The New Year
Helping Leaders Stay Spiritually Fit

Are you ready for 2019? Interesting question for ALL of us, particularly for those of us who are in positions of influence and leadership. Don’t stop reading this article because you say to yourself: ‘I’m not really a leader in our church.’ The truth be told if we read scripture carefully is that ALL of us are leaders in some form or fashion. All of us have influence on someone.

As we begin 2019, I’d like to ask you to consider these thoughts. FBC is not going to be and do what it is capable of doing unless each of us steps forward to be an influencer for Christ’s sake. The first step, however, is to assess whether we are growing spiritually or not.

No one intentionally says that he/she will not be spiritually fit. From my experience, many, including myself, just drift into spiritual flabbiness. Each of us has to decide that knowing God is more important than anything else, and that decision may have to be made many times – sometimes daily or even hourly. In love and patience we will encourage each other to make the commitment to know God more intimately.

What are some barriers that keep all of us from staying spiritually fit? My friend, Randy Johnson, Minister of Youth Education at First Baptist Church, Richardson, TX, identified some of the barriers that each of us experience:

1. Too busy—Every person I know in a leadership position wrestles with this dilemma.
2. Procrastination—A side-benefit of spiritual health is the commitment to do things when they are due and not wait until there is too much pressure to do an adequate job. This is especially true in preparing to teach others.
3. Laziness—Life-management requires constant evaluation of what we do and how we do it.
4. Over-commitment—We must evaluate what is most important for God’s Kingdom’s sake. Helping our leadership to understand that is a daunting task indeed.

The way to know God intimately is to spend time with him. Clyde Hall, former LifeWay employee, has given great insight into why we should spend time with the Lord in corporate and personal worship. Here are some reasons to spend time in personal/corporate worship:

1. To maintain our fellowship with God. We spend time with Him to keep our relationship with Him fresh. It requires time, effort, energy, and a plan.
2. To build spiritual strength. When we face temptation or difficulty we drain our spiritual strength. This happens whether we win or lose in the temptation experience. We must replenish that strength.
3. To sensitize ourselves to God’s leadership. We’re all in the process of making decisions about our lives. Spending time with Him gives us insight and wisdom for those decisions.

The first three of these are for our own benefit as Christians to get to know God. The last one is for our individual ministries or spheres of influence.

4. We cannot lead people in a direction that we are not going. As leaders, we will want to be going in the same direction that we want the rest of the people to be going.

I have often heard people say, “I need to evaluate my priorities in regard to how I spend my time.” We’ve all said that. A former pastor once told me that if I am going to evaluate time priorities, I must be willing to eliminate things from my life, no matter how good they may be. If they are not the best then they need to go in the trash. (Reference Vince’s message on December 15!)

As with all life-changing decisions discipline is the key to keeping spiritually fit. It is not easy. There is no pill that we can take to get there instantly or to stay there once we’ve gotten there. It is a commitment of our total lives.

If you have interest in pursuing a deeper level of intimacy with the Lord, please contact me by email (cgartman@hpux.edu) or phone (817-846-7886). I’ll be happy to discuss with you anything we might do on this journey together.
Christmas Eve at the Neighbors Café

Every day is special at Neighbors Café, but Christmas Eve was an especially joyous celebration with music, program, storytelling, and gifts. Pastor Chuck Gartman spoke, and Elizabeth Barr, chaplain and music therapist at Hospice of San Angelo, played Christmas music on her flute and sang carols, accompanying herself on her guitar. Boo Vaughn told the Christmas story to children as they made Christmas ornaments.

Volunteers handed out Christmas bags donated by the Adults 5 Department to adults and children. The adults’ bags had hats, scarfs, socks, and gloves; children’s bags had small toys. Everyone also received a bag of cookies and candies. Adult 5 donated the following items of new clothing for the bags: 50 knit hats, 66 pairs of gloves, 22 scarfs, and 127 pairs of socks. Pat Fillip and Louise Jones coordinated the Christmas gift project.

The ministry at Neighbors Café is important to First Baptist Church and vital to those in need. If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry or if your department is interested in helping out, please call Judy and Charlie Smith.

Connect with FBC: New Publication Schedule

As Bill noted in his article in the last issue, beginning at the end of this month, we are going to a monthly newsletter which will be published on the last Tuesday of each month for the month ahead (so, the February issue will be published on January 29). This 8-page newsletter will contain more information than the current bi-weekly edition as we will aim to gather information on a variety of events, as well as include ministry and mission updates.

In order to keep everyone informed in between newsletters, Sunday School directors will receive weekly updates which they can share during open assembly time, and I am working to develop other ways with which we can communicate effectively with our members and the community.

Here’s where you can help...I need “roving reporters” to keep me up-to-date on what’s going on in all areas of ministry at FBC. We like to recognize special anniversaries (those ending in ‘0’ or ‘5’), and new babies, and to spotlight our members who are making a difference in the community and beyond, so please let me know when you have information to share. The deadline will be at noon on the Monday before publication. News can be sent to me via email at powers@fbcsanangelotx.org or you can call me in the church office at 655-4101.

Becky Powers
February 1

No FBC Birthdays

February 2

Samuel M. Garrett

February 3

No FBC Birthdays

February 4

No FBC Birthdays

February 5

No FBC Birthdays

February 6

No FBC Birthdays

February 7

Gloria Sheffield

February 8

Johnnie Carlson

February 9

Carson Cummings

February 10

Juanita Hardy

February 11

Shannon Mercer

February 12

Helen Mercer

February 13

Donna Swindle

February 14

No FBC Birthdays

February 15

No FBC Birthdays

February 16

No FBC Birthdays

February 17

No FBC Birthdays

February 18

No FBC Birthdays

February 19

No FBC Birthdays

February 20

No FBC Birthdays

February 21

No FBC Birthdays

February 22

No FBC Birthdays

February 23

No FBC Birthdays

February 24

No FBC Birthdays

February 25

No FBC Birthdays

February 26

No FBC Birthdays

February 27

No FBC Birthdays

February 28

No FBC Birthdays


Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Resumes January 9

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to join the choir! Rehearsals are each Wednesday at 6:45 pm. Contact Bill Gillum at 655-4101 for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

December 23

FBC Sunday School

Enrollment  728

Attendance  214

Baptist Retirement Center

High Rise Class  6

GRAND TOTAL  220

December 30

FBC Sunday School

Enrollment  728

Attendance  211

Baptist Retirement Center

High Rise Class  5

GRAND TOTAL  216

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Week Ending December 23

Weekly Budget Needs $28,211.15

Tithes and Offerings $30,091.02

YTD Budget Needs $1,438,768.85

YTD Tithes & Offerings $1,415,393.05

2018 Budget $1,466,980.00

Week Ending December 30

This week's financial report was not available at time of printing, but will be published in the next issue.
The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, January 13, during the morning worship service. If you worship with us via television, this service will actually be broadcast on Sunday, January 20, at 8:00 am on KIDY and 10:00 am on My San Angelo. However, we will still have prepackaged elements available which will allow you to participate in the Lord’s Supper as you watch. If you would like to receive a set of these elements, or know someone who would, please contact Becky in the church office at 655-4101 by 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 10 to make arrangements to have the elements picked up at the church or delivered by one of our Deacons.

Deacons, if you are delivering elements to the homebound, those elements will be available for pick up after 10 am on Friday, January 11 for delivery the week of January 14 - 19.

Do this in Remembrance of Me... Sunday, January 13, 2019 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church presents the Annual Organ Concert featuring Monte Maxwell Sunday, January 6 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Monte Maxwell is the Director of Chapel Music and the Chapel Organist at the U.S. Naval Academy Music Department. A native of San Angelo, Monte received his undergraduate degree at Texas Christian University and his graduate degree from the Juilliard School in New York. We look forward to Monte’s annual performance at FBC.

Admission is free and all are welcome!

Donations Appreciated

One of our homebound members, Charles Wilson, was hospitalized recently and had music equipment stolen from his apartment while he was away. The thief has been caught but the police have been unable to locate the missing items. Because Charles is blind, this equipment is especially precious to him. If anyone has a used guitar, drums, CD player, etc. they would be willing to donate, please contact Barbara Rowland at 949-6492.

Lord’s Supper Service

FBC MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
Live at 10:30 am on KCLL 100.1 FM; Rebroadcast at 8 am on KIDY, Cable Channel 10/110 and at 10 am on My San Angelo, Cable Channel 141

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY
11:00 p.m.  FBC Kids Play
TUESDAY
3:30 p.m.  Free 8th, CLC
WEDNESDAY
4:00 p.m.  REACH Youth Hang Time, CLC
4:30 p.m.  Library Open
5:00 p.m.  Mid-Week Meal
6:00 p.m.  Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
6:00 p.m.  Kingdom Kids
6:00 p.m.  REACH Youth Bible Study, CLC
6:45 p.m.  Worship Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY
10:30 a.m.  Glory Choir
2:30 p.m.  Backyard Bible Club @ Ft. Concho
SATURDAY
10:00 a.m.  BRC Highrise Bible Study
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m.  Fellowship Time
9:00 a.m.  Bible Study for all ages
10:30 a.m.  Morning Worship Service
5:00 p.m.  Southern Gospel Worship Service at Baptist Retirement Center
5:00 p.m.  Crossovers, CLC

See page 3 for changes in weekly schedule.

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