



35 Nelson Avenue, Garden City, GA 31408  
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www.FBCGC.net

Office Hours: 10:00am to 2:00pm Monday - Thursday  
Closed on Fridays

Vol. 61 No. 13 March 31, 2021

Tommy Duke—Senior Pastor  
Randall Frantz—Associate Pastor  
Debbie Traywick—Worship Leader

## Celebrating a Birthday

April 5 Ann Oglesby  
April 6 Brett Williford  
April 8 Steve VanWechel  
April 9 Tracy Williford

## OPPORTUNITIES

*Join Us Sunday!*  
**April 4, 2021**

9:30am – Church Library Open  
10:00am – Sunday School Groups  
11:00am – Morning Worship  
(in-person or at *FBCGC.live*)

## VITAL SIGNS

Budget Gifts Sunday .....\$3,548.00  
Budget Gifts to Date .....\$34,801.00

*Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*  
*North American Missions*

March 7 thru April 4, 2021  
Given to Date - \$1,599.75

## MULTIPLE WAYS TO GIVE:

- **In-Person on Sundays**  
You can give using the offering plates at each Sunday service.
- **Online Giving**  
Give easily and securely at any time on our website: [www.FBCGC.net/giving](http://www.FBCGC.net/giving).
- **Text-to-Give**  
Using your smartphone, text the Amount You Want to Give to 84321
- **Mailed-in Giving**  
Mail your gift to the church office at:  
35 Nelson Ave, Garden City, GA 31408

## Serving Our Church on Sunday

### Ushers

*(Ushers, please arrive 20 minutes before service)*

Chuck Austin, Tony Bragg, Mike Durkin,  
J. D. Dyches, Joe Jackson, Crawford Leonard,  
Terry Nappier, Larry Olliff, Jay Walea

### Counters

Steve Britton, Chairman  
Joe Jackson, Rob Mucha,  
Larry Olliff

### Sympathy

As a church family we express our deepest Christian sympathy to Luis Tovar & family in the death of both of his parents last week.

## Georgia Baptist Children's Homes

This year they are asking for gift card instead of the paper products. If you purchase a gift card, please purchase a VISA or WALMART brand and be sure to note the amount on the card. This will help them keep an accurate count of money collected. Please drop your purchase to the church office by April 11<sup>th</sup>.

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## MORE THAN A SYMBOL

If you take a moment out of your day and look to see how many symbols we have and use in our world today. You drive down the road and every car has multiple symbols on it. It has one from the car manufacturer and usually from the car dealer as well. We also put our own branding on it as well from our favorite sports teams, our kids' schools, and activities and companies we like. Billboards and businesses use symbols to catch our attention. I even have a symbol on my watch to signify where I am from. I have found that that symbol on my watch is known not only in our country, but people have recognized it as I have traveled overseas as well.

Businesses hope that their symbol or emblem stands for quality and greatness. They know that their symbol represents them and what they stand for. I know as a teenager we had many status symbols ranging from black and white checkered tennis shoes to a little alligator on a polo shirt. You were somebody if you wore that symbol; you also paid a pretty penny for it too...lol.

The church and Christians have had many symbols throughout history. One of the earliest was the Ichthys or fish symbol. It was used in two ways, one to represent both the deity and humanity of Christ. The other purpose was either to show a safe place to meet or to identify oneself as a believer by drawing on half of the fish and the other person would draw the other half.

As Easter approaches, we are reminded of the other two most important symbols, the cross and the empty tomb. Strangely enough both have an element of death in their origin. We know the cross was one of the cruelest forms of torture leading to death. The tomb represents the finality of life on this earth. Jesus turned both the meanings upside down. The cross went from a symbol

of extreme cruelty to a picture of love and sacrifice. The tomb went from a symbol of finality and death to a symbol of hope and new life.

We celebrate what the cross and the tomb represent. There is another aspect which we sometimes neglect. These are also symbols of an "invitation." The cross was a public event meant as a deterrent for opposing Rome. The popularity of Jesus had grown and been very visible the week leading to the crucifixion. Jesus being hung on the cross had a huge impact publicly. The empty tomb instantly came a come and see event. They ladies quickly left to invite the Disciples to come see for themselves. They could not contain the joy and hope.

We too should also approach this season the same way. An eternal life changing event has occurred, and this gift is available to all. We too should be running to find people to invite to see for themselves what Jesus the Christ has done.

We have many opportunities and ways for people to join us as we celebrate this day of resurrection. Nothing would be more joyful than having someone experience Christ's forgiveness for themselves and start a new life with Him this Sunday.

Coming back to the theme of symbols for a minute, we as Christians are also a symbol of a new life. Let's celebrate what He has done for us and help represent Christ as we share with others. See you Sunday.

**Randall**

P.S. If you're able and interested, you can still join the staff and others in our Good Friday Fast. We will be fasting from Lunch this Friday to instead focus on praying for Easter and for God's will to be done.

