



January

Jan 1 (Wed)-Office Closed

Jan 12 (Sun) -Family
Dedications during Worship
Service

Jan 15 (Wed)-Business Meeting/
Fellowship Hall Rm C, 7pm

Children's Choir - Hanging of the Green 2019

Pastor Search process to include prayer in homes

*By Andy Carnes, Chairman
Pastor Search Committee*

The Pastor Search Committee is actively engaged in the search process for our next senior pastor. We would like to share with you some things we have accomplished, what we are currently working on, and what we will be doing in the near future.

In October we held a church-wide Heritage Event to reflect on meaningful past church events in the lives of our members. A church-wide Vision 2020 and Beyond Event was held in November to share current ministries we want to continue and possible areas of ministry to consider for the future.

Currently, we are developing a Church Profile with area and church demographics that can be shared with prospective pastor candidates. We are also working on a Pastor Profile that the committee will use as a guide when considering pastoral candidates. The church-wide Prospective Pastor Survey was just completed and the committee will soon analyze the results. So far, 73 surveys have been received and we expect a few more to be submitted soon. We want to thank everyone for participating in providing this vital information to the committee.

In January and February, the church will be invited to attend cottage prayer meetings in homes. We will be praying specifically for our church, for the new pastor and his family that God is preparing, and for the Pastor Search Committee as we continue to seek God's direction during the search process. The January prayer meeting will be on Jan. 20 from 7 to 8 p.m. We will meet in the homes of Michael and Jo Anna Franke and Larry and Serena Bull. In February, we will meet in the home of Ace and Linda Rifenburgh and another home yet to be determined. Please watch for additional information and a sign-up sheet. In March, we plan to post the job announcement and start receiving resumes. Then the task of reviewing resumes, identifying potential candidates, and sending out questionnaires will begin.

2020 Committee Chairs and Ministry Teams

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Nominating Committee: Bruce Pace
Building & Grounds Committee: Rodger Cunningham
Finance Committee: Susan Thornell
Missions Committee: Tina Santee
Personnel Committee: Glenda Strong
Daycare Ad Hoc Committee: Debra McDonel

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Audio Visual: Julie DeLucia
Care: Claudia Williams
Cemetery: Serena Bull
Children's: Debra McDonel
Church: Kayte Pace
Communications: Ginger Carnes
Hospitality/Decorating: Linda Rifenburgh
Music: Stephanie Randles

Ordinance: Jean Peters
Outreach: Alli Welch
Safety: Charlie Carnes
Sunday School: Glenda Strong & Linda Roque
Usher: Bruce Pace
Welcome: Carol Hatcher
Youth: Jeromy Kusch

SAVE THE DATE

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



The Essential Controller of a Person's Life

Thomas Friedman's bestseller, *The World is Flat*, discusses the enormous technological and communication changes taking place across the globe even as I write this column. The "flat world" is Friedman's term for globalization, how people in Bangor, Maine, can do business with people in Bangalore, India, effortlessly and with little cost. It's a great read, especially for people like me who know very little about "how" all this technology came about.

But what Friedman discloses can be frightening and, at times, down-right silly. Take for example, his tour of the Japanese cell phone company NTT DoCoMo. DoCoMo is the predominant mobile phone operator in Japan. <https://www.nttdocomo.co.jp/english/>.

The name is officially an abbreviation of the phrase, "do communications over the mobile network," and is also from a compound word *dokomo*, meaning "everywhere" in Japanese. And do they mean it!

DoCoMo understands that in the business world, people use computers, often a company-owned laptop. In their private lives, however, "they base their lifestyles on a mobile phone." One DoCoMo executive put it like this: "We believe that the mobile phone will become the essential controller of a person's life."

I paused when I read that sentence. "We believe that the mobile phone will become the essential controller of a person's life." He may be correct in a technologically-focused society.

But, not for the Christian—even the most technologically savvy one. The essential controller of the Christian person's life is none other than Jesus Christ. Paul, the master interpreter of Jesus, explained it to the Colossians:

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness (Col 2:6-7).

We who have trusted in Jesus as Savior are to "continue to live in him." There is in the Christian life, a day-by-day, year-by-year commitment to Jesus. As the new year of 2020 is upon us, make sure that Jesus is the essential controller of your life day in and day out! With Him, it's bound to be a great year!

Glad to serve as your pastor in the interim!

Ben

Gingerbread House Competition

By Debra McDonel
Children's Minister

The Children's Ministry held a gingerbread house competition. The theme was "No place like Home." The Loser family won 1st place with "Home is where the Air Force sends us." The Roe family won 2nd place with a replica of the church called "Home is where my church family is" and Ariel McDonel won 3rd place with "Home is where my Savior lives."

Everyone did an amazing job on each house. The judges sure had some difficult decisions with these designs. Thank you to everyone who participated this year. We look forward to next year's entries.



By Tina Santee
Missions Minister

Operation Christian Love was able to serve three separate areas in Eagle Pass over a three-day period. We were able to go to the Kickapoo reservation. We had over 70 children from the tribe attend who were told about Christ.

Our second gathering was in El Indio, Texas, just outside of Eagle Pass at a newly established church where we got to see a puppet show and bless over 20 children with gifts.

The third gathering was at Jerusalem Baptist Church where there were over 30 children and two decisions to accept Christ.

We were also able to supply 8 Orphanages in Mexico with toys and supplies for over 150 children, as well as 12 other street outreaches in Mexico where over 300 children will be receiving a small gift and tub for Christmas.

Each child on the Mexico side received a Bible in Spanish and those on the American side received one in the language of their household.

It was a glorious outreach. We are so blessed to be able to serve our Father.



Christmas in the Courtyard



Drama Directors:
Madison and
JoAnna Franke



This was the first year that Christmas in the Courtyard was performed totally by the children. Thank you to the Charlie Carnes Family for providing the donkeys, the Lee Albee Family for providing the goats and to all who helped put the event together.



Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Service was beautiful with singing of Christmas carols, storytelling for the children, and ended with the singing of "Silent Night" as the Sanctuary was gradually filled with lighted candles.

This traditional service creates memories that people cherish throughout their lives as they remember the service from their childhood into adulthood.



Children's Workers Appreciation Day



We Love Our Children's Ministry Workers!! Workers were recognized on Nov. 17 during a Thankful Service. From left, Olga Torres, Dawn Dye, Paige Graham and Madison Franke were given roses and a special gift to thank them for their service and all that they do for FBCC children. Olga Torres was given special recognition and a Love Offering for her seven years of devoted service.

Workers enjoyed a front row service and Worship while parents volunteered to take their places in their classrooms on this very special day!

In the Loop

- ♦ Our church surpassed our goal of \$2,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We will be sending \$4,653.45 to the International Mission Board to support the many Southern Baptist missionaries who are serving in foreign countries. Praise God for your generosity and for the International Mission Board missionaries who are called to share Christ with the world!
- ♦ The energetic Watoto Choir will be arriving on March 28 to do their memorable presentation during our service on March 29. If you are willing to provide a place for the children and their caregiver for the night, please contact Claudia Williams. You will bring them to church early on Sunday morning.

Hanging of the Green Service

The Hanging of the Green Service took place on the first day of advent Dec 1. As we begin thinking about Christmas, we also celebrate the Holy Season known as Advent. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. Advent means "Coming." We celebrate these days of Advent in expectation and preparation for Christ's arrival.

Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of the Savior at Christmas. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation, but its mood is joyful. Advent has been enriched by Christian tradition to reflect its distinctive Christian meaning.

It proclaims the revelation of God's love as expressed in Christ's birth in a humble stable, His sacrificial death on the cross, and His victorious resurrection! It points to the hope of Christ's coming again as the King of kings and Lord of Lords.

Advent makes innkeepers out of all of us, asking each of us to make room for the arrival of Christ The King. Let us, today, prepare Him room in our hearts, our lives, and our church!

Congregants, children, youth and staff all helped as they performed, read scripture and read the meaning of each element in Christmas. Ending with a beautiful performance in Silent Night Bertha Perales (Spanish), BiBi Goldberg (French), Julie Bost (Japanese), BiBi Goldberg (German) Cheryl Carnes (Mandarin), Lindsay Carnes (American Sign language), Stephanie Randles, Megan Conner and Jo Anna Franke (English)



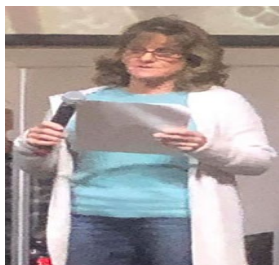
Connor Perez



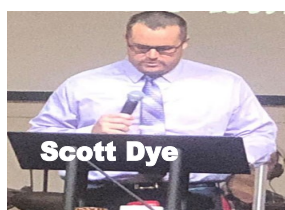
Praise Team



Addy & Ethan Dye



Barbara Robbins



Scott Dye



Deb Torres & Church Children



Ron, Lynn & Clayton Barron
Mary Jane Balderrama

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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.