



February

Feb 2 (Sun)-Children's Camp registration opens

Feb 9 (Sun)-Observance of the Lord's Supper during the Worship Service

Feb 10 (Mon)-Care Connection (Distribution to Homeless) – Leave church at 8:30am.

Feb 18 (Tues)-Cottage Prayer meeting at home of Ace and Linda Rifenburgh, 7pm

Feb 23 (Sun)-Awana Grand Prix Chili Cook-Off, after church in Fellowship Hall

Feb 23 (Sun) -Awana Grand Prix, Student Chapel, 3pm

Regular Activities

AWANA – Sundays, 1:30-3pm.

AWANA XL– Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm

Pack Homeless Kits – 1st Tuesday, 11:30am, Fellowship Hall

Ladies Bible Studies—Tuesdays at 9:45am, 10am and 7pm in the Fellowship Hall

Bible Study & Prayer – Wednesdays, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall.

Men's Morning Word—Thursdays at 7am at Sammy's Restaurant

Prime Timer's Lunch—Senior Adults—2nd Thursday of the month—11:30am at Bill Millers

Food Truck Distribution—3rd Thursday—volunteers needed at 12:30pm, distribution starts at 2pm.

Food Pantry Distribution – Last Thursday, 10am.

SAVE THE DATE

Mar 1 (Sun)-Children's Sunday Service and Envelope Fundraiser

Mar 1 (Sun)-Justin Russell preaches

Mar 29 (Sun)-Watoto Children's Choir during Worship Service

Connections — February 2020

Families dedicated their children to the Lord on Jan. 12 and promised to raise them in a Christian home.

FBCC approves creating private school as ministry

By Ginger Carnes 
Church Clerk

Our church took a monumental step in January by voting to create a School Council to begin a private school as a ministry of FBC-Castroville.

During the Jan. 15 business meeting, a previous proposal to start a full-time daycare was replaced with a recommendation to start a private school.

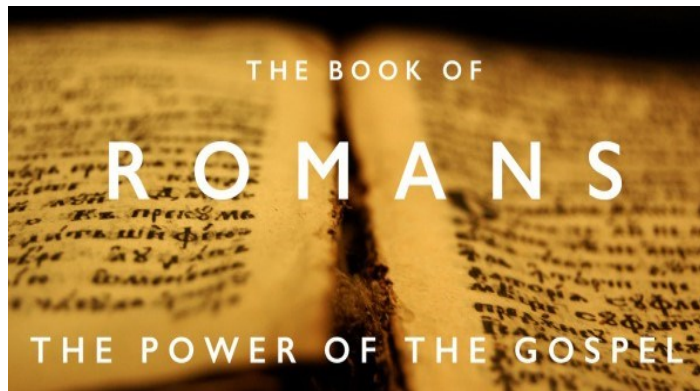
The church had created an ad hoc committee to research the possibility of a daycare to expand our children's ministry and to help bolster our budget. Led by Children's Minister Debra McDonel, the committee determined that the daycare had too many regulations and the state, through its licensing requirements, would have too much control over our church property and how we operate. Church Council members agreed with that assessment.

During the committee's research, the members heard from multiple people that there is a need for another Christian school in Castroville. The only other one is currently at St. Louis Catholic School.

Tentatively titled FBCC Academy, the school may open as soon as the next school year, with parents beginning to register their children in early spring. For that to happen, the School Council will need to begin meeting immediately so the church can advertise plans for the school.

Through bulletin announcements, a Facebook post and a church-wide email, the Nominating Committee was seeking volunteers to be considered for the School Council. Deadline for nominations was Jan. 26. The Council will be elected at the February business meeting.

Tentative plans are for the school, which is not regulated by the state, to serve 4-year-olds through second grade. The School Council will develop and recommend the policies and a curriculum and hire a Director. Those decisions will then be presented to the Church for approval.



That's our hope ❤️

Romans 8:14-25 is an inspiring (and inspired) passage of Holy Writ. The first part of the passage describes our full and irrevocable position in Christ. We are God's adopted children. We have the right to cry unto Him with the gentle, parental call, "Abba, Father." Paul adds evidence showing that we can know this relationship is both real and rewarding: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be *glorified* with Him" (16-17).

Continuing on, Paul explains more about the nature of *glorification*. One thing to which to pay close attention is the mention of "suffering" (17-18). In Paul's thinking, suffering and glorification are entwined. Flip sides of the same coin. In fact, there's a subtle dualism ongoing in the passage. We suffer, but so does the creation. Paul states that, "the whole creation has been groaning together" (22), like a woman at the time of childbirth.

We have our own birth pains. Every time we feel lonely, every time we get frustrated with the injustice and evil of this world, every time we say to ourselves, "It shouldn't be that way!" What we're experiencing is a kind of wistfulness, a longing for home, for a place we've never been before.

I'm discovering that even the progression of age, of having more internal parts that regularly fail me, and the inevitable slide toward death—even these correspond to the birth pains Paul mentions. Our old body is wearing out because it was never meant to be our permanent home. Someday, we will join the company of the faithful in Christ. We will *inhabit* a body far better than anything we've ever dreamed of; and we'll *inherit* a home that Jesus has personally constructed (and He was a carpenter!).

That's our hope. The Holy Spirit assures us we'll have it someday. Like the people of Israel for centuries looked forward to their Messiah, we look forward to the ultimate redemption, the completion of God's plan. The Holy Spirit resides in everyone who belongs to Jesus. You are not who you used to be. You can never be lost or unsaved again. And you have a magnificent eternal future to which to look forward.

Grateful to be your pastor in the interim,

Ben



Ready to go and make Disciples?

By Sarah and Jacob Biediger ❤️
Leaders

A new Discipleship Study begins Sunday morning, Feb. 9, at 9:30. You are invited. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church of Castroville.

"*Multiply* is designed as a simple resource that you can use to begin making disciples. Our prayer is that it will give you the confidence you need to step out in faith and disciple the people whom God has placed in your life" states the Multiply movement website.

Visit the following link to access the free study material. If you prefer a hard copy of *Multiply* by Francis Chan, it can be purchased on Amazon:

www.multiplymovement.com

Watoto Children's Choir is coming to FBCC ♥



Our church will be hosting Watoto Children's Choir again on March 29! We will need host homes with beds or even just floor space for pallets. If you are interested in hosting any of the children (along with their caregiver-**total of 4 people**) during their overnight stay in Castroville, please contact Claudia Williams at 815-715-8376. **At this time we still need 8 more host homes.**

Since 1994, Watoto Children's Choirs have traveled the world sharing the plight of Africa's orphaned children. Each child in the choir has suffered the loss of one or both of their parents but they have been rescued and now live in a Watoto village. Watoto is a holistic child-care solution initiated to serve the dire needs of the people of Africa.



By Debra McDonel ♥
Children's Minister

The AWANA Grand Prix is a racing event with a 50-year track record of fun and excitement. Each year thousands of young people and their families attend a local race where they will hear the gospel message. *But the Grand Prix is more than just building a race car and watching it run down the track.* It helps to build a bond between kids and their parents as they work together to design the best car ever. Parents and grandparents will be drawn into the creative excitement of helping their young people participate. And everyone who attends will hear the good news that God loves them and sent His Son to rescue them from sin.

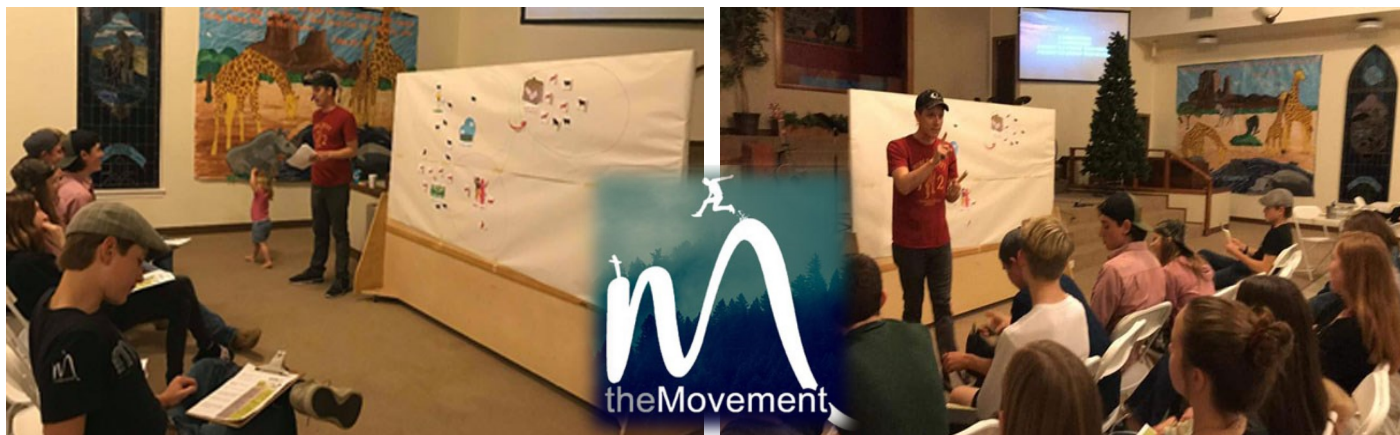
This year's Grand Prix will be held in the Student Chapel on Sunday, Feb. 23. Cars will go through a check-in process to be weighed and to determine what classification they will enter in the race.

During this time, we will enjoy a classic Chili Cook-Off competition with an entry fee of \$10 per chili entry. Proceeds will go toward helping our church Hospitality Ministry Team.

After a good bowl of chili, we will head outside at 2:30 for a "private car show." Everyone will be asked to join us in an amazing worship service with our Children's Worship team and a short message from our pastor.

Then the race will begin! Vroommmm..... mark those calendars for this Grand event!





By Jeromy Kusch 
Student Minister

I'm excited for a new year and continuing to study and work with the teens here at FBCC. Over the past month, on Wednesday nights, our students have been studying the Biblical analogy of "Sheep and Wolves". This language is repeated numerous times throughout the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments and it is important for us to understand the who, what, where, and when concerning the application of the "sheep and wolves" teaching throughout our Bible. First, we studied the character and the behavior of the wolves and sheep as described in Scripture. Then we took a look at where the Bible says these two groups exist, act, live, and/or operate. Afterward, the students explored the roles of the sheep and how we are told to treat wolves we may encounter. In February we will begin a new study which explores Biblical Truth compared to "False Doctrines" that we are warned about in Isaiah 5:18-20 and Acts 20:29-30.

Additionally, in our Sunday School hour we went back to the beginning to explore the Old Testament answering some tough questions about the accounts recorded there, and to develop a better understanding of how the Old and New Testament connect, while demonstrating God's consistency and sovereignty throughout Scripture. This is a great study for debunking common myths surrounding the Old Testament, but also develop a love for God's entire Word and His never changing character. Join us at 9:30 every Sunday morning.

Parents and church members, we are always looking for adult mentors for our students, if you would like to get involved, contact me at jeromy@fbccastrovilleorg for more details.

A few important days coming up for the Movement:

Wednesday, February 8 - Begin New Study on Biblical Truth and False Doctrines

Sunday, February 16 - Youth Family Fellowship (BYO lunch and your favorite board game)

Children's Camp

Children's Camp Registration at Alto Frio is open Feb. 2! Camp costs \$170 per camper and per Leader. We would like every child from 3rd grade to 6th grade to have a chance to experience the peace of God in the beauty of His creation. If your child would like to attend and is in need of sponsorship, please talk to our Children's Minister, Debra McDonel at 830-212-1703. Payment plans are available. Camp this year is June 15 -18. She advises you not to wait to sign up. We have a large group that attends each year and spaces are limited!



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This newsletter is the leadership's way to keep you in the loop. To submit items, send to Margo Perez at Margo9326@yahoo.com.

Deadline is the Sunday after the monthly Business Meeting. It is sent via e-mail and it is available on the What's Happening tab of the church website. Printed copies are available in the Worship Center foyer.