

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Church Council of First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas met for its regular meeting via Zoom on Monday, March 23, 2020. Members present: Scott Daw, Ginger Schantz, Michelle Cobb, Don Hale, Randy Cotton, Wilma Roberts, Tom Hanna, Dr. Richard Jolly, Patrick Mayers, Clark Moreland, April Paris, Linda Freeman, Ralph Lea, Kim Ortega, Jason Sims, Mark McKinney, Fred Nobles, Jayna Hobby and Randy Thornton.

Staff members present: Larry Grimes, Dr. Darin Wood.

Chairman Jason Sims called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Clark Moreland opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes from the February 17, 2020 Church Council meeting were approved.

REPORTS

Senior Pastor – Darin Wood

Dr. Wood reported that the Personnel Committee made the decision to send three high risk employees home for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. Currently, the custodial staff is deep cleaning the building and working on projects while the building is empty. The kitchen staff is helping with the distribution of meals to students. They are working in small groups. The scheduled replacement of the handler under the sanctuary will be done while service is being held live stream.

Dr. Wood addressed the long-term plan for worship services. The President's 15-day decree runs out on March 31st. Plans for worship will be re-evaluated at that time. The CDC recommendation limits gatherings to less than 50 people until after Mother's Day. Dr. Wood asked staff to prepare to continue current precautions until May.

Dr. Wood reported that plans will be adjusted if a shelter in place is implemented. The church has a plan in place to continue streaming worship. Aaron Hodges and his family can record worship at their home and email to Jeff Wash. Dr. Wood will preach from his house and send to Jeff Wash to record for broadcast.

Sunday service had approximately 3,000 views on Facebook and 300 on Vimeo through the church website. There were technical difficulties due to high traffic volume. Next Sunday we use different software and the service will be a blended worship style. Dr. Wood stated that a drive-in church service or a live broadcast on KOSA have been considered for Easter Sunday. The Palm Sunday Lord's Supper service will be held livestream as well.

Regarding committee meetings Dr. Wood asked committees to take responsibility for finding a way to meet that honors the 10 person rule. The church can help if committees need Zoom capacity, email addresses, etc.

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Dr. Wood encouraged Church Council Members to help present this situation as an opportunity to serve one another in a different way. Deacons are being encouraged to reach out to church members. Church staff and volunteers have called every senior adult. Larry Grimes reported that every person who was called was very appreciative. They were able to pray with some, discovered needs and offered volunteers to help with anything they need. Mr. Grimes reported that this ministry will continue on a weekly basis. Mr. Grimes shared that he was blessed by those senior adults he was able to call and speak with.

Business Administrator Report – Larry Grimes

Mr. Grimes reported that financial statements were sent out to committee members. Much of the money being spent currently is for projects from surplus. Receipts for the first two Sundays in March exceeded the \$135,000 goal. The third Sunday was the first live stream service with receipts at \$57,000. Last Sunday \$140,000 was received. The staff is making sure to control expenses and meet needs in crisis. Last week we provided over 500 meals to children. This week we will feed same children on Wednesday night.

Dr. Wood reminded the committee that \$500,000 from the surplus was designated to ministry in Midland. From that fund, First Baptist gave \$10,000 to Breaking Bread, \$10,000 to Midland Soup Kitchen and \$30,000 to West Texas Food Bank.

Mr. Grimes referred the committee members to page 11 of the ministerial reports to review all the work that Jim Hanson and his team have been able to complete.

Kay Little has created a You Tube channel for the youth for Sunday School.

Mr. Grimes mentioned that the Elliot family is in isolation as their son was out of the country. They will be in isolation until the end of the month.

Deacons – Randy Cotton

Mr. Cotton reported that the deacon body has reached out to all deacon family members. He is currently working to organize a program for the deacons to pray for schools. An email will be sent tonight asking all deacons to pray Thursday at 8:00 pm for the virus, community and country.

Committee Reports

Chairman's Report – Jason Sims

Mr. Sims reported that the prayer meeting is on April 13 and may be conducted via Zoom. In addition, there is a church wide prayer calendar on which anyone can sign up for an hour. Those who sign up can pray at the same time every week through Easter.

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Mr. Sims asked committee members to review the Ministerial reports. (See attached report.) He pointed out on page 10 that John Elliot mentioned there were 88 salvations during Upwards Basketball.

Mr. Sims encouraged council members to send messages for birthdays and anniversaries through CCB. Jayna Hobby volunteered to write cards for birthdays and anniversaries and bring to the church office.

Family Ministry – Ginger Schantz

Mrs. Schantz reported that the committee has not met. Cory Brand is still working to develop a Tall City Date Night in the fall. Ginger asked for prayer that the event will take place and that people will be drawn to it.

Finance Committee – Tom Hanna

Tom Hanna presented the February Financial Report. Gross receipts were \$1,036,246 over budget year to date. Receipts for February were \$752,563. That total included a special gift of \$250,000. Total expenditures are under budget by \$539,541 year to date. There was an operating gain of \$208,669 for the month of February. At the end of February, the general fund balance was \$2,507,212 and the capital funds available for projects were \$1,053,951. Total church assets at the end of February were \$11,830,596. **A motion to accept the monthly financial report passed unanimously.**

Mr. Hanna also reported that the finance committee voted to suspend the 52% metric for salaries and benefits due to decreased spending and the effort control expenses during the Coronavirus crisis.

General Nominating – Randy Thornton

Mr. Thornton reported the committee did not meet.

Maintenance and Expansion – Richard Jolly

Mr. Jolly stated that the committee met on March 12, 2020. Work on all three air handlers is scheduled to be completed in April. The committee voted to purchase 708 Kent Street for \$240,000 which will give FBC the entire block. The committee also recommended selling the Counseling Center for \$325,000 and the storage building on Louisiana for \$204,000. They committee will get an appraisal before moving forward.

Richard Jolly reported that the committee met with City Officials on March 3rd to discuss the Garfield Street project. The project is a 3-year project set to begin late 2020. As a part of the project, FBC will lose angled parking spots that back out directly onto Garfield. The spaces will be concreted.

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Patrick Mayers asked if the church should seek compensation from the city for the construction needed to close parking spaces on Garfield. Larry Grimes clarified that the city has already agreed to pay for the work. Discussion continued about compensation for the loss of parking spaces and which party would be responsible for upkeep and maintenance.

Patrick Mayer made a motion to seek legal counsel to assess the loss of enjoyment of the portion of the land on the west parking lot along Garfield street that the City of Midland is requiring that the church change. In addition, the church should inquire about the parking spaces backing onto Kansas Street. Fred Nobles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott Daw commented that while we should pursue legal counsel on the matter, we should also make sure that a good relationship with city stays intact.

April Paris asked if plans include improving the drainage on Garfield Street. It appears the city will continue to use Garfield for drainage as it is now.

Randy Thornton asked about how construction might impact valet parking. Mr. Grimes invited those who work in the valet parking ministry provide input to create a plan.

Membership – Ralph Lea

Mr. Lea reported good turnout at reception for Robbie Boyd. The committee is continuing to work on logistics for the Welcome Desk. Larry Grimes provided a training session for those who will be serving at the Welcome Desk. The committee is hoping to have the chance to use the Information Desk on Easter Sunday.

The Council reviewed the additions and losses to the membership. The additions to the church totaled 10 in February (4 by baptism; 3 by letter; 3 by statement), with 5 membership losses (4 by death; 1 by letter and 0 to another denomination). The additions will be voted on at the January Church Conference. Total active resident members are 3623. **A motion to accept the membership report passed unanimously.**

Missions – Fred Nobles

Fred reported the committee did not meet. No report at this time.

Personnel – Jason Sims

Jason Sims reported that the Personnel Committee approved the Employee Handbook update with a minor change.

Larry Grimes reported that James Ervin has assumed Robbie Boyd's responsibilities. The council was presented with a job description for a new position, Associate Minister to Senior

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Adults and Women's Ministry. The Personnel Committee approved the job description for the new position. If approved by Church Council, it will go to church before moving forward. Katy Little is interested in the position. She would like to fill this position when we have a new student pastor in place. At this time, the Church Council is only approving the job description.

Patrick Mayers made a motion to approve job description for the Associate Minister to Senior Adults and Women's Ministry. Tom Hanna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Safety and Security Committee – Patrick Mayers

Patrick Mayers reported that committee meeting was deferred to April. MPD swat was in the building last Wednesday night for a tour of the building. They did some live scenario training in the Student Hallway. Mr. Mayers would like to provide other law enforcement and emergency agencies the same opportunity. Another training is possible this week with MPD Patrol Officers on Thursday evening. Wes Lewis will lead that training.

Larry Grimes reported that Patrick Mayers did a great job sharing our ministries and who we are as a church with the Swat Team as he led them through the building.

Transportation – Scott Daw

Scott Daw reported the committee met March 8th. The ongoing discussion about parking lot and handicap parking spaces was tabled until plans for Garfield are finalized. The committee is working to sell a gooseneck trailer that is not used and purchase other trailers. The next meeting is scheduled for May 3rd to review budget.

New Business

Old Business

Jason Sims took prayer requests

Dr. Wood closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.

Kim Ortega, Secretary, 2019-20

Date Approved

Ministers Monthly Report to Church Council
April 20, 2020

Darin Wood
Senior Pastor

Dear Church Council Friends,

Grace and Peace today. When I wrote the last report, our biggest problem was people were upset about the Banner moving to a twice-a-month report instead of every week. Oh that life were that simple again! These are complicated days that none of us could have prepared for. With that in mind (and with the knowledge that I've written numerous times over the last few weeks to you and to our church family at large), my report will focus on where we hope to go. The analogy I've used with our staff has been we're given the opportunity to build this "airplane" as we fly it.

The one thing that hasn't changed is our focus. Our focus has been / will be the Gospel mandate – making Christ-centered disciples and not merely converts. Converts attend. Disciples join. We're focusing on inviting people to join, not just participate. If we've EVER needed disciples, it's now. There are difficult days ahead and "sunshine soldiers" need not apply. We will be inviting our church family to lean into Christ and onto one another.

As much as I want to make a "one Sunday at a time" determination, that's not practical right now. Thus, I've instructed Aaron and Jeff to prepare for us to be online only until Mother's Day. HOPEFULLY, we can return to meeting in person then but we will prepare to continue as long as it is recommended.

Our Online services continue to be well attended, a fact that is not insignificant. We are reaching people and places we might never have reached without this crisis. We're still tweaking how people respond at invitation time (we switched it on Palm Sunday from emailing to texting), but I'm satisfied we're making progress toward making disciples. Our offerings have been solid. For March, we missed our budget goal by a narrow margin. Not bad for having not been in the building since March 8.

We've made some substantive changes to our plans for the summer, some by our choice, some forced upon us by the situation at hand. Our ministry team – in each of their reports – has given you a run-down of how they plan to accomplish the goal of disciple making in their context. While this isn't perfect, we cannot afford to stop and feel badly for ourselves and our broken plans. The need is simply too high. I'm proud of our team and the way they've plunged ahead. I believe you will be too. I'm proud of our church family. I expected some to be agitated and upset with some of our choices. I've received exactly ONE letter of complaint. While it's infrequent that I get any, to get one when we've had to turn the whole world upside down isn't bad at all. Clearly, people understand that we're in this together and – as the body of Christ – it was for this moment we were made.

On a personal note, you can pray for me. By nature, I'm a person wired for people. To preach to an empty auditorium is a necessity, but a burdensome one for me. To tell families who have lost people they love "Call me back in a month when I can serve you" is difficult. To have to stand back away from people goes against who God made me to be. Would you pray for me, our other staff as well as other pastors you may know? I know I'm not the only one – my pastor group that I meet with (via Zoom) expressed similar feelings. This isn't how we've been gifted, trained or equipped. And yet, this is the need of the hour and I understand that clearly. It will not be this way forever – a note I'm trying hard to reinforce to many – and we can stand with certainty that our God has it well under control. As you pray, join me in the confidence that even this is just a season. May God make this season a brief one.

Praying for an end to this terrible disease and peace for those suffering,

Darin

Larry Grimes

Business Administrator

March was all about spin and pivot. When the Cov-19 and oil issues began to surface in earnest in early March, the direction of operation shifted. While some expenses were already set in motion for the month regarding mission's expenses and summer deposits, we immediately began to monitor every expense and asking all staff to be diligent with communicating all expenses before spending regardless of the amount. It was important to begin a vision for how the staff would operate in these days of isolation and how ministry would continue. Dr. D and I meet each week to discuss the previous week strategies and what new we need to encourage or implement.

Dr. D, Aaron, and Jeff did an excellent job of figuring out how we would worship. However, to do media driven worship there was a need for us to put more emphasis on dollars toward the media area than dollars which would be spent on face to face ministry. Every staff beyond those who led in worship was challenged with ways to do ministry and to stay in touch with the Body of FBC. Everyone took the challenge and began to find creative ways to use Facebook, Zoom and other platforms to put before people the Gospel and truths that would help calm, encourage and strengthen the body. I set in motion an initiative to communicate by phone with our Senior Adults, while James was out of pocket, who were most at risk during the pandemic. We also established a way for people to volunteer to help our seniors with shopping or other errands if they had a need. The initiative has continued with James Ervin leading the way every week trying to stay in touch with this population. I led out in one Wednesday night WEBS Bible study which was filmed for showing on Vimeo and Facebook. I felt led to establish, with the help of Amy and Cory, the 24-hour 7 day a week up to Easter prayer calendar that many of the Body have been participating in.

I have tried to sit with other ministries and help them with strategies that continued their ability to meet needs and stay before the people. I have met with family ministry about creative approaches and gave feedback on ways that Cory and Amy are approaching their areas. I met with Sarah regarding VBS and how we might be able to still do the ministry if we can, while recognizing the possibility of less time to train and potentially having less volunteers. She and Amy now have a strategy in place if needed. Bryan and I have met about food distribution and early on I assisted with the distribution. I directed the dietary staff to assist in packing and now cooking a hot meal for families in need. All these dollars are coming from designated accounts and not budget. Jim and I meet weekly regarding what his staff is doing and how they can continue to serve the church either through cleaning that is often done in summer or projects that are being completed due to capital approved dollars from last year's surplus. One project that was going to create an issue in the Worship Center with replacement of the enormous blower unit is being done while the center is not being used.

In the meantime, I have already begun to look at the budget process for next year's budget. This process will be like none other, but God has prepared us financially for this time. Our belief is that we have been very good stewards of what He has provided and He will continue to provide that which we need, but your prayers for wisdom are needed for myself and all those who will be a part of the budget process.

Lastly, I met with two ministries, CDC and CDO, that have their own budgets apart from the church. I was able to help them to make decisions regarding refunds, staff and what we will do if they are unable to operate for the rest of the year. Again because of their stewardship they will be able to continue to maintain their staff expenses and still finish the year with a positive account, ready to start up again in the Fall without a deficit. CDC teachers and workers have also sent home packets of information that will be utilized by parents to be sure their child continues to progress with their education. Mary has met with Cory to be sure the families of CDC are aware of the resources we are putting out for families through the family ministry.

Church Council Report March 2020

	Mar. 2020		Year to Date 9/1/19-3/14/20	3.2019 Avg. Attend
Sunday School	Avg. Enrollment	Avg. Attend.	Avg. Attend	
55+ Adult	794	366	401	401
Adult & Family	441	152	190	178
Singles	139	42	47	53
Student/College	255	80	105	86
Children	251	106	113	93
Preschool	446	128	136	138
Main Campus Total	2326	873	991	947
Mission Midland		108	102	112
Child Development Center	115	115	115	115
CDO Enrollment	136	136	136	136
Total	2577	1232	1344	1310
			Year to Date	
		Month	9/1/19-3/14/20	
Sunday School members joined the church		2	30	
Total visitors recorded		61	1025	

The above chart shows the attendance numbers for the **first two Sunday of March**. In Person services and Sunday School gatherings were cancelled for the rest of the month due to the restrictions relating to the safety from COVID-19.

March 15th was a quick one to set alternate plans for Sunday School meetings. We did have one adult Sunday School class who gathered via Facebook live.

For March 22nd, we had longer to plan for connecting with social distancing. Seven of the adult classes met via Facebook live or Zoom for a total of 130 people counted connecting and studying together. The Grace department was sent a link to a prerecorded lesson for their department. This week we were also able to have a pre-recorded Sunday School lesson available via a link on the church website. We had 323 views. Students, children and preschool will have more detailed information about how they have reached out to their departments in their respective reports.

For March 29th, we had seven of the adult classes meet again via Facebook live or Zoom for a total of 160 involved and connected. The Grace department once again sent out a link to their lesson. There was once again a link posted to the Sunday School lesson prerecorded by Vernon Stokes.

Aaron Hodges

Minister of Music

We've never done it this way before.

How often do we stand in God's way? Well, how often have you heard these words: "We've never done it this way before"? Or it's more affirmatively stated equivalent, "We've always done it this way before"? Both are usually said in a dismissive, negative tone of voice.

"How many Baptists does it take to change a light bulb?"

"Change?!?!?!?!?"

Wouldn't it be great if that were a cry of excitement and adventure instead of the negative dismissal of change that it usually is?



We are in a time of change right now due to our situation as a church, a community and a world. Covid-19 and the threat that it brings has forced us to minister to our church family in ways we never have before. Personally, I am looking forward to the day when we all can get back to a "new normal" around here, but I can't help but be amazed at what God has done during this time of change. We have for the past 4 Sundays led worship for a strictly on-line community. We have reached more people in the last few weeks than I could have ever imagined. For example, last Sunday we reached an estimated 3,900 people on our Facebook feed, and another 1,200 on our Vimeo feed. We have seen that people have been blessed by our different forms of worship. Whether we were with a full band or just a harp and piano, God was glorified! We have been in contact with all our ministry teams through multiple avenues of communication. We have had opportunities to get some much-needed work done around the music suite and music office. I have had time to try all sorts of creative ways to plan worship. We are staying busy during this time as we seek to follow God's directions.

Unfortunately, it does look like it is going to be a little longer until we are back together. O What a Day That Will Be!!!!

We always need to remember Jesus' words, "You did not choose me, but I chose you." (John 15:16) We have been invited by God to a surprising adventure. We, like Peter, need to ask, "Who am I to hinder God?" (Acts 11:17) Ours is not to hinder God, but to follow God; not to stand in God's way, but to walk in God's way; not to say dismissively, "We've never done it this way before," but to cry with delight and excitement, "We've never done it this way before!"

God is still calling out to us to come follow Him. Will you look at this time we are in as an opportunity or a stumbling block? Join me in committing to follow Christ and his work no matter where it may lead.

James Ervin

Senior Adult Minister

Sunday School and Worship

Before social distancing began, I took more of a lead in the traditional service – welcome, prayer, invitation. I continued to visit different Sunday School Departments each week.

Katie and I initiated a prayer ministry between Senior High School students and Senior Adults. I asked the Stephen Department if they would partner with this ministry. Katie prepared cards of each FBC Midland High School Senior with their name, contact information, and photograph. Our intent was for the Senior Adults to take one card and commit to pray for this student. We had scheduled a SS breakfast and fellowship between the Stephen Department and the High School seniors for March 29. That was cancelled, but we still intend to encourage this intergenerational prayer ministry. Hopefully, we might be able to reschedule the breakfast once we are able to gather on campus again.

Senior Adult Choir

We were able to rehearse Thursday, March 5 before the shutdown. We had 3 new members that day and were scheduled to sing at Manor Park on March 12. That too, had to be cancelled. I am checking in with the choir members by making personal calls to keep in touch with them.

Funeral

I was asked to officiate the graveside service of Lena Nichols on Friday, March 6. She was a new member but passed away after complications from surgery. I had met her in February and helped her join our church by transfer of letter. She lived at Manor Park and knew several of our folks who reside there.

Hospital Visitation

I took over the responsibility for visiting the hospital each morning after Robbie's resignation. The week of Spring Break, the assistant chaplain called me and said the hospital preferred us not to come to the hospital, unless a member requested a visit. So, I have not been able to visit. I do ask the Department Directors to let me know if someone is in the hospital so I can call that member.

HomeTouch (Home bound)

I am still enlisting church members to become part of this ministry to home bound folks by making personal visits or phone calls. We have a group of 102 folks, so we have several contacts to make each month. Pray with me that more folks will see the need and join us in this ministry. I made a personal phone call to every member on this list.

Social Distancing

A list of all adults 65 and older was prepared in the church office. Dr. D wanted every adult in this age group to be contacted with a personal phone call or email. Rhonda Carroll sent out a request for people in the church family to help us make these calls or be willing to help any adults in need – grocery shopping, etc. We had 39 people respond to this request. Many have helped us call the older adults, and we have been able to help a few adults who needed groceries. In the process of calling, we have found many members who do not have correct contact information, or do not have a phone listed in our membership software. We are in the process of sending postcards to members who only have an address listed in their profile.

Many phone calls have been made, and we will continue this process as long as we are not able to meet on campus.

Each week, I send out an email link to the Sunday School lesson and the worship service. Many have said this is easier than having to navigate the church website.

I will communicate with older adults by email on a weekly basis, offering tips during this time of social distancing as well as an exercise video.

I am learning the process of teleconferencing to be able to hold sessions for the Grandparenting Matters class, which we were not able to finish.

Cory Brand

Minister to Families

Before COVID-19:

- March 1 - Family Ministry Leadership Luncheon with Communio (Marriage Ministry...relationship survey results and analysis)
- March 1 – Assisted Larry with training volunteers for the Welcome Desk (creating a profile within CCB)
- March 1 - Upwards Celebration
- March 2 - Staff Training with Communio (brainstorming after looking at relationship survey results)
- March 9-10 – Purchased 50 HTeaO gift cards to be given at the Welcome Center for new guests

After COVID-19:

- Serious discussions/planning started Wednesday, March 11th
- Monitoring incoming forms and matching people to available times for 24-hour a day prayer calendar.
- March 12th – Changed ministry! Local implications for interactions began
- Online Services each Sunday (Amy and I have been ‘hosting’ to monitor and respond to comments)
- Made phone calls to all SS directors and teachers (March 16th). Started discussions about Facebook Live classes (later added Zoom classes as an option)
- Encouraged teachers to contact class members by phone
- Amy and I are hosting a Wednesday pm ‘Building Happy Families’ on Facebook Live (6:30pm, after WEBS) – started on March 18th
- Posting ‘At Home Date Night’ – every Thursday
- Met via Zoom with Communio to set up community-wide downloadable date kit
- Helped pack and hand out food bags to kids/families
- Canceled Love and Respect class. Hope to offer in the fall.
- Hosted a Family Meeting on Sunday night (March 31st) to have an interactive prayer time on FB Live.

Katy Little

Interim Student Pastor

Student Ministry began March with our normal weekly activities: Midpoint Student Worship every Wednesday with a speaker and the Reconcile Youth Band, Sunday School every Sunday, and Sunday nights with Bible Drill, Rooted Student Choir, Aux Bible Studies and Challengers.

The second week of March was Spring Break. We took advantage of students being out of school to have a Game Day at the AB and two service days. On Tuesday, March 10, we had a Game Day at the AB where 20 students gathered to play lots of different games all afternoon. Students had a blast. On the afternoons of Wednesday, March 11, and Thursday, March 12, we served at the Baptist Crisis Center – sorting clothes and shoes and trading out their winter stock for summer. After each service day, we went out for ice cream or snow cones.

By March 14, COVID-19 reared its ugly head, and we cancelled all our regularly scheduled activities. To stay in touch, I and many wonderful adult volunteers called, texted, emailed, or sent notes to all our students. We launched our YouTube Channel – FBC Midland Students – and began hosting Streaming Sunday School every week, with a Bible lesson taught by me, as well as Midpoint Online: a Wednesday Night Student Worship video with worship led by students and a bible lesson led by different adult leaders each week. We will continue reaching out from afar in any way we can until we can be together in person once again.

Sarah Arrambide

Minister of Children's Education

Greetings in the name of the Lord! COVID 19 as forced me to think outside of the box more than ever before, and that's a great thing!! My main prayer is that God would give me wisdom in know how to stay connected with the families represented in the Children's Ministry. During this time, I have learned how to set up a live FB event, and I'm learning how to ZOOM. I hosted the first Children's Ministry FB live event last Sunday and it went very well. I will continue doing them from now on, even after we are back in the building.

Thankfully, I have had more time than I have ever had to make phone calls and send cards. The coolest thing that has happened however, is that I have received cards and texts from children and adults alike letting me know that their praying for me. Caroline Pinson even sent me a note to let me know that she accepted Jesus into her heart! Last week I received a text from Sheila Escobedo letting me know that her son, Alex, mad a Profession of Faith, too! These two events serve as a reminder that God is still on his thrown and he's still in the business of saving people!

Here is what has been going on:

Sunday School – Our teachers and I are working hard to stay in touch with the kids and parents. The teachers are doing a great job of calling, texting and sending cards. They helped deliver Drop and Go Sunday School activity bags to each home last week. I appreciate all they are doing!

VBS – Amy and I met with Dr. D and he advised us to make the call on May 10th to have or not have VBS. By then, we will know if in fact, school is back in session.

If the restrictions are lifted and we move forward with VBS, it will be drastically different than anything we have ever done before. The plan would be to host an evening VBS for families. We would call it Family VB Xtreme. It would begin each evening with dinner at 5:00PM, start rotations at 6:00PM and end at 8:00PM. We estimate that we would only need 75-80. We are still ironing out the details.

Pine Cove Camp in the City – So far, we are still planning on hosting Camp in the City. The Pine Cove organization is going a tough transition time right now as they have had to let some people go. I spoke to our contact and she has assured me that she will keep me posted.

Camp Copass – So far, Camp Copass is still on the calendar. They will let us know mid-May if they're moving forward with it.

Thank you all for your faithful service to our Lord and our FBC family. Thank you most of all for your love, support, encouragement and prayers!

Amy Brand

Minister of Preschool Education

March has been an absolutely crazy month, but I truly believe that God is using this season to completely transform the way we do ministry. I'm excited to see where He leads.

Before COVID-19 (local impact, anyway):

- March 1 - Family Ministry Leadership Luncheon with Communio (Marriage Ministry...relationship survey results and analysis)
- March 1 - Upwards Celebration
- March 2 - Staff Training with Communio (brainstorming after looking at relationship survey results)
- March 2 - VBS Coordinators Planning Meeting

- March 9-13 - Spring Break (8th was a quiet Sunday)...continued working on summer planning and resource room clean out/reorganization

After COVID-19:

- Serious discussions/planning started Wednesday, March 11th
- Created banners/forms for 24-hour a day prayer calendar. Monitoring incoming forms and matching people to available times
- Online Services each Sunday (Cory and I have been 'hosting' to monitor and respond to comments)
- Lifeway SS Curriculum links sent out to parents and posted in young adult Facebook groups
- Creating and posting weekly family devotional and worship song links for kids
- Cory and I are hosting a Wednesday pm 'Building Happy Families' on Facebook Live (6:30pm, after WEBS)
- Contacting all Preschool SS teachers weekly. Working through Extended Session volunteers. Teachers are contacting students each week.
- Creating and posting Family Challenges for fun and connection – everyday at 4:00
- Posting 'At Home Date Night' – every Thursday
- Helping contact senior adults/homebound via phone calls
- Maintaining contact with all underlying ministries (MOPS, Mission Friends, MARY, ESL, CDO)
- Canceled Parents Night Out for CDO/MOP
- Canceled Love and Respect class. Hope to offer in the fall.
- Created and assembled 'Finding Easter' family photo scavenger hunt. Will be mailed out to preschool families April 1st.
- Handwritten postcards being sent from Preschool Ministry to preschoolers...working through classes as quickly as possible
- Hosted a Family Meeting on Sunday night to have an interactive prayer time on FB Live.
- Several meetings in person and via email regarding VBS. Plan A is to continue with VBS. Pushing registration back 2 weeks. Plan B is to recruit people to host Backyard VBS Clubs in their yards for neighborhood kids (less than 10 per group). Sarah and I will make a decision no later than May 1. Preferably closer to mid-April.
- Other summer plans paused to see where this leads. Basic planning is done for Grand Camp and Messy Families and lessons are ready.

I've got to be honest – while I am saddened by what is happening around us and not being able to see church members, hear young families in the hall, and hug on our little ones, I am so excited about what I believe may be a part of what God is doing during this time. Parents are being equipped to disciple at home. Ministry is happening outside of these four walls. Folks (myself included) are being challenged to be in the Word more, and to spend more time in prayer. Volunteers are having an opportunity to rest, reflect, and recharge. We are being 'forced' to do things differently...and I think that's a great thing. I am so thankful to be a part of what He is doing in us and through us!

As always, let me know if you have any questions about anything in this report, or just anything about the Preschool Ministry in general! I am so thankful to serve all the little ones and their families at FBC, and love being a part of a church that loves families just as much as I do!

Bryan Pinson

Minister of Missions

Missions Ministry Events:

- April 19 – Missions Comm Mtg
- May 31-June 5 -- Alex and Indhira Fleming, A Better City Church, will be our missionaries in residence for VBS
- July 11th-18th – Toronto Mission Trip with the Flemings (above) and an IMB missionary

Missions Ministry Priorities

- Unreached People Groups
- Indigenous Pastoral Training
- Reproducible Church Planting

I believe in many ways we as a church are earning the right to be relevant in the lives of people at the time of their greatest need which I pray will bring a harvest now and as some normalcy returns.

Costa Rica Spring Break Mission Trip (March 7th-14th)

It seems like years since we arranged for this team of 17 to come home a day early as the Coronavirus (as we called it then) was beginning to develop but in reality, just 1 month ago. Our team had a productive trip ministering to some of the poorest people in Jaco, Costa Rica. They had planned to minister in the schools, but the president of Costa Rica closed those to foreigners while they were there. They were able to shift gears and follow the leading of the Spirit to work in other areas. Praise God we got them home safe and sound.

Food 2 Kids Covid 19 Changes

Social distancing changes everything! Our Food2Kids program went from 125 bags a week to between 350 and 450 depending on the week since schools closed. We normally get about half of our food from Sam's and the other half from West Texas Food Bank. As demand was increasing, we lost Sam's as a supplier and continued ordering from the Food Bank (which is discontinuing their Food 2 Kids program as of Easter to focus on food pantry boxes for the whole family) while opening up other suppliers like Sysco (our kitchen supplier) and Feeding Children Everywhere (bulk supplier of dry food stuffs). God has supplied our need. We now have about a 2-week supply of food in case other changes occur in the supply chain. We also lost our volunteer force who packs our bags(RA's and GA's), so our staff and other volunteers have stepped forward to help unload pallets and trailers, pack bags, and distribute them to our neighbors smiling through masks and wearing gloves. We continue to serve children from Lamar and Sam Houston on Thursdays, from 11:30-12:30 out of the Fellowship hall doors which enables us to hand out children SS lessons and Bibles.

Benevolence Report – March 2020

Assistance Description	Amount	# Helped
Electric	\$ 446.25	2
Gas/Propane	\$ 543.62	3
Water	\$ 400.00	1

Rent	\$ 8,064.38	10
Prescription/Medical	\$ -	
Gasoline/Transportation	\$ 30.00	1
Furniture	\$ -	
Miscellaneous	\$ -	13 *
Monthly Total	\$ 9,484.25	
		*5 Individuals helped
		with more than 1 service
Fiscal Year Total	\$ 46,502.83	78
Professions of Faith this month: <u>1</u>		
Total to date: This year we have assisted 78 people financially and have seen 4 people come to		
know Christ as Lord and Savior		

New Hot Meal Giveaway Changes

We have also begun serving a free hot meal (hamburger/fries/cookie) averaging between 75-150 a week on Wednesday evening through the Fellowship hall doors. God has given us opportunities to pray with people who lost their jobs earlier that day. We will continue to evaluate the need/effectiveness as time goes on.

Benevolence Changes

We are continuing our ministry to the poor but creating ways to do things with fewer volunteers and doing everything entirely over the phone/email. We are allowing people to call in, email them or have them pick-up/complete an application with needed documentation (lease agreement, utility bill). Eva then calls back to interview and share the Gospel with each family. So many have lost jobs or are working reduced hours. This need will increase as Covid 19 and the economy worsens.

True Power Outreach (Jail Ministry though the Mail) Changes

We are checking the mail once a week instead of twice, sealing it in a Ziploc bag for a couple of days, then mailing it to graders. Do you know that we have 50+ volunteers sending Bible lessons and corresponding with 900+ inmates on a regular basis?

John Elliott
Minister of Activities

- March 1st was our Upward Celebration service in the sanctuary. We capped off another great Upward season with 800+ people in attendance to see a great show by Tuey Wilson and heard a wonderful presentation of the gospel.
- The Men’s Ski Trip that was planned for the end of March was canceled due to COVID-19.
- Due to COVID-19, the Activities Building closed on March 16th as a precautionary. On March 18th the governor ordered all gyms to close by March 20th. Stay tuned to see what the Activities Ministry is coming up with to stay involved.

Mary Schultz
Child Development Center Director

Closed

Jim Hansen
Director of Maintenance

MAINTENANCE:

- Install LED Lights – men’s and women’s locker room in AB
- Carpet classrooms: A-Hall, B-Hall, second floor
- Base – rooms on H-Hall, B-Hall after carpet
- Kitchen & Café ceiling, replace with fireproof ceiling
- Change all AC filters in fan coil units
- Install 10 additional hand sanitizers
- Changing ceiling tile
- Checking all fixtures and change bulbs
- Daily work orders

CUSTODIAL:

- Sprayed the entire church with the E-mist disinfecting machine and still doing it on a daily basis
- Stripped and waxed all the rooms on CDC Hallway
- Cleaned and painted the lockers in the Activities Building
- Daily work orders

2.	CDO Staff Meeting
	Staff Meeting – Parlor
3.	M.A.R.Y. Mentoring
	Handbell Rehearsal
	After School Kids
4.	CBS
	Grandparenting Matters
5.	CDO

	Benevolence Crosscheck Meeting
	Midland Retired Teachers
	ESL
6.	MOPS
10.	Handbell Rehearsal
	Sonshiners
	NO MORE CHURCH ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19