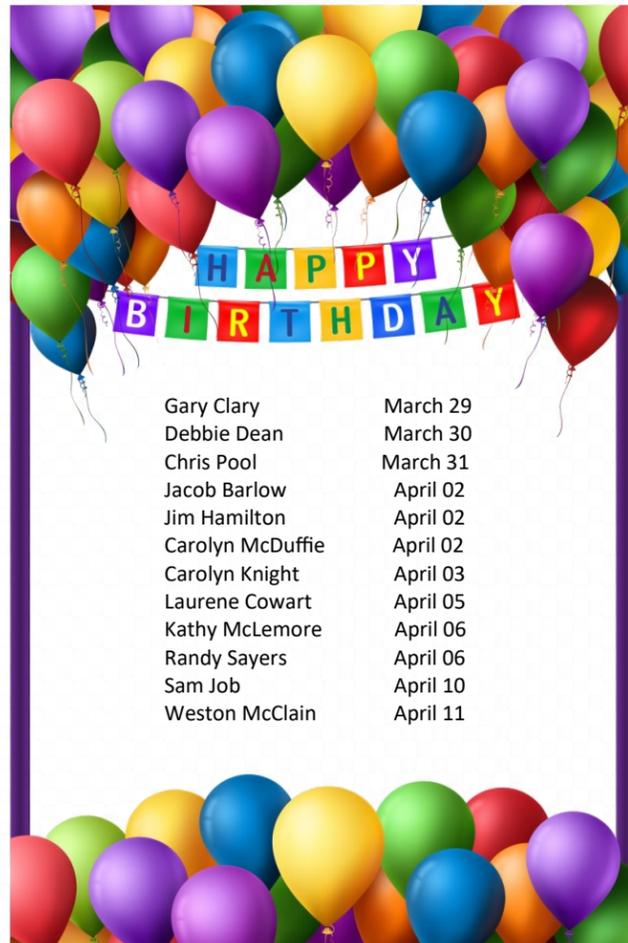


Senior 2021

Attention Seniors:

FBC will recognize the Graduating Class of 2021 on Sunday, May 23rd with a churchwide lunch in your honor. There will be a time of recognition and prayer during the worship service. You should have received an email from Jim with more details. If you did not, please email him at jslaton@fbcjaspertx.com.

The Bob & Shirley Cheek scholarship of the Sabine Neches Baptist Area is available to graduating seniors. You can pick up an application in the church office or we can email it to you. **Applications are due in the SNBA Office in Kirbyville by May 5th.**



Gary Clary	March 29
Debbie Dean	March 30
Chris Pool	March 31
Jacob Barlow	April 02
Jim Hamilton	April 02
Carolyn McDuffie	April 02
Carolyn Knight	April 03
Laurene Cowart	April 05
Kathy McLemore	April 06
Randy Sayers	April 06
Sam Job	April 10
Weston McClain	April 11

*Love one another
as I have loved you.
John 15:12*

First Baptist, Jasper.....409-384-2527
 Donnie Wiltshire, Pastor.....919-524-8302
 Woody Wade, Minister of Music and Senior Adults.....409-382-5575
 Jim Slaton, Minister of Youth and Education.....409-382-5425
 Kim Gill, Church Secretary.....409-384-2527
 Beth Penney, Financial Secretary.....409-384-2527
 Christian School.....409-384-7033

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 Jasper, TX 75951
 (409)384-2527
fbcj@fbcjaspertx.com



The Compass

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 6

MARCH 25, 2021

*Easter Sunday, April 4th is
 all about the Risen Savior!
 We hope you will join us at
 10:30 a.m. for Morning Worship.*

The morning will begin at 9:00a.m. with churchwide breakfast in the Family Life Center. Following breakfast, at 9:45a.m. children birth through 6th grade can participate in an egg hunt.

Invite your friends and family for a wonderful time of fellowship and an opportunity to Celebrate the Savior as we worship together.

He is Risen!

I've Been Thinking...

Dear Church Family,

The expectations have been listed, the vision has been cast, and now the implications of the vision are being explored. There will be a number of steps that we will take to begin to implement the vision (To see every life in Jasper transformed by Christ with the result that an impact in His name is felt to the ends of the earth) and all those steps will include the making of disciples. Soon we will start talking about how disciples are made. But to get there we must all agree on what a disciple is.

At first it seems easy. A disciple is one who follows and learns from Jesus. Yes, and at its heart this is what the word means. But unpacking the scripture around the word "disciple" is far more than those simple words. Matthew 10:24 says a disciple must be **LIKE** Jesus. John 8:21 tells us a disciple must **LIVE** (abide) in His word. Luke 14:26 makes it clear that **ONLY** Jesus can have first place in a disciple's life. And John 13:34-35 insists that disciples **MUST** love each other. There are more but these are enough to make it clear – being a disciple of Jesus is serious business.

Jim Putnam, in his book "DiscipleShift" states how critical it is for a church to have a common understanding of what constitutes a disciple. Only then can we know what it looks like when one is made. Well then, how about this – "a Christian disciple is a follower of Jesus who whose life is transformed in such a way that he/she lives like Christ lived and leads others to live like Christ too." Does that give the full picture of discipleship? It mentions following. It mentions life transformation. It mentions being like Him. It also mentions reproducing disciples (disciples making disciples). The definition might need some work, but it's pretty close.

Brothers and Sisters – it seems to me that is where we are headed. We are setting off on a disciple making journey that will fulfill our vision and will honor Christ. We cannot see every turn in the road ahead, but it is going to be quite a ride.

I can't wait. . .

Brother Donnie



A Note from Bro. Woody

*And He was saying to them all,
"If anyone wishes to come after Me,
he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life
for My sake, he is the one who will save it."
--Luke 9:23-24--*

Clarence Jordan, the author of the *Cotton Patch New Testament* translation, was getting a tour of a brand-new church. With pride, the pastor pointed out the beautiful pews, the luxurious decorations, and the beautiful, handcrafted pulpit in the front. The two walked outside as darkness was falling, and the pastor pointed up at a huge cross atop the structure, illuminated by several bright spotlights. "That cross alone cost us ten thousand dollars," the pastor boasted proudly. "It looks like you got cheated," said Jordan. "Times were when Christians could get those for free."

When we look at the cross, it's crucial that we remember what that symbol is really all about. During the time of Jesus, the cross was the ultimate sign of shame—a torture and execution device for the lowliest of criminals. When Jesus said that a follower of His should "take up their cross daily and follow me," He wasn't talking about a glorious life. He meant that a disciple would encounter hardship, persecution, and even death for His sake. He did promise, however, that it would all be worth it. We can't let the spiritual freedoms we enjoy today cause us to forget the price of following Christ. We must be willing to do whatever it takes to stay faithful. And even if the Lord allows suffering for the sake of Christ, we must remember that it will all be worth it! We need to pray that God would give us a commitment to follow Christ, not because it's easy, but because it's worth any suffering we encounter.

*Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

You are loved,
Bro. Woody

A Page from Jim's Journal

Spring is here and that means soccer season is upon us! I have spent the last 6 years (Fall and Spring) coaching James' soccer team. This year is a little different because James is in Junior High and participating in the athletic programs provided there. My days of coaching his teams are over. It is time for the paid professionals to take over. This has caused me to start all the way over again with my youngest son John in the U6 (4&5 year old's) league.

I enjoy coaching soccer and being part of the Pineywoods Youth Soccer League. My family always laughs because I didn't always enjoy it. Up until I started with James' team, I considered soccer an inferior sport. I grew up on football and baseball and that is EXACTLY what my kids were going to play. I specifically remember being in my first few months here at FBC. A family at our church was signing kids up to play soccer during the Christian School Open House. When they grabbed me and asked if my kids wanted to play I confidently replied with one of my jokes about how soccer is not a real sport. Famous last words. I am now wrapped up in it.

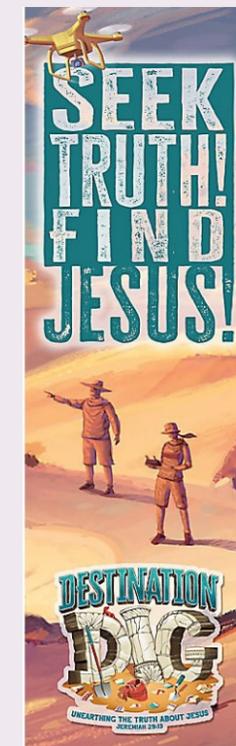
The more I got into the coaching side of soccer, the more depth and team strategy I discovered. There is so much more to the game than I ever dreamed. It just took a little time and investment to explore the game and I was hooked. I find a similar situation when it comes to following Jesus. In the flesh, none of us were ever inclined to seek after God. I was 20 when I felt a strong curiosity prompted by the Holy Spirit and started reading the bible. I knew absolutely nothing when I started reading James, then Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each new book was an adventure and was blowing my mind with Truth I never knew. I found there was so much more to life and I was becoming free from a prison I never knew I was in.

Psalm 19:7-11 says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, then much fine gold; sweeter also are they than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

I'm not sure what your feelings are about soccer. You may be a fan or have the same thoughts I had about it years ago. But soccer is not my main concern. What are your thoughts about God? About His Son? Are you willing to dive into His playbook and learn more about life, His plan for mankind, and the world? When you do, buckle up, because you will see a depth that you never knew existed. I encourage you, if you are not already, to open the Bible and start with one of the gospels. This book is different than any other you may read. You read most books, but with the bible (Gods Word), it reads you back. Freedom is found in Christ. Find Christ through the Truth in His Word.

Wedding Shower
Jacklyn & Cole
Peterson

April 24, 2021 at 2:00 pm
Home of Todd and Charra Knight
200 Willow Drive - Jasper, TX
rsvp to tiffany.peterson 409-698-6153
Wedding Shower for Cole Peterson and fiancé, Jacklyn.
Cole is the son of Kenny & Tiffany Peterson.
REGISTERED AT AMAZON WEDDING REGISTRY



VBS
June 21-25
We need you!
There are many
places to serve.

If you would like help
in knowing what to do,
consider attending the
VBS clinic.

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

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

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

If you would like more information about VBS, please
contact Judy Mathews or the church office.

Christ the Lord is Risen today!

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering - Given to date: \$2,559.80 - Our Church Goal: \$8,000