

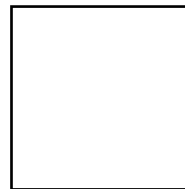
Calendar of Events

August 1		Preteen Camp
August 2		Preteen Camp
	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Youth Core
August 6	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups
	10:45a	Formation Service
August 9	6:00p	Stewardship Committee Meeting Pastor's Bible Study Youth Core
August 13	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups
	10:45a	Formation Service
	5:00p	Deacon's Meeting
August 16	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Back to School Bash Youth Core
August 17	6:00p	Quilt Group
August 20	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups Promotion Sunday
	10:45a	Formation Service
August 23	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth Core
August 27	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups
	10:45a	Formation Service
August 30	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth Core



First Baptist Church of Palestine
5700 North Loop 256
Palestine, TX 75801

Return Service Requested



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE

AUGUST, 2017

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Following Jesus, Making Disciples, Serving Others, Changing Lives



Jack Chelf, Interim Pastor

jack@firstpalestine.org

936-687-9065 home or 512-760-6949 cell

Six Thoughts for August

First: It's hot! Praise the Lord, anyway. Remember our VBS theme. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. (Psalm 150:6)

Second: What a fun VBS we had. I saw lots of smiling faces from the workers and the kids. A great big "Thank You" to every teacher, family leader and support staffer. God uses VBS to make an eternal difference in the lives of children and their families. I'm quite sure he worked in lots of lives during FBCP VBS.

Third: During August we will transition back into our fall schedules. By August 21, our students, teachers, coaches, and administrators will be back into their school routines. Pray for God's blessings on everyone as the new school year begins.

Fourth: With school beginning, your family's schedule will be back to something more normal. This is a great time to recommit you and yours to regular attendance in worship and Sunday school. Don't make that decision on Sunday morning. Decide now to be here every Sunday. God will bless that commitment!

Fifth: Double up on praying for our Pastor Search Committee. They are in a very critical time in their deliberations. Pray for the Lord's clear leadership as they seek His will.

Sixth: According to our Stewardship Committee we are over \$40,000.00 behind our giving level at this time a year ago. Why? I do not have a clue. However, I'm pretty sure this is not something the Lord is happy about. Check your giving record. Pray about your level of giving. If the Lord says it's time to catch up, be obedient to His leading.

As we all follow the Lord's leading in our lives, the future of FBCP is very bright!

...Bro. Jack

Message from the Stewardship Committee

Good news: The church is meeting all of its current financial obligations and has no debt!

Not so good news: Giving is down \$41,000.00 from last year at this time and \$49,000.00 below our approved 2017 budget.

Bottom Line: We realize that it is summer and church members have been out of town and on vacation. Historically, giving decreases when a church goes through an interim period, and hopefully this is a temporary situation. As we prepare to leave this interim period, and welcome a new pastor in the coming months, we want to make sure that our church is equipped and in financial position to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Your tithes and offering will help FBCP be that!

Giving Report for June as of July 31:

Ministry Budget Offering:
\$50,468.55
Designated Funds Offering:
\$6,220.61
Ministry Budget Offering YTD:
\$256,871.31
Ministry Budget Exp. YTD:
\$219,605.54
Received over expenses YTD:
+\$37,265.77

You can give online at:
www.firstpalestine.org/giving
or by texting the amount you
would like to give (\$10) to
903-638-7067



Skip Birtman, Youth & Worship Pastor

skip@firstpalestine.org

"Hurry up!" That's a command that is said on a daily basis at 110 Berkley. "Lollygagging" is frowned upon in our house, however, I believe that our children have a black belt in it! Why are we always in such a rush? Do you feel like life just never stops? I've been thinking about this concept a lot lately. Is it good to be busy? Should I feel bad that my days are planned out down to the minute? What does the Bible say about the increasing subject of busyness?

Let me start by saying that "busyness" does not equal sin! At different points in my life, I've felt as though the two were one in the same. The day and age that we live in generates a propensity for living life to the max, burning the candle at both ends. Why is this a problem?

Many times we fill our lives with a lot of stuff. The problem occurs when we expect the stuff to fill us. Jesus touches on this principle in Luke 10:38-42. This passage tells the familiar story of Mary and Martha. Jesus arrives at Martha's house, and she spends the evening taking care of all of the "to-dos" while Mary simply sits at Jesus' feet. In verse 41 Jesus says "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part..." Martha spent her time focused on things that weren't necessarily bad, but they distracted her focus on Jesus.

Do you find yourself focusing on the wrong things? This concept is difficult for me. I like my schedule to be packed. I enjoy life when it is as my mom says, "just a blowin' and a goin'". Again, this is not a bad thing. God's word teaches us, however, to stop. It teaches us to focus our busy lives on the things, or should I say, thing that is important.

Christ must be at the center of all that we do. As Christians, He is our life. Jesus impacts, or should impact, everything we do. He affects our thoughts, decisions, plans, actions, relationships, goals, speech, and on and on. If this is this case, shouldn't He affect our schedule? The psalmist writes in Psalm 46:10 "He says, be still and know that I am God." God wants us to take time to reassess.

It's important to slow down, to pause. Why do you think this is? When we refocus on who God is, we receive an accurate picture of who we are. It is easy to develop an inflated sense of self worth. I often need a reminder that this world doesn't revolve around me. Slowing down gives me the chance to refocus my life on the creator of this life. My encouragement to you is to take time. Life is busy. There's no doubt about it. Take time to spend with God. Spend time in His word. He will reveal Himself to you. Allow Him to mold you and shape you. Stop for a minute and smell the blessings. Wow, that was cheesy!. Busyness is a fact of life, but it doesn't have to be your life.

Skip



QUILT GROUP

AUGUST 17 @ 6:00PM



This month please bring:

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please drop your items in the collection box
located in the Narthex

**Help us meet our goal for 2017
and pack 200 boxes!**

*****Or you can give to the OCC designated fund to
help pack and send boxes (be sure to write
OCC and the amount on your check memo).**

