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

Vol. 62 No. 8 February 23, 2021

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

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Celebrating a Birthday

February 27	Chris Long
February 27	Adelaide Waller
February 27	Gabriel Williams
March 1	Lois Hearn
March 2	Hunter Triplett
March 3	Maggie Hayes
March 5	Allison Williford

Serving Our Church on Sunday

Ushers

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

Counters

David Traywick, & Luis Tovar-Co-Chairmen
Ed Schaffer, David Williford

Nursery

Mary Kay Schaffer
Maggie Hayes

Preschool

Karen Walea

Youth Bowling

Sunday, February 27th

The youth will be meeting around 12:15pm to go have lunch and then bowling. If you have not signed up be sure to contact Randall or call church office.



OPPORTUNITIES

You're Invited to Join Us!

Sunday, February 27, 2022

9:30am – Breakfast Served

9:30am – Church Library Open

10:00am – Sunday School Groups

11:00am – Morning Worship

(In-Person or multiple Saturday & Sunday opportunities for Church Online at FBCGC.live)

12:15pm - Youth Lunch & Bowling

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

7:00pm – Adult, Youth and Children Bible Studies

VITAL SIGNS

Budget Gifts Sunday\$7,503.58
Budget Gifts to Date\$24,846.58

Spring Growth Groups

Starting this Sunday, February 27th,
be sure you sign up on
Sunday's Connection Card or
at FBCGC.net (click the "Groups" button.)

Sunday Breakfast

Starting 9:30am Sunday, February 27,
Come early and invite a friend to join you!

REAL RELATIONSHIPS

Last weekend, we looked at the struggles of building and maintaining “real” relationships in our ever-more-virtual world. The statistic that I found a little depressing was that the average Facebook user has 328 “friends,” while the average American says they only have 2 close friends. And 25% of Americans say they don’t have *any* close friends. That’s a big disconnect between what’s happening on the internet and what’s actually happening in real life.

Jesus lays out the cornerstone of what true friendship is built on in John 13:34-35:

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

That’s right – the world will know we are followers of Jesus by how we love one another. Love is the foundation upon which true relationships are built, *and* it’s the glue that keeps them strong.

We talked about three principles for how to demonstrate love in our relationships:

- **Be Present**
Whenever possible, be the person who shows up. Technology is good, but true presence is better. When you love someone, there is power in your presence.
- **Be Myself**
Healthy relationships – friendships, spouses, co-workers, etc. – are strengthened by honesty. That means being honest about who you are and what you’re truly going through.

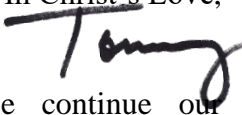
- **Be Engaged**
Engagement means more than simply being physically present. It means putting away your phone during a conversation. It means truly focusing on the other person: physically, emotionally, and even spiritually.

One of the reasons why I believe many people today lean into their social media “friends” instead of real relationships is because it’s easy. It’s easy to maintain a relationship that only requires you to read posts and click a like button. True, godly relationships are more complex. The kind of loving relationships that God desires for us require the kind of love that Jesus describes in this week’s memory verse:

“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”
– 1 John 3:18 (NKJV)

Real relationships require moving beyond lip service and loving people with your actions. Is there a friend or family member that you need to reach out to this week? Do you know someone who is going through a difficult time? Find a way to share God’s love with them in word *and* deed!

In Christ’s Love,



P.S. Join us this Sunday as we continue our **#STRUGGLES** teaching series. We will look at the challenge of Authenticity this weekend. Join us In-Person on Sunday at 11:00am or Church Online at FBCGC.live, (multiple service times).

P.P.S. Spring Growth Groups begin in less than a week! Don’t miss out. You can sign up online at FBCGC.net, click the “Groups” link, OR on Sunday’s Connection Card.



February 27-----Authenticity

March 6-----Rest



Easter Lilies

Orders are now being received from those who wish to place an Easter lily in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Please fill out the form below and return it with cash or a check payable to First Baptist Church. **Sunday, March 6, is the deadline for placing orders.** *A list of all gifts will be published in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 17th.*

Name _____

I will give _____ lilies at \$13.50 each

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Please Note: We will not be able to deliver Easter Lilies this year due to numerous circumstances, one being we are not allowed to enter some locations to deliver the lilies. So please be sure to take your lilies home after our Easter Sunday service on April 17th and if you would like to deliver yours to a shut-in of your choice, please do so.