

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy New Year to everyone!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Our FBC children had a very busy December. Our AWANA program ended the year with our food drive for the food pantry at the Buda United Methodist Church. It is a competition between the boys & girls to see who gets served at our Christmas celebration. It was a close one this year but the girls won by 30 cans. The food pantry was very appreciative for their donation.

A very special **“Thank you”** to Kim Hodge & Cindi Blackmon for all their work in putting together our children's Christmas program. The Christmas story was presented with so much love. To our children, youth & adults **“Thank you”**. You also showed your love for this special time of the year.

Thank you church family for all of your support and continue to remember all our children's workers in prayer!
In His Love, Children's Ministry Team

WMU

The WMU goal for the Lottie Moon offering was \$3,500. As of this writing we have collected \$4,727. God is so good! Thank you church family!

For our Fall Food Drive, our AWANA kids collected canned goods for the local food bank @ the Buda United Methodist Church. The friendly competition between the boys and girls was a huge success with 325 items being donated. The girls won!

Our WMU will meet again on Thursday, February 2, 2023. ***Thank you for your support of our WMU!***

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1	Happy New Year!
	Normal Sunday Activities
January 4	Mid-week Activities: Prayer Meeting, Youth, 6:00 PM, NO AWANA
	Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
	Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
January 5	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS, continued

January 7	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM
January 8	New Bible study/Sunday School class “Timothy Class”, 9:30 AM, upstairs classroom
January 10	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM New Study: “Gifts of the Spirit”
January 11	Mid-week Activities: Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Snowman night), 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
January 12	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
January 15	Building & Grounds Committee, 12N
January 16	Budget & Finance Committee, 5:00 PM Deacon's Meeting, 6:00 PM
January 17	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM
January 18	Mid-week Activities: Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Inside Out Night), 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
January 19	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
January 22	Church Business Meeting, 12 N
January 25	Mid-week Activities: Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Zoo Night), 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
January 26	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM

The first New Year's celebration dates back 4,000 years. Julius Caesar, the emperor of Rome, was the first to declare Jan. 1 a national holiday. He named the month after Janus, the Roman god of doors and gates. Janus had two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. Caesar felt that a month named after this god would be fitting.

Did You Know? Forty-five percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions. The top resolutions are: to lose weight, get organized, to spend less and save more, to stay fit and healthy, and to quit smoking. While nearly half of all Americans make resolutions, 25 percent of them give up on their resolutions by the second week of January.

CHRISTIAN CALLER

January 2023
Volume 23, Issue 1

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

Haven't we had a blessed year! God is so good, even beyond what we can think or imagine. As Paul said it in Ephesians 3:20, *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."*

I don't know about you, but I think we must acknowledge the truth of those words in our lives and in our church as I look back over the year. I don't mean to minimize the hardships and difficulties many of us have faced this past year, the challenges, disappointments, and for some even tragedies. But truly even in these I think we can see God's goodness and faithfulness. Even in the hard times we can usually see God's hand comforting, providing, protecting, and sustaining us. Despite the difficulties and challenges God is always faithful. God is so good.

And in regard to our church we have been so blessed... 23 new church members added to our number this year, 7 blessed baptisms this year, our worship attendance and Sunday school/Bible study attendance is back up, glorious times of worshiping together each Sunday this year, God's presence showing up and moving among us, 40 leading us in worship each Sunday in the choir, numbers of visitors worshiping with us each Sunday, and on and on this list of blessings we must be counting goes. And right here at the end of one year and beginning of a new one, we get the news from the city that we have been approved to build. Praise the Lord! I don't know what it all means, or even what lies ahead, but I am joyfully expectant of great things from our great God in and through His people, the church.

You know sometimes we look back at the year and have a tendency to bemoan all that wasn't done, all that didn't happen, all that might have been accomplished, but wasn't. Just as a side note, remember that sometimes God is protecting us and His timing is always best. I know that sometimes there are lessons to be learned from the past year, and from things that didn't work out and go as planned. But really can't we just agree that we are here at the beginning of a new year, with new opportunities, and new possibilities that are alive as ever because God has brought us through to it, and has sustained us, and gotten

us here and hope is alive. I rejoice in all of this... not at what wasn't or might have been, but all that still can be. And I believe that with our good and great God we should look longingly for it in this New Year and with abounding hope.

It may seem like an overly optimist and idealistic quote, and I know you've heard the words before, "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade!" The words, I believe, do have merit. Sometimes life has a sour taste like lemons and can embitter us and bite us, but even in those times, if we let Him, God can bring good to His glory... sweet tasting, soothing, cooling lemonade that fills us and satisfies. He makes the sour sweet, and the stinging, satisfying. I think this is even Biblical!

Over the years I've learned this truth, God is faithful even when we aren't. He is good all the time, even when we aren't. God blessed His people even through the difficult and hard time. He can take what was meant for evil and make good out of it. I believe this! "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken..." (Psalms 37:25). "This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). So as you embark on a new year may you see and experiencing all the blessing of God who is good all the time, and give Him praise and worship for how will be sure to provide you... us with His sweet blessed "lemonade" of the abundant life. *Have a happy and blessed new year, Bro. Buddy*



Youth Re+Mind

Philippians 1:3-4

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

The "tea social" fundraiser was a success that exceeded our expectations. For the event itself we raised \$1,875.00 which we were able to use to purchase gifts for 20 children of incarcerated adults through Angel Tree Ministries. Additionally, we had an anonymous donor who felt the Lord leading them to match what we raised through the "tea social", and our students agreed that the money should be used to help 6 families through Camino Real Elementary school who needed aid through the holiday season.

Sunday January 8th, we are starting our new Sunday school class and we are calling it the **"Timothy Class"**. This class is targeting adults that range in age from 18-40; recent graduates, singles, married, young parents. I am very excited to be leading this class. So, with this new Sunday school class being started, we are in need of adult leaders to take over the youth Sunday school class. Please be in prayer that the Lord would put a desire in you to pour into our students on Sunday mornings in this very crucial need for our youth ministry. *Happy Blessed New Year! Trey*

MUSIC NOTES

Happy New Year everyone!! Hasn't everything just moved so quickly. What a glorious Christmas season we had at FBC Buda. Thank you to each of you that were involved in the many Christmas presentations. I'm so looking forward to a new year with wonderful worship services and Bible study opportunities.

Thank you, church family, for the amazing love gift that was given. I am touched beyond words. My best to all of you and I can't wait to begin working on new choir specials. *In His Name, Nancy*