

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



SENIOR PASTOR  
YOUTH PASTOR  
WORSHIP LEADER  
CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR  
OFFICE MANAGER  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

Dr. Pepper Dill  
Jarryd Evans  
Duncan Welborn  
Kelcy Purcell  
Susan Carlton  
Marsha Zabecki

VOLUME 28

May-August 2023

NUMBER 2

OFFICE: 752-6724

FAX: 752-7516

[www.fbcbangs.com](http://www.fbcbangs.com)

## Words of Encouragement...

John 14:6 ➤ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." [NIV]

A recent Jim Denison article in *The Denison Forum* (Mar 6, 2023) captured my attention. In that article several poignant observations were made concerning "truth" in our culture and our response as Christians.

The very notion of truth has been minimized, diluted, and distorted in our culture. For example, abortion is often referred to as "lifesaving care," sex change surgeries are now "gender-affirming care," euthanasia is "death with dignity." If you defend the unborn, then you're accused of engaging in a "war on women." Supporting biblical marriage is now considered "homophobic." Those who believe women should not have to compete against biological men in sporting events are judged "transphobic."

Euphemisms like these don't change the truth. Just because some declare their perceptions and preferences as reality, doesn't make it so. A lie is still a lie regardless of how many people choose to believe it. However, a lie can still shape reality. The lies espoused by Hitler and the Third Reich brought about the death of millions of people. And when our secularized culture bombards us with messages that reinterpret truth according to its chosen fictions, its fictions become the guiding principles.

Christians should not be surprised by this, since "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Eph 6:12).

Satan is the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31) and the leader of these "spiritual forces of evil." He specializes in lies and deception because "there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

Satan is good at his job: "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Cor 4:4). And he has been especially busy in recent years, convincing millions of Americans that biblical truth and morality are outdated, irrelevant, and even dangerous.

Recent statistics bear this out. Recent Gallup surveys (2021 & 2022) reported that:

- The percentage of people who believe in God has dropped from 98 percent in the 1950's to 81 percent today.
- Only about half of Americans believe in "God as described in the Bible."
- Congregational membership is at an all-time low. For the first time ever, fewer than half of Americans are members of a church, synagogue, or mosque.
- About 1 in 5 adults say they have no religious affiliation. That's up from 1 in 50 in 1960.

So, what does this mean for you and me?

1st, we must stop measuring truth by popularity. The next time you find yourself on the wrong side of the crowd, remember that the crowd demanded the crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:15), and the majority voted not to go into the promised land (Num 13-14).

**Continued inside of the newsletter**

FBC Bangs "The Messenger"

To be removed from this mailing or to submit updates, please email:  
[fbcbangs@fbcbangs.com](mailto:fbcbangs@fbcbangs.com)  
or call: 325-752-6724

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER! Any and all dates are subject to change.

May 10th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, Youth/Parent Camp Meeting  
May 12th: Movie Night in the Youth Room: "Jesus Revolution"  
May 14th: Mother's Day  
May 15th: Sing at Bangs Nursing Home. Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts.  
May 17th: Children's Committee Meeting  
May 21st: Senior Sunday, Missions Committee Meeting, Bangs High School Baccalaureate  
May 23rd: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority  
May 26th: Bangs Graduation  
May 29th: Memorial Day, Church Office closed  
May 31st: Children's Splash into Summer, Youth-School's Out Celebration, Youth Committee Meeting  
June 4th: Women's Ministry Luncheon  
June 7th: Deacons' Meeting  
June 9th-12th: PreTeen Camp at Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment  
June 11th: Missions Committee Meeting  
June 14th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting  
June 18th: Father's Day, The Lord's Supper  
June 19th-22nd: Backyard Bible Study-Cannon Courts Apts.  
June 19th: Sing at Bangs Nursing Home. Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts.  
June 21st: Children's Committee Meeting  
June 24th: Unified Worship Night  
June 25th: Mission Dignity Offering, PreK to 2nd Grade Ice Cream Social  
June 26th-29th: Youth-"Follow, Lead, Serve Camp" at HPU  
June 27th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority  
June 28th: Youth Committee Meeting

July 4th: Independence Day, Church Office Closed, Youth-HOTBE Afternoon Party  
July 5th: Deacons' Meeting, Children's Committee Meeting/Vacation Bible School Training  
July 7th: Youth Fun Day  
July 9th-13th: Vacation Bible School-Stellar  
July 9th: Women's Ministry Luncheon  
July 16th: Missions Committee Meeting  
July 17th: Sing at Bangs Nursing Home. Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts.  
July 19th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting  
July 23rd-27th: Youth-Camp Eagle, Rocksprings TX  
July 25th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority  
July 26th: Youth Committee Meeting  
July 28th: Youth-Day of Reflection  
July 30th: Fifth Sunday Breakfast, No Sunday School classes  
August 2nd: Deacons' Meeting  
August 4th-5th: Youth-Passport Weekend  
August 5th: Back to School & First Blessing Event  
August 6th: Women's Ministry Luncheon  
August 9th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting  
August 13th: The Lord's Supper, Children's Promotion Sunday, Kids Back 2 School Bash, Prayer Circle for Schools  
August 16th: Bangs Schools start, Children's Committee Meeting  
August 20th: Missions Committee Meeting  
August 21st: Sing at Bangs Nursing Home. Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts.  
August 22nd: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority  
August 30th: Youth Committee Meeting



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Words of Encouragement continued from cover page. . .

2<sup>nd</sup>, stand for truth with compassionate courage. People who reject biblical truth are not enemies of the Lord, but victims of the devil.

3<sup>rd</sup>, remember what the Lord has promised us: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

In his book, *The Pursuit of God*, A. W. Tozer observed that, "one hundred pianos all tuned to the same [tuning] fork are automatically tuned to each other.... They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow."

*Bro. Pepper*

So, tune your soul to our loving Savior and Lord, not to a fallen society.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

I want to start out with a thank you for all the encouragement and love that has been poured out on my family. We have been here for a year now and we cannot wait for many more. As the youth group continues to grow, we are looking at group branding, core beliefs, and goals. This will help us to lay a foundation for all that we learn. The youth are also working on ideas for a logo that they can be excited about and can stand behind. Then setting up goals that we can strive for as a group.

We are just around the corner from summer. We have a lot going on, so please pray for us as we bear the June and July heat. At the end of June, I will be taking our student youth leaders to a leadership camp called Follow Lead Serve Camp. This camp works to send our best students back even better. At the end of July, we will be taking 34 people to Camp Eagle in Rocksprings. This is going to be a blast and a huge spiritually impactful week for everyone going. Between these two camps we will be helping with VBS and Backyard Bible Study. We'll also be enjoying some planned Youth Fun Days and a Youth Workday to finish off our summer.

Please continue your prayers for the youth and youth team as we work to create relationships with the youth. Getting into summer we pray that our youth stay involved in the church and continue to grow in Christ each week.

*Darryd*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 21<sup>st</sup>, Senior Sunday during Sunday service
- May 26<sup>th</sup>, Bangs Graduation at the football field @8pm
- June 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, Backyard Bible Study at Cannon Courts
- June 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, Follow-Lead-Serve Camp at HPU
- July 7<sup>th</sup>, Youth Fun Day in gym @6pm
- July 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, Camp Eagle at Rocksprings
- August 4<sup>th</sup>, Passport Weekend - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Party in Youth Room
- August 5<sup>th</sup>, Passport Weekend - PrimeTime Day
- August 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, Youth Church Project Days



**Summer Ladies Yoga Classes will meet on Wednesdays starting June 7th at 8am in the FBC Gym! Bring a mat and hand weights and join the fun! All ladies are welcome!**

Hello church family, are we ready for a STELLAR summer?

Here are the dates for some of the fun activities we have planned.

May 31st- Splash into Summer ( 6-7pm)

June 9th-12th- Pre Teen Camp (finishing 3rd grade-6th grade)

June 25th- Pre K through 2nd ice cream social (6-7pm)

July 9th-13th- Stellar VBS (5:30-8:30)

August 13th- Back to School Bash (6-7pm) followed by a prayer group open to anyone, where we will pray for our children, staff and schools as we move into a new year.

It's going to be a busy but fun time and we look forward to spending more time with our children in fellowship! If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, just reach out to me at [kelcy@fbcbangs.com](mailto:kelcy@fbcbangs.com)

Thank you,

Kelcy Purcell, Children's Director

## WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Hey Church,

I'd like to start as I always do with how grateful Mary Beth and I are to be a part of this community. You've shown us nothing but love and it is a blessing to be with you. Secondly, God is moving among us. I hope you've been able to experience this as much as I have. Times like these are a blessing in the life of the Church. We will continue to facilitate this movement of the Lord through the summer months.

We will continue with our quarterly *Unified* worship nights in late June. There will also be some upgrades coming to our sound system in the next few weeks. If all goes well with this, you shouldn't even notice. Along with the upgrades we are beginning the process of involving new musicians and vocalists with the program. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our rotation of musicians vocalists please contact me or the church office. We are also looking for more volunteers in the sound booth. We have positions that are very simple to learn and we will train you so that you feel comfortable serving with us.

I am always available to all of you. Mary Beth and I love serving here and we would love to know you more as we continue. The Lord is steadfast in love and slow to anger. He is gentle, kind, and worthy to be praised. I'll leave you with this passage.

*"May the Master pour on the love so it fills your life and splashes over on everyone around you."  
(1 Thessalonians 3:12, The Message)*

*Duncan*

## MISSIONS NEWS

**Bangs Food Pantry is OPEN on the first and third Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm**

### Our Medical Closet!

We have a wide variety of equipment to loan out including wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, toilet risers and shower chairs.

We support



**The Mobile Food Pantry serves the residents of Cannon Courts Apts the third Monday every month and Bangs Housing Authority the fourth Tuesday every month.**