

Bethesda Baptist Church

REFLECTIONS

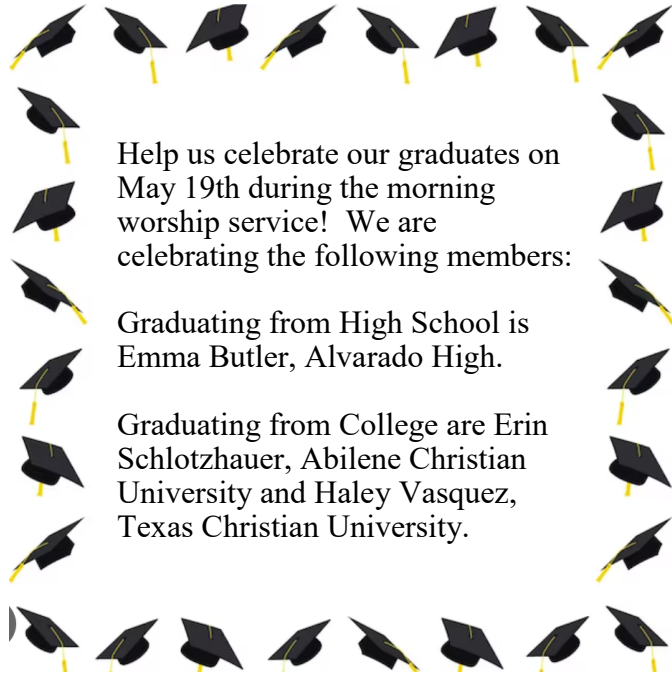
"Reflecting God's Love to Others"

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Monthly Publication

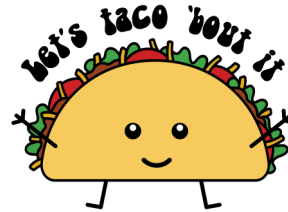
May, 2024



Help us celebrate our graduates on May 19th during the morning worship service! We are celebrating the following members:

Graduating from High School is Emma Butler, Alvarado High.

Graduating from College are Erin Schlotzhauer, Abilene Christian University and Haley Vasquez, Texas Christian University.



Young adults (finished with high school), please join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for Taco 'Bout It Tuesday! 7:00 pm at Taco Casa. See Jeremy for details.



Join us on **May 25th** from 10 am - 2pm for an antique car show and craft shopping! To register or for more info visit: <https://bbcburleson.org/carcraftshow/>

Please register by May 17th. Cars are free, craft tables are \$20. Funds support local mission opportunities.



Join us for the Church Picnic following the morning worship service on **May 19th**. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by the church. Please think about sides, desserts or drinks you'd like to bring. Sign up sheet coming soon.



May 27, 2024

Reflections from our Pastor

Dear Bethesda Baptist Church Family,

I hope this note finds you well. We have seen a lot of things that have changed around us. Both in the city of Burleson, and almost every town around us. According to TxDOT, there are many plans to widen highways, provide bypasses, and even develop additional roads to connect a proposed loop that will surround both Dallas and Fort Worth. With the road changes, the primary reason for them is the incredible change in the population. As you can probably notice from just looking around, the age of the population has changed as well. No doubt, we need to respond. Not to the change in age, per say. However you look at it, the mission we are on is to reach the lost and make disciples. If most of those are younger than we are, we need to change how we address and reach them.

At the church, we have seen some changes, but there are more to come. The personnel committee is currently searching for a secretary. Peggy, after forty plus years with the church, is ready to take a reduced work role. The plan is to bring someone in to work with her for six months. Peggy will turn over parts of her duties during that time to ultimately turn them all over. The new person will be able to 1) know where everything is, and 2) adjust the processes to be a little more up to date. This will help us with audits moving forward, as well as some other processes that might be done a little more with a computer. Please pray about this as we would like to have Peggy remain with us at the end of the six-month period of time and work part time to primarily answer phones and work with the shut ins.

Chris has also indicated that his desire is to retire. The committee will begin to search for a new Worship Pastor. To go with that, they will also search for a new pianist. Mary Ann will take a step away from that. From what I hear they are not planning on going anywhere, outside of a vacation, but they would like to just sing in the choir. He has had a nice long career and we have been blessed to have them both serve here for the many years they have been here.

Having so many personnel changes is not the easy way to go, especially when they are all at the same time. When you couple that with all the other things that we need to do to sharpen our focus in reaching the people in our community in the environment we have, it will feel like a lot of change. Before you get upset about things changing, you need to know that these changes are not happening to take anything away from you. We should only change things to help us to be more effective and efficient in doing the mission God has us here for.

Over the next few months (in this newsletter) I would like to provide a few things that might help you understand what changes could be coming, but also provide you some of the things that will not change. I think it will help you understand that that changes we need to make to reach people won't take away from the things that you hold near and dear.

As I close this article, I want to remind you of things that we need to absolutely keep in mind when we do anything at, in, or through the church. They too are fixed and should not change.

1. **God deserves our best.** Through anything we do, we should give God our best. This is through all facets of the church and individually.
2. **We need to focus on church health instead of church growth.** When the church is healthy, growth will happen, but growth alone cannot be our goal.
3. **We do church best when we do it in small groups.** We learn, grow and serve most effectively in small groups.
4. **Worship is about what we do for God, not what the church does for us.** Real worship is about God's people giving God glory through sacrifices of praise. It is about God, not us.
5. **The local church should have a positive impact on its community.** The church should be actively involved in the community and should work to make its community a better place for all its neighbors.

Allen

Music Notes

Hello Church,

It has been a rough month in and out of hospitals and a rehab facility.

I had surgery on my aortic arch on March 26th with a team of 4 surgeons working on repairing a 5.5 aneurysm. The surgeon said blood clots were "quivering" in the aneurysm ready to break off. However, the surgery went well.

After four days in ICU and something they called ICU delirium, and two days in hospital, I was sent home, but without Plavix to thin my blood after this surgery. This led me to have multiple strokes in both sides of my brain. This resulted in six more days in the hospital and eleven days in rehab. I am now home and doing well. My biggest symptom is weakness in the legs. I am still using a walker but plan to start Outpatient PT soon to strengthen my legs and endurance. I thank you for all your cards, texts and phone calls, and especially your prayers on my behalf. Bethesda is the most wonderful church family.

I am blessed beyond measure for His care for me. 1 Peter 5:7 in the Amplified Bible says, "*Casting all your cares* (all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns once and for all) *on Him, for He cares about you* (with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully). This verse calms our spirits because we have a great God who hears and knows what is best in our lives. We can trust Him because He is trustworthy. Psalm 7:17 says, *I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.*

Have a great week!

Chris



MONTHLY REPORT

SUNDAY SCHOOL	April 2024 Monthly Average
Adults	43
Youth	4
Children	4
Extension	4
Visitors	2
TOTAL	57
YEAR AGO	56
ENROLLED	93
A.M. WORSHIP	72
ONLINE WORSHIP	30
TOTAL WORSHIP	102

<u>BUDGET</u>	Budget As of 04/28/24
Weekly Needs - \$6,559.20	

MONTH-TO-DATE

Budget Needs	\$26,236.80
Budget Received	20,571.60
Designated	2,241.00
Total Receipts	\$22,812.60

YEAR-TO-DATE

Budget Needs	\$109,011.48
Budget Received	\$106,731.31
Under	(\$2,280.17)

IN LOVING MEMORY A donation has been given to the Bereavement Fund from Polly Burt in memory of Bobby Douglas, Larry Robb and Mark Stevens.

NOTES

I wish to thank all of the Bethesda Baptist Church Family for all of the prayers and get well wishes for me during and after my knee surgery. A special thank you to my wife Bridget for taking great care of me and Jeremy Dudley for coming to visit me and pray with the doctor, Bridget and I the morning of my surgery. I am truly blessed by God!!

Love you all, God Bless you all!
Barry Calicott

Greetings from our Family Pastor

Church family, it has been such a pleasure to be an official member of BBC for over a month. What a great first month it has been. Jordan and I have loved getting to know you and look forward to continuing to grow in fellowship for years to come.

Looking back on this month, God has blessed in so many ways. We had an outstanding Clean Up Day on April 13. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who came and helped. We were able to get an incredible amount of work accomplished and we could not have done it without you. Also, we launched the BBC Young Adults with our first monthly get together on April 9, called "Taco 'bout it Tuesday." We had great fellowship with six young people, and we hope to have as many or more attend our next event on May 14.

BBC has many things to look forward to in the next couple of months. We have the family picnic on May 19th. Please come, bring your whole family and wear picnic clothes to church. We will have hamburgers and hotdogs, and we are asking every family to bring a side of some type. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer soon. Please make sure to sign up so that we can know what items are being brought and how much meat to prepare.

Also, on this same Sunday during our worship service, we are celebrating our graduates. This is an exciting time in all their lives, and we want to honor and celebrate them and their accomplishments. Please come out on May 19 for our family picnic and a time of celebrating our graduates.

There's even more to be excited about with our upcoming Vacation Bible School on July 15-18. The theme for this year is "What a mess." We are anticipating that God will do mighty things with eternal value and we are working very hard to make sure that as many children as possible will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. We need you! There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, and we need as many people as possible to volunteer to help. There is a place for everyone to serve in some way. This is an all-hands-on deck event.

You can help with donations for our VBS "Mess Hall." We will be feeding the kids every night, but we cannot do it without your help. Everything you can bring will be greatly appreciated and will help the kids have a great VBS week. Please bring your items to the church any time before July 7. We are asking you to help us by providing the following:

Lucky Charms Cereal
Animal Crackers
Small square pretzels
Plain chocolate M&M's
Pretzel sticks
Almond Bark—Chocolate and Vanilla
Tortilla Chips
Sprinkles—All Kinds

Be on the lookout, as July 15-18 gets closer, for opportunities for outreach prior to VBS. We will have several opportunities to pass out as many flyers as possible so that every kid will have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Jeremy

Dear Friends at Bethesda Baptist Church,

Penny and I want to thank you all for your warm welcome and all the kind words. Your generosity was overwhelming. We were so blessed to be with you and would love to come back sometime for a concert or special event.

Blessings!

Steve and Penny Lacey

Bethesda Baptist Church
P.O. Box 756
Burleson, TX 76097-0756

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

*“ Remember not the former things, nor consider
the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new
thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive
it? I will make a way in the wilderness and
rivers in the desert. ”*

ISAIAH 43:18-19 ESV

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit #77
Burleson, TX 76028

Pastor—Allen Christopherson
Music Minister—Chris Wright
Assoc. Pastor of Families—Jeremy Dudley

CHURCH PHONE — 817-295-4632
FAX NUMBER — 817-295-7631
E-MAIL ADDRESS —
bethesdabaptist05@sbcglobal.net
WEB SITE — www.bbcburleson.org

PLEASE

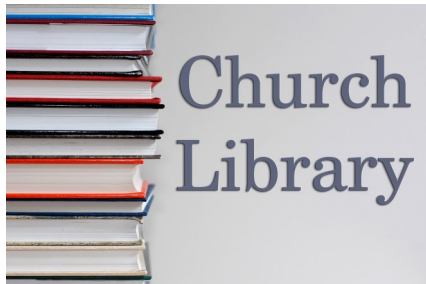


REMEMBER
TO PRAY FOR...

G.W. & Betty Bain
Mayce Ball
Jerry & June Boelter - Morada
#509
Rob Bruner
Jim Burt
Barry Calicott-knee surgery
recovery
Elizabeth Clark
Roger & Goldie Clements
William & Marilyn Colyer
Monica Dameron

Velden and Fran Fothergill - Morada
Barbara George - Morada #209
Carolyn Groves
Bob and Leisa Hardin
Dorothea Hargett - Heritage Place #604
Dale and Ellie Lambert
William & Judy Lucky - Morada
Laura Moncrief & Family
Johnny and Norma Myers
Ray Phink
Keith Rogers
Jordan & Becky Saucedo

Emily Schlotzhauer
Nancy & Rodney Schlotzhauer
Johnny Sherwood - Morada
#201
Weldon and Elizabeth Tye
Ellon Wallace
Chris & Mary Ann Wright -
Chris surgery recovery
Missionaries
America
Servicemen & 1st Responders



Do you know that we have a library? The library is located in the choir room. Please take a minute to check it out - might find a book or two you'd like to read!