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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**Our Mission**

First Sweetwater exists to LOVE. We love God by worshipping the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and by loving our neighbors. We love others by serving as Jesus served.

**Our Vision**

To reflect Jesus in our:  
**Worship** which is passionate and spiritual  
**Fellowship** which is deep and strengthening  
**Discipleship** which is challenging and transformational  
**Ministry** which is caring and compassionate  
**Evangelism** which is intentional and relational

**A LOOK AT NOVEMBER (BROWN BASKET MONTH)**

- 2: Women's Ministry First Lunch & Dessert Auction
- 8: Choir Sings at Colorado City Prison
- 9: Orange Team Zoo Trip
- 10: Deacon Conference
- 11: Church Council Meeting
- 12: Church Conference (Choir & Praise Team Follow)
- 14: Church Council Retreat
- 15: Church Council Retreat
- 16: Lord's Supper Service
- 19: Night of Worship (No Other Activities)
- 20: Nursing Home Birthdays
- 22: P3 Thanksgiving
- 23: Brown Basket Delivery
- 23: Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Service
- 26: No Wednesday Night Activities
- 30: Hanging of the Green Service
- 30: Angel Tree Begins

First Baptist Church  
 Hands & Feet Newsletter

November 1, 2014  
 Volume 1, Issue 2

**A WORD FROM DR. MEEKS...**

You may have heard sermons about tithing that include the words, "Give until it hurts." I'd like to suggest that we not give until it hurts, but give until it feels good.

To feel good about our giving we need to view our tithes and offerings as a demonstration of our love and commitment to God. The key method of worship in the Bible was giving.

The giving was called a "sacrifice." In the Old Testament people sacrificed an animal, and in the New Testament we are told to present our lives as a sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1-2). Many people today give only what they can "afford" to give. Is such giving a "sacrifice"? By definition, sacrifice requires giving up something that is valuable to us. Biblical giving occurs when we give to God first and *then* spend on other things.

The question for all of us is, "What am I willing to give up in order to give to God?" I am confident that this church will have no problem fully supporting the new church budget if all members will give in "good" sense – giving that feels good is knowing that our gifts are true "sacrifices" that honor God.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS...**

Mark your calendar, preheat those ovens and bring your appetites to this Sunday's special "First Lunch!" We will be enjoying enchilada casserole, beans and salad. Following the meal we will be having a dessert auction emceed by our special guest, Whitley May. Proceeds from the lunch and dessert auction will help fund future Women's Ministry events and activities.

We are currently enjoying and being challenged by the Sheila Walsh Bible study, "The Storm Inside." If you've never attended one of our Bible studies, we encourage you to do so. It's a great way to learn more Biblical truths and enjoy the fellowship of other Christian women. What more could you ask for?!

The purpose of the Women's Ministry is to help fulfill the Church's mission to love and serve others. We are eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions on how we can collectively minister to the women of our church!

Our Women's Ministry Team is meeting regularly and we have some exciting ideas about future events and ministries. It's an exciting time to be a part of FBC Sweetwater!!!



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## MEN'S MINISTRY TEAM NEWS...

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The greatest possessions one could have are often fond memories. On Saturday, October 25, 2014, we think some cherished memories were made at the annual Father Child Retreat.

Last Saturday, the Men's Ministry Team hosted the annual retreat at the Scherwitz cabin north of Sweetwater. The activities included fishing, skeet shooting, rib eating, Forty-Two playing and one dad playing hide and seek with his youngest son.

The afternoon provided wonderful weather and the Scherwitz facilities provided more than ample comfort. Most importantly our Gracious Lord provided an experience that will be long remembered by all who attended.

The Men's Team would like to thank all those who attended, helped with the cooking and cleaning. Special thanks to Terry and Shelly Scherwitz for providing their cabin.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on November 22, 2014, instead of the last Saturday due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Future activities are being planned such as Bible studies, retreats and ministries. Our goal is to have each male member in our congregation involved in the church body, while ministering to the unchurched to become a part of our family.

*Like Father, Like Son! The Eakers are ready to shoot at the Father Child Retreat 2014!*

*"Be a part of sharing the love of Jesus...we have a place for you!" - Missions Team*

## A WORD FROM DAVID...

### Night of Worship November 19

Plan now to be here Wednesday, November 19 at 6pm for a special Night of Worship.

Music? Yes! From our choir, praise team and others.

However, worship is more than music! So we will pray, read together ... worship the Lord God!

This will be different than our Sunday morning time together. The one thing that will make it incredibly special is ... your participation!

### CUMULATIVE RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES THROUGH SEPTEMBER

**Undesignated  
Receipts**  
\$278,845

**Undesignated  
Expenditures**  
\$312,637

**Undesignated  
Operating Fund  
Balance**  
\$<3.09>

**September Connecting  
Generations  
Receipts**  
\$4,666

## MISSIONS TEAM NEWS...

Thanksgiving is this month. With Thanksgiving comes numerous opportunities to live out our faith in Jesus by ministering to our Church Family and our Community.

Before we look at November, we want to thank you so much for your participation in Operation Christmas Child! Children around the world will experience God's love because of your faithfulness.

November 2 begins our Brown Basket Thanksgiving collection. Through this ministry, we provide a Thanksgiving Meal for families in our community.

On November 22, we will celebrate 5 years of the P3 Thanksgiving! What a blessing to share a meal and Jesus' love with our community. Be watching for the sign-up sheet for providing food for the meal. Steve and Candy Mercer are leading the Team for the P3 Thanksgiving Meal this year. We know they would love for you to volunteer to serve alongside them!

Be a part of sharing the love of Jesus...we have a place for you!

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## PASTOR SEARCH TEAM NEWS...

In searching for a new Senior Pastor, we may sometimes be thinking of our needs:

What we want in a pastor, how we want his wife to serve, how we want his children to behave, how will he dress, will he serve the Senior members, will he serve the children, what type of music will he like, what edition of the Scriptures will he use, etc., etc.

What are his needs:

He will be leaving a church that embraces him and loves him. Will we do the same? His wife may be a teacher and loves her school and students. Will she find the same in a new community? His current church allows him quality time with family. Will he find the same time available in our church?

Please prepare your hearts for the one God will choose to lead our church.



*Serving up some ribs at Father Child Retreat!*

*"Our Gracious Lord provided an experience that will be long remembered by those who attended." - Men's Ministry Team*

## A WORD FROM TIQUE...

"Pray for God to give us a good problem," said Mike Hale. Sounds like a great idea, until God gives you a good problem in the form of Middle School students inviting their friends to Church which has resulted in needing more adult volunteers. God answered our prayers, now we are working on solutions for our good problems.

We have numerous students who come through our doors every week. We are seeing lives changed as children come to Jesus. Records show that we have used the baptistry more in the last two years than we did from 2004-2012 combined!

God has given us a good problem, now we need you to be a part of the solution! How is God calling you to serve the children and students of FBC? As a Nursery Volunteer once a quarter? See Ashley May. As a KidX or Middle School Volunteer? See me. As a Sunday School Volunteer? See Cathy Wilks. As a Bus or Van Ministry Volunteer? See Renee Ross. Maybe you do not know where you can serve, see me and we will get you a place to serve!

God is changing lives, and we need your help!



*Middle School Camp was a Sweet Success!*

## DEACON MINISTRY NEWS...

Joseph Tkach writes, "A good relationship with Jesus goes a long way in times of trial, in times of [Christian] uncertainty and in times of blessing. It is a joy to know the Lord – not just know about him, but to know *him*, to have a person-to-person friendship...By becoming friends with God, we also become friends of each other."

The Deacons have focused much time on strengthening relationships. First and foremost, the Deacon Prayer Team has been strengthening relationships with prayer for our Pastor Search Team, the Church Council, and FBC Ministry Teams. The Deacons continue to focus more prayer time on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings at 8am in the Sanctuary. Of course, anyone is welcome to join us for this prayer time.

Tkach leaves us with a challenge, "Do you need a better relationship with our Lord and [Savior]? Yes, we all do...Ask [God] to help you know his love for you in the sacrifice and resurrection of [Jesus Christ]."

But because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression-it is by grace you have been saved (Eph. 2:4-5).

### NOVEMBER DEACON OF THE WEEK

2: Bob Rister  
9: Speedy San Miguel  
16: Waymon Sowell  
23: Stan Tucker  
30: David Welch