

~ See Calendar for more events & activities ~



Valentine's Banquet

The youth will be hosting a Valentine's Banquet as a camp fundraiser on February 13 at 6 pm. Donations will be accepted at the banquet. Please sign up at the Information Center. See Mike for more details.



Sunday School Workshop

For all Sunday School Teachers and Workers. February 27, 9 am to Noon.



"The harvest is plentiful..." Luke 10:2

Join GROW Outreach and get involved in the harvest.

MERGE

"Merging God's love into the community by bringing Christians together for one purpose."

Merge, our young adult ministry, meets each Thursday night at 7:30 for worship and Bible study.

Please submit any announcements for the First Forward Newsletter, by the 15th of the month prior to the event. Call or email the office for announcement submissions.



Pastor's Pen

Why do we hate sermons on Giving and Going?

Have you ever gone to church and when you found out the preacher was speaking on giving, you just got depressed? Or you found out he was preaching on how we all need to be witnesses and you just yawned? We don't like those topics because . . . why? Because we don't want someone else telling us how to run our lives. We don't want someone to tell us how to spend our money. Even more so, we don't want someone telling us how to spend our time. In reality, we don't even want God telling us how to invest our lives. At the heart of being a poor steward is the root of selfishness. Our phrase this month has been "Stewardship means: using God given abilities to manage God given resources, to accomplish God ordained results." All of us need to be reminded of the need to be faithful to God. Without that reminder we often fall back into doing what comes natural. This is your gentle reminder. I also want you to know that we are trying to make "being a good steward" as easy as possible. We have even added an online donation option to our web site (www.fbcws.org) where you can simply click on a button and give of your financial resources to the Lord. And when it comes to giving of your talents and physical abilities we have many areas where you can be used. You can call the church office (817-246-2171) and volunteer to work in the nursery or sign up for G.R.O.W. or you could even help out with our church web site. There are many, many areas where God can use your gifts for His glory. All you have to do is be willing and available.



Steve's Song

In my personal life the past few days' events have reminded me that we must become totally and completely dependent on our Lord in everything. Without Him active in our life there is no fruit. We can experience excellence in singing and preaching and have the most modern technology to attract people, and God reminds us, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD Almighty." (Zech. 4:6, NIV) So today, how can we be more effective instruments in His hands? We have heard "The message never changes, but methods do." Let us broaden our minds and open our hearts to accept what God may want to teach us. Let us ask God to give us a fresh vision. We do not know all that God plans. So we must be filled with expectancy for He is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." (Eph 3:20, NIV) Christ's command to us is to evangelize. As we go we are told to "...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... and teaching them to obey..." (Matt 28:19, 20, NIV) I pray that God may break through any barrier that we encounter along our journey. May we invite the Holy Spirit to descend upon us with the fire of love. The Apostle Paul writes, "Christ's love compels us." We can share our years of biblical knowledge but that is not enough. We need the compelling power of love. And the single greatest act of love we can ever exhibit to another person is to explain to them God's love for them in the person of Jesus Christ. John Wesley told his coworkers, "You have nothing to do but save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work." And yet Wesley leaned heavy on his brother, Charles, the hymn writer and singer. God used them together to reach people who were thought beyond hope. May a new song break out from our hearts, a song we will someday sing in His presence. "And they sang a new song: 'You are worthy ... because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.'" (Revelation 5:9, NIV)



Mike's Mic

A friend of mine made the following statement. "Some Christians are especially skilled at being OF the world (same attitude of those who don't follow Christ, living the same thoughtless, selfish, stressed-out, consumeristic lifestyle) without being IN it." This was in reference to the way that so many of us are completely immersed in the Christian subculture - reading only Christian books, watching only Christian movies, only having Christian friends, etc. It's an irony that is so very true. We find in scripture that we are to be in the world but not of it (Romans 12:2, John 17:15-18). And we hear the phrase over and over from pulpits and in Christian books. But I believe my friend is right. It often becomes reversed when practiced. There are two big problems rooted in this kind of lifestyle. First, we're not in the world. When Jesus refers to us being in the world, it is because He has sent us. We have a sort of "mission" while here (sound familiar?). If we've surrounded ourselves by other Christians and are not really IN the world, how can we fulfill the Great Commission? Second, even though we've placed ourselves in these Christian "bubbles," we still are worldly. We want a big flat screen TV and a nice car. We ignore God's word in favor of our own desires (the rate of divorce among Christians is the same as that of non-Christians). So here's a challenge... let's get out of the bubble and let God work in and through us to reach the world.

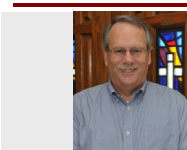


Nursery Schedule

February

- 7—Heather Kinkel & Colleen Dow
14—Phyllis Hill & Lanelle Libby
21—Cara Bailey & Mary Berry
28—Christina Roberts & Lonnie Moore

If you cannot volunteer on your week, please contact the Nursery Coordinator, Jessika Flaa, at 817-706-5170.



Children's Corner

This past Sunday I had the privilege to baptize a young lady who had given her heart to Christ. What a joy it is to see kids come to know Christ. But what happens now? Do we just send her back to the Children's department and let the children's workers worry about her? I think the answer is a great big NO! It is every Christian's responsibility to see that this young girl sees Christ as one who is alive in the heart of every Christian. She needs to see Christ at work in your life. She needs to see you living as God desires her to live. Each and every one of us has the responsibility to model what it means to be a Christian through worship, through service and through Christ invading every part of our life. We are to be Jesus on earth for her and for each and every one of our children here at FBCWS. Encourage children to trust the word of God. Build faith in your kids young or grown. Tell them about a God who will come through for them. Kids need to know that God is just as alive and trustworthy as He ever was. As a Children's Pastor my objective every week is to send kids home talking about what they learned in church to the extent that their parents are saying to themselves, I want to be in that church! This will happen when God's Word overflows in your own life to the point where you live it with an anointing that touches the lives of children.



To be removed from our email newsletter list, click here. To sign-up for the e-mail newsletter or for questions or comments email mike@fbcws.org or call 817-246-2171. Visit our website at www.fbcws.org for more information.

Regular Service Times

- Sundays: 9:45 am Sunday School, 11:00 am Worship Service & Children's Church, 5:00 pm Evening Service, 5:00 pm AWANA (during school year)
Wednesdays: 5:30 pm Meal for Youth & Children, 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel), 6:00 pm Plunge - Youth Worship, 6:00 pm Kidz Clubhouse (Grades 1-6)

February 2010

Calendar table with columns for Sun through Sat and rows for dates 1-28, including event details like G-Team, R-Team, O-Team, W-Team, and special events like Valentine's Banquet and Jumpstart.