

## Calendar of Events

Feb. 1	9:00a	Discovery School
Feb. 4	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Easter Musical Rehearsal
Feb. 6	9:00a	Discovery School
Feb. 7	5:00p 6:00p	Bible Drill Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Ladies Bible Study Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core Stewardship Meeting
Feb. 8	9:00a	Discovery School
Feb. 11	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 4:00p 5:00p 6:00p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Nominating Committee Meeting Deacon's Meeting Easter Musical Rehearsal Quarterly Conference
Feb. 13	9:00a	Discovery School
Feb. 14	5:00p 6:00p	Bible Drill Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Ladies Bible Study Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core
Feb. 15	9:00a 6:00p	Discovery School Quilt Group
Feb. 18	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 4:00p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service "Love and Laughs"
Feb. 20	9:00a	Discovery School
Feb. 21	5:00p 6:00p	Bible Drill Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Ladies Bible Study Youth Core Coaches Wives Bible Study
Feb. 22	9:00a	Discovery School
Feb. 25	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 4:30p 5:00p 6:30p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service First Things First New Member Class Easter Musical Rehearsal Youth Bible Study @ The Birtman's
Feb. 27	9:00a	Discovery School
Feb. 28	5:00p 6:00p	Bible Drill Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core Ladies Bible Study



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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE

FEBRUARY, 2018

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Following Jesus, Making Disciples, Serving Others, Changing Lives*



## Tony Watson, Senior Pastor

[tony@firstpalestine.org](mailto:tony@firstpalestine.org)

As 2018 unfolds, I cannot help but get excited about what I see and sense in our midst. I've been spending some time meeting with various committees and individuals to get a handle on where we are as a church and where we are headed, short and long-term. I believe this is going to be a productive and empowering year for FBCP.

As I write this, I'm thinking back to some great events I've been a part of over the past 3 months, like Fellowship of Joy, Parents Night Out, Christmas Musical, Christmas Eve Services, and the Chili Cook-off, as well as the wonderful Spirit I sense in worship I experience each Sunday morning. There is an eagerness in the air, a willingness to serve, and a warm spirit. God has given us an awesome staff and leadership. There are needs before us, and those will be revealed in more detail in the coming days. You won't want to miss any gathering.

Seven families have presented themselves for membership since the first of November, and I feel that is just the beginning. I look forward to days ahead when our baptistery will be filled regularly, meaning that people are getting saved.

While there is much to get excited about, I want to highlight a couple of areas:

1) "First Things First" - New Member/Prospect Orientation - On Sunday, February 25th at 4:30 pm, I, along with a few others, will be hosting this event. This is for anyone who: a) is considering joining FBCP, b) is a relatively new member and would like to know how we operate and what we believe, or c) anyone who is visiting and is curious as to what we are all about. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We would love to have you.

2) Missions Work - We had a wonderful first meeting of the year with our new Missions Committee. They are going to focus on a couple of areas this year, to empower us locally in getting out there to serve our community. There will be regular opportunities for you to join in the work - whatever your interest/skill area is. I believe the area of missions and evangelism is the heart of where our focus needs to lie.

Many other teams, ministries and committees are busy about Kingdom business. It's a great time to be a part of FBCP!

Blessed to be your pastor,  
Tony

All Ladies are invited to  
a Meet and Greet with  
Rhonda Watson at  
Linda Love's house  
(906 E. Neches)  
on February 10th  
10:00am - 11:30am.  
Coffee and Tea will be  
served.



Quarterly Conference February 11th @ 6:00pm  
Bring a potluck dish to share.



**QUILT GROUP**

**FEBRUARY 15TH @ 6:00PM**



**Giving Report for  
January as of  
January 31st:**

Ministry Budget Offering:  
\$36,228.14  
Designated Funds Offering:  
\$3,879.00  
Ministry Budget Offering YTD:  
\$36,288.14  
Ministry Budget Exp. YTD:  
\$31,246.73  
Received over expenses YTD:  
\$4,981.41

You can give online at:  
[www.firstpalestine.org/giving](http://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](mailto:skip@firstpalestine.org)

Here's the deal. I enjoy laughter. My taste in humor is what some might label as acquired. I'm a guy, so that means that, like many, I avoid most things sentimental. It's easy to deflect with puns...I'm essentially late 50's at this point...not that there's anything wrong with that. It happened again! Here's what I'm talking about. This past weekend I was confronted with one of those heart melting/introspective moments.

Amy and I went to Louisiana for a staff reunion at Dry Creek Baptist Camp. We both worked three summers there back in the late 90's early 2000's. It's been nearly 20 years since we've seen many of the guys that came in for the weekend. Some 250 of us gathered together on Friday and Saturday. During the music portion of one of the worship services, I caught myself looking out of the corner of my eye at my kids. Please understand this, since I lead worship most every week, it's rare for me to be standing out in the congregation. It's a bit of a "I don't know what to do with my hands" feeling. On this particular occasion though, I was taught a great truth by the Lord.

Now, I think my kids are pretty great. I won't apologize for that. But, I expect a lot of them. I'd even be willing to admit that, at times, I'm hard on them. Remember, I told you earlier that I am not the sentimental type. For some reason, in this moment, something struck me. Amy and I were surrounded by people that we had cleaned with, sweated with, eaten suspect food with, laughed with, and cried with. To hear their voices singing to the very same God for which we had given up our summers to make \$75 a week back 20 years ago, was incredibly moving. And then, I see my kids!

They were singing. They were watching how other people were worshipping. They were taking it all in. As I was attempting to steal a glimpse of this moment, my daughter caught me looking. I immediately felt like I needed to start singing. I thought "I don't want them to think I'm not doing it right." God encouraged me in that moment. I spend too much time on appearance! We've gotten to a place as a society that the exterior receives far more attention than the interior. If I put on some dark skinny jeans and a sweet pair of tennies, I can look like I've got it all together.

My kids see me sing every Sunday. What they really need is to see me worship the rest of the time! They need my speech to be pure. They need my integrity to be above reproach. They need me to be an accurate representation of the Father. They need me to be the same guy when no one is looking.

The moment this past weekend with my "regular/normal" family along with my "camp family" was sweet, and it taught me this great truth. My kids are watching. They don't need me to look perfect, what they need, is for me to be real! What area of your life are you trying to dress up, fix up, or cover up? Keeping up with appearances is exhausting. Quit trying so much!!! Let God work on your heart. Love you church. - Skip -

**Youth:**

Battle of the Sexes Night at "Core"  
Valentine's Edition  
Wednesday, February 14 at 6 PM  
Join us for a great night of food, games, and The Word!

Sunday Night Bible Study Kick-off  
February 25 at 6:30 pm  
A study in Esther  
Meet at the Birtman's

**Choir:**

"Amazing Love How Can It Be" Musical practice  
Sunday Nights at 5 pm in the sanctuary

Performance will be March 25 at 6 pm