

Ever have one of "those" days? You know, those kind of days that you think it might have been better if you had just stayed in bed!! We all have them at times. My family had a couple of those over Christmas weekend when our sewer backed up at home, our ice maker froze up, and the sprinkler lines burst at FBCA, flooding the west and northwest section of the building. With some tremendously generous help and hard work, we got the water out of the building in 3hrs on the afternoon of Christmas Eve.

Yes, trials, problems, difficulties do come our way -- even at what we consider to be inopportune times. 1Pt.1:6-7 says, In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith -- more precious than gold that perishes by fire -- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. God often allows some of the events of "those" days to come our way in order to test / prove the quality of our faith -- actually to show us <u>Who</u> is the object of our faith.

As we begin a new year, don't be a grumbler...murmurer...complainer -- we can <u>always</u> find things about which to complain! Instead, let's willingly allow the Lord to show us the faith that is *more precious than gold*. Especially let's make sure that, even in the midst of one of "those" days that our life shines with His *praise and glory and honor*!

If I can close with "3 P's":

Participate -- on Jan.15 is an important church business session after morning worship and then the Chili Cook-off Contest that afternoon!

Pray -- search committees will be formed this month to begin their work on our behalf

Patience -- as repairs begin on our water damage this month

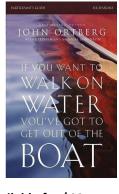
As always, it is my joy to serve alongside you as we serve the Lord and make Him known thru the FBCA family, the fellowship whose vision is to help equip you to be faithful & fruitful!

Wade

Ladies Monday Morning Bible Study

Location: FBCA Room 310 Starting Jan 9th at 10:00 am

In this six-session
Bible study,
"If You Want to
Walk on Water,
You've got to Get
Out of the Boat",
by John Ortberg,
Learn how to move
beyond fear, and
respond to God's
unique calling.



Books are available for \$11



Revised Schedule: Starting January 25th Wednesday's at 6:30 PM

We will journey together through I Timothy





UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

 Jan 9 Monday Morning Ladies Bible Study Begins—10:00 am Rm 312

• Jan 14 Youth Game Night 5:30-8 PM

• Jan 15 Business Meeting after service

• Jan 15 Chili Cook Off—4PM (Youth Fundraiser)

• Jan 22 Daycare Board Meeting 4:30 PM

• Jan 25-Mar 8 Women of the Word

• Jan 29

Wedding Shower 12:00PM Carmen Garcia & Joseph Cross

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

(1/06/2023)

Current Checkbook Bal \$179,360.55 Designated Funds Bal. \$124,149.34

Total Available Funds \$55,211.21

2022 Total Giving Received \$ 355,397.79 2022 Total Missions Giving \$ 8,969.62

Copies of the 2023 proposed spending plan are available in the foyer or at the church office. Business Session will be held Jan 15th after our morning service.

2022 END OF YEAR— GIVING STATEMENTS

Are available the foyer, you may also stop by the church office anytime during regular office hours.



We live in a world where we are told that we are the most important thing in the universe and that



there are no consequences for what we do or think. As believers that is something that we all struggle with, our human thoughts of being superior and "better" than everything else on the planet. The Bible reminds us of who is the ultimate authority, big surprise, it is not us, but God. In Psalm chapter 8 we see the author express the glory of God by pointing out the power God has. He created the universe and everything in it and they are the work of his fingers. Meaning that God is so powerful and mighty that everything fits into his hand. Just like the song "He Holds the Whole World in His Hands." This puts mankind into our place as something that must answer to a higher power.

Even though we are made in God's image and must answer him, we all don't meet the requirements to be in his presence. God being a loving and merciful God has given us a way to be with him and see the majesty of the universe. Jesus is the only way we can see that truth. Jesus came to save us from our sins and paid the final price. Jesus' resurrection we the defeat of death. When we believe Christ is our savior that is when we are reborn spiritually and now can truly see the awesomeness of creation.

These words are to encourage you, to continue to live for God, remember that he is the creator of everything, and that we are nothing without the love of God and the salvation of Christ.

With Love and many blessing,

T.J. Arango Associate Pastor of Student Ministries

