

The Beacon

NEWS AND INFORMATION | FBC ALVARADO, TX

MAY - JUNE 2018



**First
Baptist Church
Alvarado**



Pastor's Ponderings

Over the last week, I've walked and watched people picking up shells in the surf at the beach. Each person seems to be looking for certain things -- some pick up big thick ones, some flat ones, some curly ones, some colorful ones, some smooth ones, some textured ones -- well, you get the idea!



What is it that makes you a part of FBCA? We all came to the FBCA family looking for different things. Now as a part of that family, Christ's local body, why are we here? Let's take Paul's words in 1Cor.14:12 to heart. Speaking of using our spiritual gifts, he says, *...seek to excel in building up the church.*

One of author Thom Ranier's latest books for small group study is "I Will," focused on 9 traits of a church that is "outwardly focused." He is concerned with *churchianity* where we, as believers, practice our religious beliefs, not according to biblical guidelines, but according to human standards. Many believers live with a self-serving attitude of "what's in it for me" instead of being "others-centered." Instead, our focus is to be "I will... ..instead of "I am"

...worship with others
...grow together with others
...serve ...go ...give generously
...not be a church dropout
...avoid the traps of *churchianity*
...make a difference

It's a great short read and you may just find that you are in need of saying (and meaning) "I will!" Your "I will" may be about investing in someone else's life, or serving in the area God has gifted you, or maybe it's in setting your own personal agenda or preferences aside. Regardless of why you came to join the FBCA family, would you now be one who says, "I will...*seek to excel in building up the church?*"

Church Events

- May 2 Youth Camp Deposit
- May 5 Youth Fundraiser
Yard Sale/Craw Fish Boil
- May 6 Deacon's Breakfast
Women's Breakfast
VBS Workers Meeting
- May 7 Kids Hope Celebration
Ellen's Entertainment
- May 13 RA & GA Dessert Auction
Mother's Day
- May 17 Daycare Graduation 7PM
- May 19 Estes/Russell Wedding
- May 20 Baccalaureate 6:00PM
- May 23 Final Camp Deposit
Parent/Student MTG
- May 24 AHS Graduation
- May 28 Memorial Day
Church Office Closed
- June 3 Deacon's Breakfast
Women's Breakfast
- June 4-9 Youth Camp - Alto Frio
- June 11-15 VBS
- June 17 Father's Day

Discipleship Ministry

We are 120 plus days into our Chronological Reading Plan and it has been an amazing journey so far. We have been learning stories of how the God of the Bible has longed for a people that He could call his own and would serve as partners in telling the world about who He is about how He wants to bless all people through them. We are so very blessed to have God's Word and be able to freely read and study and to commit ourselves to learn more about our God.

I hope you are finding success in your efforts to follow the Chronological Reading Plan and are using all the tools that we have made available to enhance your study. One of the best tools for being successful in your Bible reading is by simply allowing yourself to be accountable to someone. Everybody needs people in their lives who will encourage them and help them stay on track. That is why our Sunday Morning Bible Study Groups are so important to the journey we are on. Let me encourage you to be a faithful, regular attender in your group. You will benefit from the insight and encouragement of others in your group and you can be that same source of accountability to others.

Also, in the weeks and months ahead we would like to see our groups planning some time together outside of the Sunday morning group time. Host a group cookout, go bowling, go to watch your kids games together. Just spend some time together enjoying life. Sunday evenings may be a great time to just hang out. You might find these people mean more to you than you could have ever imagined.

-Scott

Current YTD (as of 5/1/18) Giving \$117,109.24

YTD Giving Needed \$130,652.48

Current Building Loan Balance

\$209,121.56

Make plans now to attend 2018 RA & GA Summer Camps

July 24-28, 2018

Monthly payments can be made through-out the year at the church or through e-giving using the GIVE+ app. Please indicate RA/GA Camp and child's name on offering envelope or type students name when making payment online.

Cost is \$230.00

Mid-Week Studies

Ladies Study:



Enjoy various lessons from Nancy Guthrie's series "Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament."

These lessons point us over

and over to the One who did it all for us. It is refreshing and inspiring to bask in our Savior's love for us—to be loved and accepted because of what Christ has done and not because of what we have done.

Men's Study:



Embark with us on a journey of Faith with Ran Vander Laan; in

which he explores different Biblical topics from on-site locations in Israel.

Wednesday Evening Meals for May/June 2018.

- 5/2 Meatloaf, Mashed Potato & Corn
- 5/9 Chicken Alfredo, Salad & Garlic Bread
- 5/16 Smoked Sausage & Mac & Cheese
- 5/23 Sandwiches & Chips

No Meals will be served during the Summer, you are more than welcome to bring a meal to eat in the fellowship hall.

Meals are served from 5:45 until 6:20 P.M.

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 5/6 Kings and Prophets (cont.) | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Wk-30</i> Four Friends Helped | (Children) |
| 5/13 Kings and Prophets (cont.) | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Wk-31</i> Jesus Calmed a Storm | (Children) |
| 5/20 Kings and Prophets (cont.) | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Wk-32</i> A Widow Gives | (Children) |
| 5/27 Kings and Prophets (cont.) | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Wk-33</i> Jesus Read God's Word | (Children) |
| 6/3 Exile | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Wk-34</i> Jesus Chose 12 Helpers | (Children) |
| 6/10 Exile (cont.) | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Wk-35</i> The Good Samaritan | (Children) |
| 6/17 Exile (cont.) | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Wk-36</i> Mary and Martha | (Children) |
| 6/24 Exile (cont.) | (Youth/Adults) |
| <i>Wk-37</i> Jesus Healed Ten Lepers | (Children) |

Daycare News

*"One of my favorite websites is Toddlers-Are-Fun.com
This is one of their articles I found very pertinent
for our current time."*

Christian Parenting

What is Christian parenting? It means raising our children by the principles in God's word. The Bible contains lots of guidelines and even commands for parents, teaching them how to parent their children in a God-honoring way.

Christian parenting means...

- **Being loving.** "Love, for the day is near." "Let all that you do be done in love." The Bible is full of commands about loving, and family relations are no exception. We won't be able to direct or lead our children effectively if we don't love them first. Building a strong, loving relationship with our children is the first and most important step in Christian way of parenting.

- **Being firm.** Christian parenting also means being firm and teaching our children obedience even when it is uncomfortable. The Bible tells children to obey parents and commands all of us to submit to appropriate authorities. Both of these are very, very hard to do unless the right foundations have been set in childhood. If we don't know how to submit to earthly authority, we will also have difficulty submitting to God's authority. Obedience is an extremely important lesson. Be gentle, but be firm and consistent.

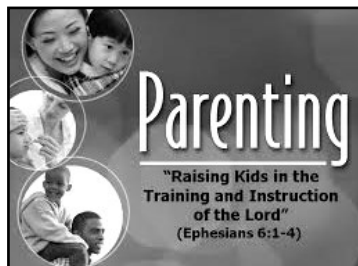
- **Avoiding Anger.** Anger clouds our judgment and blocks us from making good parenting decisions. It also sets up walls between us and our children, and makes our children unable to see our love. No parenting decision, ever, should be made in anger. Discipline should be given when and if it is necessary, but never by an angry parent or because a parent is hurt or offended.

- **Teaching our children about consequences.** It's important to let our children know there are consequences to their actions; good consequences for right actions, bad consequences for wrong or unthoughtful actions. A child who is overly protected from the consequences of his own actions will have difficulty navigating the world when he grows up.

- **Teaching our children to love.** Children are born naturally selfish, and they often need encouragement to come out of themselves and empathize with and love other people. Christian way of parenting involves teaching our children to love; showing them ways they can help other people, and giving them opportunities to experience the joy of giving.

- **Modeling Christian Behavior.** There's another extremely important aspect of Christian parenting that many parents miss. They take their children to Sunday School, they work hard on the discipline, and they make their children give gifts to orphans or missions every now and then. But they don't live the life. Your children have a front seat on your life, and if you aren't living a loving, giving, victorious Christian life, your children know it. They might obey what you tell them and go through the motions as you require them to, but their heart will not be in it, and they will be out of the church at the first opportunity.

The best way to share Christ with your children is to love Christ in every aspect of your own life. Let them see you choose the hard way because it's right. Let them see you squash your anger and decide to love instead. Let them see the light and happiness on your face as you give and share. Let them see that for you Christianity is not a religion, but a living, breathing, utterly alive and absolutely joyful thing. When they see this they will have no qualms about choosing the narrow way for themselves.




Blessed to Serve,
Christie Pippin
Director, FBC Daycare



Music

Update on Associate Pastor of
Worship, Glen Turner:



Praise the Lord! Glen is now home and in remission! Glen continues to grow stronger every day thanks to the grace of our heavenly father. Continue to pray for Glen and his Family as they continue to fight this battle. For more updates on Glen's progress you can go to www.caringbridge.org.

JUNE 11-15  **9:00 - NOON**

GAME ON!  

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

GEARING UP FOR LIFE'S BIG GAME
2 PETER 1:3

K - 6TH GRADE

VBS WORKERS MEETING MAY 6TH AFTER SERVICE



**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.fbcalvarado.org

Email: office@fbcalvarado.org

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Alvarado, Texas

PROVIDING STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE CHRIST LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

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



Summer is almost here, and I am entirely grateful for that thought as I am wrapping up one of the busiest semesters for me due to extensive book readings for class and event after event with our incredible group of students in the ministry here!

Speaking of summer, youth camp is just around the corner! We will be heading to the Alto Frio Baptist Encampment in Leakey, Texas on June 4th and will be staying there until the 9th! The cost of camp is \$250 per student. We have many students who are interested in going and we are looking to sign up more students as camp continues to get closer! There will be a mandatory Parent/Student Camp Meeting on the 23rd of May in which we will be discussing camp agenda, what to expect from camp, how much money to bring, and will be answering any questions about camp. All money and forms are also due at this meeting, so it is highly advised that both the parent AND student attend this meeting! We are already looking forward to the amazing things God is going to do within the lives of our students and many others during the week of camp! If you are interested in helping, consider making a donation to help a student afford going to camp. We do not want to turn away a student because he/she cannot afford to go!

This is also the time of year when high school seniors across the globe are getting ready to graduate and enter into the next phase of their lives. While many students are excited about the idea of graduating, many parents are not! Sometimes, we understand that it can be the other way around as well! We are excited for our high school seniors and their accomplishments thus far and look forward to how God is going to use them in the future for his glory! To recognize them, we will be having our baccalaureate service here at the church on May 20th. We want to encourage everyone to come out and support our graduating seniors!

Please be in prayer for this ministry and all of the things listed above. We are in this ministry to produce Godly young men and women, and want to serve them the best way we know how. Praying for them is one of the best things we can do, and I hope you will consider doing so for each and every one of them!

As always, I thank you for all of your prayers and support and for allowing me to serve you and the youth here at FBC Alvarado!

In Christ,

Ethan Yates