

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



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## Words of Encouragement...

*Exodus 4:18* ➤ *Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." [ESV]*

In a recent devotional I read by Charles Swindoll, he offered some encouraging insight from this passage. Verse 18 offers a glimpse into Moses' humanity and God's patience.

What precedes this verse in chapters 3 and 4 is the account of God calling Moses to go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt. As the story goes, Moses wasn't so keen or confident about returning to Egypt. Remember, he'd run from there 40 years earlier after taking things into his own hands and killing an Egyptian.

Even though Moses clearly recognized that it was God who was speaking to him (he took his sandals off), he was full of excuses as to why he wasn't the one to go back to Egypt and deliver his fellow Hebrews. He didn't think the Israelites would accept his leadership or believe what he was being asked by God to say. He also didn't think he was cut-out for the life of a public speaker.

With each excuse, God gave Moses the words he was to say to the people; and gave Moses a public speaking assistant (his brother Aaron). God even took Moses' shepherd's staff and divinely supercharged it so Moses could perform signs with it. (4:17)

But when Moses goes back to his home-camp to talk with Jethro his father-in-law about a leave of absence, he left just a few things out of the account he'd had with God. What Moses said to his father-in-law was simply, "I want to go see if any of my buddies down in Egypt are still alive." In essence, Moses just asked for some time-off from his shepherding responsibilities. And Jethro says, "Fine. Go ahead... and have a good time."

Somehow, Moses couldn't bring himself to tell Jethro what really happened to him in the wilderness. Instead of saying, "there was this bush on fire out in the desert that wouldn't burn-up... and there was this voice in the bush, and it was God. God wants me to go back to Egypt and lead the whole nation of Israel in an Exodus out of slavery and deliver them to Canaan."

He just couldn't bring himself to say that! Instead, he asked Jethro for some time away so he could go check on old friends and family.

But God, in His grace, doesn't get upset with Moses' justification and lack of details. He doesn't slap Moses' hand. He doesn't say, "Knock it off, Moses! Tell Jethro the whole story." God just lets Moses explain his departure with a kind of broad-brush, nebulous explanation.

That kind of encourages my heart. God is so patient with us and gracious to us. Moses was packing his bags for Egypt, and God let it go at that. I suspect Moses was overwhelmed by what God had said to him. While Moses might have been processing what it all meant, he still was obeying what God asked of him... and going to Egypt.

What God asks of us is a willing heart. He doesn't expect perfection. He doesn't expect you to have all the answers, all the ability, or all the courage. He doesn't even require you to spell out each detail of His call. He just asks you to be available and take that first step of faith in the direction He's pointing.

So, whatever it is that God is asking of you, have a willing heart... and take the first step.

Many blessings to you on your journey of obedience to the Lord.

*Bro. Pepper*

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

Sept. 4th: Labor Day, Church Office closed  
Sept. 6th: Deacons' Meeting, Children's Choir Practice begins  
Sept. 10th-16th: Week of Prayer for Mary Hill Davis –Texas Missions  
Sept. 10th: Women's Ministry Luncheon  
Sept. 13th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting  
Sept. 17th: Missions Committee Meeting  
Sept. 18th: Sing at Bangs Nursing Home, Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts.  
Sept. 20th: Children's Committee Meeting  
Sept. 26th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority, Calendar Planning Meeting  
Sept. 27th: "See You at the Pole", "Saw You at the Pole", Youth Committee Meeting  
Sept. 30th: WAY Summit  
October: Ministerial Appreciation Month  
Oct. 1st: Women's Ministry Luncheon  
Oct. 4th: Deacons' Meeting  
Oct. 7th: Budget Workshop for 2024  
Oct. 8th: Missions Committee Meeting  
Oct. 11th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting  
Oct. 14th: Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build  
Oct. 15th: The Lord's Supper  
Oct. 16th: Sing at Bangs Nursing Home, Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts.  
Oct. 18th: Children's Committee Meeting  
Oct. 24th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority  
Oct. 25th: Youth Committee Meeting  
Oct. 28th: Youth-Fall Night of Worship  
Oct. 31st: Trunk or Treat  
November: Salvation Army Bell Ringers Sign Up  
Nov. 1st: Deacons' Meeting  
Nov. 5th: Daylight Savings Time ends, Women's Ministry Luncheon

Nov. 8th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, Children's Committee Meeting  
Nov. 12th: Missions Committee Meeting  
Nov. 11th: Veterans' Day  
Nov. 12th: Missions Committee Meeting  
Nov. 15th: Thanksgiving Meal and Praise Service  
Nov. 20th: Sing at Bangs Nursing Home, Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts.  
Nov. 22nd: Church Office closes at noon, No meal and no evening services  
Nov. 23rd: Thanksgiving Day, Church Office closed  
Nov. 24th: Church Office Closed  
Nov. 28th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority  
Nov. 29th: Hanging of the Green, Youth Committee Meeting  
December: Twin Bedding Drive for Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
Dec. 3rd-9th: Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions  
Dec. 3rd: Children's Christmas Pageant, Women's Ministry Luncheon  
Dec. 6th: Deacons' Meeting  
Dec. 8th: Unified Worship Night  
Dec. 10th: Home for Christmas, Missions Committee Meeting  
Dec. 13th: Soup Social, Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Youth Christmas Party, Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee  
Dec. 17th: The Lord's Supper  
Dec. 18th: Sing at Bangs Nursing Home, Mobile Food Pantry@Canon Courts Apts  
Dec. 20th: No Meal, No Services  
Dec. 22nd: Church Office Closed  
Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Dec. 25th: Christmas Day, Church Office Closed  
Dec. 26th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority  
Dec. 27th: No Meal, No Services  
Dec. 29th: Church Office Closed  
Dec. 31st: New Year's Eve, Youth-New Year's Eve Party  
Jan 1st, 2024: Church Office Closed



Don't forget to "Fall Back" one hour on Saturday night, Nov. 4th before you go to bed!  
We change back to Central Standard Time on Sunday morning, Nov. 5th at 2am.

Don't miss Hanging of the Green at 6:15 pm on Wednesday evening, Nov. 29th!  
Help decorate your church home for Christmas!



# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

This summer we had a blast conquering our fear at Camp Eagle. This really set our minds on fear is a liar and that we can do anything when we put our trust in Christ. Follow – Lead – Serve Camp was a great time for our leaders to learn how to be who God is calling them to be in their faith and stand strong in His truth. These camps would not be possible without your generous giving! Thank you so much for helping us go to these camps!

With an amazing summer behind us we are looking forward to what the fall time has in store for our youth. With home football games comes late night 5<sup>th</sup> Quarters. Which are great times to build relationships with new youth. "WAY Summit" is happening again this year for our teen girls and their guardians or mentors. This is a one-day conference for teen girls and their mentors.

"See you at the pole" and "Saw you at the pole" are at the end of September. This is a day of church prayer and coming together before and after school to turn our hearts to God together with our students. Please be in prayer that God will move to bring new students to this event so they can be *Jarryd* shown the love of Christ.

Then to kick off our Christmas Season we are hosting a Unified Night of Worship the first week of December. We would love for you to join us in worshipping our God and King at such a joyous time of year.

## Upcoming Events

5<sup>th</sup> Quarters: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup> after football games in Fellowship Hall & Gym

"See You at the Pole": September 27<sup>th</sup> at School Campus flag poles @ 8:30am

"Saw You at the Pole": September 27<sup>th</sup> between HS and MS @ 6pm

"WAY Summit": September 30<sup>th</sup> @ Coggin Connection Center from 9-5

5<sup>th</sup> Quarters: October 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> after football games in Fellowship Hall & Gym

Unified – Night of Worship: December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in Youth Room



# WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Hello church, I have the privilege of writing to you once again and telling you how very glad Mary Beth and I are to be with you. We have officially been here over a year and we are so grateful for what the Lord has done in that time. You have been gracious and kind to us in more ways than you will ever know.

You may have noticed that our musicians have begun using in-ear monitors on stage. These monitors are a lot like earbuds, but they are specially designed to allow our musicians to hear better on stage. These monitors have also allowed us to play to a metronome that only we can hear. This keeps us in time and more together than ever before. While I was considering this upgrade in my budget, I was able to install the system sooner than I planned due to a gracious donation to our ministry. We will continue with our Unified Worship Nights with the next one being in December. I am looking forward to another Fall with you and hopefully cooler temperatures.

The Lord will continue to abide with us. He is forever, faithful, and just. He is gracious and kind and by His grace, and only His grace are we saved. For that we have reason to celebrate.

*Duncan*

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



Hello Church Family!

As we start back to school and move into Fall, we have some great events to look forward to and many opportunities to get involved.

September 3rd: Candy collection and sign-ups for Trunk or Treat begins.

September 6th: Children's Christmas Pageant practice begins, 7-7:30pm on Wednesday nights.

October 31st: Trunk or Treat, starting at 5:30pm. Everyone is invited to have a trunk and reach out to our community.

November 15th: Thanksgiving Praise Service, children will sing during the service.

December 3rd: Children's Christmas Pageant will be performed during morning worship.

December 13th: Happy Birthday Jesus Party, 6:15-7:00pm

December TBD: Christmas Parade

Thank you all so much for the love and support that has been shown to me and our kids this past year. I have seen amazing growth happen in our children and can't wait to see what next year brings.

Blessings to you all, *Kelcy Purcell*



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.



December 24th in the Church Sanctuary

# MISSIONS NEWS

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

## Upcoming Missions Offering Opportunities

Week of Prayer for Texas Missions and Mary Hill Davis Offering® will be September 10th-16th

When you give to the MHDO, you help Texas churches be more effective in reaching and discipling the unreached populations in their communities. Your gift can fund just the right project to fill a need. What will you give?

Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, December 3rd-9th

Supporting international missionaries among the unreached since 1888. 100% of your gifts directly support missionaries around the world! Pray about what you can give to reach the unreached! Mail your Christmas Cards in the Lottie Moon Post Office!



## Watch for these upcoming opportunities:

Ministerial Staff Appreciation in October

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Sign Up in November

Lottie Moon Post Office in December

