



Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Castroville
May 2020 - PANDEMIC ISSUE

Online worship service involves expert talents

When you venture onto your sofa on a Sunday morning to “worship” with your congregation on Facebook or the church website, you’re experiencing a music service and sermon that took hours and hours of time from some very dedicated volunteers throughout the week.

It starts with Praise Team Director Stephanie Randles texting a list of songs to the vocalists and band in the middle of the previous week. Then they show up at the Worship Center at 6 p.m. Tuesdays to practice with the words on the screen before the technical experts arrive to set up cameras and prepare the sound system.

The band has been an “acoustic set” with mainly Daniel McDowell on guitar and Jacob Biediger on drums. Vocalists have featured Stephanie and Megan Conner but you’ve seen others on the screen at various times.

Two to three cameras and one iPhone are set up on tripods to video from various angles as the songs are sung – sometimes more than once to get the best version. The memory cards from those cameras are given to Dan or to Ron Barron, who spend 6-7 hours each splicing videos so we have a more professional quality than just one camera that never moves. Camera operators have been Dan, Ron, Jo Ann Haywood and Michael Franke.

We want the “virtual congregation” to sing with the Praise Team, so Jo Ann and Julie DeLucia have taken screenshots of the lyrics to be synced with the audio, which takes an addition 3-4 hours of editing by Ron or Dan.

Ron manages global audio-visual for the tech giant Rackspace and has experience working with professional, high-quality audio and video editing software. “To put together a broadcast, you want it to sound like an album, or sound as professional as possible,” Ron said. During the first 2 weeks, he spent 4-5 hours editing the audio tracks captured from

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TOP PHOTO: Cameras on tripods record the Praise Team as they sing and play. **BOTTOM:** Tech crew, from left, Jo Ann Haywood, Daniel McDowell and Ron Barron operate cameras and create videos. Julie DeLucia runs the slides.



Samples of masks by Jean and Joan

WE ALL NEED A MASK

Masks. Everyone needs a mask – or two.

Ladies within our church have corralled fabric and elastic to create masks that have been shared not only with our congregants but with health professionals throughout Medina County in the wake of this Coronavirus pandemic.

When Jean Peters and Joan Scarborough, who are twin widows who live next to each other, heard of the need, they reached out to get fabric and ¼” elastic. The church sent an email for donations, but the elastic was being gobbled up everywhere, so Debra McDonel ordered enough from Amazon for 275 masks.

The ladies got busy. And these women are pros. Joan is a seamstress who worked doing alterations for a drycleaner and even made her daughter’s wedding gown. They found a pattern on a YouTube video and started cutting. “The cutting took the longest; then it only took 7 minutes to sew each mask,” said Jean. They sewed them inside out and put interfacing inside to filter the cotton material.

Another member, Gayle Pacheco, also was making masks with a pipe cleaner across the top for the nose. She’s still selling some if you want to contact her at 830-200-1991 (cell) or gaylepacheco@sbcglobal.net. She will do custom ones if you have specific fabric you want used.

The twins’ project wasn’t just for fun. They gave them away with notes in the bags that said, “With Love, Jean and Joan.” They went to CPS workers at the plant, local EMS drivers, Dr. Neel at the Little Alsace Clinic, Dr. Jaafar’s MedCare, Katie Russell’s former pediatric clinic, and our members and their neighbors who needed them.



Twins Joan Scarborough, left, and Jean Peters created hundreds of masks as soon as the need was known.

We're feeding every week

It's 5:45 on Wednesday morning, Missions Minister Tina Santee is among the first cars in line at Daily Bread Ministries near the AT&T Center on the East Side of San Antonio. She's reserved a spot for FBC-Castroville and is awaiting the arrival of Andy Carnes, one of her active volunteers, with his covered trailer and truck to load with food to provide to our community.

By 6:30 a.m. the ministry loading docks are open and Andy backs his trailer up to one.

The ministry has determined a "portion" of the donated food that will go to each of the 25-30 non-profits that have been approved to distribute the donations. As the workers move boxes of food items to the end of the loading dock, Tina and Andy load them into the trailer. Then they pull to the side to wait until others have been served to see if there are "extras" that they can bring back to Castroville. Sometimes the bounty overflows into the back of the truck and into Tina's car.

It happens every Wednesday because the San Antonio Food Bank canceled the monthly Thursday church distribution after March due to the huge demand and the lack of food. That decision was evident as you see the Food Bank's mega distributions on the national news to try to feed families who have lost income and line up for food for the first time ever.

As they review what they have, Tina determines if they need to stop and buy zipper plastic bags to split up the frozen salisbury steaks, refrigerated meat, fresh vegetables and fruit, milk and other dairy products. The food comes to Daily Bread from restaurants and other venues that receive them but have few or no customers to serve.

They arrive at the church between 9:30 and 10 a.m. where volunteers, including some from area churches, help unload and sort the food, sometimes in the Student Chapel during inclement weather. They sort the food and place them in categories on tables for the cars who wait to be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tina said the Wednesday distribution – which is publicized on the church sign, the church Facebook page, and the *Castroville Anvil* – has served an average of 120 families weekly.

Volunteers don masks and gloves to protect themselves and others as they put items into the cars. Some of the food is set aside for church members who have requested food but cannot come to the church. Tina delivers that during the week.

FOOD WARRIORS

Tina Santee	Cheryl Carnes
Andy Carnes	Lindsay Carnes
Andy Roe	Cody Carnes
Gail Pacheco	Lilly Carnes
Susan Thornell	Jodi Bednarek
Tammy Bednarek	Sandy Schraeder
Jeanette Bednarek	Linda Rifenburgh
Rosalinda Trevino	Serena Bull
Paula Barden	Dennis Moody
L.B. Barden	Deb Torres
Rothe Barden	Jo Ann Haywood
Analee Barden	GiGi Kemmerer
Rhylee Barden	Buck Maples
Emma Basinger	Connor Perez
Sean Basinger	Fred Kneten
Jeromy Kusch	Debbie Kneten
Esther Kusch	Russell Hinson
Emma Kusch	Jennifer Hinson
Lincoln Kusch	Naomi Hinson
Ken Ramsey	Shelly Guinn
Don Gaskill	Tiffany McDowell
Shannon Menard	Amy Franke
Haley Mobley	Vista Community
Charlie Carnes	Church

These are many of the people who have stepped up at least once to help sort and distribute food since we started partnering with Daily Bread Ministry in mid-March. Please forgive us if we've missed people. These do not include all those who help with the monthly food trucks.



All ages have helped to provide food to our neighbors who are trying to feed their hungry families during this Coronavirus Pandemic.

Children, Youth stay active - virtually

The **Children's Ministry** didn't miss a beat in keeping our children and their parents connected because their active Facebook pages provided lessons and activities starting on the first day we closed, March 15.

Sunday School teachers Serena Bull, Betty Holt, Dawn Dye and Jennifer Hinson shared their lessons and scripture on the Children's Ministry Facebook page. The variety has been impressive. They have included links to videos from Lifeway and YouTube, especially during the special Easter season; activity worksheets and coloring pages that parents could print for the children to complete; activity ideas such as creating stained glass displays with chalk on sidewalks and craft ideas for Mother's Day gifts; a look at past posts where the children performed in the Worship Center; and demonstrations by Children's Minister Debra McDonel's family members as they self-quarantined at home.

Children's Church leaders Breana Hartley and Pat Becker provided links to the lesson for the day and encouraged sharing of music by Children's Praise Team members from their homes and some from the puppet ministry.

"It takes a team to do the live activities," Debra shared. The AWANA Club Facebook page has been entertaining with Cheryl giving Charlie Carnes a haircut with a bowl on his head. Debra sends invites to the AWANA kids to watch each week. As a leader

brings the lesson or reads a book, the children earn credit by responding live to the posts or turning in homework by posting pictures of their work. Kids can call their leaders or the Carnes family to share their verses. "The kids enjoy seeing other kids," Debra said. She has been contacting parents to continue to build relationships and has shared prayer requests from families with the Pastor and Deacon Chairman.

The **Movement Student Ministry** has continued to "move" even though they are all separate and cannot meet in person for the time being. They have maintained all of their normal study times: Sunday School, Young Men's and Women's Bible studies on Tuesday, and youth services on Wednesday. Fortunately, adult volunteer Emily Breiten already was using Zoom for their Tuesday Bible study, so the transition for them was pretty simple. All three study times are implemented over Zoom. In addition, they have been able to help get families food, supplies, and encourage one another via Facebook and other social media apps. Student Minister Jeremy Kusch reports that weekly check-ins occur with students and their families, praying with them and continuing to offer hope and encouragement so that even though we are apart, we are not isolated.

Items from all the Facebook pages are still available for parents to use as we continue to do virtual children's and student ministries.



1 *One of the crafts showed children creating a stained glass window on a home window.*

2 *AWANA leaders Charlie and Cheryl Carnes demonstrated a haircut session while barber shops are closed.*

3 *The Russell girls provided worship music on a Sunday morning.*

4 *The Young Women's Flourish Bible study uses the popular Zoom app to see everyone during the session.*



This month's newsletter prepared by Ginger Carnes is designed to share what is going on behind the scenes to keep ministries operating during this time of self-isolation.



Children's Church Volunteer Needed. Breana Hartley, our Children's Church Director since 2017, has felt God's call to begin a Master's in Christian Ministry degree at Truett Seminary (Baylor University) this Fall. She will move to Waco for two years to complete the program. Pat Becker will take over her position as Children's Church Director, but we need a volunteer to take over the group of 2nd and 3rd graders. The curriculum will be provided. Please contact Breana at breana.hartley@yahoo.com or Children's Minister Debra McDonel for more information. Congratulations to Breana on her acceptance into the program. We'll be praying for you!



Editor Needed. This newsletter is seeking a new Editor. If interested, please contact Communications Team Leader Ginger Carnes at gcarnes2@satx.rr.com.



Susan Thornell is inviting the women of the church to participate in a new **virtual women's Bible study!** Twelve participated in the first one.

Title: Dangerous Prayers: The study is based on the book *Dangerous Prayers* by Craig Groeschel. This book will show us how to pray stronger and more passionate prayers that will lead to a deeper faith.



Date/Time: Tuesday at 10 am, May 26-July 14.

Please purchase the book prior to the start of the study. If you can't find it from your favorite bookstore, it is available on amazon.com. If you require any financial assistance, contact the church.

Place: This study is virtual, on Zoom. You will need a phone, tablet, or laptop to link to the meeting. Signing up and paying for a Zoom account isn't necessary.

New to Zoom? Check out <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

If interested, Please email the church office to be added to the group's email list.



Other activities that are occurring:

- Pastor Ben is offering a Wednesday night Bible study at 6:30 online.

- Linda Rifenburgh, Gigi Kemmerer, the Care Ministry, and others are calling people and sending cards to stay in touch with those in our congregation.

- Tina Santee still provides food through our pantry during the week. Special needs are canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas) and meats (tuna, chicken, vienna sausage), cans of chili and soup, dried rice, dried beans, peanut butter and jelly.

Virtual Worship

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Bro. Ben has mastered video preaching. the recordings at the sound board. The video and sound are married together later.

Meanwhile, Pastor Ben records the sermon using his laptop and iPhone.

Ron then obtains Pastor Ben's large sermon file so it can be added to the worship team's presentation and spends most of Saturday on final video editing. For the first 2 weeks, the total volunteer time devoted each week averaged more than 20 hours, but after perfecting the process, this time requirement was reduced to around 10 hours – while still working his full-time job from home. Upon completing the edits, he sends the final file to Jo Ann Haywood for uploading on the church Facebook page and then on the website.

After the first two weeks, Ron turned the job over to Daniel McDowell, who is a manager for Citibank and previously did tech support there. Dan even did the music and editing solo one week. Dan – who created videos for our Build. Serve. Love. Campaign for our new Worship Center – said he has a “user-friendly” Windows program to edit and spent 8-10 hours his first week. Lots of time is needed after adding Pastor Ben's sermon because you have to finalize the entire video in high definition and then upload it to Facebook Saturday evening or Sunday morning. “That can take some time because so many churches are doing the same thing, and that may be what slows down the uploads on Facebook,” Dan said.

Since the fifth week, Ron and Dan have taken a team approach by splitting the responsibilities.

These folks deserve an elbow-bump of “THANKS!”

This newsletter is the leadership's way to keep you “in the loop.” To submit items, send to Ginger Carnes at gcarnes2@satx.rr.com. Deadline is the Sunday after the monthly Business Meeting. It is sent via email and is available on the church website. Printed copies are available at the Welcome Center in the Worship Center foyer.

Mailing address: First Baptist Church-Castroville, 1408 Alsace, P.O. Box 1056, Castroville, TX 78009

Phone: 830-538-3220

Email: fbccastroville@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.fbccastroville.com

Facebook: First Baptist Church of Castroville

Instagram: fbccastroville