

CHILDREN'S CORNER

What a joyous year we have had! Our children are growing & also growing in the Lord. A special **"Thank You"** to all of our Sunday School & AWANA workers: April, Debbie R., Jacqueline, Kim F., Margaret, Kim H., Nicole, Nancy J., Debbie M., & Caitlin. God has truly blessed us with the best!

Please make your plans to attend church on Sunday, December 11 to witness our children & youth in a presentation of Christ's birth.

We will end our AWANA year with a food drive for the pantry @ Buda UMC. Our kids have a competition between the boys & girls to see who brings the most items. The reward is the winners get served at our Christmas celebration.

Have a Merry Christmas. Children's Ministry Team.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| December 1 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| December 4 | Holiday Tea & Appetizers, 3:00 PM <i>(Youth Fundraiser for Angel Tree Ministry)</i> Youth Vocal Ensemble practice, 4:00 PM |
| December 6 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| December 7 | Mid-Week Services: Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (BARF night), 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| December 8 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| December 10 | Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM |
| December 11 | Children's Christmas Program, 10:45 AM ● Building & Grounds Committee immediately following the morning service Youth Vocal Ensemble practice, 4:00 PM |
| December 12 | Budget & Finance Committee, 5:00 PM Deacon's Meeting, 6:00 PM |
| December 13 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| December 14 | Mid-Week Services: Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Christmas Celebration), 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| December 15 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| December 18 | Worship Choir Musical, 10:45 AM ● Church Business Meeting immediately following the morning service Youth Vocal Ensemble to Sodalis Buda for caroling @ 4:00 PM |
| December 20 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| December 21 | Mid-Week Services: Prayer Meeting, 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM (No AWANA or Youth) Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| December 22 | Ladies Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| December 25 | Special Christmas Day Service ● The Lord's Supper, 10:00 AM |
| December 28 | Mid-Week Services: Prayer Meeting, 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM (No AWANA or Youth) Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| December 31 | New Year's Eve! Happy New Year! |

CHRISTIAN CALLER

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



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**TREY JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR/
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Happy New Year!

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THE WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT FBC BUDA

By Bro. Buddy Johnson

Twas' the weeks before Christmas, and all through the church
Things were hectic and busy... all felt in a lurch.
The church was all decked out, the season to bring
With Hanging of the Greens, and a host of other busy things.
Nancy had readied the choir, their program to share.
While tunes of "Glorious Light of Christmas," danced in their ear.
Trey gave announcements to ready us more
For all the upcoming busy Christmas the church had in store
Then Louis at the piano, quietly played us his tune,
We had just settled in, another worship service to start soon.
The calm in each seat, and the look of peace on each face,
Rested over the church as all hummed "Amazing Grace."
When out in the pews there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my seat to see what was the matter.
Then, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a host of twelve men coming in the back doors with great cheer.
They were locked arm in arm like a "Red Rover" team,
And I sensed in a moment it was the deacon regime.
As quiet as a church mouse, down the church aisle they came
And J.D. whistled, and shouted and called them by name;
"Now Wesley, Stephen Klopp, Bill Burrell and Don...
On Denny, on Tandy and Roy Roach, let's get on!"
"Come, Ken and Dean, Keith Smith and Gary White!
It's time to perform, our show to delight!"
"To the front of the church, up the steps to your places!
To the platform men, put a smile on your faces".
As Hymn Books were dropped and mouths flew open wide,
To see such a sight, some even tried to hide.
So up on the stage, the men flew in stride,
And their wives were just beaming, and filled up with pride.
As I gathered my head, and was turning around,
They started to sing, a most interesting sound.
They sang their own Christmas Carol all at the same time,
A song they made up, and nothing did rhyme
The sound how it rang out, not in tune were the men .
The song seemed all jumbled, Louis and Nancy tried to join in.
The choir started humming, as if the tune they knew,
Now the congregation was singing and tapping their shoe.
The Deacon's were swaying, locked all arm in arm,
Soon gave me to know that they really meant no harm.
Their lesson seemed simple and straight to the heart,
"What Christmas is, and where it should start."

For Christmas is not about bright lights, tinsel and trees.
It's not all the busyness that fills holidays like these.
We do so much planning, and working, and fixing and things,
We sometimes miss what the Season really means.
It's not about all our programs, and shows we put on.
It's locking arm in arm to praise the One who was born.
It's raising our voices together, to make a joyful sound,
And telling our world where Hope is truly found.
It's singing, and shouting from every mountain top peak,
"That the Savior is born and this Christmas He speaks."
We all got the lesson at that strange Christmas sight,
"Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

Merry Christmas! Bro. Buddy Johnson

YOUTH RE+MIND

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." – Ezekiel 37:1-3

So, this year I am figuring out something about the Christmas novelty that I love more than Christmas lights, which have always been my favorite. What has usurped throne for me however is the joy of watching my daughter's enjoyment of the Christmas lights. Now that she's at an age where she can verbalize her feelings, every evening drives my heart warms at the sound of: "Daddy look, there's Christmas!" Now I want my girl to grow up with correct theology, but I don't correct her. But, in a way the awe-inspiring beauty of the lights in the early evening darkness serves as a pretty good illustration to what exactly Christmas is.

This passage at the top of the article is not exclusively an advent passage but it is extremely gospel rich, and I think it does well to communicate the awe-inspiring beauty in the midst of our darkness. In our world these days the question God poses to His prophet in this vision is one that I think we all ask ourselves, "can these bones live?" or in other words "is there any hope?" For Ezekiel he was looking at a valley of scattered dry bones, for us we look at a

world that is falling further away from God's word. Ezekiel's answer I think is an interesting one because it is an admission of his own limitation to see how this can happen, but it is also a confession that the answer belongs to God. That is to say "If you want them to God, these bones can live" because He has the answer. That is the hope that is still with us to this day, in the midst of the darkness and uncertainty of how God is moving, we know He holds the answer, and we know He's good so we can trust His answer. We know how the story ends with Ezekiel's vision with a rattle of bones, and breath of life the dry bones live, and with the coming of Jesus Christ the light of the world into this darkness we see God's answer to all of our questions as well. *Trey*

MUSIC NOTES

Happy December everyone! What an exciting time of year! On December 11 the children will be presenting the nativity during the morning service. On December 18 the adult choir will present their Christmas musical "***Glorious Light of Christmas***" during the morning service. And of course, Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year. We will observe the ***Lord's Supper*** and have plenty of beautiful music. Plan to join us at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. *In His Name, Nancy*

WMU

The WMU has set the church goal for the Lottie Moon offering at \$3,500. The week of prayer is December 4-11. We will collect donations for Lottie Moon through the end of December. For our Fall Food Drive, our AWANA kids are collecting canned goods for the local food bank @ the Buda United Methodist Church. The donations will be taken to the BUMC on December 8. ***Thank you for always supporting our WMU!***

