

# Contact

## Pastor's Notes

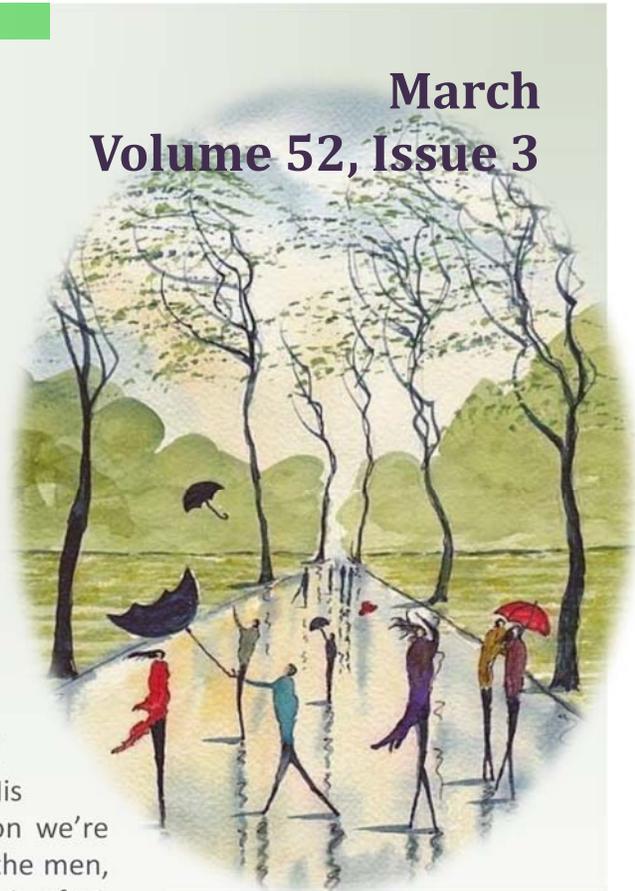
Dear First Baptist Family,

In February and March we have taken the opportunity to support and celebrate the Baptist Men's Brotherhood (February) and the Embrace Women's Ministry (March). For each Sunday, I am seeking to provide clarity for men and women in the midst of a very confused world. How has God uniquely created and called men and women to operate and cooperate together to fulfill His beautiful design for creation and civilization? That is the question we're seeking to answer from Scripture. We've already answered it for the men, and on March 5th, we'll answer it for women. But since this issue is often full of controversy and confusion, I wanted to say a few things in this month's newsletter.

First, it may help to zoom out of the specifics of each individual side and consider an illustration that represents the full picture. Consider the picture of a man and woman dancing - the waltz, for example. When you see a couple waltzing, no one really considers what the man is doing or what the woman is doing. You see what they are doing. And what are they doing? They are moving beautifully, gracefully, effortlessly across the floor in perfect harmony. This is God's desire for relationships between men and women: beautiful, graceful, effortless. But how does that happen? As you learn in any introductory dance class: someone is leading, and someone is following. Someone is making the first move, and someone is responding to that move in a way that produces beautiful, graceful, effortless movement.

Now, back to the male/female relationship. According to Genesis 1-2 and Ephesians 5:22-33, God has created and called men to lead. He has created them with the God-given burden and desire to embrace sacrificial responsibility. A failure to embrace that sacrificial responsibility is a rejection of God's good design. And God has created and called women to respond. He has created and called them to respond to the sacrificial leadership of their husbands with a general disposition of joyful, respectful support of their leadership. When men and women are appropriately doing what God has designed for them, then, and only then, do they enjoy the dance. When men fail to accept sacrificial responsibility for their wives, and women fail to respond in joyful, respectful support of their husband's leadership, then you end up with the pain of stepping on each other's toes, rather than enjoying the dance.

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### Special points of interest

- Embrace Sunday: March 5th
- Youth Fundraiser: March 5th @ 11:15 am
- VBS Meeting :  
March 6th @ 6:00 pm
- Leadership/ Calendar Meeting:  
March 6th @ 7:00 pm
- Deacons Meeting:  
March 13 @ 7:00 pm
- Youth Hangout:  
March 18th @ 5:30 pm
- Senior Lunch:  
February 16th @ 11:30 am

# He Overcame

OVER 2,000 YEARS AGO THE WORLD WAS CHANGED FOREVER.....

Jesus came roaring up from the grave, alive and in love with creation, on a mission to heal our pain and win our hearts and affections. With love for you, He overcame death—love so devoted, dynamic, and pure that the grave could not hold Him. During Easter, we remember His great victory over death and eagerly await the day when all of Creation enters into new life.

It took Jesus three years of ministry to do what He needed to do. His life had one single storyline: cancel the curse of sin and death.

During those years He faithfully traversed the hot dusty landscape of Israel, revealing the good news about God, expounding on His promises, and inviting all who would listen to follow Him. Hundreds were healed, miracles took place, and impossible situations were turned around. Everywhere He went people experienced the power of His life.

The religious leaders of the day couldn't stand Jesus, as He disrupted their notions of who God should be. They wanted justice; He preached mercy. They sought judgment; He forgave sinners. They wanted control; He rebuked their hard-heartedness. He was an inconvenience to their systems. God's plan unfolded. Jesus was to die for all of creation, but that was just the beginning.

*"It's still winter ... but spring is near. It's Lent ... but we're pointed toward Easter. Keep us hopeful, Lord. ."*



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 19, 1977

John & Sandy McCray

March 30, 1963

Don & Brenda Wall

**If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like for it to be, please let the church office know.**

### Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus



Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)

## Soup Kitchen Ministry

The Church's Soup Kitchen Ministry occurs every Monday between 12 and 1:00 pm for all church members.

If you are sick or unable to drive you may request a meal to be delivered. Please contact the church office know by the Thursday before if you wish to participate. Remember you MUST call if you wish to participate.

### March Menu:

- 9th: Vegetable Beef Soup & Grilled Cheese Sandwich
- 13th: Pinto Beans & Corn bread
- 20th: Potato Soup & Ham Sandwich
- 27th: Taco Soup



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

### Happy Birthday

- 2 Wren Walters
- 3 Brian Norris
- 5 Bill Blevins
- 6 Sylvia Jackson
- 7 Paul Edwards,  
Max Haynes,  
Carolyn Lovill
- 8 Brenda Hamm
- 10 Sabrienna Edwards
- 11 Katie Hudson
- 12 Kodia Leftwich Byers  
Sandra Busic,  
Morgan Edwards
- 13 Matthew Braxton,  
Joyce Walker
- 14 Randy Andrews
- 19 Jaclyn McCann
- 20 Brian Shaw
- 21 Rondal Farmer
- 22 Barbara Patrick,  
Carla Collins
- 23 Susie Gambill,
- 26 Jerad Poole,  
Marissa Walker
- 28 Kolby Queen
- 29 Penny S. Wheeler
- 30 David Hicks

### Information:

#### **Transportation:**

If anyone is in need of transportation to our church services please contact the drivers for the month of March. They are Bill Nilo @ 336.200.3411 or 336.657-1839 and Joe Caldwell @ 336.830.1363.

#### **Newsletter Information:**

If your committee, or group has information, or opportunities that could be published in the newsletter, please have your information written out and ready to publish by the 20th day of the month. You can email the church office with your info at [fbcsparta@skybest.com](mailto:fbcsparta@skybest.com) or forms are located outside the church office. Fill them out and place them in the box beside the office door. Please consider placing your information in the newsletter.

#### **Newsletter Folding Party:**

Would you like to assist in getting the newsletter assembled & ready to mail? We meet in the fellowship hall on Thursday, March 30th @ 9:30 am. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at 336-372-8446 or let Gwen Hicks know of your interest.

#### **Senior Adults:**

We will be having Senior lunch in the fellowship hall on March 16 at 11:30. The menu will be fried chicken, green beans, potato salad, and dessert. We will be watching the movie "Gabriel". Come out and join us!

### Tuesday Morning Nursery Schedule

March

7 Susie Gambill  
14 LeAnn Gambill  
21  
28

### Wednesday Night Nursery Schedule

March

1 Joan & Jim Cox  
8 Joe & Carolyn Caldwell  
15 Kolby & Kaysie Queen  
22 AJ & Cookie Matos  
29 Jonathan & Amy Bowman



## Youth Notes

Throughout the month of February, the Youth Ministry has been consistently working through our Sunday School Series, “Christ in the Old Testament” where we look at how the different people and themes in the Old Testament point us to Christ. Last month, we looked at how David, Isaiah, Jonah, and Daniel pointed us to Christ and His finished work. After our lesson on Daniel, we will begin a study through the book of Galatians. Our Growth Group numbers for Sunday nights are staying consistent as we continue breaking down passages from Scripture and applying truths to the lives of our youth. This is a great outlet for youth to build community and to grow in their faith.

At our monthly community-building event, we partnered with Grace Community Church and their youth group again for a night of swimming at the Wellness Center. We also enjoyed some delicious wraps courtesy of AJ and Cookie Matos. The youth have benefited from fellowship with the youth at Grace Community Church as it is teaching them to build community and relationships with other

believers outside of FBC Sparta. Our next youth event will be held on Saturday, March 18th, from 5:30-8pm. We are going to have a fun night of glow in the dark noodle tag, video games, and delicious food. This event will be held here at FBC Sparta. This is a great outlet for new kids to get plugged into the church by meeting our youth and youth leaders. If you know of any students who would like to participate, please contact Kolby Queen and we’d be thrilled to have them join us!

Thank you to the church for your continued support with the Youth Ministry. We are working hard to sow seeds into the youth so please continue to keep our youth, youth leaders, and staff in your prayers as we continue shepherding the youth and cultivating the truth of God’s Word in their hearts.

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6 ESV  
In Christ,

Kolby Queen

Family Ministry Associate

kolbyqueenfbcsparta@gmail.com

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be June 5-8 this year. Our last day will be a fun day with bounce house, dunking booth, popcorn etc. We will still be having a Family Night program on Thursday night for parents with a pizza party afterwards. Our theme will be Twist and Turns—Following Jesus changes everything. Please be in prayer for our teachers, children, and all others involved. We are still in need of helpers in the nursery for that week. If anyone feels led to serve contact Karena Jarrett or Kolby Queen.

We are excited as we prepare to share Gods love with others.

## Women's Embrace Ministry:

Embrace will be supporting our youth with their spaghetti dinner fundraiser on March 5, immediately following our morning Worship Service in the fellowship hall. Please join us in fellowship as we show our dedication and love to our youth.

We also have a group of Embrace ladies that will be going monthly to help clean out and organize the food pantry at the Baptist Children's Home. You will need to contact Kathy Adams if you are interested in going.

Our next equip gathering will be Saturday, March 11 from 9-11. Our topic is Fulfilling the Great Commission in the Community—Building Christ Kingdom in Sparta. Please invite someone and plan to attend. Notify the church by March 1 with a number so we will know how many to account for. Also, our next Women's Embrace meeting will be April 24 at 6:30 pm.



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*Where we tend to see hopelessness in the world, O God, give us vision to see what you are doing — and to join your life-giving work.*

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Hey First Baptist Family!  
As we continue throughout the year, we would love to see more recruits to serve on our Audio/Visual Team. This would include running the sound board, clicking through the powerpoint slides, and operating the camera to record the service. We have teams set up on a rotating schedule. If you are interested in serving or know someone who may be

interested, please contact Kolby Queen. Even though we already have teams set up, there is always a spot for someone new so do not hesitate to reach out if you're interested. We could always use more hands.

In Christ,  
Kolby Queen, Family Ministry Associate  
kolbyqueenfbcspar@gmail.com

## Leadership / Calendar Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Leadership/Calendar Committee on Monday, March 6th @ 7:00 pm to plan the calendar for April, May, and June.

This committee is comprised of all chairpersons, Deacons and ministry leaders in the church. If you need to schedule something for this quarter of

the year, please come and put it on the calendar. We will also be discussing plans for Easter and Vacation Bible School. Again, the meeting will take place on Monday, March 6th at 7:00 pm. Please plan to attend this meeting.

## “Consider”

Consider the lilies of the field  
whose bloom is brief:  
We are as they;  
like them we fade away,  
as doth a leaf.

Consider the sparrows of  
the air of small account:  
Our God doth view whether  
they fall or mount,  
he guards us too.

Consider the lilies that do  
neither spin nor toil,  
Yet are most fair:  
What profits all this care  
and all this coil?

Consider the birds  
that have no barn  
nor harvest-weeks;  
God gives them food:  
Much more our Father  
seeks to do us good.

—Christina Rossetti

## Easter Lilies

I know, I know, it's only March, but Easter will be upon us soon. We will once again place Easter Lilies in our sanctuary for decoration of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Services. If you would like to purchase one or many in memory or honor of a loved one, please

look in the church bulletin for the fliers in the coming weeks. The cost of the lilies has not been determined by the supplier yet, but you will be informed as soon as we get that information. The last day to place your order will be Friday, March 24.

## Daylight Saving Time

On Sunday, March 12, Daylight Saving Time will begin. So don't forget to set your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday Night, March 11th. We wouldn't want you to miss joining us for Sunday Morning Worship.



## Operation Christmas Child

This month we will be doing Birthday shoeboxes for the month of March and a collection to purchase supplies for our shoebox packing party. We will be doing a donation collection to purchase items from an OCC item warehouse on Sunday, March 26th. As you turn in your Birthday boxes, please do not put money in them yet, shipping has increased to \$10 a box. Please keep count of the number of boxes and in November you can pay the shipping for your boxes. But if you would like to go ahead and pay for the shipping of your box/boxes please write a check to the church and note it for OCC Shoebox Shipping. OCC Shoeboxes will be located throughout the church, do not forget to label your boxes with the labels (age range and gender) located inside the boxes. If your box does not have a label there will be extra's in a basket in the fellowship hall. Happy Shoebox packing.



from 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
On Saturday, March 11, 2023

“Fulfilling the Great Commission  
In The Community”

(A Teaching session entitled: “Building Christ's Kingdom in Sparta. with breakout groups for encouragement, discussion and prayer.)

RSVP:

Call the church office @ 336.372.8446  
to register by Monday, February 27, 2023.

\*Child Care Will be Provided

## Pastor's Notes Continued....

Now, back to the male/female relationship. According to Genesis 1-2 and Ephesians 5:22-33, God has created and called men to lead. He has created them with the God-given burden and desire to embrace sacrificial responsibility. A failure to embrace that sacrificial responsibility is a rejection of God's good design. And God has created and called women to respond. He has created and called them to respond to the sacrificial leadership of their husbands with a general disposition of joyful, respectful support of their leadership. When men and women are appropriately doing what God has designed for them, then, and only then, do they enjoy the dance. When men fail to accept sacrificial responsibility for their wives, and women fail to respond in joyful, respectful support of their husband's leadership, then you end up with the pain of stepping on each other's toes, rather than enjoying the dance.

With that general picture in view, as you might expect, there are several caveats to make. First, this dynamic of male/female relationships is reserved for the marriage relationship. This is not how all men and women relate to each other. Paul specifically says in Ephesians 5:22: "Wives, submit to your own husbands." This means that a woman may exercise leadership and authority over a man in the workplace. Different men and women have differing levels of competence and skills. But in the family household and the household of God, God has specifically designed it this way for reasons I'll explain in just a minute.

Second, there is nothing about "submitting" and "responding" that is innately inferior. We all must "submit" and "respond" in different environments and different relationships. Employees submit to bosses. Citizens submit to governments. Christians submit to church leaders (Heb. 13:17) and submit to each other (Eph. 5:21). And all of us submit to Christ. Even Christ humbly submitted himself to His Father's will (Matt. 26:39), and we know that Jesus was no less equal to God the Father.

Third, the reason for these role distinctions are rooted in both biological and theological purposes. Biologically, God has given men an abundance of testosterone which produces greater aggression, competition, and risk-taking impulses. When used by the flesh, this makes men a nightmare and a terror. But when harnessed with Holy Spirit power and channeled appropriately, it is evident that God has created them biologically with instincts for provision, protection, and sacrificial responsibility. On the flip side, God has created women with a unique biology that is bent toward nurturing and care. Now, am I painting with a broad-brush? Absolutely. Men and women overlap considerably in many areas with some men having more feminine traits and some women having more masculine traits. Women possess stronger gifts in some ways, and men possess stronger gifts in others. The point is this: biologically, it is clear that God has made men and women complementary. We need each other and were made for each other (don't make me refer to the anatomy textbook). The world would be seriously lacking if either men or women were missing. There would be no dance.

Theologically, the picture is even more clear. Ephesians 5:22-33 says that the role of husbands and wives is a living picture of the relationship between Christ and His Church. Husbands play the role of the crucified Christ: laying down their lives in sacrificial love for their bride. Wives play the role of the Church: responding to the act of sacrificial love by joyfully supporting and honoring their husbands. As husbands and wives relate to one another in light of this biblical picture, our marriages become a living picture of the gospel. By embracing God's design, not only do we build stable families and societies, but we also reveal the unchanging, covenant love God has for His people. My prayer is that the marriages of our church would reflect these beautiful realities.

Blessings, Pastor Matt

## Worship Nursery Schedule

### TODDLERS

#### March

5 Amy & Jonathan Bowman, Barbara Murphy  
12 Kay Luffman, LeAnn Gambill, Dawn Mustin  
19 Brandon & Monica Keener, Peggy Blevins  
26 Brenda Stoker, Fran Lewis, Reagan Tompkins

#### April

2 Mary Beth & Brad Gambill, Reagan Tompkins  
9 Katie & Cort Hudson, Margaret Royal  
16 Dawn Mustin, Mallory Harris, Penny Grover  
23 Lorraine Brooks, Warren & Brenda Taylor  
30 Fran Lewis, Grant & Kennedy Caudill

### INFANTS & CRAWLERS

#### March

5 Morgan & Bobby Edwards, Kathy Barnes  
12 Karena & Brett Jarrett, Susan Nilo  
19 Kayla & Brady Carpenter, Robin Bugielski  
26 Rita Wiles, Margaret Royal, Betty Guynn

#### April

2 Faron & Dawn Atwood, Brenda Taylor  
9 Kimberly & Jack Edwards, Barbara Patrick  
16 Michelle & Aaron Ray Tompkins,  
Carolyn Caldwell  
23 Celeste & Logan Oliver, Phyllis Smith  
30 Morgan & Bobby Edwards, Kathy Barnes

## Choir Notes

“Fair are the meadows,  
Fairer still the woodlands  
Robed in the blooming garb  
of spring.  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart  
to sing!”

March 20th is the first day of spring and I can't think of a better way to welcome the season than the lyrics to this hymn!

Our Children's Choir will be singing at our Palm Sunday service April 2nd. Immediately following the annual crosswalk on Good Friday (April 7) at 6:30 pm our Adult Choir will be leading the

congregation in a moving and reflective worship service – “We Remember Calvary.”

As always I ask you to keep this Music Ministry and all folks who participate in your prayers.

In His Service,  
Cindi Greene



### Like Us On Facebook

Church Family,

We have just recently started a brand new Facebook Page. While this may seem like no big deal, it is a major deal! This is a great resource and asset for us to reach people who are lost or don't have a church home. We are utilizing this Facebook Page to post the weekly sermon, solid Christian articles, and invitations for new people to come to church. With that being said, the Facebook Page is only useful if the information on there is being shared. This is where the church comes into play! It's as simple as liking the page, liking and commenting on our posts, and sharing our posts so that your friends on Facebook can see what is happening at FBC Sparta. So, I invite anyone who has a personal Facebook account to go to our page and like it. The page is titled “First Baptist Church Sparta” with our logo as the profile picture. Let's utilize this great resource for outreach and get people here!

In Christ,

Kolby Queen

Family Ministry Associate

kolbyqueenfbcsparata@gmail.com



## Deacons Minutes: January

Chairman Taylor greeted everyone and opened with a word of prayer.

David Gambill presented the deacons with the devotion. Quotes “Be Still” from Psalms 46:10, Meditate from Psalms 4:4, and “Strength” from Psalms 4:4 were part of the devotion. Next month’s devotion will be given by Chris Jones.

December 12th minutes were given time for review. A motion was made to accept them as written and seconded, with all in favor.

### Old Business

- A Deacon Visitation plan of action was presented by Pastor Matt Harris. The Deacons will discuss and incorporate a system that keeps members that are currently coming to Sunday School and Church involved. It keeps those members that come once in a while have steady attendance, those that are unable to attend up to date with events that are taking place in the Church. All this will be by a schedule kept by the members deacon with the added support of a fellow deacon and/or the Pastor.
- Long Range Planning Committee will meet January 23 with a specialist concerning the growth and expansion of the church.
- Building and Grounds is looking for a few more bids for lawn care for the upcoming year.
- Deacons discussed bringing the Chest of Joash back up before the church but have decided to table this until the extra funds would be needed for special projects.

### New Business

- Youth Update by Pastor Matt Harris. Kolby Queen will be the new Youth Director starting January 16th. He and his new bride, Kaysie have moved to the area, currently staying in an apartment until they can find a more permanent home.
- Snow Schedule Protocol presented by Chairman Warren Taylor. In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday morning the phone tree should give every member a heads up to cancellations by or around 7:00 am (future discussion showed the phone tree system can not call before 8:00 am so the congregation will be alerted at 8:00 am for future reference)
- Piano Request presented by Pastor Matt Harris. A lady that is not currently a member of our church is wanting to host piano lessons in our church. After discussion the motion to reject this event due to liability issues was made and seconded. All were in favor.

Financial Report was given by JD Brooks. A motion to accept the report as written was made and seconded, with all in favor.

Pastor Matt Harris did not have anything further to add to the Deacons meeting, just to say thank you to all the Deacons for what a great job that they do for the church.

Closing prayer was given by Chairman Warren Taylor.

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*“Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.”*

*—John Wooden*

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**In February, 2022**

Date	Attendance
5	121
12	SNOW
19	112
26	N/A

**Sunday School Enrollment 120**  
**Average Attendance 116**

## March Committees and Services

### TODDLERS

5 Amy & Jonathan Bowman, Barbara Murphy  
12 Kay Luffman, LeAnn Gambill, Dawn Mustin  
19 Brandon & Monica Keener, Peggy Blevins  
26 Brenda Stoker, Fran Lewis, Reagan Tompkins

### INFANTS & CRAWLERS

5 Morgan & Bobby Edwards, Kathy Barnes  
12 Karena & Brett Jarrett, Susan Nilo  
19 Kayla & Brady Carpenter, Robin Bugielski  
26 Rita Wiles, Margaret Royal, Betty Guynn

### Wednesday Night Meals

1 Joe & Carolyn Caldwell  
8 Amy Bowman, Jonathan Bowman, Michelle Tompkins  
15 Johnny & Linda Huffman  
22 Paula Brooks, Patsy Jarrett, Dawn Atwood, Kay Maines  
29 Shannon Mackenzie, Gail Jones

### Van Drivers

Bill Nilo @ 336.200.3411 or 336.657.1839  
Joe Caldwell @ 336.830.1363

### Ushers

Ken Lewis  
Mike Rowe

### Security

Ricky Royal

# Contact

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## March Newsletter



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**GLORIFY, GROW, GO**