

May 17th

King Ranch Casserole Vegetables Salad/Bread Banana Pudding

May 24th Fried Chicken Rice & Gravy Green Beans Salad Dessert

\$5 per adult. Ages 0 - 18 eat free. 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@fbcjaspertx.com or using this QR code







Carol Calicott	May 15
Joe Ezernack	May 15
Bruce Calicott	May 16
Helen Locke	May 17
Justin Blair	May 19
Jane Edwards	May 23
Shirley Clark	May 25
Rebecca Tatum	May 31

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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.

Volume 20 Issue 9















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2023

I've Been Thinking...

Dear Church Family,

Last month my Compass article came out of Israel. It was so much fun seeing the sights of the Holy Lands and then, through the Compass, having a chance to share some of our experiences with you. Seeing the land of Jesus taught us a great deal about Bible history and seeing the places while one is hearing the stories really helps to bring the Bible alive. That is one of the main reasons to go to Israel.

But there is another reason and, I think, a more important reason. Seeing the places of Jesus while one is reading the Bible prompts worship. On our tour we had almost daily moments of significant encounter with God. I believe these are the moments that most of us brought home with us.

One of our most significant times of worship happened in the Garden Tomb. Along with "Gordon's Calvary" this site is one of two considered by many to be the place of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. We shared the Lord's Supper together during our Garden Tomb visit. In that protected space we read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; sharing the bread and the grape juice - "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you share the Lord's death until He comes..." Oh my, that was a powerful moment. It was such a joy for me to lead our group in that experience of worship.

Before we left the Garden Tomb, I asked everyone what difference our trip to Israel was going to make in their lives. There were many significant answers. Some said they thought they would be better students of the Bible. (Amen to that!) Others said they were going to be better people when they got home. Some said they would love Jesus more and would submit to Him reworking their lives (that is my paraphrase of their comments). I don't know what all the differences will be that come in my life as a result of Israel (and Egypt). I hope the trip makes me a better pastor/shepherd and makes me more like Jesus!

I can hardly wait . . .

Brother Donnie



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." --John 14: 6-7 --

A kindergarten teacher once told her students to draw a picture of what was important to them. In the back of the room little Johnny began to labor over his drawing. Everybody finished and handed in their picture, except for Johnny. The teacher graciously walked back and put her arm around Johnny's shoulder and said, "Johnny, what are you drawing?" Without stopping his work or looking up, Johnny replied, "I'm drawing God." "But, Johnny," the teacher said gently, "no one knows what God looks like." He answered confidently, "They will when I'm through."

You may not be able to draw a picture of what God looks like, but it's your privilege through Christ to know Him completely. God is not distant or obscure, because Jesus has made Him known, and in Christ's name the God of the universe has become your Father. Are you enjoying this intimacy with your Father in heaven? Are you seizing the privilege of knowing Him that Jesus has made available to you? Too many Christians fail to embrace the life God created them to enjoy because they fail to embrace God as Father. So claim your place in God's family today. Rejoice in your adoption and move forward in the power and security of knowing that you're a child of the King! Ask God to draw you into a deeper intimacy with Him. Pray He would reveal Himself to you more and more every day.

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me? *I* was lost, but *He* brought me in; Oh His love for me, oh His love for me. Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes, I am!

> You are loved. Bro. Woody

A Page from Jim's Journal

Our Senior Recognition Service is being held Sunday, May 21st. Those days are always bittersweet. It is such a joy to see our graduates at First Baptist "take the next step" and continue to pursue Christ in the next phase of their life. It is bitter though because the next phase of their life usually means they move away. Many of these students will continue their education by attending college, while a few are looking to jump right into the workforce. Regardless of their future plans, I pray that Christ is the focus for each of these graduates.

Brother Donnie preached out of Acts 13:1-5 this past Sunday. It is a beautiful look at the church at Antioch setting aside Paul and Barnabas for the work to which the Lord had called them. Brother Donnie explained that this was a turning point in the life of the church. As a result of this moment, the church exploded. It would be completely understandable for the parents of these graduates and our church to want to keep these students close. Speaking for myself, they have brought so much joy to the youth ministry. But they belong first to God.

Senior Sunday, in many ways, plays out like Acts 13:1-5. We will recognize the fact that God has a purpose for each one of these young believers, we will lay hands on them as one body and pray over them, and we will send them out, like the church of Antioch did for Paul and Barnabas. Will you commit to joining us on this special Sunday and encourage these Seniors as they take their "next step"? There will be a church wide fellowship and lunch afterwards to celebrate these young men and women. Come and be a part of what God is doing at FBC.

