

## Calendar of Events

Mar. 1	9:00a	Discovery School
March. 4	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p 6:30p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Easter Musical Rehearsal Youth Bible Study at The Birtman's House
Mar. 6	9:00a	Discovery School
Mar. 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
Mar. 8	9:00a	Discovery School
Mar. 11	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p 6:30p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Easter Musical Rehearsal Youth Bible Study at the Birtman's House
Mar. 14	5:00p 6:00p	Bible Drill Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Ladies Bible Study Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core
Mar. 15	6:00p	Quilt Group
Mar. 18	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p 6:30p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Committee on Committees Meeting Easter Musical rehearsal Youth Bible Study at the Birtman's House
Mar. 20	9:00a	Discovery School
Mar. 21	5:00p 6:00p	Bible Drill Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth Core Coaches Wives Bible Study
Mar. 22	9:00a	Discovery School
Mar. 23	6:00p	Musical Dress Rehearsal
Mar. 24	9:00a	Mission Saturday
Mar. 25	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 6:00p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Easter Musical "Amazing Love How Can It Be"
Mar. 27	9:00a	Discovery School
Mar. 28	6:00p	Easter Lord's Supper Worship Service
Mar. 29	9:00a	Discovery School
Mar. 30	7:00p	Office Closed Mark Trammell Quartet



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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE

MARCH, 2018

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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



**Tony Watson, Senior Pastor**

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

### Seasons

Life is made up of seasons, not only the annual seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter, but periods of time where certain events and experiences leave a mark on us and shape us. As I write this, we have had three funeral services at FBCP since January 1. Two were for dear senior adult ladies who completed their journey and this week we hosted the service for Keith Jenkins, who left us earlier than we were prepared for, but left quite a legacy of service. In addition, we had a family who has been worshipping with us for a year or so lose their home to a fire.

As someone who is still new to this congregation, this season has allowed me to see how the family of faith known as First Baptist Church of Palestine comes together when there is a difficulty. It has been very inspiring to watch our bereavement committee share such love with the meals for these family members, to see how much our staff puts aside all of their regular tasks to do whatever is necessary to prepare everything for the facility and the services, and to watch the church as a whole surround these families with love. That's what family is about.

The beginning of March signifies the beginning of a new season, the season of celebration of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. We will have three special times of celebration during Passion Week. On Wednesday, March 28th, we will have a combined service where we will worship in song, share the message of Passover, and experience the Lord's Supper together. On Friday, March 30th (Good Friday), we will have the Mark Trammell Quartet here for a special evening of gospel music. On Easter Sunday, April 1, we will have two dynamic celebrations of the resurrection of Christ. These are all opportunities to share the Gospel with a lost and dying world and community.

I hope you will sign up to participate in our first "Service Saturday" on Saturday, March 24th. We will gather here at 9am and be distributed to one of a few opportunities for mission service in our community. Sign up on the Welcome Desk in the Narthex.

I'm thankful to be a part of this wonderful family for this season of ministry.

Tony



Mark Trammell Quartet will perform Friday March 30th at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend!



## Lord's Supper Easter Worship Service

Wednesday, March 28th  
at 6:00pm



# QUILT GROUP

MARCH 15TH @ 6:00PM



### Giving Report for February

Ministry Budget Offering:

\$49,792.22

Designated Funds Offering:

\$2,346.96

Ministry Budget Offering YTD:

\$87,395.36

Ministry Budget Exp. YTD:

\$60,144.82

Received over expenses YTD:

\$27,285.87

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)

Do you fancy yourself a creative person? When I was in first grade, our class was given the task of decorating giant Easter eggs cut out of poster board. While the rest of the class went with the obvious, and let's be honest, safe choices of colors and markers, I decided to show off the art of watercoloring.

Words cannot adequately describe the shapes and colors that flowed from my paintbrush that March evening, so I guess you'll just have to use your imagination. After the posters were presented and judged, I received a first place ribbon, and my masterpiece was displayed with other champions at a gallery also known as outside the Radio Shack of the Pierre Bossier Mall.

After it's two week run, the project was mounted, framed, and hung up at our house. The interesting thing is that as the years have gone by and I've gotten older, I've become less impressed with my work.

Let's be honest, I created something good, but something good relative to a seven year old. The rules are different when you are young. That statement was profound! I recently began thinking about this idea of "creativity" after our student ministry began a Sunday night bible study on the book of Genesis.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Wow! The very first verse of the bible says so much!!! It identifies God as the very author, the very creator of everything we see around us.

Eternal God created all of this. He didn't have to. He wasn't forced to. He chose to. As we see later in chapter one, God creates man "in His own image". The fact that God is the creator of this world is incredibly encouraging, but the fact that He created us in His image goes far beyond that. He knows us. He understands our hurts, our fears, our shortcomings, our faults, our plans, our desires, our strengths, etc... He knows it all!

It'd be easy to look around at all of the madness today, and ask "Why God?", "Why did you start all of this?". It's not God's fault. We messed it up. We chose to sin. The great news...God is not only good at creating, but he's also good at restoring as well. He chose to offer redemption through His Son Jesus to this broken world, this world that He created. If you've not trusted Christ as your savior, He will forgive you and restore your relationship to Almighty God right now.

Our very purpose is to worship God. It's what we were created for. What image are you reflecting to the world? What image does God see when he looks upon your life? God chooses to take something that is broken, and allows it to reflect His glory. Now, that's pretty creative! - Skip -

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### **"Amazing Love, How Can It Be"**

Adult Easter Musical Performance

March 25, 2018 at 6 PM

Please join us for a great night of music.



### **Disciple Now Weekend**

When: April 20-22, 2018

Who: Students grades 7-12th

Cost: \$30

Last day to sign up is April 1!