

## Calendar of Events

April 1	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service
April 3	9:00a	Discovery School
April 4	5:00p 6:00p	Bible Drill Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Ladies Bible Study Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core
April 5	9:00a	Discovery School
April 8	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p 6:30p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Committee on Committees Meeting Youth Bible Study at the Birtman's House
April 10	9:00a	Discovery School
April 11	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Ladies Bible Study Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core Stewardship Meeting
April 12	9:00a	Discovery School
April 15	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p 6:30p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Deacons Meeting Youth Bible Study at the Birtman's House
April 17	9:00a	Discovery School
April 18	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth Core Coaches Wives Bible Study
April 19	9:00a	Discovery School
April 22	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 5:00p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Committee on Committees Meeting
April 24	9:00a	Discovery School
April 25	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Youth Core Coaches Wives Bible Study
April 26	9:00a	Discovery School
April 29	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 4:00p 6:30p	Traditional Service Bible Study Groups Contemporary Service Safety and Security Committee Meeting Youth Bible Study at the Birtman's House



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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE

APRIL, 2018

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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



**Tony Watson, Senior Pastor**

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

I hope you are inviting people to be with us at our services this week. Friday's concert with the Mark Trammell Quartet and Sunday's Easter Worship celebration are going to be great times of worship and celebration. I'm especially excited about the fact that we will be baptizing seven people in our 10:45 am service this Sunday. Yes, you read that right, seven! It really struck me this morning that all seven are adults too. God is moving!

I can't say enough good about our Missions Committee and all who came out to work on Service Saturday last week. We had 51 people involved in various work projects and visitation in our community, being the hands and feet of Jesus. Once the Missions Committee has an opportunity to re-group, we will share with you the plans for the next Service Saturday event.

Choir, you did an outstanding job on the musical Sunday night! I enjoyed the music, the spoken word, and the message that was communicated. Well done!

We have added some new people and families since I last mentioned this, so let me share with you some ways of communication that you may be interested in.

1. The April Psalms devotional guides are ready in the Narthex. If you want a digital version, I can e-mail it to you, or you can get it from Facebook when I post it this weekend. My e-mail address is [tony@firstpalestine.org](mailto:tony@firstpalestine.org).
2. If we are not friends on Facebook, I'd love to receive your friend request. If you have not "liked" the First Baptist Church of Palestine Facebook page, I encourage you to do so. I update that regularly with announcements and information.
3. If you did not receive a text message from me about Sunday's services this week, then I don't have your cell number. If you text and you'd like to be on my list, simply send me a text, identifying yourself, to my cell number, 214-862-1069.
4. If you are not on my "Word of the Day" text messaging list - getting a Scripture verse and a short prayer each morning, simply text me and let me know and I'll get you signed up.

Tony



**New Sermon Series**  
**Begins April 8 - 8:30 & 10:45 am**

**IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS**  
**I, II + III JOHN**

First Baptist Church of Palestine  
 5700 N. Loop 256

*Companion Bible Study for Adults Begins April 11 - 6pm*



**Giving Report for March as of 3/29/18**

Ministry Budget Offering: \$40,449.25  
 Designated Funds Offering: \$2,346.96  
 Ministry Budget Offering YTD: \$127,844.91  
 Ministry Budget Exp. YTD: \$97,625.73  
 Received over expenses YTD: \$30,288.82

You can give online at:  
[www.firstpalestine.org/giving](http://www.firstpalestine.org/giving)  
 or by texting the amount you would like to give (\$10) to 903-638-7067

**2 NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN APRIL 8 9:30 AM**

**Young ADULT** sunday school

1. Young couples with no kids/Young Single Adults - Led by Tom & Angela Witte - Meets in room 104B
2. Couples/Singles with children in preschool-elementary age - Led by Josh & Emily Wall - Meets in Room 105C (next to nursery)

First Baptist Church of Palestine - 5700 N. Loop 256




**Skip Birtman, Youth & Worship Pastor**

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

Who are you? No really, who are you? If you were asked that question, how would you respond? I know I'd start with my name, where I'm from, and my occupation, but is that really who I am? We've spent a good amount of time recently in our youth ministry talking about "identity". The word identity is defined: the fact of being who or what a person or thing is; The characteristics determining this. So, who are you?

There have been plenty of times in my life when I wasn't real proud of who I was or something I'd done. I remember as a kindergartener having to go home and tell my parents that I had stolen the equivalent of a Happy Meal toy from one of my classmate's backpacks. Note: To my knowledge, that was the only spanking I ever received. Yes, that does explain a lot. As a young teenager, I got upset about losing a game of ping pong to my father, and I mule-kicked the wall in our dining room leaving a rather heel sized hole in my wake.

With all that said, I've recently noticed that it is pretty benign to share stories of our past failures. Ministers do it all the time in sermons. As you may have noticed, I've got the self-deprecating illustration down. Why is that? It's because we are allowing people in to who we were, but not who we are. "That stuff is in the past". "I'm not that person any more". What we don't want is people knowing our current struggles, faults, and failures. We get really good at hiding, camouflaging, and putting up a facade in order to fool people in to thinking we've got it all together. Guess what, none of us do!

We're all sinners. The bible is pretty clear on that subject. Since the beginning of creation, mankind has attempted to cover that fact up. In a moment, Adam and Eve went from having an unbroken fellowship with God to attempting to cover up their nakedness and shame as a result of sin. Thank goodness the story doesn't end at "for all have sinned...". That would be a pretty lousy identity. Instead, we are offered redemption through the blood of Christ. If you are a believer in Jesus, this verse describes you. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

"In Christ"...wow! Now that is an amazing identity. As believers, we are the sons and daughters of God. Does that mean we won't make mistakes? No. But, it does mean that our lives are different. We have a different outlook, a different focus, a different purpose, a different nature. If you're a Christian, don't be ashamed of who you are. I'm certainly not saying you need to confess your every sin to the entire world on social media. But, allow people into your life that know you...the real you. You're a work in progress. Again, don't be ashamed of who you are. A couple months back I went to watch a basketball game in Slocum. As I walked in, it took me a minute to locate my pass for getting into the game. The money-taking lady was looking at me as if she thought she knew me. It hit her. She said "You're the guy that ate the popcorn off of the movie theater floor." Yep, that's me!

D-Now Weekend: The Pause  
 April 20-22  
 Cost \$30  
 Last day to sign up is April 4.

Jr. High versus High School Challenge  
 April 4 - May 2 (every Wednesday)  
 6:00 pm  
 It's going to be great. Just show up!

Graduate Sunday  
 May 20  
 10:45 am  
 Mark your calendars graduates and family.

**QUILT GROUP**

**APRIL 19TH @ 6:00PM**

