

## MUSIC NOTES

Hey everyone! What an incredible Easter we had at FBC Buda this year. Thank you to all members of the choir for putting in so much work to make our musical so inspiring. I'm looking forward to summer and doing some super special music. If you're interested in joining us, please come on Wednesday nights after Bible Study. ***In his Name, Nancy***

## WMU

Our final contribution to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was \$5,055. Our church goal was \$3,500. Thank you church family for your very generous contributions.

The next meeting for the Tabitha's Sewing Project will be Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will only make dresses @ this meeting. Come & join us! If you have a sewing machine please bring it with you. For additional information, contact Andree Brunk @ 512-422-0130 or andree@austin.rr.com.

## Children's Corner

Hello Church family. Well our children are gearing up for lots of "Twists and Turns". That's right. Out VBS theme this year is "Twists and Turns". We will follow Peter as he comes to know Christ. VBS starts on Monday, June 5th through Thursday, June 8th and will be from 8:30 a.m. until noon each day. Family night will be on Thursday, June 8th at 6:15 p.m. Please be in prayer for this ministry and consider coming out and helping us plan those little seeds of faith. Contact Joyce Roach for more information.

AWANA wraps up its 2022/2023 session this month. The closing ceremony and award program will be on Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00 p.m. Please come out and show these precious little ones your support.

On Wednesday, May 24th Caitlyn Quigley will start the Kid's Summer Program. This group will meet every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. throughout the summer. Kids', don't miss out on the fun! Plan to enjoy lots of activities and Bible stories. Contact Caitlyn Quigley for more information. ***In His Service, The Children's Ministry Team.***

## MAY EVENTS

May 4	National Day of Prayer
May 6	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
May 7	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM
May 9	Youth Vocal Ensemble, 4:00 PM
May 10	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM
	Tabitha's Sewing, 10:30 AM—1:00 PM
	Mid-week Services, Prayer Meeting, Youth,
	AWANA (End of Year Fun), 6:00 PM
	Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
	Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
May 11	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Mother's Day</b>
May 15	Budget & Finance Committee meeting, 3:30 PM
	Deacon's Meeting, 5:00 PM
May 16	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM
May 17	Mid-week Services
	AWANA ( <b>Awards Ceremony</b> ), 6:00 PM
	Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
May 18	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
May 21	Building & Grounds Committee meeting
	Youth Vocal Ensemble will go to Provident @
	Buda @ 3:00 PM to sing for/with the residents
May 23	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM
May 24	Mid-week Services, Prayer Meeting, Youth,
	Kids Summer Program, 6:00 PM
	Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
	Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
May 25	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
	<b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!</b>
May 29	Memorial Day
May 30	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM
May 31	Mid-week Services, Prayer Meeting, Youth,
	Kids Summer Program, 6:00 PM
	Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM
	Choir Practice, 7:30 PM



## CHRISTIAN CALLER

May 2023  
Volume 23, Issue 5

**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](mailto:fbcbuda@austin.rr.com)  
[www.firstbaptistbuda.com](http://www.firstbaptistbuda.com)

## A Word From Our Pastor

Maybe we're going about this all wrong. Like a child, kicking and screaming when he or she doesn't get their way, pouting, feeling sorry for himself, and lashing out at those we feel aren't giving us what we want! It's not a very flattering picture. We've seen it before in our children... or even in us as a child. Oh, maybe that's not you... it's just me! And in this case it's a little bigger than a child's wish for candy before supper, or a toy off a store shelf. It's much more important in our heart and mind... so is that toy in a child's world? But we're a church and we need this building... we need the space. By the way, don't you think God knows that? We've been working on this a long time, invested so much in getting what we want. And the proverbial "they" are keeping us from what we want! They are making it difficult! Stopping us from getting what we want at every turn, and it feels unfair, and targeted, and personal, and we are not happy. And maybe we are going about this all wrong!

Perhaps instead of cursing those who curse us, we should be blessing those who curse us. Huh! Bro. Buddy has lost his mind! Sounds like a crazy person... bless those who curse us!!! That doesn't even make sense. Just roll over and take it, stick your head in the sand, let them walk all over you, pretend they aren't cursing you and go on! We don't think like that, respond like that, or take cursing like that. We are taught to fight back. Fight fire with fire. That's not natural!

No, it's not! It's supernatural. It's other-worldly! It's also the way Jesus said to go about it. Listen to it in Luke 6:27 and following. Jesus said, *"<sup>27</sup>But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup>If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup>If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to*

*you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."*

Jesus' instruction that His listeners should *"bless those who curse you"* (Luke 6:28) demands a whole different kind of motivation than His listeners had. In Jesus' message recorded in Luke 6, Jesus contrasts the normal human sentiments of hating our enemies with loving those who express hate toward us (Luke 6:27). Jesus challenges His listeners to have a righteousness that is internal and deep-seated—that would truly change the way they treat each other. He wanted them to go beyond simply responding in a self-serving way and instead treat each other with true love—even doing good to those who hated them.

One of the ways Jesus challenged His listeners to express this love was that they bless those who curse them (Luke 6:28). The term translated "bless" is the Greek word "eulegeo," which could be translated as "pray for." In fact, Matthew records a similar exhortation by Jesus that His listeners pray for those who persecute them (Matthew 5:44). To bless one's enemies is not just to do them good, but actually to ask God for their well-being. Jesus emphasized the importance of doing good to one's enemy in subsequent verses: turning the other cheek (Luke 6:29), giving to someone who steals from you (Luke 6:30), treating others the way you want to be treated (Luke 6:31), lending, expecting nothing in return (Luke 6:35), being merciful (Luke 6:36), and forgiving (Luke 6:37).

It is one thing to bless or pray for someone who is doing good to you, but to bless or pray for those who curse you is very different. To curse (kataromenous) is to cause harm or to persecute (as in Matthew 5:44). Jesus is telling His listeners that the way to respond to one who seeks to harm us is to pray for his good. Obviously, if we are motivated by self-interest, we would never pursue the good of our enemies. But Jesus is challenging His listeners to work from truly selfless love and concern for the other. When we are acting for the benefit of someone else—even when it is undeserved—an incredible side benefit is that we ourselves are blessed. Jesus says that the reward for such behavior is great (Luke 6:35). He adds that, if we are forgiving, we also

are forgiven or pardoned (Luke 6:37). If we give, it will be given to us (Luke 6:38). To bless those who curse us requires that we are motivated by a desire for their well-being. When we treat others with that kind of love, God sees, and He rewards.

I know it's a novel idea. That's how we are to go about all this in the "right" way! Get your ideas about how to deal with the city, and on a personal level in our own lives with those we feel are coming against us, from Jesus! Not from the world. It will cause an overflowing joy in your life even when you're not getting what you want, and you'll find God there faithfully providing what you/we need! ***Blessings to you all in Jesus Christ, Bro. Buddy***

## Youth Re+Mind

We are excited about our Mission Trip to Houston June 12-17. Please be in prayer for our students and leaders as well as those we will be helping while on the Mission Trip. ***Trey***

**2023 YOUTH "MISSION" CAMP**

A new adventure in Summer Student Camp

JUNE 12-17

**WORLD CHANGERS**

Contact Trey for more information

**More information coming soon**