

THE COLUMNS

Forward in Faith

Empowered by the Spirit

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Just A Thought...

From Pastor Kip

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Is. 55:10, 11

The season of Spring is one of my favorite seasons of the year. It is always a relief to have the piles of snow melted and to enjoy the sun=s warmth. Every day there are changes happening all around as things mysteriously come back to life. It is the season of new birth.

As the Easter season has passed, we were reminded again of the new birth we can experience because of Jesus= resurrection. It is like the season of Spring playing out in our own spiritual lives. The cold grasp of sin, like the cold grasp of Winter, is broken and the melting snow and the Spring rains are like the power of the Holy Spirit breathing new life into old lives, and creating new possibilities and realities.

Through it all we see the power of God, and we catch a glimpse of his divine creativity. We begin to see that God is able to do far more than we could ever think or imagine. God is able to bring about his purposes and succeed where we may have so often failed. God is able to bring new growth out of barren looking trees. He is able to bring vibrant colors out of what looked brown and dead. He is able to cause flowers to burst out of the cold, dark earth in a celebration of color. It is the power of the resurrection being played out.

I think it is a powerful image for us at FBC to embrace at this time. This church has been around for almost 150 years. It has gone through its many seasons. There have been times it has experienced its Summers with the warmth of fellowship and the energy and vision of the Holy Spirit. It has experienced its Falls as it has rejoiced at the harvest and seeing many come to know Christ. It has experienced its Winters when things have seemed to lie dormant and still. And it has experienced its Springs and new life.

It isn=t a secret that right now our financial situation may seem to us to be like Winter. We look at the books and we wonder how this is all going to work out. The passage from Isaiah reminds us that it is God who is able to accomplish his purpose. It is God who can and will rain down blessings. It is God who is faithful to help us succeed in the thing for which He has sent us.

So, as we continue into our season of Spring, may we be faithful in believing that God has a plan to give us a future and a hope. And when he asks us to go, to give, to work, may we be ready to say Ayes Lord, yes!≡ And, when we experience cloudy skies and rain, may we remember that God is at work bringing about new life and new possibilities.

We Lift Them Up

In prayer

- Lorraine Olson at home.
- Ella Faulkner at home.
- Beverly Tompkins at St. Joseph Tower.
- Ethel DeBoer at home.
- Mildred Nothnagel at House of Hope at Royale Oaks.
- Pat Bouie at Millard Manor.



Vacation Bible School is fast approaching, and Sue Endicott could use a few more volunteers to assist her in various areas. If you could give a couple of hours of your time July 9 – July 13, please see Sue or call her (650-9474).

Note of Thanks

Words do not adequately convey our thanks to everyone who expressed sympathy in the loss of Roger's father, William Bosch. We love you all.

*Roger and Carole Bosch
Pam, Noah and Jonah Bosch*

Thanks From The Rebecca-Ruth Circle

To the anonymous donor of the Bow Tie Quilt: Thank you so much for your generous donation of the beautiful quilt. It generated silent auction bids up to \$127.00. The top bidder was one happy lady. Your gift was used for our mission project and is appreciated.

To First Baptist: You baked, brought, and bought goods for our mission project. Thank you so much! In addition to the silent auction, baked goods sales were \$218.55. The monies went to our White Cross quota (assigned to our church) for Overland missions (those within the United States) and for foreign missions. We could not have met our obligation without your help. Thank, you, thank you.

Vacation Bible School

V B S Dates are:
July 9 – 13
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Watch the bulletin and the June Columns for further information.

The VBS Theme
for this year Is:
"Arctic edge"



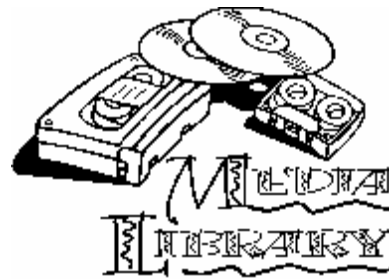
JUST 4 YOUTH!

The “Lock In” was *awesome!* 17 young people came for a night of **FUN**, learning more about Jesus and what he can do in our lives, and of course **Eating !!!!** Pictures of the event will be available soon. See Jeremy if you would like to see them.

Be sure to get your camp registration forms and health forms completed and returned to Jeremy ASAP – mid May at the latest to get the best price and best cabin assignments. More forms are available from the church office, the table located near the church elevator or from Jeremy.



are in the making as a fund raiser and we want you to submit your recipe(s) for use in the cookbook. Forms can be found on the table in the Parlor. Place your completed form in the box provided.



Video suggestions found in the media area of the church library are as follows:

Teens

Video – “WWJD” (What Would Jesus Do)
Music video by popular vocalists

Older Children

Video – “Cry From the Mountain”

Younger Children

Videos – McGee and Me Series
“The Blunder Years”
“Take Me Out of the Ball Game”

Adults

Videos – “Twice Pardoned” Parts 1 & 2
(an ex-con talks to teens and their parents)

“Scars That Heal” – (true life story of Dave Roever)

Couples

Videos – Marriage Counseling
“After You Say I Do...”Tapes 1-3 plus workbook.

Music

Videos – “We Will Glorify”, Twila Paris
Agape Celebration
“Hear the Cry” – Twila Paris
This Generation for God

We welcome Christian book/video donations for the library. All material received will be reviewed before being put on the shelves. Thank you. *Library Staff*