

Calendar of Events

Feb 1	6:00p 6:00p 6:00p 6:00p 6:00p	Women's Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study Coaches' Wive's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth "Core"
Feb 5	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Foundation Service Bible Study Groups Formation Service Easter Musical Rehearsal Bible Drill/ Bible Buddies Youth Bible Study (at the Birtman's)
Feb 8	6:00p 6:00p 6:00p 6:00p 6:00p	Stewardship Committee Meeting Women's Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study Coaches' Wive's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth "Core"
Feb 12	9:30a 10:45a 12:00p 5:00p 5:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Bible Study Groups Combined Service "For The Love of Family" event Deacon's Meeting Easter Musical Rehearsal Bible Drill/ Bible Buddies Youth Bible Study (at the Birtman's)
Feb 15	6:00p 6:00p 6:00p 6:00p 6:00p	Women's Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study Coaches' Wive's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth "Core" -Battle of the Sexes
Feb 16	6:00p	Quilt Group
Feb 19	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Foundation Service Bible Study Groups Formation Service Easter Musical Rehearsal Bible Drill/ Bible Buddies Youth Bible Study (at the Birtman's)
Feb 22	6:00p 6:00p 6:00p 6:00p 6:00p	Women's Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study Coaches' Wive's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth "Core"
Feb 26	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Foundation Service Bible Study Groups Formation Service Easter Musical Rehearsal Bible Drill/ Bible Buddies Youth Bible Study (at the Birtman's)



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

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE

FEBRUARY, 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

Finding Time to Be Family

One of the struggles of being a family (dad, mom, kids, etc.) is finding time to be with one another, enjoying each other's company and keeping those lines of communication open. We know in order to be a happy, healthy family we must make family time a high priority. We must be deliberate about planning and doing things together or family time will be lost in the stampede.

It's like that in a church family, also. In order to be a happy, healthy church, we must find time to be with one another. That is one of the reasons we have our various Bible study groups each Sunday. In a Bible study group there is opportunity to get to know folks by their first name, hear their heart-felt prayer concerns, support and be supported through trying times, and, yes, truly learn to love one another. If you are not currently attending a Sunday morning Bible study group, you are missing out on one of the best things about being a part of a church family. We offer several groups from which you may choose. Make the rounds and discover which class suits you best. You will be glad you did.

Speaking of family, our Family Fun and Fellowship committee is planning a fantastic event for our entire FBCP family. The date is **Sunday, February, 12** and they are making it just as convenient as they can for us all to participate. On that day, Bible study groups will meet at 9:30. Our **one worship service** (for the whole church family) will begin at 10:30. After worship, we will have a quick set-up time, and then enjoy lunch of spaghetti, salad, bread (provided by church) and desserts (provided by church members). After lunch, there will be plenty of games and activities for everyone as well as time to simply fellowship and get to know one another better. Mark your calendar and make time for your church family.

PS: As your interim pastor, I am trying hard to learn your names and faces. Help the "old temporary preacher" by introducing yourself if you suspect I don't know you yet. And, if you should ever need to get in touch with me, my home phone number is 936-687-9065. Cell number is 512-760-6949.

See you Sunday, **Bro. Jack**

From the Pastor Search Committee

Your Pastor Search Committee has 4 primary tasks. The first was to secure an interim Pastor. That was achieved when Pastor Jack Chelf agreed to serve. The second primary task was to construct a Church Profile. This information helps us as a committee to learn more about our Church, its history, its demographic makeup, attendance patterns, etc. In addition, this Church profile will be important information to a future prospective Pastor. We are currently working on the Pastor Profile. This Pastor Profile is **not** a profile of what **we** want. Its purpose is to help us as a committee and us as a congregation to discover what GOD wants for FBC-Palestine. To help us with this, we will be mailing a short questionnaire to our fellow members. This questionnaire will help us, a group of 7, to discern GOD's direction. When you receive it, please pray about your responses and then please return them to the Church on or before February 12th. Our committee will be meeting on February 12th to review what you have shared with us. Soon after that, we will begin our 4th and largest task, which is consideration of the resumes we have received. THANK YOU for your continued prayers, and be looking in the mail!

Giving Report for January as of 1/26

Ministry Budget Offering:
\$29,825.51

Designated Funds Offering:
\$3,370.50

Ministry Budget Offering YTD:
\$29,825.51

Ministry Budget Exp. YTD:
\$25,246.02

Received over expenses YTD:
+\$4,579.49

You can give online at:
www.firstpalestine.org/donate



Skip Birtman, Youth & Worship Pastor
skip@firstpalestine.org

"What's up!?" That's mine, what's yours? "What's up" is my go-to greeting. It's probably the one I use the most. It's the thing I say when I run in to someone in the store, or when see a student at a ballgame. What do you say when you are greeting someone? Does your response differ when you engage with someone you know versus a complete stranger? I got to thinking about this particular subject when beginning a study with our youth in the book of Romans. In the first few verses, Paul offers His own greeting.

Take time to read all of Romans 1:1-7, but I'm only going to type out a few of the verses here. "Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures...to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 1:1-2, 7 For the longest time, I would blaze through the greetings in the epistles. I would treat them in the same manner as a wonderful, comprehensive genealogy. Over the past few years, I've come to realize just how important those "hellos" are to the text.

What does Paul say? In just a couple of verses Paul explains his identity, his purpose, and his intended recipients. Knowing the dynamic life-changing story in which Saul becomes Paul, we have important information about just what Paul means when calling himself a "bond-servant" and one who is "set apart". He had been a chief persecutor of the church, a religious zealot, and someone that Christ-followers feared. His life was changed, though, by an encounter with Jesus. His purpose became Christ. The very movement he was trying to stop, was the the movement he longed to see fulfilled.

Paul acknowledges he is writing to "saints" in Rome. Remember, this was only a relatively short time after Jesus' death and resurrection. Persecution of Christians in Rome was a regular occurrence. There was a mixture of Jewish and Gentile converts that made up this group. With that came differences in belief and practice. Emperor and pagan worship was prevalent among the Roman people. Now you know why Paul was so desperate to go and encourage in Rome. In his greeting he says it all.

Maybe I'm crazy, but this greeting really spoke to me. I'm not saying we need to list our credentials every time we meet someone new, but simply grunting the word "hey" may not get across the message that we want people to hear. Let people know who you are and what you're about. Get to know them. After all, God's church is a community of believers doing life together. Don't be a stranger. -Skip

Upcoming Events

Youth Battle of the Sexes game and grub night: February 15th
Youth Pine Cove Ministry Weekend: March 3-5 No cost to attend
Youth Student Life Camp: June 19-23 at San Angelo State University (\$350)
Youth Super Summer: July 10-14 at Hardin Simmons University (\$280)

Easter Musical Rehearsals begin Sunday, January 29th at 5:00pm

Quilt Group meets Feb 16

6:00pm

**And the 3rd Thursday
of every month.**



This month please bring:

**Accessories
(Necklaces, Bracelets, Hats, Etc...)**

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

