

MUSIC NOTES

Happy September everyone!! When I think of September, I always think of Christmas. Don't you? That might be because we are starting our Christmas music. If you have always wanted to join the choir, now is the time. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 right after Bible Study. Come join us at 6:00 for prayer meeting and 6:30 for Bible Study and then stay for choir practice. We'd love to have you! *In His Name, Nancy*

WMU

The week of prayer for State Missions to Mary Hill Davis is September 11-17. Reach Texas week of prayer is September 18-24. Our Goal is \$3,500. We will continue to receive offerings through the month of September. Please prayerfully give as you can.

We have several projects currently underway including prayer shawls and children's dresses. Please contact Andree Brunk for more details.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Summer "Kids' Club" had its final meeting on Wednesday, August 24th. There were an average of 8-12 kids ranging from kindergarten to 5th grade present each night and a new family with a 3rd and 5th grader joined who will be attending AWANAs this month for the first time. Students learned about various elements of the Bible and Christian faith through engaging activities, games, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) challenges designed to tie back to a spiritual focus. Thank you, church family, for the trust you placed in our commitment to unorthodox teaching methods after walking into a Kay building Sunday School class with trash cans full of truly random items each week!

AWANAs will be resuming on the first Wednesday of this month, September 7. Pre-registration is currently open on the church website and 15 children are already enrolled for the year! As in previous years, this program will run from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm each Wednesday until the end of the school year, with some breaks for school holidays or as needed due to safety/potential health concerns. We are in need of listeners, so if you are interested in supporting our students, contact Nicole Wehrman, Kim Hodge, or Joyce Roach.

Debbie Reed has been volunteering in our nursery and Jasmynn Sellers has been filling in. Children's Church teachers are still serving on a rotating basis; contact Kim Hodge if you

would like to teach one Sunday every couple of months (all the lesson planning is done for you!). As always, we are tremendously grateful for the outpouring of support you offer our students by volunteering with these kids, getting to know them, and praying for their growth in this difficult world. *Yours in Christ, Children's Ministry Team*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| September 1 | WMU, 10:00 AM
Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| September 5 | Labor Day |
| September 6 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| September 7 | Mid-Week Activities: Prayer Meeting, AWANAs, & Youth, 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| September 8 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 A |
| September 10 | Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM
Building & Grounds Committee meeting immediately following Men's Prayer Breakfast |
| September 11 | Building & Grounds Committee meeting, 12N |
| September 12 | Budget & Finance Committee, 5:00 PM
Deacons Meeting, 6:00 PM |
| September 13 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| September 14 | Mid-Week Activities: Prayer Meeting, AWANAs, & Youth, 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| September 15 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| September 20 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| September 21 | Mid-Week Activities: Prayer Meeting, AWANAs, & Youth, 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| September 22 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| September 27 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| September 28 | Mid-Week Activities: Prayer Meeting, AWANAs, & Youth, 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| September 29 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |



CHRISTIAN CALLER

September 2022
Volume 22, Issue 9

MISSION STATEMENT:
WE DESIRE TO HONOR GOD BY
LEADING PEOPLE TO BECOMING
FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS
OF JESUS CHRIST.



First Baptist Church of Buda
104 S. San Marcos Street
Buda, Texas 78610
512-295-2161

BUDDY JOHNSON, PASTOR
TREY JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR/
YOUTH MINISTER
NANCY JOHNSON, MUSIC MINISTER

fbcbuda@austin.rr.com
www.firstbaptistbuda.com

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

We sing it every Sunday. You might even want to sing it out loud now as you are reading these familiar words, *“I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God. I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I’m part of the family, the family of God.”* I hope it is not so familiar to you that it has become devoid of meaning. It is one of Bill and Gloria Gaither’s most well-known and well-loved songs, and they have written hundreds. The song was born out of a tragedy in their home church in which they witnessed their church family rally around a hurting family and minister to their needs in an unusual way. As Bill and Gloria Gaither witnessed the love and out-pouring of their church they said to one another, “You know, they’d do the same for us if we were hurting!”

I’m sure you’ve probably heard this statement before, “If you find the perfect church don’t join it because it will no longer be perfect.” I’m not sure I like that statement much, though I know there is much more than just a smidgen of truth to it. The statement just seems a bit trite, cliché, and worn... and truth be known, a bit insensitive and brusque, somewhat curt to the ones who may have been injured in church and are looking for one that will help them heal, and in a more unspoiled way worship and serve their Lord. We have our sneaking and uneasy suspicions that there are no perfect churches on this side of heaven. I think we know that, and every church has its problems. Really, many of us at times have found ourselves longing to be part of the perfect church... the church that is just right... the church that you have always been longing for. But we have to be honest with ourselves at this point, that no such church exists.

Now let me contradict my own shallow and “imperfect” understanding a bit and make what is perhaps a surprising statement. The Bible actually tells us that the perfect church is a reality. Maybe it has more to do with our definition of the perfect church. Maybe... just maybe that has been the problem. Maybe it’s in how we define the perfect church? Our definition of the perfect church is dominated by things like a pastor that preaches appealing and practical sermons, worship music that stirs us, presentations that are flawless, programs that address our felt life needs, or a well-kept, finely tuned facility. And there is nothing wrong with any of those things in and of themselves. I believe that we ought to always strive to offer our utmost for His highest... as we say. But ultimately our definition of a “perfect church” usually concentrates more on the programs that make the church perfect for us and our needs, rather than the people who make the church perfect, and beautiful, and spot-on for us. And I might add, since we have struggled in defining what the perfect church really is, we further err in determining those things that are really important to the life of the church. We get so busy with programs and the plans and the

property and the possessions that we forget that the church is really the people.

Paul writes in Colossians 3:12-14, *“¹²Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”* That is what the church ought to look like. Listen to how the New Living Translation reads those verses, *“¹²Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.”*

If you are receiving this newsletter chances are you probably are a church-goer, so you have at least a fairly good view of the church. There are a lot of different things that people say about churches... some negative and some positive. I’ve learned that you pretty much find what you are looking for in churches. If you come with a negative attitude looking for the negative, you will probably find it. If you come with a critical attitude looking for something to criticize, you will certainly find it. If you come with a judgmental attitude looking for something to judge, you will surely find it. On the other hand, if you come looking for the beautiful, you will find it. If you come looking for warmth, kindness, fellowship, sharing, love, and community, you will probably find it. If you come seeking Jesus, you will find Him. If you come with an open, honest, and willingness to love and be loved, you will find it. You pretty much get out of a fellowship of believers... a church... what you put into it. Pretty much!

I am hearing more and more, all the time, some wonderful things said about our church... how warm and welcoming it is, how comfortable visitors feel when they come. I know that there are some that may be critical, and negative, and judgmental, who may have had a bad experience, who may have been hurt or injured by some unfortunate circumstance. I’m sorry that things like that happen, but this is, unfortunately, the nature of the inhabitants of the body of Christ... the church. Again the church is made up of imperfect people who mess up sometimes... sometimes a lot... and God loves them and treasures them immensely. I don’t mind telling people that we are not a perfect church... far from it! We are not a perfect church, but we do serve a perfect Lord who has a perfect love for this imperfect church, and as a church, this group of believers has much to offer. I love this church. I love you! I love First Baptist Church of Buda for any number of reasons. Christ loves the church. He gave His life for

the church. He is coming back to get His church. His church, you have much to offer a world that is hurting and searching for answers. With so much to offer as a church let me encourage you to be a part of building up the body of Christ and not tearing down the body of Christ... His church.

The writer of Hebrews said it well in Hebrews 10:25, *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* Thank you for being that kind of a people... that kind of church family. Keep it up and keep coming, and sharing, and loving, and growing, and encouraging, and serving Jesus. Let’s be that Colossians 3:12-14 kind of people. **God Bless You! Bro. Buddy**

YOUTH RE+MIND

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

– 1 Timothy 2:1-3

The school year is underway and something that has been a big emphasis this year for our student ministry is living on mission. We have been working hard at preparing and equipping our students to take the truth of the gospel that is being taught to them and living it out at school for the purpose of bringing others to Jesus. The heart of this is not only for the sake of evangelism but also for the sake of growing our students in their personal walks with Christ as well. Obviously, we have students at very different places spiritually and not everyone has experienced Jesus personally, and some have but because of fear, anxiety, and insecurity they have left the gospel story to Sundays, and Wednesdays and not taken it to how they live their lives. The truth is however that the story of Jesus’ redemption for the entire world is not something that is merely learned like any other historical event. But rather is something that changes how we treat others and the way in which we live our lives. We have been given a grace and a righteousness that is not our own but one that belongs to Jesus. Because of this we are to share it with others. We are to invest our new lives with the lives of others growing relationships with them that are deep and meaningful as we deepen our relationship with Jesus. It is then that the testimony of how Jesus has changed will have impact for those we share our lives with. This is what our students have deemed the calling on our lives this school year, “make friends for Jesus”. **God Bless You!**