



# FBC First Word

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Issue 1

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## FROM THE PASTOR, TERRY JOHNSTON

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say...' (Luke 11:1-2a)*

After being in full-time ministry for over 7 years and going back to seminary to get my "book learning," one of the more surprising things I learned about seminary was that it was often a spiritually dry time. We spent a lot of time learning about the world of the Bible, as well as figuring out how to break down passages to preach or teach. We read the works of the giants of the faith—Augustine, Luther, Calvin and others—and we spent time learning our Greek and our Hebrew.

In many ways, however, it was a spiritually dry time. Thankfully, one component of our degree plan was dedicated to Spiritual Formation. Through weekly chapel services, weekly covenant group meetings, and daily commitment to prayer and reflection, the necessity of remaining spiritually sound became primary for me.

Probably the simplest way to stay spiritually engaged is often the most overlooked. Throughout Scripture and Christian history, **prayer** has always been vital to people of faith. As we begin 2017, let us do so with an eye toward the importance and essential role that prayer must play in our own personal and corporate Spiritual Formation. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote:

"Prayer is an invitation to God to intervene in our lives, to let His will prevail in our affairs; it is the opening of a window to Him in our will, an effort to make Him the Lord of our soul. We submit our interests to His concern, and seek to be allied with what is ultimately right. Our approach to the holy is not an intrusion, but an answer. Between the dawn of childhood and the door of death, man encounters things and events out of which comes a whisper of truth, not much louder than a stillness, but exhorting and persistent. Yet man listens to his fears and his whims, rather than to the gentle petitions of God. The Lord of the universe is suing for the favor of man."

Let's start 2017 off as Jesus' disciples did, asking God to teach us to pray.

Blessings,

Bro. Terry



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:45 a.m.



Westview Manor 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
KidZone/JAM Time 6:30 p.m.



Choir Rehearsal  
Wednesday nights 7:30 p.m. in the worship center. Everyone is welcome to come and sing.



### November 2016

Income: \$11,701.36  
Expenses: 10,060.64  
Surplus 1,640.72  
Year-to-date: \$15,132.52

www.fbcmcgregor.org

# January 2017

Join us online



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3	4 Westview MINISTRY  Midweek Activities	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11 Westview MINISTRY  Midweek Activities	12	13	14
15 	16  A Day to Remember	17	18 Westview MINISTRY  Midweek activities	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Westview MINISTRY  Midweek Activities	26	27	28
29 Lord's Supper Benevolence Offering	30	31				

*Connecting...Building...Transforming*

# Pray FOR Healing



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

### Westview Manor

Ann Goolsby      Katherine Anderson  
 Joy Erlanson      David Zacharias

### PRAYERS NEEDED:

Please continue to pray for **Roy MacKenzie, Mary Jean Snider's** granddaughter Addie, **Nancy Gordon**, Eric Moeller, Paul Stripling and so many others on the church's prayer list.

**Mica Cathey**, 42, of Robinson lost her battle to cancer on December 3, 2016. She is survived by one daughter, Haven Cathey. Mica had been a member at First Baptist Church since 2002.

Dr Ken Horn, father of **Jeremy Horn**, passed away December 16, 2016. He is survived by his wife, nine children and nine grandchildren.



The next 50+ Senior day at Latham Springs will be held January 12. The guest speaker will be Todd Still, Dean of Truett Seminary, with Bible study being led by Levi Price. The delicious lunch will be provided at a cost of \$8.00 per person. Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet in the foyer of First Baptist so you can get a seat on the church van for this fun day.



January 10  
 8:30 a.m.  
 Coffee Shop Cafe

January 16  
 12:00 noon  
 Fellowship Hall  
 First Baptist Church



Karen Wolfe	1/1
Gerri Allen	1/5
Lyndon Hyde	1/5
Dianne Hunter	1/5
Audrey Johnston	1/5
Kathy McCulloch	1/12
Earlene Tucker	1/12
Marty Green	1/15
Elizabeth Brisby	1/17
Jennifer Hobday	1/17
Chris McCorkindale	1/17
Mike Wright	1/19
John Erlanson	1/26
Melinda Mullens	1/26
Julie Killgore	1/29
Ellen Horn	1/31
Jeannie Towns	1/31



Congratulations to Thomas Mullens and Michelle Thomas!! They were married December 23, 2016 at First Baptist Church with Terry Johnston officiating. Thomas is the son of **Kevin and Melinda**

**Mullens** and the grandson of **Jeff and Vickie Squyres**. Here's wishing you many years of God's blessings in your marriage, Thomas and Michelle!



First Baptist received a thank you note from the officers of the Baylor Religious Hour Choir after leading us in a wonderful worship service in November of last year. It reads:

Dear First Baptist Church McGregor,

Thank you so much for allowing the Baylor Religious Hour Choir to join y'all in worship! It was a true honor and blessing for us to share our ministry with your congregation.

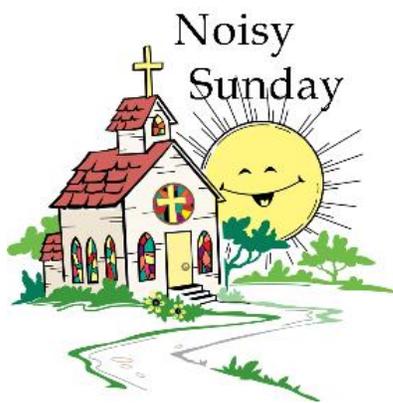
Thank you also for donating so generously to our mission trip! Your sacrificial gifts will go a long way as we travel to Alaska to share the gospel and love of God with people around the world.

We also really appreciate the sweet reception y'all had for us after the service. It was a joy to meet so many of y'all and get to spend time together in fellowship.

We are so very grateful for all of the many blessings your church has bestowed upon each of us, relationally, spiritually, and monetarily. We look forward to partnering with y'all again soon!

Blessings,

Parker Bowen, Director  
Robbie Crosier, President  
Julia Eilers, Treasurer  
Joe Bennett, Secretary



Noisy Sunday will begin again on January 15. This is when we start collecting items and loose change for our Operation Christmas Child shoe box ministry. After-Christmas sales are an excellent time to get bargains on all kinds of items that would be good to fill the shoe boxes. Our OCC chairman, Mary Alder, said, "OCC in the USA has let us know that in 2017 we will no longer be allowed to pack TOOTHPASTE and CANDY in our shoe boxes. The candy and toothpaste have an expiration date, and this is causing the boxes to be held up in some countries in customs." Very important to remember when buying items for the boxes.

Last year's Shoe Box Packing Party resulted in a record-setting number of boxes packed.....276!! That is an amazing feat for our church! We couldn't have done it without Mary who kept track of the items, kept the needed items

list updated, wrapped boxes, then organized the party alongside her helper, Kathy McCulloch. Thank you, ladies for all your hard work.

Mary, Kathy, and Tom and Lola Wolff went to the Dallas OCC processing center in December where they helped go through the shoe boxes to be sure only acceptable items were included. This is a major undertaking that takes lots of hours from many volunteers! Thanks for your service, you guys!!

What is our goal for this year? 300 boxes, maybe? We can do it!!

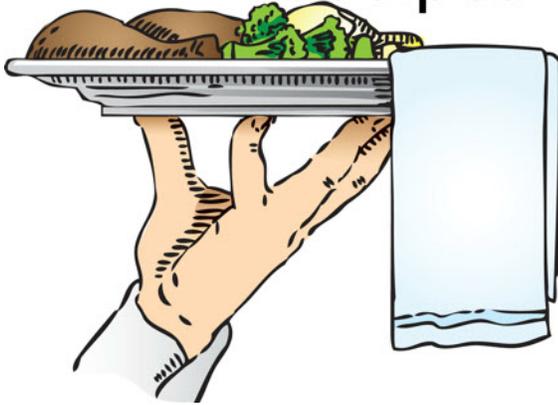


Now that all the Membership Update Forms are in, work has begun on the new church directory. NEW is the operative word here! In the December business meeting, it was approved to publish an online directory that will include photos of all members with address, email, phone numbers, birthdays and anniversaries. You can access the directory by an app on your smart phone, an account on the directory's website, or as an attachment to an email. Anytime a new member joins the church their information will be added to the directory. All you have to do is refresh the app, and their information is included, or you can sign onto your online account and see the new information.

In order for your information to be used online, the church office needs your permission to use it. An email was sent to all active members before Christmas. If you haven't already done so, please reply to that email, or you can complete a form that will be in the January 8 Sunday bulletin.

Printed directories will be provided only upon request. Please let the church office know if you want a printed directory or if you have questions about the online directory.

# Recipes



## Hot Spiced Cranberry Cider

allrecipes.com

- 2 quarts apple cider
- 6 cups cranberry juice
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 1/2 teaspoons whole cloves
- 1 lemon, thinly sliced

In a large pot, combine apple cider, cranberry juice, brown sugar, cinnamon sticks, cloves and lemon slices. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. With a slotted spoon, remove cinnamon, cloves, and lemon slices. Serve hot.

## Buffalo Chicken Dip

allrecipes.com

- 2 (10 ounce) cans chunk chicken, drained
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup Ranch dressing
- 3/4 cup pepper sauce
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Heat chicken and hot sauce in a skillet over medium heat, until heated through. Stir in cream cheese and ranch dressing. Cook, stirring until well blended and warm. Mix in half of the shredded cheese, and transfer the mixture to a slow cooker. Sprinkle the remaining cheese over the top, cover, and cook on Low setting until hot and bubbly. Serve with celery sticks and crackers.

## Baked Ziti

allrecipes.com

- 1 pound dry ziti pasta
- 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/2 pound ground beef
- 1/2 pound ground pork sausage
- 1 1/2 (26 ounce) jars spaghetti sauce
- salt to taste
- 1 (6 ounce) package provolone cheese, sliced
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 3/4 cup cottage cheese
- 1 (6 ounce) package mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook pasta in boiling water for 8 to 10 minutes, or until al dente; drain.

Meanwhile, heat olive oil in large, heavy skillet over medium heat. Cook onion in oil until tender. Stir in rosemary and garlic. Transfer to a small bowl.

Place ground beef and sausage in the skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Stir in the onion mixture and the spaghetti sauce. Season with salt. Reduce heat to low, and simmer for 10 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 °. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. In the prepared dish, layer 1/2 of the cooked pasta, provolone cheese, sour cream, cottage cheese, and a little less than 1/2 of the meat mixture. Then layer the rest of the pasta, mozzarella cheese, remaining meat mixture, and Parmesan cheese.

Bake in the preheated oven for 20 to 30 minutes, or until heated through and cheeses are melted.



**GOOD**  
*Stuff*