

Children's Corner

Due to the closure of church during the 2022 winter storm, the AWANAs calendar was bumped back a week and the AWANA store will be Wednesday, March 1st instead of the previously scheduled February 22nd. Our church continues to be blessed with good attendance for our AWANAs program from church members and visitors alike, with many new visitors becoming consistent members of our Cubbies, Sparks, and TNT classes.

Kim Hodge continues to herald the Children's Church ministry, planning and teaching lessons from Old and New Testament stories retold in books. This allows students to grow familiar with people and events while exploring the Bible in a medium developmentally appropriate to their age. She is always looking for additional teachers if you know anyone who wants to explore working with kids without a weekly commitment!

Summer is rapidly approaching! Our annual VBS is scheduled for June 5th - 8th. Unlike in previous years, the preparation for this will be on the Sunday preceding it (June 4th), at 2:00 p.m. The activities with the students will exclusively be from 8:30 a.m. to noon each day (Monday - Thursday) with students and families both invited to come back on the final evening (June 8th) for their performance and presentation of awards. This year's theme is Twist and Shout, with music already available on Spotify or on CD format if you're ready to get the songs stuck in your head early this year! Our additional Summer Kids Program — taking place on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. — will start following the last week of AWANAs and until the start of the next academic year's AWANAs.

Thank you as always for your support of our teachers, volunteers, and students! **Children's Ministry Team**



MARCH EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| March 1 | Mid-week Services, Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (BARF Night), 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| March 2 | WMU, 10:00 AM
Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| March 4 | Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM
Church-wide clean-up (following breakfast) |
| March 5-12 | Annie Armstrong week of prayer |
| March 7 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| March 8 | Mid-week Services, Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Pox Night), 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| March 9 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| March 12 | Daylight Savings Time |
| March 12 | Building & Grounds Committee, 12N |
| March 13-17 | Spring Break |
| March 13 | Budget & Finance Committee, 3:30 PM |
| March 14 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| March 15 | Mid-week Services, Prayer Meeting, 6:00 PM
(NO YOUTH OR AWANA/SPRING BREAK)
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| March 16 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| March 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| March 20 | Spring Begins! |
| March 20 | Deacon's Meeting, 5:00 PM |
| March 21 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| March 22 | Mid-week Services, Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Tacky T-shirt night), 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| March 23 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| March 26 | Evacuation drill following the morning service |
| March 28 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM |
| March 29 | Mid-week Services, Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Marshmallow Madness), 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| March 30 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |

"March" is named for the Roman god of war, Mars."

This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter.

CHRISTIAN CALLER

March 2023

Volume 23, Issue 3

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

Do you know these words? *"I am so happy in Christ today, that I go singing along my way; yes, I'm so happy to know and say, 'Jesus included me too!' Jesus included me, yes, He included me, when the Lord said, 'Whosoever,' He included me; Jesus included me, yes, He included me, when the Lord said, 'Whosoever,' He included me."* That is a great old hymn written by Johnson Oatman back in the early 1900's. He also wrote a couple of other great and familiar hymns; "Count Your Blessings" and "Higher Ground." Johnson Oatman was a preacher from the time was 19 years old and pastored all his life in a small local church in Princeton, New Jersey. A simple man. Him and his father ran a mercantile business on the side. Not well known or renowned. Spent his life just preaching in the local church and in business. Not particularly famous. His only call to fame may have been his hymn writing. But the song, "He Included Me," was said to be one of his lesser songs, not particularly well written or liked. One critic of the song, "He Included Me," said, "the hymn is not particularly well written and too repetitious." Ouch!

I don't know about you, but there are some things that need to be repeated. There are some things that need to be repeated often. There are even some things that I personally need to hear and be reminded of over and over again. This is one of them. That no matter how down I feel, or unworthy I feel, or insecure I feel, how unlovable I feel, how disappointed I am with myself or my failings, He included me. Even when I don't think I should be included, He included me. Remember those childhood pick-up games... football, baseball, basketball... waiting for your name to get called. If you were one of the first few picked, boy you felt included. But if you were the last one picked you immediately felt excluded, unwanted, not needed... like a tag in need of sympathy. Most of us have been there. It is terrible to feel uninvited, and not wanted. I'm going to tell you something, God will never make you feel that way. He will always include you. As Jesus said it in John 6:37, *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."* Whosoever may come. That includes you and all. He will not cast you away. He will include you.

I hear people say from time to time that this church or that

church, this group of Christians or that group of Christians make them feel like an outsider... like they weren't included. Tragic! That is not Christ and it's not Christian. I've often said that churches ought to have a sign over their door that says, "Sinners welcome here!" "Sinners included here!" That's what you and I are, and He included us. As Paul said in Romans 5:8, *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* In other words even when we were at our worst and should have been excluded, He not only included us, but He died for us. So included were you that when others were saying "Exclude him," "he's too bad," "he's too far gone," "he's not worthy," "he's too messed up," "we don't want his kind around here," God said "He's included too!"

So, *"I am so happy in Christ today, that I go singing along my way; yes, I'm so happy to know and say, 'Jesus included me too!' Jesus included me, yes, He included me, when the Lord said, 'Whosoever,' He included me; Jesus included me, yes, He included me, when the Lord said, 'Whosoever,' He included me."* And He included you too, so you can joyfully proclaim that great promise as well. Sing it if you want too! Other's will think your crazy, but that's okay... you're still included! ***God bless you and I love you, Bro. Buddy***

Youth Re+Mind

"⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' "⁷He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'" – Acts 1:6-8

Life in the information age is very different from any other point in human history. It's not only that we are 24/7 by the minute being connected to things happening throughout the world, but information is also present to us as a product for purchase and consumption. Like we are being sold news like its on an aisle of the grocery store, and our information comes in all sorts of flavors depending on what perspective of information we want to digest. I keep on wondering if this madness will ever be viewed for as it is, madness, but unfortunately it feels like its just the way

of life.

This madness leads believers in questions similar to the one the disciples are asking Jesus in verse 6 of the passage above, "Hey Lord, you're going to fix this now, right?" You see, this question is one that for the disciples has been a big elephant in the room from the moment they agreed to follow Jesus to this point when He's calling for His cloud to open. This is what the Messiah is supposed to do, and He just came back from the dead so surely now is the time. However Jesus in there seeking information, Jesus doesn't give them spin, and doesn't leverage their desire to be in the know for His own gain. Rather, what He does with His answer is invite them into deeper faith in Him, and purpose in their lives. See, they wanted information about when God is going to change their circumstances, and Jesus said you be the change. They have witnessed Jesus' heart, teachings, and work now it's up to them who to tell and show the world with the power of the Holy Spirit. It's the same for us today. It's easy to lament the state of our world and ask God to change it. It's much harder to live as people of grace in our lives, yet that is the call on our lives. Each of us, to bare witness to the amazing grace Jesus has given us, and we will see our world change. ***Trey***

MUSIC NOTES

Happy March to all!! Spring is just around the corner and it won't be long til it's Easter time. Now's a great time to join the choir. We'd love to have you. ***In his Name, Nancy***

WMU

WMU will meet on Thursday, March 2nd in the sanctuary classroom to plan for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This is the North American Mission and will be collected until Easter Sunday. Our offering goal is \$3,500.00 and the Week of Prayer will be March 5th thru 11th. Tabitha's Sewing group has several things to do if anyone is interested in sewing. Thanks to Andree Brunk for leading this group. ***Thank you for supporting our WMU!***

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." ~ [1 John 4:15](#)