

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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BANGS, TX 76823

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Bangs, Texas
PERMIT NO. 9



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Words of Encouragement...

Malachi 3:10 ➤ "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough... If you do," says the LORD..., "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!" [NLT]

1 Corinthians 16:2 ➤ On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income.... [NIV]

2 Corinthians 9: 6-7 ➤ "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver." [NIV]

God calls us to be good stewards of what He has entrusted to us. "Stewardship" means managing something that belongs to someone else. A steward is not a possessor or owner, but recognizes that it doesn't belong to her/him. God is our source and as His people we are all stewards of what really belongs to Him. Thus, God expects each of us to manage well the resources He has given us.

The question is: Are you a good steward or not? It's not a question of what or how much God has given us. He wants us to be faithful and act responsibly with everything -- whether it's spiritual gifts and talents, or financial resources, or personal time. Stewardship is much more than a money issue! It's an issue of the heart ("where your heart is, there is your treasure"). The stewardship we practice and live is a barometer of our spiritual condition. It's kind of like our spiritual heart monitor. If we get our heart right – our head, hands, and finances will follow.

The spiritual reality is this: stewardship and giving are inextricably and eternally connected. How we manage our money and resources as stewards is directly linked to our spiritual well-being. It's not *what you have* that's at issue, but *what has you!* The heart will follow what's important to it (its treasure).

Of the 38 parables Jesus told, 16 of them are about money. The Bible has fewer than 300 verses on the subject of prayer; less than 500 verses on the subject of faith. But there are over 2,000 verses that deal with wealth, possessions and money. The inescapable conclusion is this: how we deal with our finances *in general*, and what we give *in particular*, is a BIG DEAL to God.

Certainly, this has bearing on our personal finances. But it also has significant impact on our Church finances. We must be faithful to give of ourselves and our resources to help carry out God's call on our lives through the ministries and efforts of First Baptist Church.

I want to be sure to avoid any sense of legalism here. A tithe is one-tenth. This is the only area of discipleship that has a specific number attached to it. We're not told to pray "x" number of times a day or week. We're not instructed how often to read our Bible or to worship. But we do have this number—*one-tenth*—to guide us in our giving. While the tithe does figure into New Testament thinking at various times, it's not as significantly emphasized as it is in the Old Testament. But 1 Corinthians 16:2 says quite a lot about being *punctual* in our giving ("On the first day of each week"), *personal* in our giving ("each one of you"), and *proportional* in our giving ("in keeping with your income").

Continued on inside.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

- Nov. 1st: Deacons' Meeting
- Nov. 1st-5th: Church Directory Pictures
- Nov. 2nd: Clothes Closet OPEN
- Nov. 5th: Central Standard Time starts at 2:00 am, Missions Committee Meeting/Lunch, Girls' Night In
- Nov. 8th: October/November Business Meeting
- Nov. 12th: CMT Meeting
- Nov. 14th Advanced Group Luncheon
- Nov. 15th: Thanksgiving Meal & Praise Service
- Nov. 22nd: Church Office closes at noon, no meals or services
- Nov. 23rd: Thanksgiving Day, Church Office Closed
- Nov. 24th: Church Office Closed
- Nov. 26th: No Children's Church today
- Nov. 29th: Hanging of the Green
- Dec. 3rd-10th: Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- Dec. 3rd: Girls' Night In
- Dec. 6th: Deacons' Meeting
- Dec. 7th: Clothes Closet OPEN by request only
- Dec. 9th: Christmas Parade, Nativity & Christmas in the Park
- Dec. 10th: Christmas Celebration
- Dec. 12th: Advanced Group Luncheon
- Dec. 13th: Christmas Meal, Business Meeting, Kids' "Happy Birthday Jesus" Party, Maintenance Committee Meeting
- Dec. 20th: Yuletide Fellowship-no prepared meal
- Dec. 22nd: Church Office Closed
- Dec. 24th: The Lord's Supper, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec. 25th: Christmas Day, Church Office closed
- Dec. 27th: No meal or services
- Dec. 29th: Church Office Closed
- Dec. 31st: New Year's Eve, no Children's Church, no evening services
- Jan. 1st: New Year's Day, Church Office Closed

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST



Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, Nov. 4th. Central Standard Time starts at 2:00 am, Sunday, Nov. 5th.



SENIOR PASTOR: Dr. Pepper Dill
MINISTER OF WORSHIP: Corey Ash
CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR: Joy Mitchell
OFFICE MANAGER: Cindy Boyle
OFFICE ASSISTANT/WEB MASTER: Marsha Zabecki

Don't miss Hanging of the Green

Wednesday evening, November 29th at 6:15 pm!

Help decorate your church home for Christmas!

There will be Christmas music and Yuletide Goodies to enjoy!



Hey Kids! Join us for Kid's Choir on Sunday nights as we CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!!! Meet in the Children's Church Room at 6:00 pm.

Don't miss our Christmas Celebration "This I Believe" on Dec. 10th in the morning Worship Service.



This I Believe

FBC Family,

Thank you for being READY to DO SOMETHING during the holidays. Let's start with an Attitude of Gratitude! Kids will always model our behavior, so let's lead our families in counting the many blessings God has given us and look for ways to be a blessing to others. Throughout the season, I pray your family experiences pure joy that comes from BELIEVING in the GREATEST GIFT OF ALL...JESUS!



Give thanks in ALL things!

We are THE CHURCH!
LIVE READY TO LOVE, SERVE & GO!
If not us, then who? If not now, then when?
God created us to.... DO SOMETHING!!!

A NOTE of THANKS!

Thank you for all the kind words, prayers and love that you have shared with me! I love you dearly!!! It is such a blessing and honor to serve the Lord with you. I will never get tired of telling you that when you see me, you see an army of FAITHFUL, MIGHT MEN & WOMEN who LOVE God, our kids and families! These MIGHTY WARRIORS, Kialynn & Heather faithfully serve beside me weekly with such love and passion! You are such a sweet blessing to me and we could not have Children's Ministry without you! Thank you parents for sharing your kids with us! The seeds of faith that you are planting now will bring a blessed harvest. Thank you church family for your prayers, encouragement and support for our Children's Ministry. Together we are training MIGHTY WARRIORS who will LOVE, SERVE and GO!

SAVE THE DATES!

- Nov. 15th: Thanksgiving Meal & Praise Service 5:30 pm
- Dec. 9th: Parade- 6:00 pm/ Nativity & Carols at Christmas in the Bangs City Park
- Dec. 10th: Christmas Celebration - This I Believe
- Dec. 13th: Christmas Meal/ Happy Birthday Jesus Party

More "Words of Encouragement. . ."

If you say that you love and obey God, then here's a pretty good test – how's your giving? Giving through tithes and offerings is a litmus test of the nature of your relationship with God and your faithfulness to Him. We see this demonstrated in the different responses of Zacheus in Luke 19: 8-9 and the rich young ruler in Mark 10: 21-22.

While we're no longer under the Law of the Old Covenant that requires a tithe (10%), we *are* under the New Covenant of Grace that expects us to give because of the grace and love we've been given. We are not compelled by law, but by grace. The New Testament presents a new model of giving we are urged to practice. God still expects us to give back to Him, but our *motivation for giving is different* – love, grace, and obedience. Interestingly, the one thing Jesus actually confirmed that the Scribes and Pharisees were doing well was tithing (Matthew 23:23). Adrian Rogers used to say, "Any Christian who allows a Jew under the law to give more than a Christian under grace, is a disgrace to grace."

Tithing, then, is a good benchmark for believers – a good place to start. It's a good reminder of who is in charge of my life. God wants what my money represents – *me*. When giving to God, we're just taking our hands off what belongs to Him in the first place. It's a demonstration of our trust in God and an expression of our gratitude to Him. It's also God's plan for providing the things needed for His house, His servants, and the needs of His kingdom work.

Over and over again, our Lord comes back to motive. When we give, when we pray, when we worship, or whatever we do, God looks at our heart. Motive is everything. When we recognize that everything we have comes from God and that He provides it for us with a purpose in mind, then every believer should be motivated to give a portion of his finances to the Lord on a regular basis. We each must make that decision; invest in spiritual things, and store up treasures in heaven.

God has been so very good and faithful to us! And, He continues to do a good work among us. Be faithful to do what you know to do. Listen to the voice of His Spirit in you and follow His leading. Love each other. Encourage each other in your walk of service and stewardship; and give cheerfully. It will glorify and bless Him; and you, too, will be blessed.

Pepper

Blessings to you in your journey of stewardship!

BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

AUGUST 2017 MINUTES

- ♦ July 2017 minutes were approved as printed.
- ♦ Reports were accepted.
- ♦ The Associate Pastor & Youth Minister Search Committee was selected.
- ♦ A recommendation was approved for funds to come from the Building Fund Savings for the moving of gas and electrical services on the roof above the nursery.

- ♦ A recommendation was approved that while the Associate Pastor & Youth Minister's position is vacant, the unused salary be directed into the Church Wide Retreat Activity Fund on a bi-monthly basis and be discontinued when the position is filled.

SEPTEMBER 2017 MINUTES

- ♦ August 2017 minutes were approved as printed.
- ♦ Reports were accepted and new members were approved.
- ♦ The 2017 Annual Church Profile was approved.

MISSIONS



Clothes Closet OPEN! Thursday, November 3rd, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Clothes Closet OPEN! December 7th, by appointment only.
Bangs Food Pantry OPEN! First and Third Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



Watch for these opportunities to bless your neighbors:

- ★ Salvation Army Bell Ringers
- ★ Holiday Food Drive for the Bangs Food Pantry
- ★ Sock & Mitten Drive
- ★ Star Christmas Tree Project
- ★ Lottie Moon Christmas Post Office



International Missions and
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®

Week of Prayer December 3rd-10th
Providing financial support to missionaries as they share the gospel overseas.



Thank you for your generous gifts of \$2,998!

Our Medical Closet!



We have a wide variety of equipment to loan out including wheel chairs, walkers, beds, bed rails, and shower chairs.



MUSIC NOTES

Hello, Church Family!

I can't believe how quickly the time flies! Before we know it, we'll be heading into Thanksgiving, and, it's soon to be 2018. Wow!

As we look toward the holiday season and Christmastime, it is always such a great time of blessing and of reassurance. "For God so loved the world that He gave..."

And, He's still giving...and giving! We are so blessed! God's Word tells us to "continually give thanks"! We are to be a thankful and loving people! I sometimes get so focused on those things that aren't just like I want them to be that I forget to tell God thank you for the many good blessings that I experience and see around me. It's so easy for all of us to let that happen.

As we prepare music for Christmas as well as for our regular morning services, I never cease to be struck by the amazing peculiarity of God's plan for redemption. He's just so creative and unpredictable! But, this we know. He loves us. I know that anyone who would lay down a child for me loves me with a love that I truly cannot even begin to imagine. We hope that each time we sing about His love that it will truly be ministry through music to those who need a song of encouragement in their lives.

We're always seeking others who would like to give of the gift of music in ministry. We're always in need of some new voices, and I'm convinced that God is moving some of you to join us in singing. Don't put it off. You're missing a blessing each week! And, like me, you'll turn around some day and time will have flown away and so much of what makes us "busy" will seem like such a true waste of good time!

Have a blessed and productive week! You all bless me so much! I love worshipping with you each week. It's always a highlight of my week to get to worship with our church family

Soli Deo Gloria, Bro. Corey



Sounds of the Season

AUGUST 2017 GENERAL FUND

Total Contributions:	\$32,562.54
Weekly Average:	\$8,140.64
Weekly Requirement:	\$8,480.75
Fund Balance:	\$9,566.13
BUILDING SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$81,697.14 (8/31/17)*
CHURCH ROOFS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$24,014.82 (8/31/17)
GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$8,276.01 (8/31/17)

SEPTEMBER 2017 GENERAL FUND

Total Contributions:	\$31,457.72
Weekly Average:	\$7,864.43
Weekly Requirement:	\$8,480.75
Fund Balance:	\$4,961.82
BUILDING SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$82,492.14 (9/30/17)*
CHURCH ROOFS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$24,809.82 (9/30/17)
GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$8,276.67 (9/30/17)

* Includes funds for the roof projects