



## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART



This week's column is one of Pastor James' articles from the Baptist Standard. You can find other articles at [www.baptiststandard.com](http://www.baptiststandard.com).

### Voices: Lessons I Learned from My Grandparents About Religious Liberty

My grandparents were extraordinary people. I wish you could have known them—my maternal grandparents in particular.

Grandad Hanna was born and raised near Canadian, Texas, and Grandma was reared on a cotton farm outside of Gould, Okla. They were hard workers and had the scars to prove it. Grandad basically was kicked out of the house after high school graduation and wound his way to the Santa Fe Railway yard in Amarillo. There he found Grandma working at the phone company.

The rest is history. They never left Amarillo until they went to heaven and were faithful at Buchanan Street Baptist Church and then First Baptist Church.

I learned a lot about practical theology from the Hannas. I played at their house every Thursday afternoon before kindergarten interrupted the routine. Weekly visits continued, however, until I left for Hardin-Simmons University. Grandad taught me how to fish, tinker with things in the garage, keep a nice yard,

play baseball, develop a love for country music, grill a mean hamburger and pull pranks. It was Grandma's and Grandad's course in theology that stuck the most.

#### Memorable Theology

Here are a few of the more memorable teachings:

- Treat people fairly by taking turns.
- Don't hit, but stand up to a bully.
- Be nice to enemies, and if they don't want to be friends, still be nice.
- You don't have to yell and pitch a fit to prove a point.
- Be committed to the church, and get yourself to Sunday school and worship unless you're sick.
- Give food to the hungry by volunteering your time to do so.
- Be a good citizen by voting and committing to education.
- Give away most of your saved-up money, and take care of your family with the rest. The money is God's anyway.
- Laugh at yourself whenever possible.
- Greet people with a smile and a handshake, never speaking of yourself.
- Enjoy the outdoors, because God created it all.
- And hard times will pass.

#### Religion and Politics

These teachings are just the tip of the iceberg. I could go on a while, but perhaps one of the most important lessons had to do with religion and politics. Yes, we talked about these two things at their house. They weren't bashful. In fact, I think they would be appalled and outspoken about some of the political problems in our nation today, as well as how those problems have spilled over into some of our churches.

Specifically, they would have balked at both the state trying to increase its control over people and the church attempting to co-opt the freedom of conscience for anyone in our country who is not a Christian. Religious liberty is not liberty when someone has no freedom to worship according to the dictates of his/her conscience.

Keep in mind my grandparents were some of the most patriotic people I ever met. Grandad grieved until his death that he could not go overseas in World War II because a blood disorder kept him from the armed forces. His war service, however, was to drive trains.

#### Defending Freedom

They knew it was patriotic for them to defend the freedom of others who were different than they were. Patriotism did not include wrapping a cross in our churches up in a flag. Both biblical and historical evidence show that when we lessen the tension between church and state, every citizen loses, especially those in the minority. When the tension is pulled too tightly, we snap.

Therefore, let's take a lesson from the Hannas in Amarillo.

Don't hit, but stand up to the bully who wants either to keep the church out of the state or to make the state into the church. Stop all the yelling in order to prove your point. Get back into a church that wants to make disciples of the kingdom of God, not the kingdom of America. Give, vote, educate yourself and our kids, greet, laugh, enjoy our land. And remember, these hard times will pass.

*Pastor James*



**April 2**

10:30 A.M.

*Dreams for My Children*

Luke 24:13-34

5:00 P.M.

*What to do When the Pixie Dust Wears Off*

John 10:10

Guest Preacher: Greer Willis

**April 9**

10:30 A.M.

*Excuses*

Luke 14

5:00 P.M.

*Our Messiah*

Isaiah 50:4-9



## BLUE SUNDAY DAY OF PRAYER

**April 30**

Blue Sunday is a national day of prayer when churches recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month - praying for the end of child abuse and neglect, praying for the victims, and praying for those who rescue them.

FBC is joining in on this initiative on April 30 by asking everyone to wear blue that day. We will also have a special time of prayer/testimony.

# First Baptist Church Young Families Picnic



**Hamburgers, hot dogs and sides will be provided; please bring your favorite dessert to share.**

**Sunday  
April 2**

**4:30 - 6:30 pm**

**Christian Life Center  
20 E Harris**

**Everyone will eat together, then there will be supervised games for the kids while the adults talk & share ideas about family ministry at FBC.**

## Scholarship News!

Scholarship packets for first time applicants and second year renewals are now available in the church office. Packets may also be emailed upon request; contact Vince at 655-4101 or smith@fbcsanangelotx.org.

The deadline for applications is April 30.



The food you donated on Super Bowl Sunday was delivered to Rust Street Ministries, who sent us the following letter of appreciation:

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for donating 214 pounds of canned food to Rust Street Ministries. You have partnered with us to help our neighbors in need throughout San Angelo and the Concho Valley. During the month of February, we were blessed to serve:

- 1,998 people with
- 22,640 lbs of food,
- 5,597 articles of clothing,
- and other household items; all without cost.

We appreciate your donation and the opportunity you give us to better provide to the community. Thank you again.

God's Blessings,  
*Bryan Jarvis, Director*

## DEACONS OF THE WEEK

**April 2** Robert Dillard,  
Larry Edgington and Laylan Bratcher

**April 9** Calvin Featherston,  
Ron Galloway, and AJ Deardorff

**April 16** Homer Griffin, Max Hill  
and Griff Griffin



## Books Needed!

**Toddler-age books in good condition are needed in the church nursery. If you have books to donate, please take them to the church office.**

## BIRTHDAYS

### March 29

Vaniece Jacoby  
David Wilcox

### March 30

Mary Bearden  
Lynn Morrison  
Bob Williams

### March 31

Linda Bratcher  
Billie Halbert

### April 1

No FBC Birthdays

### April 2

Carolyn Utt

### April 3

Aldean Alexander  
Grady Harlow  
Lawanna Kiser  
Brenda Ponder  
BeBe Valdez  
Elene Wilson

### April 4

Peggy Hembree  
Buddy Peel

### April 5

No FBC Birthdays

### April 6

Laura Allen  
Jackson Hassell

### April 7

Reagan Gamble  
Jamey West

### April 8

Becky Powers

### April 9

Dinah Cummings  
Dianeth Russell

### April 10

Wilda Abbott  
Darrell Smith

### April 11

Ted Bean

**Happy Belated Birthday to Cristina Martinez and Rick Williams. Their March 27 birthdays were accidentally omitted from the last issue.**

## COMING UP @ FBC

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

11:45 a.m. Homebound Luncheon, First Place

### THURSDAY, MARCH 30

12:00 p.m. Special Sewing Team, First Place

### SUNDAY, APRIL 2

4:30 p.m. Young Families Picnic, CLC

### TUESDAY, APRIL 4

10:00 a.m. Women on Mission, BRC Highrise

### THURSDAY, APRIL 6

12:00 p.m. Special Sewing Team, First Place

### SUNDAY, APRIL 9

5:00 p.m. Lord's Supper Service, Sanctuary

### TUESDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 a.m. Mission Sewing Team, First Place

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

6:00 p.m. Gathering, Fellowship Hall

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

### Mid-Week Meal

### March 29

Chicken tenders, tater tot casserole, mashed potatoes, baked beans, green beans, salad bar & Bob Wilson's Pineapple Dream Dessert

### April 5

Spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken & bacon pasta, steamed Italian vegetables, roasted sweet potatoes, salad bar & dessert

### April 12

Gathering Pot Luck (see p 4 for details)

*Menu is subject to change.*

**BLOCK PARTY**  
**Sunday, April 30**  
**5 pm**  
**Unidad Park**

**More details coming soon!**

## WITH SYMPATHY

*We express our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones:*

**Marion Gibbs** in the death of his wife, Jennie, on March 26.

**Mary Lou Hall** in the death of her husband, John, on March 4.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

### March 19

FBC Sunday School	
Enrollment	773
Attendance	268
Baptist Retirement Center	
High Rise Class	9
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>277</b>

### March 26

FBC Sunday School	
Enrollment	774
Attendance	298
Baptist Retirement Center	
High Rise Class	9
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>307</b>

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### Week Ending March 19

Weekly Budget Needs	\$27,292.37
Tithes and Offerings	\$14,324.56
YTD Budget Needs	\$327,508.38
YTD Tithes & Offerings	\$286,713.26
2017 Budget	\$1,419,203.00

### Week Ending March 26

Weekly Budget Needs	\$27,292.37
Tithes and Offerings	\$13,446.24
YTD Budget Needs	\$354,800.75
YTD Tithes & Offerings	\$300,159.50
2017 Budget	\$1,419,203.00

## INFORMATION NEEDED

If you or a family member is having surgery or is hospitalized for any reason, please make sure to let us know so that the staff may extend pastoral care. Contact Becky Powers at 655-4101 or powers@fbcsanangelotx.org.

## THANK YOU

We want to thank all those who came to our wedding after the church services on March 5. Our baptism and then wedding afterwards was a very important day and your participation in both services meant a great deal to us as new believers in Christ. Thank you again.

*Paul and Shannon Mercer*

Words cannot begin to express my deep appreciation for the love and support you showed my dad in the short time he was at First Church. He loved his Sunday School class and Pastor Hassell. A very special thank you to his class for the reception after his service. There will always be a warm place in my heart for First Church.

God's blessings,  
*Charlotte Lewis*



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

37 E. Harris, San Angelo, Texas • Mail: PO Box 2138, 76902 • Phone: 325.655.4101 • Fax: 325.659.2517 • www.fbcсанangelotx.org

## OUR MINISTRY TEAM

<b>Dr. James Hassell</b> , Pastor	<b>Bill Gillum</b> , Minister of Music	<b>Vince Smith</b> , Minister to Families
<b>Dr. Jerold McBride</b> , Pastor Emeritus	<b>Charlie Millspaugh</b> , Broadcasting & Media Sound Tech	<b>Pam Granger</b> , Food Service Director
<b>Greg Baucom</b> , Director, Child Development Center	<b>Linda Bratcher</b> , Organist	<b>Becky Powers</b> , Pastor's MA
<b>Tom Dufresne</b> , Minister of Broadcast Media	<b>Janet Faulkner</b> , Pianist	<b>Martha Bailey</b> , Minister of Ed/Admin MA
	<b>Rocky Stone</b> , Building Engineer	<b>Mac McC Carson</b> , Financial Director

## 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



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12**  
**6 - 7:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL**

The congregations of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, Primera Iglesia Bautista, and FBC will be joining together for a special Easter Week fellowship. This will replace our normal Wednesday night activities, with children and youth gathering in Fellowship Hall.

Dinner will be an old-fashioned potluck! There are no "assignments"; just bring what you would like to share. Please arrive with your food between 5:15 and 5:30 pm. Dinner will begin at 6 pm and will be followed by music, a devotional, prayer time and fellowship, ending about 7:30 pm.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY

3:30 p.m. Free 8<sup>th</sup>, CLC

### WEDNESDAY

4:30 p.m. Library Open  
 4:15 p.m. REACH Youth Hang Time  
 5:00 p.m. Sunday School Teachers Meeting  
 5:00 p.m. Mid-Week Meal  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids  
 5:45 p.m. REACH Youth Worship, CLC  
 6:00 p.m. Marriage Bible Study  
 6:45 p.m. Worship Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY

10:30 a.m. Glory Choir  
 3:30 p.m. Upper Classmen Open Gym  
 6:00 p.m. Stitches of Love

### 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

See page 3 for changes in weekly schedule.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**9:00 AM**

**EASTER WORSHIP**  
**10:30 AM**

**INVITE FRIENDS WHO MAY NOT HAVE A CHURCH HOME TO WORSHIP WITH US!**



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and the CBF Global Missions Offering  
**\$7,407.00**