

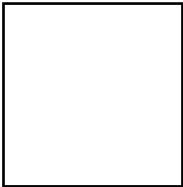
Calendar of Events

July 2	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups
	10:45a	Formation Service
	6:00p	Children's Music Camp Presentation
July 3	8:00p	Youth Trip to Six Flag's
July 4	8:30a	Office Closed
July 9	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups
	10:45a	Formation Service
July 10		Youth leave for Super Summer
July 11		Youth at Super Summer
July 12		Youth at Super Summer
	6:00p	Stewardship Committee Meeting
		Pastor's Bible Study
		Youth Core
July 13		Youth at Super Summer
July 14		Youth at Super Summer
July 16	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups
	10:45a	Formation Service
	5:00p	Deacon's Meeting
July 17	6:00p	Quarterly Conference & Potluck Dinner
		K-6th Grade Girl's Only Activity
		Pastor's Bible Study
July 19		Youth Core
	9:00a	Children's Group Trip - Caldwell Zoo
	6:00p	Quilt Group
July 23	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups
	10:45a	Formation Service
July 24	5:30p	VBS Meal
	6:00p	VBS
July 25	5:30p	VBS Meal
	6:00p	VBS
July 26	5:30p	VBS Meal
	6:00p	VBS
July 27	5:30p	VBS Meal
	6:00p	VBS
July 29	11:00a	Preteen Camp
July 30	8:30a	Foundation Service
	9:30a	Bible Study Groups
	10:45a	Formation Service
		Preteen Camp
July 31		Preteen Camp



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

Return Service Requested



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE

JULY, 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

Why Should We Pray?

Someone has asked this question: If God is eternally good (and He is), and he already knows what we need (and He does), then why do we need to pray?

Ole Hallesby, a Norwegian Lutheran pastor/teacher in the first half of the 20th century says the starting point to answering this question is found in the words of Jesus in Mathew 5:45.

He (God) causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Giving what we need is informing God of our needs nor begging him to satisfy our wants. God does not need us to do that, nor does doing so move us any closer to Godliness. Prayer, according to Hallesby has one essential function. That is to say “yes” to God. All other functions of prayer (pleads for help in times of distress, intercession, etc.) grow out of developing a personal character which mirrors the good and generous character of God.

Prayer, real prayer, develops a Godly character within us. The more we pray, the more we understand who God is, what He thinks, and why He acts as He does. His character causes him to send the essential blessings of life, such as sun and rain, on everyone regardless of their worthiness.

You and I need to be less like ourselves and more like God. We need to think less like we think and more like God thinks. We need to learn to say “yes” to God and “no” to ourselves.

We need to pray! Not so much to change things but to change us.

I urge you to pray.

...Bro. Jack

Children's Department News

*July 2 - 6pm - Music Drama Camp Performance

*July 17 - 9am - 3pm - K-6th Grade GIRLS ONLY activity. From 9-11 the girls will be painting for our homebound. At 11 the girls and moms are invited to go to the Holloway's to have lunch and swim.

*July 20 - Trip to the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler. We will leave the church at 9am and return by 3:30pm. The cost is \$10.16. Please bring a sack lunch.

*July 24-27 - VBS. Children that have finished K-6th grade. Please be in prayer for our children and VBS workers this week!

*July 29-August 2 - Preteen Camp. Please be in prayer for our preteens and the adult sponsors!

Giving Report for June as of June 29:

Ministry Budget Offering:
\$28,112.69

Designated Funds Offering:
\$3,951.27

Ministry Budget Offering YTD:
\$206,352.76

Ministry Budget Exp. YTD:
\$181,750.39

Received over expenses YTD:
+\$24,602.37

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

Probably the most frequent lie told by Christians is an answer to the question "How are you doing?" Typically we don't even think about the question. We just give a generic answer of "I'm good." The life of a believer is at times exciting, fulfilling, peaceful, and just plain fun. With that said, it can also be challenging, difficult, lonely, and even scary. It may sound strange to use those kind of words to describe a Christian's walk. It is amazing to me that we are rarely open about our faults and struggles. The truth is that we are all dealing with difficulties. We are all sinners, and we all need God's redeeming love.

Paul instructs us in Ephesians to "bare one another's burdens". In order for that to take place, we must be willing to admit when something is wrong. Why is that so difficult? Are we afraid that people might think less of us if we tell them our struggles? Scripture repeatedly talks about the importance of confession. I'm not saying that we should post all of our deepest darkest faults on Facebook or Instagram, but we must be open to confessing our sins both to the Father as well as to other believers.

Basically what I'm saying is that we need to be real with people. I realize this is difficult. Doing so makes us vulnerable. When we invite people in to our struggle, it provides a layer of accountability. We need to be willing not only to ask the hard questions of others, but also answer those very same questions. When I was in college, we had a group of guys that met together every week for the purpose of study and accountability. Each week we had a set list of tough questions that all of us had to answer. Knowing that I would have to answer those questions, it changed how I lived my life throughout the week.

Do you have people in your life that you are willing to be open and honest with? Ever since the garden, man has been trying his best to cover up sin. I want to encourage you to bring that sin out of the darkness and into the light. There is freedom in confession. There is freedom in the light. Let's quit acting like we have it all figured out, and trust God at His word. Bare one another's burdens!

Skip



QUILT GROUP

JULY 20 @ 6:00PM



This month please bring:

SMALL CLOTHING ITEMS

**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).***

