

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 520
401 S. SECOND STREET
BANGS, TX 76823

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



VOLUME 23 July/August 2018 NUMBER 4

OFFICE: 752-6724 FAX: 752-7516 www.fbcbangs.com

Words of Encouragement...

James 1:2 ➤ *“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.” [NLT]*

I recently started a new sermon series on Sunday mornings in the book of James. Since my mind and spirit seem to be filled with the things James has to say, I thought I’d offer a little recap. In considering the verse above, two things jump-out at me right away. First, troubles will come our way. And second, we get a choice about how we will respond to them.

The truth of the matter is, if you’re still living on this earthly plane and breathing, you will have problems, troubles and challenges. No matter how you label your struggles, they are inevitable, inescapable, and even predictable. James didn’t say “if” they happen, but “when” troubles come. The idea James is trying to communicate is that we fall into and get surrounded by troubles and difficulties. There’s no warning. They’re unavoidable. They will happen – and there will be great variety to them and variables within them.

I think each one of us, based upon our own life experience, would confirm this reality. Stuff is going to happen to us on this journey that will test our spiritual metal and reveal our strength. And that is exactly God’s purpose in allowing us to go through these struggles. He wants us to grow-up in Him and learn to persevere. He has a plan!

The choice we each get is not in the experiencing of troubles and difficulties, but in how we are going to go through them. The Holy Spirit wants us to decide – to make up our mind. He wants us to choose joy as our guiding thought and attitude through each and every hardship and trial. He didn’t say every difficult thing that happens to us would be joyful. But we can choose to have a heart of joy in spite of the hardship – because we can trust God’s heart and His plan.

We see this illustrated in the life of Joseph. The last 14 chapters of Genesis tell us the full story of Joseph, and all that God did to prepare Joseph in order to preserve life (especially the lineage of the Messiah). Genesis 45:5-7 says: “God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you.” Joseph began and ended his trouble with God. God preceded the famine, and God would outlive the famine.

How was Joseph able to do that? Given everything that happened to Joseph throughout his young life – the struggles, the hardships, the hurt, the trials – how was he still able to see the hand of God working in and through all that happened? *Because he chose to!* He made the conscious decision to trust God and let joy be his guiding attitude. Certainly not everything Joseph experienced was joyful. But he knew who the Author of Joy was – and he held onto Him through everything.

Dear believer, trust the Lord and choose joy. God preceded your struggle; and He will outlive your struggle. God has a purpose and you are a part of it – so count it all joy!

Many blessings to you on this journey of joy. **Pepper**



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- July: School Supplies Drive starts this month.
- July 1st: No Children’s Church, FAMJAM at Camp Bowie Aquatic Park, No evening services
- July 3rd: Youth trip to Round Rock Express Baseball Game
- July 4th: Church Office closed, there will be no meal or evening services
- July 5th: Clothes Closet OPEN by request only
- July 13th: Youth Trip-Tim Hawkins Concert in San Angelo
- July 14th: Missions SERVE Event-Christmas in July
- July 18th: Deacons’ Meeting
- July 21st-27th: Mission Trip to Port Aransas FBC
- July 25th: Business Meeting, Maintenance Committee Meeting
- July 29th: Fifth Sunday Potluck Lunch
- August: School Supplies distribution this month
- August 2nd: Clothes Closet OPEN by request only
- August 5th: Missions Committee Meeting/Luncheon
- August 12th: CMT Meeting
- August 15th: Deacons’ Meeting
- August 18th: Youth Passport Weekend (Orientation for new 7th graders)
- August 19th: The Lord’s Supper, Back to Church Sunday, Sunday School Promotion Sunday, Kids’ Back to School Bash
- August 20: School starts at Bangs ISD.
- August 22nd: Business Meeting, Maintenance Committee Meeting
- August 26th: Prayer Walk at Bangs ISD School Campuses
- August 30th: Emmaus Community Gathering

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY.



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

FBC Bangs “The Messenger”
To be removed from this mailing or to submit updates, please email: fbcbangs@fbcbangs.com or call: 325-752-6724

CHILDREN'S NEWS



FBC Family,

What a blessed summer this has been! God has been so GOOD to us and has done GREAT things for US! Thank you for your prayers, support, love, encouragement and servanthood in our Kid's Ministry! You truly make an eternal difference in the lives of our kids and generations to come! Let's continue to build on a ROCK SOLID FOUNDATION as CHRIST FOLLOWERS who are RESCUED BY JESUS! Let us live in such a way that others want to follow because they see Jesus in us and desire a relationship with HIM as well! Each day, we are entering the mission field! How exciting that God chose to work through us to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES! As a family and church, let's look for opportunities to serve God and others and share HIS love!

Joy ☺

**RAISING
ARROWS**

"CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD... LIKE ARROWS IN THE HANDS OF A WARRIOR..."
PSALM 127:3-5

SAVE THE DATES!
 July 1st: FAMJAM at Camp Bowie Aquatic Center 6:30-8:30 pm
 August 19th: Promotion Sunday/Back to Church Sunday
 August 19th: Back to School Bash 6:00 pm
 August 26th: Prayer Walk 7:15 pm - All campuses



Associate Pastor/Youth Minister NEWS



Freedom. No other word has resonated in the psyche of humanity to instill so much emotion. The mention of the word can lead to grown men weeping. Freedom is the foundation of creation. Mankind was created with "free-will"—a concept of freedom. We are free to exercise freedom of thought, speech, and choice.

Freedom also comes at a cost. It is the very irony of the prefix "free" in "freedom. In May, we remembered the cost of our national freedom; however, do we ever stop and calculate the cost of our spiritual freedom? As Independence Day draws closer, I wonder if we have ever stopped to ponder the freedom we have in Christ?

Might I propose to you that true freedom is defined by meekness.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth," (Mt. 5:5, ESV). What in the world does meekness have to do with freedom, you might ask? It is the very definition of freedom. Meekness was described to me years ago as this: "Absolute power, under absolute control." Meekness is having the freedom to do something, yet, choosing restraint. Therefore, freedom is also having absolute freedom, under absolute control.

Let freedom ring! However, it comes with a cost. It comes with control. It comes with responsibility.

Adam and Eve were given free reign over the whole garden of Eden. They only had one rule. "Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Freedom had a cost—a rule. You see, too often the world today says, "you can have it all, anyway you want it." That is true, you can. However, is this truly freedom? Is freedom truly boundaryless?

We have example after example of men and women displaying control in their freedom (free-will), and they "inherit(ed)" the situation around them. We also have stories of men and women who practiced their version of freedom and lost everything.

We are built—designed to be submissive to something greater than us. For the Christian, we submit to God and follow the example of Jesus, all while trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us. So yes, we are free, but we must remain under absolute control.

seth



MISSIONS



Clothes Closet OPEN! Thursday, July 5th, by request only
 Clothes Closet OPEN! Thursday, August 2nd, by request only
 Bangs Food Pantry OPEN! First and Third Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
 Volunteers needed at the Bangs Food Pantry. Please contact Pat at 325-752-6748.



School Supplies Drive starts this month!

Mission Trip to Port Aransas in July!



Our Medical Closet!

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



MUSIC NOTES

Hello, Church Family!

The choir is taking a short break from rehearsals during the summer months as we all seem to have quite a lot going on during this time. As we look toward July, I am reminded that we are certainly blessed to live in a country that was founded on the principal of liberty. We are also a country that was founded on decidedly Christian principals and moral precepts. I hope that we'll keep this in mind as we celebrate the founding of our great land!

Over the years, many of you have told me that you are interested in being in our choir. Well, why not make this the year! If you have ever been in choir and want to be a part again, what's keeping you? You need to be using your voice in praise to our Savior! You'll be glad you did!

I'm so thankful for all of our wonderful instrumentalists. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful men and women who are willing to use their talents to help us have an awesome worship experience each week. Are you using your talents? Make sure that you do.

I hope that you are having a great summer! Have a blessed and productive week! You all bless me so much!



Soli Deo Gloria, Bro. Corey

BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

APRIL 2018 MEETING MINUTES

- March 2018 minutes were approved as printed.
- Reports were accepted and letters were granted.
- There was no old or new business.

MAY 2018 MINUTES

- April 2018 minutes were approved as printed.
- Reports were accepted and letters were granted.
- A recommendation was approved for Amy Pitman to the HPU Graduate Program in Theology and Ministry.
- Amy and Seth Pitman were approved as messengers to the BGCT Annual Meeting in July.

APRIL 2018 GENERAL FUND

Total Contributions:	\$37,432.95
Weekly Average:	\$7,486.59 (5 Sundays)
Weekly Requirement:	\$8,437.98
Fund Balance:	\$14,396.88
BUILDING SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$104,501.92 (4/30/2018)*
CHURCH ROOFS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$48,753.09 (4/30/2018)
GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$8,281.51 (4/30/2018)

MAY 2018 GENERAL FUND

Total Contributions:	\$33,539.49
Weekly Average:	\$8,384.87
Weekly Requirement:	\$8,437.98
Fund Balance:	\$14,601.34
BUILDING SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$104,506.92 (5/31/2018)*
CHURCH ROOFS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$48,758.09 (5/31/2018)
GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$8,282.21 (5/31/2018)

* Includes funds for the roof projects