



The People Place
First Baptist Church of La Vernia

HOME IMPROVEMENT

It seems everyone today is hooked on the new “Home Improvement” shows. The “D I Y” channel, (Do It Yourself), and the Home and Garden Network channel both carry many programs on improving the homes that we live in. Over the next several weeks, our Sunday services will also be focused on Home Improvement; not the physical home—focusing on improving our home lives. We will be looking at what the Word of God has to say about improving our marriages and family lives. Each week we will also be watching a brief video clip of the lighter side of marriage and family by some of our favorite Christian comedians. Some of the topics we will be covering are...



- ◆ Arguing can be Good for your Marriage
- ◆ Rules of Engagement
- ◆ Until Debt Do Us Part
- ◆ The Differences between Husband and Wives
- ◆ Raising Children – Parental Guidance Required
- ◆ Reducing Stress in the Home

Just as the DIY Network gives us tools and ideas to improve our physical homes, the Word of God (even more so), gives us the tools, skills, wisdom and direction to make sure that our marriages and home lives are built upon the strong foundation of His Word.

Join us each Sunday as we begin looking at how we can strengthen and improve our homes. Look forward to seeing you,

-Pastor Dave



First Baptist Church
hosts
Gospel Bluegrass Concert
with
BLUE CREEK

Sunday, September 11

6:30 pm

Everyone is welcome to
join us for an evening of
great gospel bluegrass
music ... fun and enjoyment
for the whole family!
Invite your friends
and neighbors!



2011 Mary Hill Davis Offering®
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR *Texas Missions*

September 11-18

First Baptist Church Goal: \$2,500.00

“The Word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which in Christ Jesus with eternal Glory. -2 Timothy 2:9b-10



In Isaiah chapter 12, Isaiah tells the people to sing, shout for joy, and have a great party and celebration because God has become your salvation. Sometimes I think we forget the

beauty of salvation. It is such a miraculous work. Isaiah says the anger of God is turned away and he becomes your comfort. In Christ we become children and heirs of God. I am extremely excited right now about salvation because at our back to school bash we had 43 decisions made to follow Christ. Some were students returning to Christ, but many were decisions that were made to follow Christ for the very first time. These are exciting times. We had a total of 157 people attend the back to school bash service. I almost died as Kacy Benson juggled swords over the top of me. I would do it all again if it means that someone comes into the kingdom of God. I also want to say thank you to all of the adults and cooks who helped to make the event successful. I could not do this with out you.

September is here which means football, band, cross-country, tennis, volleyball, and all that school brings with it are in full force. The students that we minister to are extremely busy. They have all these things and more filling their time. Pray that in the midst of all this they hold on to Jesus and that he remains the center of their lives. Sometimes things other than Jesus become our focus of worship. Many times these things may not be bad things, like football and band or even just being the top student in class, but if they become the thing that the students look to for their worth or the object of worship then it is bad. Please remember to pray for the teachers, coaches, and school administration too. We want to continue to reach students for Christ and disciple those who have come to Christ. My desire is to see a revival in Wilson County.

- Randy McDaris

Music and Family Ministries

Wow! September is here, and school is in full force. August has been a great month for us. To our delight, our son Jayden has taken well to kindergarten. It helps that he has such great teachers.

Thank you to everyone that gave in our pounding. We received way over and above what we could have ever imagined. Again thank you all for making us feel so welcome.

I am excited for all the new music we have coming up for choir specials. We have quite a few new worship anthems we are working on, as well as a good old fashion southern gospel piece. We have also received our Christmas music that is filled with beautifully arranged hymns that everyone knows. So we have all that to look forward to.

On the family ministry front we don't have anything planned for this month, but we do have quite a few things in the works. Randy McDaris and I are teaming up the youth and family ministries in hopes to do a tailgating party for one of the football games. Our plan is to have the party on October 7th. This will be a great outreach to our community so please pray us in the planning. Also if you have ever heard the movies Facing the Giants and Fireproof that were produced by Sherwood Baptist Church Albany, GA, you won't want to miss this. They are releasing a new movie called Courageous. The previews look great and it will be released on September 30th. I'll be putting out a sign up sheet soon with details on when and where. Childcare will be provided.

I want to bring your attention to a couple of Sunday School classes that are going on. The Young Marrieds' class just started a new study called Biblical Marriage 101. Also, the Homebuilders class is starting a new DVD series called Shepherding a Child's Heart. If you or someone you know are not currently attending a Sunday School class

and you would like more information I would be happy to fill you in. You can reach me at jeff@fbc-lv.org.

My worship quote for the month is from John Piper the Pastor of Teaching at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN. "I want us to have this conviction: that worship should never be pursued as a means to achieving something other than worship. Worship is never a step on our way up to any other experience. It is not a door through which we pass to get anywhere. It is the end point, the goal."

-Jeff Parker



Beginning Wednesday, September 7, these choirs will begin...

Children's Choir

Grades 1-5

6:00-6:45 pm

Room 5

Choir Director: Mrs. Becky Rhoades and

"Joyful Noise" Preschool Choir

Ages 3 (as of 9/1/11) thru Kinder

6:45-8:00 pm

Bus Barn

Choir Director: Mrs. Tammy Cox

Children learn to worship God through music. This will be their chance to express their love for Jesus by learning and singing praise and worship songs and at the same time have fun doing it!



Congratulations!

Ray and Judy Dudley on their 50th wedding Anniversary, August 14, 2011. Their sons, Steve, Terry and Scott, and their families are very proud and feel truly blessed to have such wonderful parents.



New Members

Bobby and Susan Faulkner, by church letter; Barbara Kruse, by statement of faith; and, Suzanne Stager and children, Zachary and Kaylee, by baptism. Welcome to our church family!



Young at Heart Fellowship
Lunch at Trail Riders Restaurant
In Floresville
Friday, September 2

We will leave the church at 11:00 a.m. After our lunch, we will meet back in the fellowship hall for dessert and dominoes. All are invited to join us!

Senior Adult Game Day
Friday, September 16
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Bring sandwiches, chips and dips, salad, snacks or dessert and join us for an afternoon of fellowship and dominoes!

Noon Prayer Meeting
Every Wednesday
11:30 a.m.
Green House

All are invited for a potluck lunch, prayer meeting and an afternoon of fellowship and dominoes.

Weekly Bible Study
Tuesday (except for 3rd Tuesday) at 9:00 a.m.
in the Church Library.

Nursing Home Ministry

Third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
Country Care Nursing Home in La Vernia

For more information about all of our senior adult activities, contact Shirley Summers (830.947.3374) or Mildred Hoffmann (830.779.2353).

Anniversary / birthday month. Shirley and I celebrate sixty-one years of God's blessings together. He has given us four children, eleven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, good health, an extraordinary church and pastor, many friends and loved ones. We often praise Jesus and comment on how blessed we are. And Shirley is getting another year of experience this month. This church has been an extraordinary source of joy and happiness for us.

Also, we remember the dreadful day of the attack on the eleventh day that launched us into wars and economic changes that have affected all of us. I believe America is being chastened by God for leaving Him out of our nation's affairs. The Bible is full of examples where He has punished nations for disobedience and rebellion. The economic woes, storms, floods, earthquakes imposed on us in the past few weeks should open the eyes of America.

The news I heard about the official remembrance of 9/11 was that there will be no prayers offered or religious involvement. My prayer is that God will raise up somebody to call America to repentance. Right now I do not see anybody with national recognition to do that, but God has never been short of somebody to serve Him at any given time. It is never too late to repent and change the course of history. Will you join me in this plea?

Believing prayer changes things. God bless you.

-Bro. Tom



It's Shoebox time again!

It's time to start collecting items for your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. I feel so blessed that our church has always been a faithful and generous supporter of this evangelical project. Just think of the smile on a young

person's face and the opportunity for salvation you can provide by packing a shoebox! Lots of items were collected during Vacation Bible School which our children will use in packing their shoeboxes.

We will once again be the local collection center, so help will also be needed receiving shoeboxes during the week of November 14 – 21 and packing them in cartons on delivery day. If you have any questions, please call me, Patty Gary at 210-279-1272.

From the Church Kitchen

Just a friendly reminder concerning the use of the church kitchen: Let's all follow the old Girl Scout guideline: Please leave the site [the kitchen] better than you found it! Thank you.

Nursery/Preschool Volunteer and Paid Workers Needed

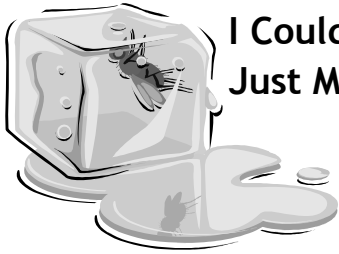
Are you called to serve? Do you enjoy being with babies and toddlers? If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a paid nursery worker (rotation schedule), a sign-up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall, or for more information please contact Emma McDaris at 210.557.2340, or Troy Huth at troy@fbc-lv.org. Background checks are mandatory.



Co-Ed Softball Anyone?

Games are on Wednesday nights at Northridge Park Baptist Church field, 2659 Eisenhower Rd, San Antonio. Games begin the week of October 9 and run through December 7. A team of 6 women and 6 men is needed. The team fee is \$400 (around \$33/person). For more information call Courtney Kunath at 210-837-9132.





I Could Just Melt!

James 2:14-19 (NIV)

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

¹⁶If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

"What good is it...?"

This is an interesting thing for God to say. What good is it? Do you think God ever gets frustrated? I know He never gets disappointed in us. You only get disappointed when you didn't expect the forthcoming problem. Since God knows what's coming, He can't be disappointed. But does He get frustrated? Do His children drive Him to that point?

I know I get frustrated with God's children. Sometimes, as a pastor, I just want to ask, "Don't you get it?" I see people walking in and out of worship with their eyes glazed over, basically doing their bit for the week in attending worship. They don't get much more out of it than being able to check off an accomplishment box in their minds. There is so very much more! They just don't get the power of God. They don't get the peace of God. They don't get the grace of God.

Being honest, I have to admit that I don't always get it either. I know that when I do, I just want to melt. The realization of the grace, the mercy, and the love that God pours out on me just makes me want to melt into a puddle of tears. I've been forgiven for so very

much. God is a great god!

As the all-powerful judge, He set up the rules for life. As the peacekeeper who keeps the world from going over the edge, He pronounced the sentence---the price--- for our disobedience---for our sin. And, as the loving Father, He came here in person, in the form of Jesus Christ and paid that price in my place.

I do not deserve such love! Day after day, I fall into the same traps that Satan set for me the day before. And every single time, God forgives me through the grace and shed blood of Jesus Christ---the payment for my sin. It is difficult to imagine such grace! It is difficult to imagine how He can forgive me day after day, time after time. Through faith, I crawl to His altar and ask for forgiveness, and He keeps giving it to me, over and over again. And every day, He tells me to stand tall, for I am a child of The King!

As God says in this scripture, "What good is it?" What good are you? What good am I? The only good in me is Jesus Christ. The only good I do is when I allow Him to work and move in me to bless others. The only good in me comes when I consider the height, width, and depth of the love He gives me.

It really makes me feel quite special! I mean, knowing that He loves me enough to die on a cross for me, in payment for my sins! And then to know that He never gets tired of forgiving me. He never gets tired of welcoming me home with His open arms, as I turn from my selfishness toward Him. It is a daily blessing to have such a Father! It is a daily blessing to have such a relationship through faith!

Without faith, there would be no relationship. Without the faith that He will fulfill His promise and love me unconditionally, there would be no peace, no guidance, no love. The Bible says that we must have faith in God before He can do anything in our lives. And the verses above remind us, that if

we have true faith in God, it will show in our lives.

All that He's done for me and does for me on a daily basis drives me to want to love Him back. When I consider the depth of His unconditional, boundless love, it moves me to love others in His name. It moves me to care for the less fortunate and to want to tell others of this magnificent love. It moves me to want to do the tasks that He has for me to do.

As I think back on the glassy-eyed worshipers who just don't get the depth of His love, I understand why they have no urgency to tell others or to love others in His name. I understand why they show up just to see their friends, exactly like a country club. They either have not yet come to the realization of the depth of God's love, or they have forgotten it.

This week, I hope you will examine your heart and melt in a puddle of tears as you realize the depth of God's love. I pray that you will truly understand. I pray, well, that you would 'get' it!

Keep The Son in Your Eyes,

Davin

Are You Called to Serve?



**For questions or more information, please contact
Troy Huth at
troy@fbc-lv.org**



Sisters Of Unconditional Love

I hope everyone had a safe, relaxing summer. My name is Lisa Syma and I have obeyed the call to serve as the new Women's Ministry Coordinator. 1 Peter 4:10 NIV says "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." I have been blessed with the gift of organizational skills and am all about details. Guess that is why I am an accountant! I have big shoes to fill as I take over the torch from Karen Comeaux, but she told me, "You are not alone". I know I can count on many women in our church to keep the wheels going. I had no idea a year ago when my family and I became members of this church that I would be where I am today. Our church's slogan "The People Place" is not just a gimmick. There is something special here that is indescribable. I am so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church community and to serve our women for God's glory.

We have many exciting events coming up in the next five months:

★ Beginning the week of Labor Day, we will start up **three new Bible studies**. Check your worship bulletin for subject matter, days and times.

★ Our monthly fellowship and praise, "**S.O.U.L. Café**" continues on the third Thursday of each month. We pray, we eat, we laugh and ... "encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25 NIV). It has been called "paradise" by Julie Holt. Ladies, I think we all need that time to fellowship with one another like only women can. We are always looking for someone to be a hostess.

★ **Women of Faith's "Over the Top" Conference** October 21-22 at the Alamodome.

Our **3rd Annual Women's Retreat** will be in late January 2012. If you want to serve on the committee, please let me know.

★ **Women In Mission** meets quarterly. Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 8. We reach out to local, state, national and international mission groups.

If you are interested in serving in the Women's Ministry, we have openings available. We can plug you in somewhere. If you have any questions or suggestions in how we can better serve the women of our church, please contact me at 210-233-6181, 361-215-6968 (cell) or LRN419@aol.com. If you came from another church and would like to share what their Women's Ministry did, we would love to hear about it. And we always encourage you to bring a friend along to any of our Bible studies or events.

- Lisa Syma

A group of us took a road trip recently to Pettus, Texas to visit the South Texas Children's Home and donate school supplies. We support them financially and spiritually. It was wonderful to see the place and some of the children we help support. The home receives no funds from the state or federal government. It is groups like ours and other foundations and associations that keep this beautiful place operating. We were really impressed with the Commissary which holds canned foods, cleaning supplies, school supplies, clothing, linens, shoes, etc that are donated by groups. It is a one-stop shopping market! One cottage opened their doors to us for a tour in which we got to meet the house parents and learn more about what a typical day is like. A highlight was to see the foundation of the new chapel they are building on the grounds.



It touched our hearts to know that there is a place like the South Texas Children's Home who takes in children from ages infant to 17 free of charge. Keep the children and the staff in your prayers.

Our next quarterly meeting will be Tuesday, November 8 in the fellowship hall after Bible study.

S.O.U.L. Food (Bible Study)

Beginning September 6

"Covenant: God's Enduring Promises"

By Kay Arthur

Tuesdays at 9:00 am

Led by Nan Elsik (210.288.6664)

and

Beginning September 7

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Led by Dottie Grams (210.422.3547)

Beginning September 8

"Breaking Free"

By Beth Moore

Thursdays from 6:15-8:30 pm

Led by Annette Quinlan (210.473.8417)

*Eat
Pray
Laugh
Encouragement*

S.O.U.L. Café (Fellowship)

**Thursday, September 15
7:00 pm**

(Host home TBD)



Would you be willing to host SOUL Cafe? Contact Lisa Syma at 213.233.6181 or LRN419@aol.com. Be sure to check the Women's Ministry Board in the foyer of the fellowship hall for September's host home information or in your Sunday bulletin announcements.

— Ministry Opportunities —



Greeters Needed

Greeters are needed to greet people and pass out worship bulletins at the doors before the 10:45 service. Ladies, this is not just for men -- you can be greeters, too! Contact Devin Butts at Devin@FBC-LV.org or Tony Costanzo at 830.947.9222.

G.R.O.W. Outreach

If you can write letters, assemble ministry bags, or help deliver ministry bags and feel the Lord is calling you to serve in this ministry, contact **Randy Lockwood** at **830.253.8606** for more information.

La Vernia Food Pantry

The food pantry restocks food products on a weekly basis for the needy families of our community. Our church is responsible for regular donations of flour, sugar, and peanut butter. You may bring your donations to the fellowship hall and place them in the marked container. To volunteer or for more information, contact **Robin Lott** at **210.912.3205**.

Angel Food Ministry

www.angelfoodministries.com

Order due date: Saturday, September 10 in person at Wells Fargo Bank or Always & Forever Florist in La Vernia, or online by Sunday, September 18. Menus are available in the fellowship hall.

Delivery date: Saturday, September 24, 8:30-9:30 am in the fellowship hall. Bring a large box. For more information, contact **Don DeMone** at **830.779.6192** or **210.364.1817**.

Church Library

Well, summer vacation has passed and the kids have been in school a couple of weeks now. It's still hot as ever. I don't remember it being this hot when I was a small. I can remember having to wear sweaters the first day of school.

You know, as hot as it has been here, it's even hotter in Hell. It's a heat that you will feel for eternity. Knowing that, we should be telling others about Jesus and how to have eternal life. If you have trouble talking to others or aren't sure how to approach the subject, you can come into the library and we will help you. We have a lot of good material to aid you in this area such as the Share Your Faith series that will help you and as well as many books on the subject.

The library will be going back to it's regular hours starting Tuesday, August 30. We will be open Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; the first, second, and fourth Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm.; and, Wednesdays, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

We hope you will stop in and visit with us and check out your library. May God richly bless you.

- Debbie Conger and the Library Staff

We express our Christian sympathy and love to Luci Roser and family at the death of her husband, Bill Roser, who passed away on Wednesday, August 17.



~ To my Church Family: I fear I have been neglectful by not thanking you sooner for the prayers, cards and calls with encouragement during this time of great trial in our lives. And for those who have taken time out of their lives to help me try to keep my Mother's life as normal as possible, there are no words to express my gratitude.

He too is grateful for the visits and cards and knows you are remembering him in prayer. Through it all I have been given strength and whatever else I have needed to get through each day. I know this is only possible because of the prayers of His saints and the love of Christ. I can't thank you enough for being my family. May God bless each of you and keep you, along with my husband and myself, under His wings. - Love in Christ, Karen Weiss

~ Church Family: God worked a miracle in Lloyd's surgery. There are not enough words to thank you for your prayers. Give God the glory. - Love, Lloyd and Helen Mattern

~ Dear Church Family: We would like to express our gratitude for all the ways our family was ministered to in our time of the loss of my uncle. The outpouring of love and help to my whole family was a wonderful example of a church family. Thank you. - The Gapinski Family

~ Thank you so much for the Pounding we have received. The food, gift cards, money, household supplies, and school supplies have been an absolute blessing. You are an amazing church family. We have enjoyed getting to know everyone so far. We look forward to getting to know you better in the future. We also look forward to getting to know those of you who we haven't had the privilege of meeting yet. Thank you for being such a blessing to us.

- Love,
Jeff, Amber, and Jayden Parker

~ To my Church Family: I would like to thank everyone for your gifts, and words of congratulations; also, to the Joy Class for the beautiful flowers, and to the church for the gift card to James Avery, the beautiful plant, and for the restaurant gift cards for my 20th Anniversary as Church Secretary. I enjoy working with each and every staff member and serving the Lord by serving you in the church office. I look forward to what the Lord has in His plans for this wonderful church family in the years to come! Thank you again and I appreciate every one of you very much. God bless you! - Debbie McReynolds

What's happening at FBC?

- **"Home Improvement" Series** - Pastor David
- Week of Prayer for Texas Missions
- Blue Creek Gospel Bluegrass Concert
- Frontline **Youth** Ministry - Pastor Randy
- **Music & Family** Ministry - Pastor Jeff
- **Children's Choir**
- Congratulations / New Members
- **Young at Heart** Ministry - Pastor Tom
- "I Could Just Melt!" - Pastor Devin
- **Women's** Ministry - New Bible Studies
- **Ministry** Opportunities
- **Church Library** News
- Sympathy / Thank You

If you are moving or need to correct your mailing address, please contact the church office, as the post office returns and charges us for newsletters with wrong addresses. Thank you.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter
P.O. BOX 279

LA VERNIA, TX 78121-0279

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE

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PERMIT NO. 5

Welcome to

The People Place Church

Please come and be our guest at any of our worship services.

Sunday

- 8:10 a.m. Early Worship (Blended)
- 9:35 am LifePoint Bible Study
- 10:45 am Worship Service (Contemporary)
- 4:00 pm Worship Choir
- 5:30 pm Youth Bible Study

Wednesday

- 11:30 am Noon Prayer Group (Incl. lunch)
- 5:30 pm Family Meal
- 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Frontline (Youth 7-12)
- 6:30 pm Friends (Children (K-6)
- 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting
- 6:30 pm Adult's Bible Study
- 6:45 pm Preschool Choir (Age 3-Kinder)
- 6:45 pm Children's Choir (G 1-5)

Caring and qualified childcare at all services.

www.fbc-people.com

Our Purpose Statement

To glorify God together by worshipping Him, and by reaching the people of our community with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ; developing them to Spiritual maturity and equipping them for their own unique ministry in the church and in the world.

Church Staff

David Gale, Senior Pastor	David@FBC-LV.org
Tom Summers, Assoc. Pastor to Senior Adults	Tom@FBC-LV.org
Randy McDaris, Youth Pastor	Randy@FBC-LV.org
Jeff Parker, Worship Pastor - Minister to Families	Jeff@FBC-LV.org
Judy Chesser, Children's Director	Judy@FBC-LV.org
Troy Huth, Sunday School Director	Troy@FBC-LV.org
Randy Lockwood, Outreach Director	
Debbie McReynolds, Ministry Assistant	Debbie@FBC-LV.org
Sue Flippen, Church Treasurer	Sue@FBC-LV.org
Devin Butts, Assoc. Pastor-Business Administrator	Devin@FBC-LV.org

First Baptist Church

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Office Hours:
Mon.- Fri., 9 am-Noon, 1:00-5:00 pm

La Vernia

Hwy 87

FM 775

Las
Compadres
Mexican
Restaurant



Crews St.