving

As you pray about your stewardship during this Christmas Season, please remember the following:

Any gifts received in worship services through Sunday, December 26, 2021 will be considered tax-deductible for 2021, as will gifts mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2021.

You may bring offerings to the church office between now and the end of 2021, but please note the following holiday schedule:

We will observe regular hours today through Wednesday, December 22. Gifts received during this time will be applied to the 2021 budget.

The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 23, 2021, and will not re-open until Monday, January 3, 2022.

Any other gifts received in the church office will be applied to the 2022 budget and considered tax-deductible for 2022.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mac McCarson
Financial Director

2022 Equipping Dinner

For Committees

In keeping with our Kingdom Concept of equipping members for effective ministry, all committee members are invited to the 2022 Equipping Dinner at 6 p.m. on January 12 in the Fellowship Hall. Following a Frito Pie supper and review of committee procedures, committees will be asked to elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary to serve in 2022.

2022 Committee members are asked to please let us know by Tuesday, January 4 if they will or will not attend so we can plan the set up and meal. You may email Becky at powers@fbcsanangelotx.org or call the church office with that information.

We look forward to what God will do in and through our church in the year ahead!

Jesus
IS THE
reason
FOR THE
season



Over the years, many of you have ditched your landlines and now use only your cell phones. You may still have a landline but would prefer calls from the church to come to your cell phone. Some of you have also changed your email address.

If you fit into any of these categories, we would like to update your records. Please contact Martha at bailey@fbcsanangelotx.org or 325-655-4101 and give her the correct information.

2022 Mid-Week Schedule

Wednesday Activities Resume January 19

5:00PM

FBC Kids & REACH Youth Dinner, fellowship and Bible Study
(Christian Life Center)

Fellowship Hall opens for dinner & fellowship

5:45PM

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Time
(Fellowship Hall; nursery provided)

6:45PM

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

For more information regarding these activities,
please contact the church office at 325-655-4101.

Deacon Ordination Schedule

An Ordination Council meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9 at 2 pm in the CLC to consider the ordination of Jimmy Conn, John Nikolauk, and Jeff Schmidt to the Deacon Ministry. All members who are ordained deacons or ministers are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Following the approval of the Ordination Council, these men will be ordained on Sunday, January 16 during the morning worship service.

Holiday Publications Schedule

I hope you enjoy this final issue of *The Equipper* for 2021!

Since the office is closed the week between Christmas and New Years, the first issue of 2022 will be published Tuesday, January 4. Information will need to be submitted via email to powers@fbcsanangelotx.org as soon as possible, but preferably by Thursday, December 30.

Remember that you can also keep current on FBC news via our website at www.firstsanangelo.org.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Becky Powers

Sights OF THE Season



The Christmas Choir opened the service on December 19 with favorite Christmas anthems from past years.

Elaine Gillum narrated Christ's story from prophecy to birth.



The Christmas Orchestra and singers presented *Behold the Lamb of God*.



This presentation was director Bill Gillum's finale as he retires after 11 years of service at FBC.



The children sang "Wasn't that a Mighty Day" for those at the Wednesday Night Bible Study.



Greg & Amy hosted the staff Christmas party at their home.



The Responders (Adult 4) always have a lot of fun at their White Elephant exchange!



The Open Doors (Adult 3) department had a "Spirit of Giving Christmas Challenge" devised by Elliott Menchaca.



FBC Kids had a wonderful time at our Christmas Party! We decorated gingerbread houses as a team, iced cookies and made ornaments.



The Crossovers group made goodie baskets and took them to some of our older members who aren't able to get out.

Seekers (Adult 5) department members got in the spirit as they enjoyed a special Christmas cookie made by Coralie Wetzel.



The youth had a blast at their party with good food, Christmas "headbands" game and a gift exchange.



It was wonderful weather to host the Tour of Lights together! Thank you to these two teams who served as Community Hosts.



CHRISTMAS at FBC

FBC MISSION MOMENTS

In our neighborhoods, in San Angelo, and around the world

FREE 8TH RESUMES

Another Opportunity for Service

Free 8th, the First Baptist Church afterschool program for students at Central Freshman Campus, will resume Tuesday, January 11, with an Open House in the CLC with interested students and their parents.

The program will meet in the CLC every Tuesday afternoon from 4:00-5:30, concluding with an end-of-school party on Tuesday, May 3. Free 8th will not meet during Spring Break.

A typical Free 8th day consists of afterschool snacks for 15 minutes, a planned activity for an hour, and a gathering/devotional time for 15 minutes. Student attendance in the past has ranged from 20-70. Students who do not attend the planned activity may choose to sit and talk, work puzzles, or play in the gym. Some students opt for help with their homework. Students may not leave the CLC during Free 8th.

Jennifer and Kenny Wright coordinate the program, which requires many volunteers to serve the needs of the students who attend. Volunteers serve in the following areas.

- As facilitators, who greet the students and get them signed in. Facilitators also stay in the large area and monitor students who choose not to go to the class or the gym. Facilitators have a great opportunity to sit with the students and get to know them.
- As servers, who provide and serve refreshments. (These are hungry kids!) Valerie Matthews coordinates the servers and lines up volunteers on a rotating, flexible basis.
- As instructors and assistants, who lead students in classes and hands-on activities. Activities in the past have included cooking easy-to-prepare dishes such as sausage balls, pancakes, and quesadillas; decorating cakes; sewing draw-string lounging pants, pillowcases, and quilts; decorating pumpkins; painting small pieces of furniture; painting with watercolors; assembling decorative pieces with papier-mâché; and making mosaic trivets and macramé potholders.
- As gym monitors, who monitor unstructured time in the gym.
- As tutors to help students with homework.
- As presenters, who give 10-minute testimonies and devotionals at the end of each session, attended by all students.

During the spring semester of Free 8th, Mike O'Donnell will coordinate cooking, Buddy Parker will coordinate STEM/Maker projects, and Sandra Nichols will coordinate sewing. Volunteers will be helping in all of the areas described above.

If you would like to help with this afterschool program, please call Jennifer Wright. If you are interested in providing snacks, please get in touch with Valerie Matthews.



BIRTHDAYS

December 19

Jolynn Byrd
Melissa Gill

December 20

Buddy Parker
Harold Sharp

December 21

Zack Dearnorff

December 22

Jim Bush
Jessica Cantu
Larry Edgington
Martha Gerber
John Hancock

December 23

Bob Hewell

December 24

No FBC Birthdays

December 25

Kyle Cokonougher
Melva Penner

December 26

Murf Dufresne
Lizzie Nikolauk

December 27

Earl Bowman
Homer Griffin
Hunter Schmidt

December 28

Patsy Bray
Dennis Friedrich
Lance Kiser
Jovita Mata
Jeff Schmidt

December 29

Jim Jones

December 30

Betsey Garvin
Alexis Nikolauk
Kevin Pepper

December 31

Kathy Wahmann

January 1

Charles Norris
Liberto Perez
Marcelle Skillingberg

January 2

Milton Bearden
Aaliyah Reese
Mary Smith

January 3

Leslie Santillan
Gloria Sheffield

January 4

Tommy Moran

January 5

No FBC Birthdays

January 6

Mason Barnett
Jack Baucom
Brandy Gill

January 7

Mary Gatlin
Jackie Jacoby
Bob Rowland

January 8

No FBC Birthdays

January 9

No FBC Birthdays

January 10

Elaine Gillum
Jo King
Nadine Mathis
Kenneth Wright



This meeting has been called to consider a recommendation by the Nominating Committee to elect Marla Cummings to fill a vacancy on the Personnel Committee for a term to end December 31, 2024.

WITH SYMPATHY

We express our deepest sympathy to those who lost loved ones last month:

Ramon & Cristina Martinez and family in the death of his father, Jose Martinez, on November 22.

Jim & Louise Jones in the death of her sister, Deedie McIntire, on November 28.

Lynn Morrison in the death of his wife, **Bert Morrison**, on December 3.

Mike & Wendi Nikolauk in the death of his mother, Juanita "Rusty" Nikolauk, on December 13.

John & Cathy Nikolauk in the death of his grandmother; **Emily, Lizzie, Gabe and Alexis** in the death of their great-grandmother, Rusty Nikolauk.

Brett & Jess Nikolauk in the death of his mother; **Garrison and Riley** in the death of their grandmother, Rusty Nikolauk.

Bill & Debbie Nikolauk and family in the death of his mother, Rusty Nikolauk.

Sue Wallace in the death of her cousin, Rusty Nikolauk.

Martha Snider in the death of her daughter, **Sharon Matthews**, on December 21.

Johnny & Valerie Matthews and family in the death of his sister, **Sharon Matthews**, on December 21.

COMING UP AT FBC

Thursday, December 23 - Friday, December 31

Church Office closed

Friday, December 24

6:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service, FBC Sanctuary

Saturday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 26

No Sunday School
Church building opens at 9:30 am
10:30 A.M. Morning Worship
Called Business Meeting

Sunday, January 2

No Sunday School
Church building opens at 9:30 am
9:45 A.M. First Fellowship, Atrium
10:30 A.M. Morning Worship
Lord's Supper Service

Monday, January 3

Church office reopens

Tuesday, January 4

4:00 P.M. Free 8th Meeting, CLC

Saturday, January 8

TBD Adult 2 Sunday School Fellowship, CLC

Sunday, January 9

2:00 P.M. Deacon Ordination Council, CLC



A New Way to Give

In addition to our online giving, you can now text to give! Text "GIVEFBC" to 325-252-4020 and you will be directed to the online giving platform. If you already have an account, you may sign in there or you may opt to give without signing in.



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

37 E. Harris, San Angelo, Texas • Mail: PO Box 2138, 76902 • Phone: 325.655.4101 • Fax: 325.659.2517 • www.firstsanangelo.org

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Greg Breedlove, Pastor

Bill Gillum, Minister of Music
Mike O'Donnell, Ed/Admin Director

Melodie Penland, Children's Ministry Director
Erin Medina, Youth & College Ministry Director

AJ Deardorff
Director of Broadcast Media
Brian Thomas
Broadcasting & Media Sound Tech
Linda Bratcher
Organist

Janet Faulkner
Pianist
Becky Powers
Pastor's MA/Communications Director
Martha Bailey
Office Manager/Ministry Assistant


Mac McCarson
Financial & Senior Adult Director
Joanna Sturgill
Music Ministry Assistant
Roland Williams
Building Manager

FBC MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Live at 10:30 am on KCLL 100.1 FM; Rebroadcast at 8 am on FOX West Texas (Cable Channel 10/110)
and at 10 am on My San Angelo, Cable Channel 141

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, January 2, during the morning worship service. If you worship with us via television, this service will actually be broadcast on Sunday, January 9, at 8:00 am on KIDY and 10:00 am on My San Angelo. However, we will still have prepackaged elements available which will allow you to participate in the Lord's Supper as you watch. If you would like to receive a set of these elements, or know someone who would, please contact Becky in the church office at 655-4101 by 5 p.m. by Monday, January 3 to make arrangements to have the elements picked up at the church or delivered by one of our Deacons.

*Do this in
Remembrance
of Me...*


Lord's Supper Service
Sunday, January 2, 2022
10:30 a.m.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Time (Coffee in the atrium)
- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
- 7:00 p.m. Crossovers (resumes Jan. 16)

TUESDAY

- 4:00 p.m. Free 8th, CLC (resumes Jan. 18)

WEDNESDAY (resumes Jan. 19)

- 5:00 p.m. FBC Kids, Christian Life Center
- 5:00 p.m. REACH Youth Worship & Bible Study, Christian Life Center
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Mid-Week Bible Study & Prayer Time, Fellowship Hall
- 6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

See page 7 for a list of upcoming meetings and other events.

*Wishing you a Christmas
filled with wonder & joy
as you celebrate the birth of our Savior.*



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from your Church Staff



CONNECT WITH US!



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First Baptist Church, San Angelo



Twitter: @FBCSanAngelo



YouTube:
First Baptist Church San Angelo

www.fbcsanangelotx.org

Contact us: info@fbcsanangelotx.org