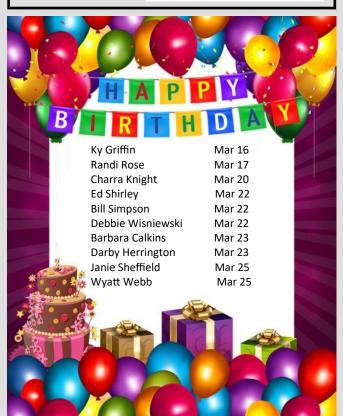


If you would like to help with VBS June 21-25, Please let Judy Mathews or the church office know. You are invited to attend optional VBS training sponsored by the SNBA Association.

MONDAY - MARCH 29, 2021 6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. ILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH 3196 US HWY 190 W JASPER, TX 75951

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: CRAFTS DIRECTORS PRESCHOOL GRADES 1-4 VBX PLUS MORE

CONTACTS: CATHY MILLS (409) 698-5302 LAURIE HAYES (409) 782-1401



Financial Report

Offerings......(02/01 - 02/28) \$ 51,548.30 Annie Armstrong....(cumulative).... \$

First Baptist, Jasper409-384-2527
Donnie Wiltshire, Pastor919-524-8302
Woody Wade, Minister of Music and Senior Adults409-382-5575
Jim Slaton, Minister of Youth and Education409-382-5425
Kim Gill, Church Secretary409-384-2527
Beth Penney, Financial Secretary409-384-2527
Christian School409-384-7033



► YouTube



First Baptist Church
Jasper, Texas

Compass

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 5

MARCH 11, 2021



I've Been Thinking...

Dear Church Family,

Many of you were here two weeks ago when I preached on a vision for our church. The kind of vision that I spoke about was not a revelation like Paul had in Acts 9 but somewhat like the vision he had in Acts 16. Paul, in a nighttime vision, saw a man calling him and his mission team to Macedonia. This revelation from God became a compelling image that pulled him and his friends into the western mission journey that defined the rest of Paul's life.

This is the vision I shared with you: "To see every life in Jasper transformed by Christ resulting in an impact in His name felt to the ends of the earth." I believe that such a vision is compelling. It is God sized. It is biblically based, and it is Christ centered. It springs from our mission which is rooted in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 and its sister passage Acts 1:8. It is a vision that can guide us for a long time, yet one that can have mile markers along the way that we can pause and celebrate. It is a vision that we cannot accomplish on our own. We will need many partners to join us on the journey. I believe it is a vision that will honor Christ and it should also bring new families into our family of faith.

Two quick cautions. First, this is not the task of the staff. This is the vision of the church. Woody, Jim, and I will pursue this vision with our whole hearts. But our task will be to work alongside of you. We will all live into this vision or it will never succeed. The second caution is this – you cannot wait for anything before you start. Some will figure that I am thinking about a church program that people can join. There will be some of those that we will do. But this is a way of life that you must embrace. Irma and I will be out for a week seeing grandkids.

See you when we get back.

I can't wait...

Brother Donnie



A Note from Bro. Woody

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

--Ephesians 5:1-2--

Some time ago during a football game between Michigan State and UCLA, the score was tied at 14 with only seconds to play. Michigan State had the ball and was within field goal range. So, the head coach sent in the kicker who kicked a field goal and won the game for Michigan State. The coach noticed that the young man didn't look at the ball after he kicked it. He later learned that he had forgotten his contact lenses and couldn't even see the goal posts. So instead of following the ball with his eyes, he spotted the referee on the sideline and watched him to see if he signaled a field goal.

Many times, in the Christian life, it is easy to be a lot like that kicker. That's because many believers don't feel like they can see the spiritual target they're trying to hit (or even know what the target is), so they just "live the Christian life" as best they can and hope for a good outcome. But as Bro. Donnie has reminded us, our goal in spiritual growth is clear. It is to become more like the very nature of God, and as we are transformed daily, we aren't just being made into better people. We are becoming more and more like God in our thoughts and actions. We are not just striving to do our best in the spiritual life. We are striving to imitate the character of God shown through Jesus Christ. That's the target of our spiritual transformation! Let's agree to pray that God would help us stay focused on the goal of our transformation: to be more like Christ in our thoughts and actions. Then, let's pray for each other to reach that

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

> You are loved, Bro. Woody

Our Church Goal: \$8,000

A Page from Jim's Journal

Last Thursday I went to go play 21 holes of frisbee golf at Pioneer Park in Nacogdoches. There is a small group of guys at church that have really gotten into the game over the past year and I had a new driver I was excited to try out. Most of the guys had played at this course before, but it was my first time. Pioneer Park is a gorgeous area. I couldn't help but notice how easy it was going to be to lose a few discs along the way. There was plenty of water, a very deep ravine, and a few narrow fairways with thick woods on both sides. Losing a disc in frisbee golf is a little more costly than losing a golf ball. That fact motivates me to rescue my disc if it ends up in a treacherous area. Days later, I still have the marks from thorns up and down my arm and a ruined pair of shoes from a minor incident retrieving my frisbee from a creek. Frisbee discs, depending on the type (drivers, mid-range, putters) can range anywhere from \$8-\$30. It's not life or death if you lose one. But finding a disc that's molded to your throw style increases its value ten-fold.

I had to smile when I was reading the passage at church last Sunday morning. Brother Donnie preached from Matthew 10:24-33. Verses 29-31 really came alive with my frisbee golf game still fresh from the previous Thursday. It says "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." I couldn't help but think of the great lengths I went to on certain holes to rescue my disc. I didn't want to lose it. How much more valuable am I to God than that disc is to me? Wow! His love is for us is so great, and He demonstrated it, gaining scars along the way. I pray over the course of this next week that God reminds you of His great love and the lengths He went through to demonstrate it. I am excited for the direction of our church and for the many more that will discover their value in Christ in the weeks, months, and years ahead. You are loved.





Bring the Family for Churchwide Breakfast Easter Morning, April 4th at 9:00a.m. in the Family Life Center

Following breakfast, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 a.m. for All children, birth through 6th grade!



Jim

Church, we need your help!! Please bring candy to fill the eggs. Please bring small candy that will fit in the eggs to the church office or foyer by Wednesday, March 31st.