

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

# FELLOWSHIP MEAL

5:00 p.m.

- December 8th**

  - Sheet Pan Sausage & Pepper Hoagies
  - Fresh Veggies or Chips & Dips
  - Striped Delight
- December 15th**

  - Chicken Delicious
  - Mashed Potatoes
  - Green Beans
  - Fruit Salad
  - Chocolate Sheet Cake

\$5 person. \$2/child 12 & under.  
\$15 Family Maximum  
*To go plates are for shut ins only.*

Please sign up by Tuesday at noon  
by calling the church office  
409-384-2527, or [fbcj@fbcjasper.tx.com](mailto:fbcj@fbcjasper.tx.com)  
or using this QR code



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Julia Slaton	Dec 07
Hannah Wade	Dec 10
Donnie Wiltshire	Dec 12
Judy Wyche	Dec 12
Martha Westmoreland	Dec 14
Kenneth Hodges	Dec 15
Jack Calicott	Dec 19
Carol McKay	Dec 19

First Baptist, Jasper  
314 N. Main St.  
Jasper, TX 75951  
(409)384-2527  
[www.fbcjasper.tx.com](http://www.fbcjasper.tx.com)

**Our Vision:**  
To see every life in Jasper  
transformed by Christ resulting  
in an impact in His name felt to  
the very ends of the earth.

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

The Compass (UPS #071350) is published twice a month.  
Periodical Postage paid at Jasper, Texas 75951

# The Compass

DECEMBER 2, 2021 – VOLUME 18 - ISSUE 22

*Please join us on  
Sunday, December 12th  
at 10:30 a.m.  
as our  
Adult Choir Presents*

- ### Church Events
- December 4th - FBC Kids to Grant Christmas Tree Farm meet at 9am
  - December 5th - Vote on proposed 2022 Budget following morning worship service
  - December 5th - Security Team Meeting in the gym immediately following morning worship service
  - December 5th - Blood Drive in the gym from 2-5 pm
  - December 5th - Budget & Finance Committee Meeting in the Conference room at 4pm
  - December 5th - Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary at 6pm
  - December 12th - FBC Choir Cantata 10:30am
  - December 12th - Deacons Meeting in the His Followers classroom at 4pm
  - December 15th - Business Meeting 6pm
  - December 15th - FBCS Christmas Chapel for K-5 in the Sanctuary at 10am
  - December 19th - Operation Christmas Child Celebration at 5pm

I've Been Thinking...

Dear Church Family,

I guess I think this way every year, but “where did the year go?” Yes, years seem to go by quicker as I grow older, but this year was a blur. The quick pace was partly due to the fact that we have been rebuilding everything. Covid is not gone, but at this moment we are in a much better place than we were last year at this time. Of course, Covid has left its mark on us, and we mourn the loss of friends and family. We mourn the loss of our old routines and traditions. And even though we grieve over how much has changed, we rejoice in the new beginnings that God is giving us.

Christmas is our annual reminder that God is always making things new. The coming of Jesus into the world brought hope and new life. It is Jesus who makes it possible for people to move from darkness to light and (even more dramatically) from death to life. Every year at the end of the year our Christmas celebration reminds us all over again that new life and new beginnings are God’s gift.

When I look back on 2021, I am stunned by how far we have come. We have literally had to rebuild every piece of church life. We have brought new strength into our worship. We have restructured Sunday School. We have brought committees and teams back to life. We have reinstituted Wednesday night suppers and children’s activities. And we have begun to reach out to our community and expand our international mission reach. Wow!

We will continue to reinvigorate church life, but we don’t plan to go back to our past. As we have said so many times over the past year, we plan to move into God’s future. Over the next year expect to see a more concentrated emphasis on our Sunday morning worship gathering. Expect to start hearing about accountable small groups. Expect to experience more being on mission with Christ. Look for this and more!

2022 will likely speed by but under God, we will make it count.

I can hardly wait!

Brother Donnie



A Note from Bro. Woody

...let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.  
--James 5: 20--

In 1994, The New York Times reported that graffiti from the 1800s was discovered by workers renovating the Washington Monument. It was quite a different tone from much of the graffiti found today on walls and street signs. Here’s what it said:

Whoever is the human instrument under God in the conversion of one soul, erects a monument to his own memory more lofty and enduring than this.

The inscription was signed with the initials, BFB. No one knows who that is, but this anonymous author’s words can now be seen by the thousands who visit the monument each year. Though written so long ago, those words ring very true today. Whoever God uses to turn people away from their sin and toward a faith relationship with Jesus Christ makes an impact on eternity!

Maybe today, there are people in your life who you can point toward Christ. Maybe they live nearby, shop at the same store as you, or you see them in your daily routine. Whoever it is, God wants to use you to tell them about Jesus and to show Jesus’ love. And when you do, you can be confident that you’ve made an impact that will last longer than any monument ever built! Let’s ask God to show us people in our lives who need to hear about Jesus. Then, let’s pray that we would be open to being used by Him to impact eternity!

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart,  
and love that soul through me;  
And may I bravely do my part to win that soul for Thee.  
Some soul for Thee, some soul for Thee,  
this is my earnest plea;  
Help me each day, on life’s highway,  
to win some soul for Thee.

You are loved,  
Bro. Woody

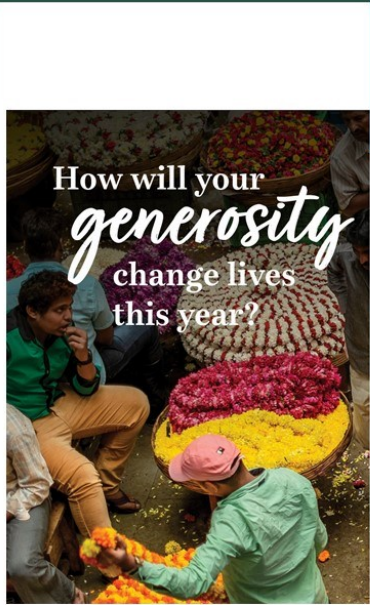
A Page from Jim’s Journal

God doesn’t need me. Shane Pruitt words this best in the beginning of a blog post he wrote back in 2014. He says, “Every single one of us carries a bit of a savior complex in us, and we all love the idea that someone else needs us. Often, we long for the moments where the “bat signal” goes up and we can swoop in with our cape on to save the day. There are even times, where I believe that I’m so awesome, that the Creator of the universe needs my help to accomplish His will! I like the idea of thinking that God somehow needs me. The problem with believing this, of course, is that a “need” implies a lack of something. So, if God were to need me, then that means that He must lack something in some way. And by definition, if God is lacking in anything, then He is not God.”

I got a good reminder of this the Wednesday before school let out for Thanksgiving break. I have spent every Wednesday going through the gospel of Mark with teenagers. We started with John the Baptist, and we are now in the final week of Jesus’ life. We read the scripture together, I explain it, and we talk about how that applies in their context. A lot of times I’ll put them in small groups and let them discuss what it looks like to follow a particular passage in their everyday lives. In this context I can fall into the trap of putting a little too much emphasis on my preparation, my teaching, and my communication. But none of those things can actually transform a heart. Only Jesus can convict and transform, leading to new life.

This particular Wednesday night, before Thanksgiving break, the students went through several different prayer stations, equipped only with a bible and the elements at each station. The purpose was for them to see what it’s like to spend some time individually reading the bible and learning how and what to pray for. I had no involvement aside from setting up the prayer stations. The fruit of that time was evident. Several students came out of that time in tears, all were encouraged, and we had a young lady give her life to Jesus. I was blown away. God had moved and I had nothing to do with it. I sat there with so much joy in my heart. I realized that sometimes I just need to get out of the way. God is at work, and He doesn’t need me!

Now here is a an even greater piece of news. No, God doesn’t need me. But He wants me. Galatians 4:4-7 says, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God” What a beautiful reminder of the truth that God wants me! He wants us so badly that He was willing to go to any length to redeem us. According to these verses, redemption means that I was once a slave. In fact, I was a slave to sin. There was a ransom or price tag on my head that had to be paid in order to set me free. The price tag was death. Jesus paid that price for my ransom to grant me freedom by dying on the cross, and the resurrection was my receipt that the payment was accepted. I have been set free by the blood of Jesus, and there is nothing more valuable than that. That fact alone places extreme value on my life! **Because of Jesus, I am worth something!** Because I am worth something, I am invited to take part in His Kingdom work. What an amazing God we serve!



How will your generosity change lives this year?

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LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

YOUR GENEROSITY MEETS TANGIBLE NEEDS

\$10 provides 1 month of missionary training

\$100 provides supplies for a missionary to serve in a refugee camp for a week

\$300 provides a 1 year license renewal for a missionary doctor

\$2,500 provides 1 year of homeschool curriculum for missionary kids

Our Church Goal: \$8,500

Oh What Fun

Join FBC Kids (K-6th grade) for a field trip to

GRANT FARMS

EST. 1983

Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 9 a.m. return at 4 p.m.

Cost \$20.00 (Hay Ride, Zip Line, Petting Zoo, Cage Maze, Corn Maze, Jumping Pillow and Lunch)

Send extra money if your child would like to buy something at the toy store or concession stand

RSVP to church office (409)384-2527

