

JANUARY 2015

FIRST BAPTIST BRYAN



SPOTLIGHT



**SANDI
PATTY**

PHOTOS: Concert
kicks off holiday season

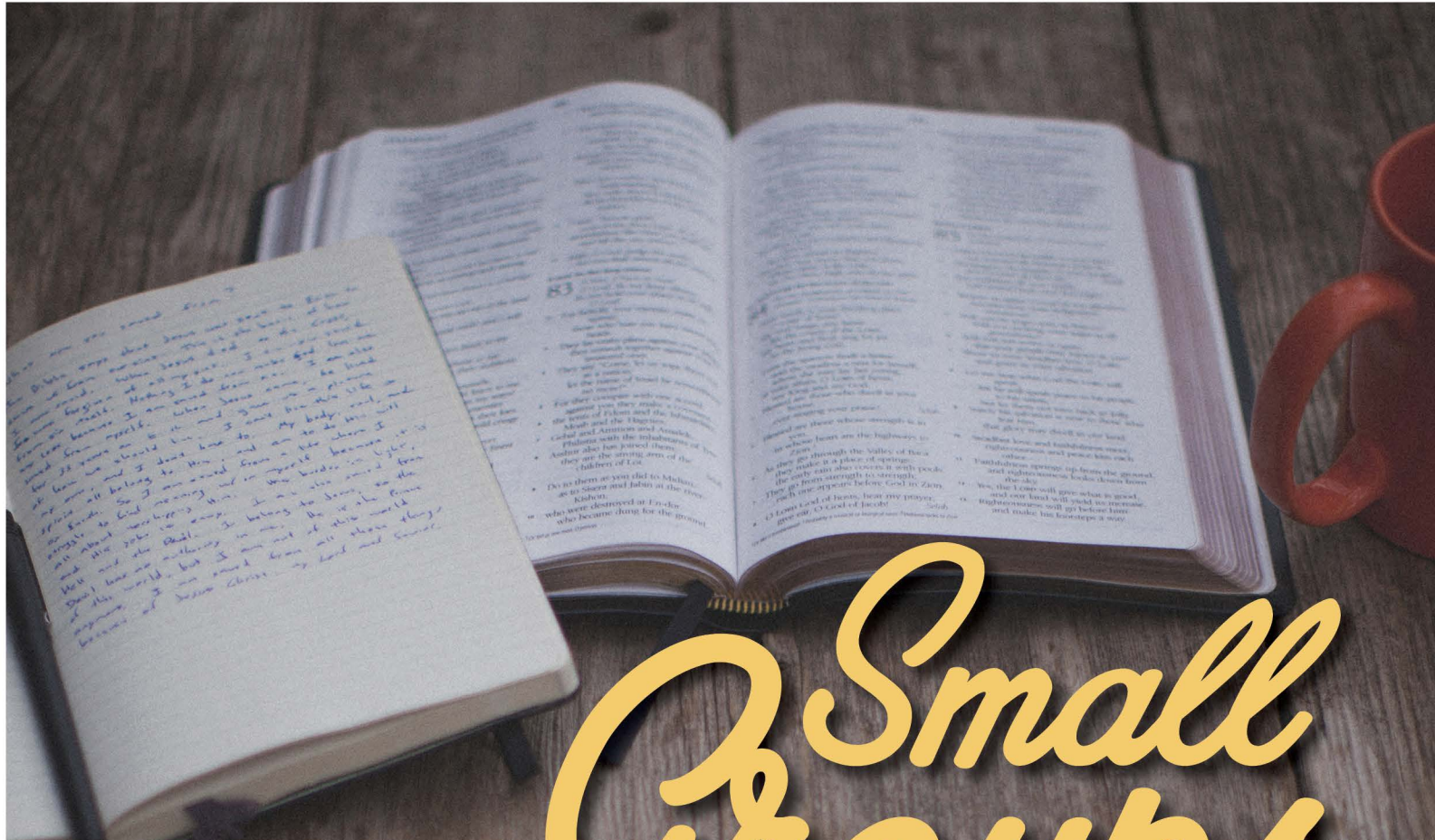
**SPRING SEMESTER
SMALL GROUPS**

COLUMN: 8 reasons to utilize one of
FBC Bryan's best resources

**CAN I GET a
WITNESS?**

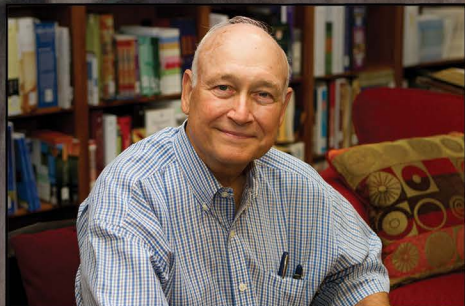
COLUMN: Answering
the Great Commission





Small Groups

Small groups address unique needs
by Chester Fehlis, Small Groups Ministry Coordinator



Small Groups are a gathering of 4 to 12 people who meet regularly under the guidance of a trained leader. They are for people who want to grow spiritually, enjoy Christian fellowship and pray for the needs of those in your group, as well as the church, while being cared for by those in the group. Here are 8 reasons why you should be in a Small Group.

1. You will have the opportunity for deeper study and understanding of the Bible through small group discussion, and you will be able to apply it to your own personal situations.
2. You will develop close relationships with other believers in our church who will walk be-

side you in your journey as a follower of Jesus.

3. You will find answers to the needs in your life as well as those in your group through group prayer.
4. You will get support in times of crisis or major changes from people who really care for you.
5. You will enjoy fellowship with others in the church that you might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet and grow closer with.
6. You will witness a non-threatening environment where seekers, non-believers and longtime church members come together for one major objective—to

grow in knowledge and understanding of God's Word.

7. You are an important person in our church; small groups allow for mutual edification as God gives spiritual gifts to all believers and these gifts are for the benefit of the whole church. Here, you can minister to other Christians sharing your God-given gifts.
8. If you don't join a group, you will miss out on many wonderful opportunities for Bible study, fellowship and prayer.

Small groups will begin meeting the week of Jan. 25. Sign up on the lists posted in the Atrium.

SENIOR SEND-OFF:

The Vine says 'goodbye' to December Graduates

"We have been blessed by these graduates during their time at A&M. They have served FBC Bryan and the Vine in various ways, such as Beach Reach, First Serve, and other areas. Many of them also served as coordinators to help facilitate and serve the college ministry. We are so sad to see them move on to the next stage of their life, but we are excited to see how God will use them."

-John-Travis Smith, Interim Pastor of College & Young Adults

Allyson Messer

Major: Education 4th-8th Grade
ELA & Social Studies

Hometown: Allen, Texas

Favorite Bible verse: "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

Favorite FBC Bryan memory: My favorite FBC Bryan memory is when I went to Beach Reach with the college group several years ago for spring break and also when I went to Estonia with the church this past May for a construction mission trip.

Future plans: I will be going home to Dallas to student teach in Wylie in the spring. I will graduate from A&M in May and then get married!

Prayer request: Pray for me as I become a teacher and that I will show Christ to the students I teach. Pray for my upcoming marriage and for the next church body that God has in store for me and my future husband. And pray that we will glorify God in everything we do.

"Allyson's friendship has been to me one that has constantly pointed me towards the Lord. She's taught me how to love and care for others better just by her example. I can't wait to see all the ways God will use her in her teaching career!"

-Kali Bridwell

William Scholten

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Hometown: Temple, TX

Favorite Bible verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Favorite FBC Bryan memory: Participating in the Christmas and Good Friday services with the FBC Orchestra.

Future plans: I will be attending graduate school at Texas A&M University for a Master's of Science, Degree in Aerospace Engineering. I plan to continue going to FBC Bryan during graduate school. After grad school, I plan on working for an aerospace company in Texas.

Prayer request: Guidance as I enter grad school and the workplace. Accept and follow God's plan for my life.

Bryce Bender

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Hometown: Midland, Texas

Favorite Bible verse: Isaiah 55

Favorite FBC Bryan memory: Going to Beach Reach with the college group over Spring Break.

Future plans: I am currently deciding on job positions, but I will most likely end up in DFW working in the Aerospace Industry.

Prayer request: That the Lord would lead my steps and that he would give me the faith to follow him wherever I go.

"Bryce's passion for the lost, especially those he went to serve on the mission field, has always been inspiring to me, as it seems very genuine and heartfelt."

-CJ Nolen

Brian Bentley

Major: Geography GIS

Hometown: Allen, Texas

Favorite Bible verse: "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Favorite FBC Bryan memory: My favorite FBC Bryan memory was going to Estonia with the church this past May and the college retreat this fall.

Future plans: I'm graduating in December and starting a job in January at Site Selection Group in Dallas. I will also be getting married in May.

Prayer request: Just to be mindful and obedient to God's will in my life as I go out into the world.

"Brian is a funny enjoyable guy who doesn't just love others but is a man who follows God with all his heart. Brian and I fought a terrible GIS class but somehow together, through all the long hard work we made it enjoyable and found laughter in the end. I'm going to miss this guy and I hope that no matter what happens and where he goes, he will always follow the path Christ has laid out for him through humility and strength."

-Kevin Caldwell



Allison Iler

Major: Electrical Engineering

Hometown: Houston, TX

Favorite Bible verse: "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" Psalm 34:8

Favorite FBC Bryan memory: I can't pick just one! I love the memories that feel like family traditions - lumberjack finals brunches, bagging for Share the Gift, and Beth Moore Bible studies.

Future plans: Working as an Electrical Engineer at Black and Veatch in College Station, and marrying C.J. Nolen!

Prayer request: Please pray that I would be a witness for the Lord in my job, for C.J. and I's wedding and marriage, and for a work/life rhythm that is glorifying to the Lord.

"I have known Allison for several years. She humbly seeks spiritual wisdom and growth and serves Christ with her unique talents and gifts. Through her daily life she exudes Christ's love, and she grows fellow believers around her as a result."

-Michele Buenger

Shelby Mathis

Major: Education

Hometown: Deer Park, Texas

Favorite Bible verse: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

Favorite FBC Bryan memory: Fall Retreat 2014. Such a fun time getting away from the stress of school and hanging out with the people I enjoy the most!

Future plans: Working as a 5th Grade math teacher in Deer Park ISD.

Prayer request: That I would find another place I can call my church home whenever I return back to Deer Park and that my future students would see the light inside me that shines for Christ.

"Shelby is not only a willing servant, but she is so talented in many ways. She loves the Lord and has a spirit of diligence and joy. I am so blessed to enjoy her friendship and to have served the Lord with her."

-Kayla Smith

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Hannah O'Sullivan

Major: Community Health

Hometown: Deer Park, Texas

Favorite Bible verse: "Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds." Hosea 6:1

Favorite FBC Bryan memory: Working alongside Sarah Fine and Cody Hawkins to prepare for Beach Reach my first year as an intern.

Future plans: To get a job promoting health and wellness in a community or organization and improving the health of a community or organization because of it.

Prayer request: That the Lord would be glorified through me wherever He places me after this December.

"Hannah, I am so grateful that the Lord chose to cross our paths during your time at FBC! I'm grateful that we have been able to share how the Lord has been working in our lives and for the ways you have encouraged and challenged me! Praying that you continue to live in obedience to all the Lord calls you to!"

-Renee Brady

Dear FBC Bryan,

The Lord has truly used FBC Bryan to shape my college experience at Texas A&M. I attended FBC my first Sunday as a freshman, and I knew that this was where the Lord wanted me. I knew little of what the Lord had planned for my time here. We have gone through some incredible times, and some difficult times as a church body, but for every step the Lord remained steady and faithful to us. The people He placed in my life through this church have encouraged me to run towards Christ in all that I do. I am thankful for the family God gave me in college through FBC Bryan, and I look forward to what God has planned for this church next. Graduation in December for me yields many unknowns, but my church family's support has strengthened my trust in God and where He wants to place me for the next steps in my life. Thank you, church family, for striving to love one another as Jesus loved us, and encouraging your brothers and sisters to run after Christ!

-Hannah O'Sullivan





FBC BRYAN WELCOMES AWARD-WINNING ARTIST

FBC Bryan welcomed community and church members alike to hear award-winning music artist Sandi Patty. The decorated vocalist performed two separate concerts on Dec. 12 and 13. Each concert opened with a set list performed by FBC Bryan's own Orchestra, Choir, and Handbells, followed by a set performed by Patty, herself, along with her band. Both evenings concluded with a series of songs performed by the FBC Bryan musical groups and Patty, together.

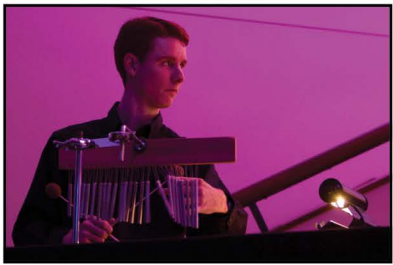
Patty's three platinum records, five gold records and eleven million units sold, have earned her the nickname, "The Voice." Over the course of her nearly three-decade career, Patty has been awarded five Grammy Awards, four Music Billboard Awards, and 40 Dove Awards, making her the "most awarded female vocalist in contemporary Christian music history," according to her biography online at sandipatty.com.

Beyond her impressive musical career, Patty is an award-winning author, earning the 2006 Silver Angel Award for her bestseller, *Broken on the Back Row: A Journey through Grace and Forgiveness*. Her published titles include *The Edge of the Divine*, *Life in the Blender*, *Falling Forward*, and *Layers*. Patty even has penned her own cookbook: *Around the Table with Sandi Patty: Faith, Family & Food*.

"I am grateful for the many opportunities God has given in my life and for how He has allowed me to spread my wings," Patty says in her online biography on sandipatty.com. "Singing is my way to tell my story of hope, life, and love."

Patty's collaboration with FBC Bryan's Choir, Orchestra and Handbells, was not her first—the accomplished artist already has performed with numerous symphonies, including the New York Pops, Boston Pops and Cincinnati Pops, according to her biography online at sandipatty.com.

Both Friday and Saturday concerts sold out prior to performance weekend, kicking off the Christmas season at FBC Bryan with a packed house and enthusiastic audience.



“go and make disciples”



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



WHAT ABOUT MISSIONS?

by GARY BALMAIN
INTERIM MINISTER OF MISSIONS

Why Missions?

It seems like different verses have drawn my attention at different times of my life. To me, the theme of the Bible is relationship building. God draws us to him and we draw Him to us. The following verses speak to me, both of my individual responsibility and our responsibility as a fellowship of believers to missions.

- **Luke 10: 1-3** “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.’”
- **Luke 8: 16-18** “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out in the open.”
- **Matthew 24:14** “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”
- And of course, **Matthew 28:18-20** “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- And, the Mission Team verse of FBCB, **Acts 1:8** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Why missions for me?

Early on I understood “Missions” to be a part of being a Christian. In fact, the two words were used interchangeably. When I accepted Christ at the age of 9 I was an R.A. at Waller Street Baptist Church in Bossier, LA. I was taught that being a Christian and being a missionary were the nouns for “trust and obey”. And “discipleship” is the teaching of “trust and obey” in Jesus Christ.

In 1984 we were appointed to Argentina where I was asked to serve as the Mission Business Manager and Community Development Director. We had wonderful opportunities to work alongside Argentines, Koreans, and Americans from many different cultural and economic backgrounds.

We came back to Texas in 1994 where Cindy resumed public school teaching and I got back into City work. I retired from the City about two years ago and Cindy retired this year. The Lord has blessed us more than we can express and continues to present opportunities of service. Cindy continues to reach out to children and young people and I have been given the gift of working with the wonderful ministry team of First Baptist Church Bryan

as the Interim Minister of Missions.

Why missions for us?

Our church family is made of different age groups, genders, socio-economic backgrounds, life experiences and spiritual maturity. We, each and every one of us, are uniquely called to be missionaries to those people groups that we have opportunities and gifts to reach out to.

As Cindy and I are entering out “retirement” years we have given thought to what that means. I believe that different phases of our lives are mission fields. Retirement is definitely a “mission field.” In his book, *Nearing Home*, Billy Graham writes: “My prayer is that you will sense God encouraging you to impact those around you, regardless of age. Look for the Lord’s purpose in every circumstance and in every face or voice you encounter daily, for the time He has given you is not without purpose. Prepare for each day by asking the Lord to open your eyes to what is going on around you. You may feel lonely, but perhaps the Lord will use your smile to draw someone else close to you. You may experience pain, but the Lord may use your resolve to strengthen another who doesn’t have the will to go on. We can reject the opportunity to be used of God or can seize opportunities to impact others as a testimony to Him.”

Matthew 28:18 -20 instructs us to disciple others. Acts 1:8 teaches us that we are to reach beyond ourselves. Are we prepared? Jesus Christ challenges each of His followers every day and at each phase of their lives to be missionaries and to reach out in his name. What is your mission field? Are you ready?

DEACON MINISTRY

OFFICERS / CAPTAINS	Email Address	Phone
Jim Moore <i>Chairman</i>	jjmoore1971@gmail.com	224-0307
Zerle Carpenter <i>Chair Elect</i>	zcarpenter@suddenlink.net	822-3167
Harry Hogan <i>Secretary</i>	mail@harryhogan.com	574-5209
Jim Thompson <i>Benevolence</i>	jimth@juno.com	846-3492
Lynn Branam <i>Hospital Visitation (weekend)</i>	lbranam@suddenlink.net	690-9079
Harvey McFalls <i>Hospital Visitation (weekday)</i>	hmcfalls@suddenlink.net	775-3127
Rob Brower <i>Hospitality</i>	rbrower@integrityis.biz	696-6831
Dicky Herron <i>Prayer</i>	madherron@gmail.com	693-3141
Derek Moore <i>Worship Transition</i>	jderek68@gmail.com	820-3117
Jake Berklene <i>Nail Pouch</i>	jake.berklene@yahoo.com	690-7767
Sam Smith <i>Bereavement</i>	sherjon62@gmail.com	774-0851

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERIAL STAFF	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
Jim Heiligman <i>Senior Pastor</i>	pastor@fbc Bryan.org	776-1400 ext. 102

Bill Wiman <i>Minister of Education/Administration</i>	bill@fbc Bryan.org	255-1217
David Gusewelle <i>Associate Pastor / Business Manager</i>	david@fbc Bryan.org	219-4070
Renee Brady <i>Minister of Childhood Education</i>	renee@fbc Bryan.org	776-1400
Debbie Prince <i>Interim Preschool Director</i>	debbie@fbc Bryan.org	776-1400
Jim Adams <i>Interim Ministry Associate for Adults 55+</i>	jim@fbc Bryan.org	776-1400
Mike Osborne <i>Interim Youth Minister</i>	mikey@fbc Bryan.org	936-546-1949
John-Travis Smith <i>Interim College & Young Adult Minister</i>	john-travis@fbc Bryan.org	277-4057

Chester Fehlis <i>Small Groups Coordinator</i>	smallgroups@fbc Bryan.org	268-5714
David Kipp <i>Interim Minister of Music</i>	dkipp@fbc Bryan.org	229-5472
Rob Urbanek <i>Interim Music Associate</i>	roburbanek@yahoo.com	589-1039
Gary Balmain <i>Interim Minister to Missions</i>	gary@fbc Bryan.org	492-2845

SUPPORT STAFF	EMAIL ADDRESS	EXTENSION
Kay Dowling <i>Membership / Education Assistant</i>	kay@fbc Bryan.org	102
Lynn Bronstad <i>Financial Assistant</i>	lynn@fbc Bryan.org	103
Gladys Kuykendall <i>Financial Assistant</i>	gladys@fbc Bryan.org	104
Hannah Goodwin <i>Youth, College & Young Adult Assistant</i>	hannah@fbc Bryan.org	119
Liz Lindan <i>Music Assistant</i>	liz@fbc Bryan.org	110
Michal DeBord <i>Adult & Small Groups Assistant</i>	michal@fbc Bryan.org	100
Patsy Jones <i>Children / Preschool Assistant</i>	patsy@fbc Bryan.org	137
Laura Acuff <i>Communications Assistant</i>	laura@fbc Bryan.org	112
Ronny Jones <i>Building Superintendent</i>	ronny@fbc Bryan.org	121

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL-CHURCH

SMALL GROUP LEADERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to lead this semester's small groups. To volunteer, contact Chester at 979-268-5714 or chester@fbc Bryan.org.

ALL-CHURCH

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

Starting Feb. 4, new classes and discussion groups will be available, in addition to our continuing weekly prayer meeting, which will begin a study 1 Peter. Other classes include New Believers, Financial Peace University, Made to Crave (devotionals for women), and Home Improvement, a Christian-based counseling series on family life. See more details at fbc Bryan.org/schedule.

ALL-CHURCH

KBTX Broadcast

Live TV broadcasts of FBC Bryan's Sunday morning Traditional Worship services will again be aired on KBTX, beginning Sunday, Jan. 25.

STUDENT

Scholarship Applications

To apply for or renew a scholarship from FBC Bryan's college scholarship funds, visit fbc Bryan.org/ministries/youth/scholarships.

COLLEGE

Sermon on the Mount

The Vine's small group on the Sermon on the Mount will resume meetings this Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 pm in Room 230. Join us for a time of Bible study and discussion.

ADULT

Assistance Needed

FBC Bryan needs volunteer receptionists, starting ASAP. If you can serve any weekday mornings and/or afternoons, please contact david@fbc Bryan.org.

MISSIONS

Estonia Mission Trip Recruiting

Contact Ralph Girlinghouse for more information on a mission to Estonia, taking place May 13-28.

MISSIONS

Germany Baseball Camp

Attend a meeting on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 11:45 am in Room 137 for more information on FBC Bryan's annual mission to Germany.

PRE-SCHOOL / FAMILIES

Spring MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers, meet with us on Wednesdays for a time of fellowship, encouragement, sharing, and fun. Childcare is provided, and we have morning and evening options available. Please fill out an interest form online at fbc Bryan.org/MOPS.

ALL-CHURCH

January Business Meeting

FBC Bryan's monthly business meeting for January will take place on Sunday, Jan. 25, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONS

South Texas Mission Trip Recruiting

Contact David Gusewelle for more information on a mission South Texas, July 13-17. Mission activities will include construction, crafts, and children's and women's ministry.

PRE-SCHOOL / FAMILIES

Mainly Music

Bring your preschoolers for a session of music, movement, and more! Spaces are limited. Sign up and pay today at fbc Bryan.org/mainlymusic.

PRAYER UPDATE

- The family of Jim White on the death of his mother, Virginia White
- The family of Peggy Reed on the death of her son, Ronny Reed
- The family of Patsy Fletcher on the death of her father-in-law, J. T. Fletcher
- The family of Marjorie Clifton on the death of her daughter-in-law, Lucy Clifton
- The family of Gail Stafford on the death of her father, Wesley Grable
- The family of Sharyn Galvin on the death of her brother, Stephen Speights
- The family of Wray Woods on the death of his father, Donald Woods
- The family of Bryan Cook on his death
- The family of Becky Englemann on the death of her father, Pete Englemann
- The family of Leroy Balmain on his death
- The family of Melina Shellenberger on the death of her brother,
- The family of Georgia Hughes on her death
- The family of Dina Richmond on her death
- The family of Martha Persons on her death
- The family of John Bounds on the death of his mother, Geneva Bounds
- The family of John Fehlis on the death of his father, Chester Fehlis, Sr
- The family of John Teller on the death of their son, Erik Teller

2014 CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Budget		Building Fund	
December Contributions	\$352,844.55	December Contributions	\$50,261.50
Total Contributions	\$3,228,925.69	Total Contributions	\$231,842.76
Budget Requirements	\$3,560,900.00	Building Note Balance	\$2,428,489.30