



BEACON

NEWS AND INFORMATION | FBC ALVARADO, TX

JANUARY 2021



Among the negative voices and fear-mongering rhetoric that assault us on a daily basis from our press and social media, this pastor continues to desire to be a voice of reason and hope. I'm convicted of the need for more voices "crying in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Lord." (Is.40:3) Instead of hiding under our covers, we need to be shouting a battle cry against our enemies. (1Sam.17:47) The real battle we face is not with a virus -- it's with 2 other enemies -- our own mortality and a monster named fear.

Is Covid-19 real? Yes it is. Is it a threat to our physical health? Sure it is! No one wants to be sick. Does contracting it mean we will die? No! Almost 3 dozen of our church members have contracted Covid-19 over the last 9 months -- none of them have died. No more than a couple of them have reached serious condition, but have recovered. Most have had a mild case.

Isn't it dangerous to attend church these days? Of those nearly 3 dozen sick folks, NONE seem to have contracted the virus while at church. That means attending church is one of the "safest" places you can be!! We have plenty of personal space for all of us, both in our Bible studies classes and also in corporate worship. A recent Gallop poll found that only one group of people saw a positive change in how they rated their mental health during this year of pandemic -- those who attended religious services weekly. Unless you are a high risk individual, reconsider attending with us. If you are a high risk individual, participate with us on livestream.

Some have been facing their own mortality for the first time in their life and it scares them to death! (Pun intended) There are no guarantees in this life -- it is full of daily risks. We have to make sure we're ready for the next life -- the life that begins when we trust Jesus as Savior & Lord and lasts for eternity with Him. If you aren't ready, you need to be scared!! If you are ready, there is no reason for fear.

A guy well acquainted with life's uncertainties (David) penned Ps.27:1 -- *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Prov.29:25 says, *The fear of man lays a snare; but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.*

Paul reminded his mentee Timothy that *God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.* (2Tim.1:6) Then he wrote, *..for I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.* (2Tim.1:12)

At some point our physical life on this earth will end -- but we have a home waiting for us if we know Jesus! Until that time comes, we can walk in "no-fear" and in simple trust of the One who has made us and sustains us. (Acts 17:28)

Wade

P.S. The sermons over the next few weeks will remind us about God's purpose for His church. Don't miss them!

Copies of the 2021 proposed spending plan will be available in the foyer Sunday Morning before Bible Study. Members of the Stewardship Committee will be available for questions. Budget will be presented following the Sunday Morning Service January 10, 2021.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: (as of 1/7/2021)

Current Checkbook Bal	\$76,520.55
<u>Designated Funds Bal.</u>	<u>\$15,274.86</u>
Total Available Funds	\$61,245.69
2020 Total Giving Received	\$345,611.64
2020 Total Missions Giving Distributed	\$13,312.22
Building Loan Balance	\$80,776.48

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

- 1/3 Pursuing Godly Living (Youth/Adults)**
U28 S4 Living Like Jesus (Children)
- 1/10 Living Generously (Youth/Adults)**
U29 S1 Ananias and Sapphira (Children)
- 1/17 Trusting in Christ in Life and Death (Youth/Adults)**
U29 S2 Stephen's Sermon (Children)
- 1/24 Trusting in the Gospel of Jesus (Youth/Adults)**
U29 S3 The Good News (Children)
- 1/31 Living Out the Gospel of Jesus (Youth/Adults)**
U29 S4 Doers of the Word (Children)

Ladies Monday Morning Bible Study

The Study of Joshua:

STRONG & COURAGEOUS

Eight Week Study

beginning Monday January 18

Led by Linda McCurdy

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF STUDENTS SEARCH COMMITTEE

Please PRAY for our search committee: *Lacy Barnett, Tommy Dennis, Jeff Dixon, Oliver Monrose and Kelly Richardson.*

Dear Church,

As we begin a new year, I'm excited to see how FBC Alvarado will continue to grow in its mission and worship! Though 2020 proved to have more challenges than we could have ever expected, God showed himself strong through the continued witness of His Kingdom.

Ecclesiastes 3 says that "He [God] has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end." This state of having eternal souls yet living in a perishable world often leaves us longing for far greater joy, purpose, and calling than the world can give us. We see this every year, but it was painfully evident in 2020 as many were filled with fear and despair due to the pandemic and social turmoil. It is thus great grace that God offers Himself as our joy, our purpose, and our calling-though we cannot fully understand His will. His plan for our lives is for our greatest good and His greatest glory as we imitate the life and mission of Christ. My prayer for us then is that we will proclaim the depths of God's glory to those who do not know Christ as we fulfill the true purpose of our eternal souls!

With this goal in mind, I would love to involve those who wish to worship God through special music in upcoming services. If you desire to sing or play a song in a worship service, call or send me a text at 573-305-5050 and I'll be more than happy to discuss it with you!

For the Kingdom,
Caleb

CHANGE is in the air!

February will bring changes to our weekly schedule. Plans are developing... things are being set into place... scheduling is happening... leaders are being enlisted. Coming soon is a new Wed. evening schedule. Be watching for more details!

4 WAYS TO GIVE



GIVING ENVELOPE

Drop in plate during service, by church office or in the mail.



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