



# First Baptist Church

## 2020 "To Know Him and Make Him Known"

### Pastor's Paragraph—

#### 2020 Prayer Challenge

Will you accept the 2020 Prayer Challenge? We desperately need God's power, and His power only comes when His people pray. We are seeking prayer warriors who will commit to both private and corporate prayer in 2020. We need faithful people to set aside 20 minutes each week for personal time with God, and commit to 20 public prayer meetings during the year. It's really not that much. In fact, you probably already do even more than that! But, we just want to do it together as a church, and be intentional about it. We have our traditional prayer meeting on Sunday evenings, and one year ago, we introduced an additional prayer service on Monday evenings. At that time, I wrote this in the Pastor's Paragraph:

*"When I study the powerful prayers in the Bible, I am amazed at how brief they are! Do you remember the story of the prophet Elijah on top of Mount Carmel? After the priests of Baal embarrassed themselves all day long pleading with their impotent god, Elijah called out to the Almighty Jehovah. He prayed 63 words. I read it out loud in less than 20 seconds. After that mini-prayer, the fire of God fell from heaven consuming the sacrifice, the water, and the stone itself! The greatest miracle that Jesus did in the New Testament was the resurrection of Lazarus. Jesus stood by the grave where Lazarus's body had been decomposing for four days. He prayed a simple prayer of 37 words. It took me about 10 seconds to read it out loud. That 10-second prayer unleashed the power of God, breathing new life into a rotting corpse. Theologically speaking, Jesus didn't even have to pray at all. As the Son of God, He is omnipotent, able to raise the dead on His own. But He was giving us an example. The apostles followed His example! In Acts 4, Peter and John had been arrested and threatened not to preach about Jesus any more. When they were released, they had a prayer meeting. Their prayer was a little bit longer. It took me 45 seconds to read it out loud. At the end of their prayer meeting, 'the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.'" (Acts 4:31)*

*There is a reason that these prayers were brief. Elijah had been walking and talking with God for a long time! Elijah was a man of fervent prayer. No doubt, he had been praying all day while he watched the prophets of Baal make fools of themselves! Elijah's 20-second prayer was just the visible tip of the ice-burg. Under the surface, He had a life-long foundation of prayer. Of course, the same is true of Jesus. The Son of God has eternally existed in perfect unity with the Father. So, His 10-second prayer by the graveside of His friend was just for the people standing by. In fact, that is exactly what He said in His prayer! "Because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent me." (John 11:42-43) The disciples in Acts 4 had walked and talked with Jesus for three years! At the time of their persecution, they did not need a lengthy prayer meeting. They needed God's power to preach!"*

So, that's what the 2020 Prayer Challenge is all about. You quietly and consistently spend time with God and His praying people. Then, when God moves, you are ready. We are trusting that God will move in big ways in 2020, and that we will have an army of prayer warriors who are prayed up and ready! ~Pastor

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>			<b>1</b> No AWANA	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastor Returns from Vacation	<b>4</b> Trustees' Meeting 8 AM
<b>5</b> Communion AM	<b>6</b> 7 PM Prayer Pastor's day off	<b>7</b> Deacons' Meeting 7PM	<b>8</b> AWANA Wild West Night 6:30-8 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7 PM Prayer Pastor's day off	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> AWANA 6:30-8 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Business Meeting/ Soup Supper 6 PM	<b>20</b> 7 PM Prayer Pastor's day off	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> AWANA 6:30-8 PM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Winter Games!
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7 PM Prayer Pastor's day off	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> AWANA 6:30-8 PM	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**Save the Date!!**  
**Teen Winter Games**  
 is Saturday,  
**January 25th!!**

**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Soup Supper**  
 The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 19th, beginning at 6:00 PM



AWANA resumes this year with "Wild West" Night on Wednesday, January 8th! See ya'll!

## Changes/Updates for 2020

We will be putting together a new General Information Booklet for the new year. If you have any address changes, new numbers, corrections, etc. . . Please write them down and place them in the offering plate or on Susan's desk. There are 'update' cards hanging in the plastic folder in the back of the church.



Thank you for all of the items put into my tote for the VBS projects at Rio Grande Bible ministries! You are all so generous and it is very much appreciated!

-Rose Guhde

## November Finances

### Balance Forward 11/1/2019

Deacon's Fund	\$709.04
Designated Fund	\$3,958.29
General Fund	\$35,965.71
Checking Account	\$40,633.04

November Income	\$17,151.57
November Expenses	\$20,078.67
Net Decrease	(\$2,927.10)

Year-to-date Income	\$171,683.81
Year-to-date Expense	\$159,378.21
Net Increase	\$12,305.60

### Balance 11/30/2019

Deacon's Fund	\$709.04
Designated Fund	\$4,101.42
General Fund	\$32,895.48
Checking Account	\$37,705.94