

~ See Calendar for more events & activities ~



"The harvest is plentiful..."
 Luke 10:2
 Join GROW Outreach and get involved in the harvest.
 Mondays
(In December, only the G and R Teams will meet)



"Merging God's love into the community by bringing Christians together for one purpose."
 Our young adult ministry meets each Thursday night at 7:30 for worship and Bible study.



Lottie Moon Tea
 December 12th, 11 am
 In the Fellowship Hall

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.
 (for example, if your event is December 22, it must be submitted by November 15th)

Nursery Schedule

November
 22 - Heather Kinkel
 29 - Mary Berry

December
 6 - Cara Bailey
 13 - Christina Roberts, Jennifer Ferguson
 20 - Lanelle Libby
 27 - Jana Hughes

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



From the Pastor's Pen 30 Days of Thankfulness



I hope each of you is taking serious my challenge to not complain for 30 days and to focus on thankfulness. Let's be honest, it's easier to complain. If I complain then I don't have to do anything about it. I can just sit and sip on my wine. Not only does it free us from real action but it also denies reality. The reality is that we are truly blessed. We often take perverse joy in focusing on our troubles but the reality is that, in most of our lives, our troubles are miniscule in comparison to our blessings.

Why do so many people get divorced? Many times it is because they focus on their partner's shortcomings rather than on their positive attributes. "Oh yeah, she's pretty, and she's godly, and she is a wonderful mother...but she's a horrible cook." And then the search begins again for the "perfect spouse." Have you noticed how many "Hollywood Couples" end up divorced? These are people that the general public consider to be near-perfect (at least on the surface). And yet, even these people aren't satisfied. They find a problem. They begin to complain. It's all downhill from there. This pattern is repeated in almost every area of our lives. Our job. Our church. Our home. Our clothes. Etc. "Thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (MSG)

Steve's Song



Ps 107:8, 22 reads "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!" ... "Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing." Adrian Rogers wrote "It has been said that talk is cheap. We thank the Lord and we say Lord, we're so thankful, we're so grateful for all that you've done for us. Well, do you know what we need to do? We need to turn Thanksgiving into Thanks-living. That is, to offer to God the sacrifices of thanksgiving."

- Adrian Rogers suggest these 5 "sacrifices of thanksgiving".
- Romans 12:1, offer the sacrifice of your very person, that is offer yourself a living sacrifice
 - Hebrews 13:15, offer the sacrifice of your praise, the fruit of our lips.
 - Psalm 141:2, offer your prayer as a sacrifice.
 - Hebrews 13:16, offer your possessions as a sacrifice, your giving.
 - Psalm 51:17, offer the sacrifice of a broken contrite spirit, a sacrifice of purity.

Don't you believe if the Bible says we're to offer to God the sacrifices of Thanksgiving that ought to improve our person, it ought to include our prayer, it ought to include praise, it ought to include our possessions, and it ought to include a pure life? Just say Lord, this is what I'm going to render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me. So let us together celebrate Thanks-living!

Mike's Mic



I've been thinking a lot this Thanksgiving season about a Great Banquet that Jesus told a story about in Luke 14:16-23. I don't have space here to include that passage, so get your Bible out and read the passage. It's okay; I'll wait. Ready? Alright. Do you see the underlying message here? The bottom line is that God wants His house to be full! And He wants us to get out there and bring people in. That's commonly called OUTREACH. We have a great outreach program in GROW. Even though we've seen a decline in participation since it's inception two years ago, it's still the largest involvement of volunteers for an ongoing outreach program I've ever seen.

GROW has been tweaked and fine-tuned a couple of times. We've got another change that we believe will help improve the outreach efforts of our church. Below, you'll see the new schedule for GROW. We believe this will help GROW to be an even more effective outreach program.

G Team: Letters – This team will write the only letters of the month, which will usually be about 50 or 60. This will likely be done by two groups – an afternoon team (as we currently have) and an evening team. The sole purpose of this team will be to write letters.

R Team: Calls – This team will make calls to follow up on the letters, written the previous week. Their goal in these follow-up calls is to make visitation appointments for the following week.

O Team: Visits – This team will be making the visits previously set up. They'll complete a form for each visit made, and will suggest appropriate follow-up.

W Team: Follow-Up – This team may function more like our current teams. Some of the suggested follow-up will include cards or letters, phone calls, or another visit. This team will also be responsible for continued follow-up with Sunday School and Worship Service Visitors (read more about their initial follow-up below).

Alongside this revision, we believe that reinstating the Deacon Visitation is essential. Each week, as in the past, a designated Deacon will receive information about Worship Service visitors. The Deacon will visit with those who filled out information cards and will take a gift bag to them. Also, Sunday School leaders will be encouraged to follow-up with those who visit their classes, as well as absentees. These will not be placed in the regular GROW circulation until they reach the Follow-Up Team. Both the Deacon of the Week and Sunday School visits will be reported on the same form that regular GROW visits will use. These forms will be given to the GROW Follow-Up Team, who will continue the outreach efforts.

During December you'll have the chance to sign up for one of the new teams. We will continue to announce these changes, describing them clearly from the pulpit. We will "launch" the revised GROW the first week in January. So please, make sure to sign up and get (or stay) involved in reaching people for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

An additional note: in December, only the G and R Teams will meet, due to the Christmas and New Years holidays.

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)

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Windows of Faith 2 pm	4 MOVIE NIGHT YOUTH—Christmas Movie & S'mores	5 LLL Johnnie High Christmas Show (bus leaves-1 pm)
6 YOUTH—SAC Lunch @ the Balleys' House	7 G-Team 6:30	8 WMU Meeting 10:30 am LLL LLL Choir 1:15 pm	9	10	11 LLL Breakfast 7:30 am YOUTH—Looking at Christmas Lights	12 Lottie Moon Tea 11 am
13	14 R-Team 6:30 pm	15	16 YOUTH—Tacky Sweater Christmas Party	17 Windows of Faith Eat Out 11:15 am	18	19
20 CiCi's Sunday	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6 pm	25 Christmas Day	26
27 NO EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE	28	29 LLL Dinner—6 pm	30	31 YOUTH—New Year's Lock In		