

MUSIC NOTES

Hello everyone. Happy March! Can you believe that Easter is at the end of **THIS** month? Wow. The choir is hard at work on our presentation **“Hope of the Cross”**. We will be presenting it on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Make plans to attend our SonRise service at 8:30 a.m., SonRise breakfast @ 9:00 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and our Easter presentation at 10:45 a.m.. See you there! ***In His Name, Nancy***

WMU

The Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is March 3-10. Our church goal this year is \$3,500. We will be collecting donations through the end of March. Please pray and give as the Lord guides you. ***Thank you for your support!***

YOUTH RE+MIND

We have 2 events scheduled this summer for our youth. The first is “World Changers” in Lake Charles, LA from June 10-June 15. The second is “Highland Lakes Journey Camp” from July 16-20. The cost for each student is \$300. We are currently accepting donations toward scholarships for any students who might need help with the cost. Any amount that you would like to contribute will be greatly appreciated. Please make donations payable to FBC Buda and note that it is for “Youth Camp”.



HOPE
CELEBRATE
EASTER *Lives*
at FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BUDA

EASTER SUNDAY
March 31, 2024
COME WORSHIP WITH US HIS EASTER

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Down on the flat of FBC Buda, Friday, March 29 at 6:30p.m.

EASTER SONRISE SERVICE
Easter Sunday at 8:00a.m.

EASTER CELEBRATION BREAKFAST
Following the SonRise Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Regular Sunday School at 9:30a.m.

EASTER MUSICAL CELEBRATION
Easter Sunday at 10:45a.m.

MARCH EVENTS

- March 2 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM
- March 3 Youth Vocal Ensemble, 4:00-5:00 PM
- March 3-10 Week of Prayer for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- March 5 Precepts Bible Study, 1:00 PM
- March 6 Building Program Prayer Team, 11:00 AM
Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM, Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Marshmallow Madness), Adult Bible Study, Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
- March 7 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- March 10 Daylight Savings time, Spring Forward
Building & Grounds Committee, 12N
Youth Vocal Ensemble, 4:00-5:00 PM
- March 11-15 Spring Break
- March 12 Precepts Bible Study, 1:00 PM
Budget & Finance Committee, 4:00 PM
Deacons Meeting, 6:00 PM
- March 13 Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM, Prayer Meeting, **No Youth or AWANA**,
Adult Bible Study
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
- March 14 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- March 17 Medical Team Meeting, 12N
- March 19 Precepts Bible Study, 1:00 PM
- March 20 Building Program Prayer Team, 11:00 AM
Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM, Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (BARF night),
Adult Bible Study
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
- March 21 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- March 22 OCC workday, 10:30 AM
- March 24 Youth Vocal Ensemble, 4:00-5:00 PM
- March 26 Precepts Bible Study, 1:00 PM
- March 27 Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM, Prayer Meeting, Youth, AWANA (Easter Egg Toss)
Adult Bible Study
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
- March 28 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- March 29 Good Friday on the Flat, 6:30 PM
- March 31 Happy Easter!
SonRise Service, The Lord's Supper, 8:00 AM
SonRise Breakfast, 9:00 AM
Sunday School, 9:30 AM
Worship Choir Easter Musical, 10:45 AM

CHRISTIAN CALLER

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Volume 24, Issue 3

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



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

I don't know how you feel about the things going on at FBC Buda right now, the growth we are experiencing and the wonderful folks God is adding to our family, the excitement growing around our building program and the future we are envisioning for our church, the increased number of children and youth and young families, a growing and thriving Bible study and Sunday School program, our renewed focus on prayer, and more. It is an exciting time to be a part of FBC Buda, and a scary time, and a fearful time, and an anxious time, and a potentially decisive time if we are not on our guard. There are many questions, doubts and struggles before us, and we are not all going to have the same opinion about it all. That's okay. Don't be afraid. Just be open to the Lord's plan more than man's plan and wait and trust in Him. He won't lead us astray. We must all remain singly focused on Him and be okay with where He leads even if it goes against what we think. Do we truly mean it when we sing, "Wherever he leads I'll go!"? If we do, we will be okay! Don't fear or be discouraged. Stick together and stick with Him.

You know Jesus told us in Matthew 16:18, "... I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It's true! The church is His and it will prevail... "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," but boy how the enemy can rattle those gates and raise quite a ruckus and get those behind the gate all "shook up." Know what I mean? When great things are being accomplished for the kingdom of God, lives are being blessed and touched, and people are being brought near the throne in worship and growth, people are being saved, and excitement for God and His work is high... well, you can be sure the enemy is going to start rattling the gates, and draw the gaze of some away into little skirmishes and scuffles that may disrupt and upset what God is doing. We may say, "Oh, don't worry about that!" "He can't get to us!" "That gate will keep that wild dog out and he can harm us!" "And greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)!" We may say it but what a vicious ruckus he can raise and stir with all his noise and growls, his clanging and banging!

I'll tell you, that I am not really one of those ministers who goes looking for Satan behind everything that goes wrong. I think we ought to be focusing our attention on... looking to Jesus and encouraging others to follow Him, and we ought not to be focusing on the ruckus of the defeated one rattling the gate. However, you and I need to be fully aware that enemy loves to destroy...or attempt to destroy...the church. He hates it and he hates us and that is why he keeps viciously attacking the gate even though He can't prevail. Obviously, Satan is a defeated and fallen foe, a limited being, and God's church is secure, but as a defeated and fallen foe he is determined to go kicking and

screaming and pulling as many down as possible. The gates of hell shall never overcome what God started, but the enemy certainly loves to disrupt what God's church is doing and especially when things are good... and they are! Right? And because they are... well, the enemy raises a ruckus at the gate.

I think how the great preacher/evangelist, D.L. Moody, put it is pretty accurate, "Satan puts straws across our path and magnifies it and makes us believe it is a mountain..." The enemy is always making mountains out of mole hills in the church... or out of "straw" as D.L. Moody says. I like that, because I think about how many of our little disruptions in the church are nothing more than "straw" really. Petty disagreements and getting cross ways when we don't get our way... straw! Arguments about trivialities in the church... straw! Satan loves business meetings that get out of hand or when two church members have disagreements outside of church... straw! He loves when church members argue about trivial things, such as colors of the carpet or paint on the wall... all straw! It doesn't really matter to the enemy what it is! All straw burns well! Show the enemy a good argument potential and he's willing to stir the fire! Here is the full D.L. Moody quote, "Satan puts straws across our path and magnifies it and makes us believe it is a mountain, but all the devil's mountains are mountains of smoke; when you come up to them they are not there." I don't think Moody is minimizing the reality of these things. He is simple reminding us that they don't amount to much, and that we usually make much more of them than we should, and allow the smoky straw of the enemy to steal our joy, to choke our praise, to burn your eyes of faith and distract us from the profound things God is doing and wanting to do in us and through us.

Listen, folks, we can either be mesmerized by a lot of gate rattling, straw and smoke of the enemy, or we can set our hearts fully on the amazing and profound things that God is doing in our midst and worship Him in it. We can either cower in fear at a defeated and fallen foe who wants to keep us all pent up with his noise at the gate, with his efforts made of straw, and his smoke and mirrors or, we can fix our eyes fully on "the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2). When I look around, I see an amazing God, doing amazing things, and desiring to do even greater and more amazing things than these, with the best yet to come... and praise God, a whole lot of gate rattling going on by an enemy that can't do one thing about it. Praise God, he can't do one thing about it... unless we let him! Oh, don't let him! Let's focus fully on, "...Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Eph. 3:20-210)." *I love you, Bro. Buddy*

CHILDREN'S CORNER

With spring right around the corner (or possibly here, given the recent temperatures), our children are growing alongside the flora. We are averaging record high attendance in our AWANAs program and had 38 children attend the week after Valentine's Day. There is a great need for additional helpers to support our teachers with listening to students as they practice and study verses. No teaching experience needed, just additional spiritual (and physical) support!

Thank you all for continuing to help out with our VIP program by volunteering in the nursery once a quarter. Our youngest children enjoy getting to play with their friends, the novelty of a structured environment outside of their homes, and the free snacks. Experience their zeal for life yourself or hold adorable babies for a few short hours by signing up on the calendar outside the nursery! Your assistance helps our kids get to know their church family and allows our regular nursery workers to attend church services with their families. We are still looking to add an additional paid nursery worker to our team, so please keep an eye out for trustworthy individuals within and outside of our church that could be a good fit for our nursery's needs.

For any new members or individuals who feel called to serve but aren't yet sure how, talk to Joyce Roach, Kim Hodge, Margaret Houston, Nicole Wehrman, April Moses, or Caitlin Quigley about helping out with our children in some capacity. There are several different areas where you could assist regularly, occasionally, or as a helper to a current volunteer. Our children's ministry team believes strongly in continued spiritual growth and deliberately endeavors to lighten the demand on any volunteer's time away from church, community fellowship, and opportunities to be poured into. We are very flexible with scheduling so anyone looking to help with teaching a Sunday School class from simple, prescribed curriculum or assist with kids studying Scripture in AWANAs or keep the kids in the nursery entertained doesn't need to fear us monopolizing all of their time! Thank you for your continued support! *The Children's Ministry Team.*

