

# the STAR

First Baptist Church, Topeka, Kansas

Cheryl Henson, Senior Pastor  
Corey Fields, Associate Pastor  
Joe Barnes, Building Superintendent  
Gwen Martin, Bookkeeper  
Steve Martin, Custodian  
Kay Remyer, Day Care Director  
Sheung Chi Chan, Organist/Pianist  
Verlee Sanneman, Admin. Assistant

Volume XLVIII, Issue 6

March 23, 2011

## *Christianity for the Curious begins Wednesday, March 30*

*by Corey Fields, Associate Pastor*

There was only one type of person to whom Jesus ever spoke a harsh, judgmental word. Do you know who? There was only one type of person Jesus ever threatened with hell. Do you know who it was? There was only one type of person with whom Jesus ever had fierce theological, biblical debates about truth and the nature of God. Have you got the answer yet?

Wait, wait. Before I tell you, think about your own experience. These days, who usually gets the harsh, judgmental word from Christians? Who gets threatened with hell? With whom do we usually have fierce theological, biblical debates?

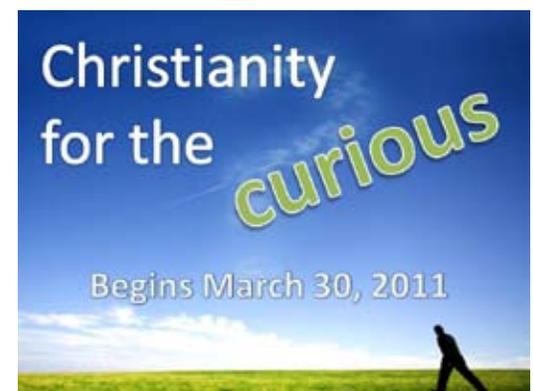
Did you say other Christians? Probably not. But if you did, it might put you closer in line with Jesus. That's right. The only people to whom Jesus ever spoke a harsh, judgmental word, threatened with hell, or had fierce theological disagreements...

...were the religious leaders. The Sadducees and Pharisees. The well-respected, well-established "pastors," "Sunday School teachers," and "church-goers" of his day. The ones who thought they had all the answers and were "in" with God. Those were the ones for whom he had the most frightening warnings. If this doesn't make us uncomfortable, then we're not quite letting it seep in. It wasn't a criminal or someone of another religion to whom Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:3). He said that to someone who had known the scriptures from birth.

Starts to make you wonder: maybe we Christians need to keep working on our humility when it comes to the "sinners"...the people who behave and believe differently than we do.

That's the principle – the hope – behind "Christianity for the Curious," a 5-week series on the basics of Christianity, which begins this Wednesday, March 30 during Wednesday Family Night. We are advertising it to the community and hope you will help us. More than just "Christianity 101," this will be an open forum where questions, doubts, and discussion are permitted. Even though our target audience is those who do not currently attend church, we are inviting any of you as well, and are hoping you'll bring a friend with you who needs a safe place to explore the basics of Christianity and ask questions.

Join us, bring a friend, and be prepared for honest discussion. Please pray – pray not only for the lives we are trying to reach, but for our own, that we might heed the call to "religious humility" that was so strongly a part of Jesus' preaching, and that we might realize that we are just as imperfect and in need of saving as the person next to us.



## Japan Relief

ABC - International Ministries has received word that all of the American Baptist missionaries in Japan are safe. Despite phone service being unavailable in many areas, word is coming in via Facebook and Twitter. Our Japanese partner churches and schools have been affected by the earthquake and resulting tsunami.

One Great Hour of Sharing is accepting contributions for emergency relief and rebuilding efforts. Please make your check payable to First Baptist with "Japan relief" on the memo line. The office has ordered offering envelopes designated as "Japan Relief" and they should be arriving soon.



## Day Care News

by Kay Renyer, Director

The day care children have really been enjoying the warmer weather. We were even able to enjoy our St. Patrick's day parade outside.

We extend a warm welcome to Misty Crouch who has joined our staff. Misty will be working in the wobbler room. We welcome Matthew our newest member in our wobbler room. Thank you to his mom, Beth Crowl for choosing First Baptist Daycare.

Special thanks to Pastors Cheryl and Corey for doing children's church for us every Thursday morning. And, many thanks to you the congregation for your continued support of the day care.



## Schedule of Events – March 24-April 7, 2011

### Thursday, March 24

6:15 p.m. Brass Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

### Friday, March 25

8:00 a.m. ROMEO men's group, Denny's on Wanamaker  
10:00 a.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal  
5:00 p.m. Badminton, CCLC

### Saturday, March 26

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Al-Anon & Alateen Day

### Sunday, March 27

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:45 a.m. ConneXion Gathering  
9:45 & 11 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Common Ground  
4:00 p.m. ABY High School Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. AA - men's group  
7:00 p.m. ConneXion Team Mtg.

### Monday, March 28

5:00 p.m. Badminton, CCLC

### Tuesday, March 29

6:45 a.m. Men's breakfast at Perkins  
9:00 a.m. Professional staff mtg.  
10:45 a.m. Staff mtg.  
11:00 a.m. Senior Walking Group  
Noon Fellowship Lunch, F. H.

### Wednesday, March 30

5:30-7:15 p.m. Wednesday Family Night, F. H.  
7:30 p.m. Prayer Group, Golden Circle Classroom

### Thursday, March 31

6:15 p.m. Brass Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal,

Music Room

### Friday, April 1

8:00 a.m. ROMEO men's group, Denny's on Wanamaker  
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Adventures in Learning  
10:00 a.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal  
5:00 p.m. Badminton, CCLC

### Saturday, April 2

8 a.m. - Noon Church Work Day, RSVP for lunch

### Sunday, April 3

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:45 a.m. ConneXion Gathering  
9:45 & 11 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Common Ground  
4:00 p.m. Activate, meet in the chapel  
7:00 p.m. AA - men's group

### Monday, April 4

5:00 p.m. Badminton, CCLC

### Tuesday, April 5

*Election Day*  
6:45 a.m. Men's breakfast at Perkins  
9:00 a.m. Professional staff mtg.  
10:45 a.m. Staff mtg.  
11:00 a.m. Senior Walking Group  
Noon Fellowship Lunch, F. H.  
6:00 p.m. Search Committee

### Wednesday, April 6

5:30-7:15 p.m. Wednesday Family Night, F. H.  
7:30 p.m. Prayer Group, Golden Circle Classroom

### PIPE ORGAN LESSONS

Our organist Simon is available to teach lessons on the church's pipe organ. If interested contact Simon at 812.391.6897 or [organistsimon@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:organistsimon@yahoo.com.hk)



## UPDATE: America for Christ offering

During March we will be collecting for the America for Christ offering. To date, we have received \$2,390.97. Our goal is \$3,011.00.



### PASTOR ON-CALL SCHEDULE



**March 26-27** — Cheryl Henson, 338-2161  
**April 2-3** — Corey Fields, 230-2648  
For pastoral needs during the week, please call the church office, 267-0380.

# Living as Post-Apple People

by Corey Fields, Associate Pastor

*Pastor Corey was one of six pastors asked to write a reflection for Lent to be posted on the ABCUSA website. His devotion was posted last week on the site. Each week it will feature a new devotion. The final meditation will be written by American Baptist General Secretary Roy Medley. Please visit [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) to review these reflections each week as Easter approaches.*

My 3-year-old son is playing outside. Two older children run off behind a tree and pretend to whisper to each other. They're trying to pick on my son and make him paranoid. But he's too young to get it. He runs around the tree and keeps playing with them, unfazed by their efforts. "Psychological bullying" doesn't work on him yet.

The Old Testament lectionary reading for the First Sunday of Lent 2011 is Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7. Generations have read this story as humanity's early fall from perfection to sinfulness. But every time I just try to read the naked text – for what it says and doesn't say – it sounds more to me like a story of humanity's premature growth from naïveté to awareness.

The fruit (not identified as an apple) that Eve is persuaded to eat by the serpent (not identified as Satan) is said to be from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Adam and Eve eat the fruit and "their eyes were opened" and "they realized they were naked." In the serpent's temptation, he never lies but merely manipulates the truth (a more effective tactic). "You will not actually die," he tells them, and he reveals the reason that God didn't want them to eat of it (which God had not shared). While Adam and Eve's actions clearly constituted disobedience (and therefore sin), verse 22 reveals that God's primary concern was this new special knowledge they gained that



He did not want them to have...at least, not that soon.

My son has not yet eaten many "apples." He's not supposed to yet. Eventually, he will lose his naïveté as he matures. But not yet. There's a proper time. But we adults, who have gained more "knowledge of good and evil," can easily forget our reckless tendencies with this knowledge.

Lent can be a time to reflect on what it means to live as "post-apple" people. With knowledge comes responsibility. The more we know (or claim to know), the less of an excuse we have. As Paul explains in the Romans lectionary reading, "sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law" (5:13). We live in a tension. We know something of good and evil, we are called to be discerning and wise (Proverbs 8:10-11), but Jesus also said that we must seek Him with the reckless trust and naïveté of children (Luke 18:17). Lent is a time to remember our beginnings in the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7) and submit ourselves once again to God as His helpless children who have never known what is best for us.

In the meantime, I love watching my son play in his own little Garden of Eden where there's no pain of rejection and he hasn't felt the shame of "nakedness." He's sitting on Jesus' lap where he's loved and welcomed, the place where we are called to return, if we choose.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are needing a few extra people who enjoy spending time with and taking care of our babies and toddlers in the Nursery rooms.

If interested in helping out an hour on Sunday morning per month (9:45 or 11:00 a.m.), contact Joyce Robinson at 379-9719. There are other times when we might need someone to fill in, for instance during Wednesday Family Night, other church events, or weddings. If you are interested in helping at these times, please contact Patty Hodge at 213-8180.



## ***Blessed by a Faithful Member***

Have you included First Baptist in your will? Mildred Prince, a long time member active in the music and care ministry here at First Baptist, designated a certificate of deposit to come to the church from her estate. The gift is \$31,092.94. The family of Mildred has decided to set up an endowed fund in her honor with the Foundation to benefit our care ministry, and to purchase a new grand piano for

the sanctuary. The members of the committee to select the grand piano include: Carol Beck, Kurt Daniels, Pam Defries, Mary Hardin, Kevin Harry, Sheung Chi Chan, and Corey Fields.



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • April 2011

**Regular Programming This Month:**

**Sundays:**

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
- 9:30-9:45 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic, Rm. 202 (First and Third Sundays only)
- 9:45 a.m. ConneXion Gathering in Chapel
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Faith Forest
- 11:00 a.m. Common Ground in Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 4:00 p.m. High School ABY, Rm. 204 (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)
- 5-7:30 p.m. Activate, chapel (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)
- 7:30 p.m. AA Men's Group

**Mondays:**

- 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Day Care (M-F)
- 5:00 p.m. Badminton, CCLC

**Tuesdays:**

- 6:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Perkins
- 9:00 a.m. Professional Staff Mtg.
- 10:45 a.m. Staff Mtg.
- 11:00 a.m. Senior Walking, CCLC
- 12 noon Fellowship Lunch

**Wednesdays:**

- 5:30-7:15 p.m. Wednesday Family Night, F. H.
- 6:15-7:15 p.m. Middle School ABY, Rm. 204
- 7:30 p.m. Prayer Group, Golden Circle Classroom

**Thursdays:**

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Tech Review, sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

**Fridays:**

- 8:00 a.m. "ROMEO" Men's Group/Denny's on SW Wanamaker Rd.
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Badminton, CCLC

 = Child care provided

 = Child care provided

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>*Ministry Team Mtgs. (April 12)</b> 5:30 p.m. Day Care Policy 6-7 p.m. Service, Property, and Evangelism 7:15-8:15 p.m. Care, Finance, Adult Education and Recreation				9 a.m.-1 p.m. SCT Adventures in Learning 10 a.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room	8 a.m.-Noon Church Clean-up Day, RSVP for lunch
11 a.m. ConneXion Luncheon 4 p.m. Activate, gather in the chapel	6 p.m. Pastor Search Committee Mtg.	<i>Primary Election</i>			9 a.m.-1 p.m. SCT Adventures in Learning 10 a.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room	9:30 a.m. Jane Circle, F. H. 10 a.m. Young Adult Egg Coloring Party, Gage Train Park
	<i>ABCCR Minister's Council Retreat at Cross Wind</i>				<i>Spring Women's Retreat at The Barn</i>	
4-6:30 p.m. High School ABY, Rm. 204		<b>*Ministry Team Mtgs. (See above for schedule.)</b>	4:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Team Mtg.	6 p.m. Worship Comm. Mtg..	9 a.m.-1 p.m. SCT Adventures in Learning 10 a.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room	
4 p.m. High School ABY, Rm. 204 7 p.m. Foundation Mtg.			9:30 a.m. Esther Shaffer Circle, M. Cress' home, 4424 SE Pennsylvania Ave. 7:30 p.m. Board of Ministries	7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, sanctuary	<i>No SCT Adventures in Learning</i> 10 a.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room	
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service <i>No 8:30 a.m. Trad. Service</i> 8:30 a.m. Breakfast, RSVP 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. ConneXion Gathering 11:00 a.m. Common Ground			<i>ABCCR Senior Adult Retreat at Cross Wind</i>			
			9 a.m. White Cross		9 a.m.-1 p.m. SCT Adventures in Learning 10 a.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room	

*Please remember in your prayers...*



Darci Barrett; Cliff Beutler; family of Don Burman; Byron & Helen Brunkow; Joey Campbell; Ann Cousins; Brad Johnson; Rebecca Jones; Jim & Ethel Krieg; Josh Kutter; Evelyn Leesman; George & Edith McGurk; Dean Owen; family of Gustavo Parajón; Ken Peery; Avanelle Roseberry; Mary Jo Roush's father passed away; Lynn Van Stone's mother passed away; Rick Willoughby; Patti Young; Jim Zahourek; the caregivers; our shut-ins; and our pastoral search committee.

***In Sympathy*** —

We recently received word that Gustavo Parajón died Saturday, March 12. Parajón, a medical doctor, clergyman, and a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, was a prominent figure in Nicaraguan evangelical and medical circles. Parajón founded two major organizations. PROVADENIC (Nicaragua Vaccination and Community Development Program), founded in 1967, was started in partnership with the First Baptist Church of Cleveland in the United States, the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention and the First Baptist Church of Managua. Condolences maybe to be sent to his son and wife, Drs. David and Laura Parajón. Their address is: APDO Postal 5051, Managua, Nicaragua.

***Historical Happenings***

*by Gwen Martin, bookkeeper*

- On Easter Sunday in 1975 there was a 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Crestview Park, worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., and a Resurrection Celebration at 7:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn Downtown.
- On Palm Sunday in 1980, 22 new members were welcomed into our congregation.
- On Easter Sunday in 1990, a 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service was held on our north lawn. Worship services were at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

***Betty Joe Morris is a Winner!***

In our last newsletter we had a contest to see who could find the “intentional error” in that issue. The intentional error was in the “Kids 4 Kids” article on page 7. The article mentioned the children in Faith Forest had raised \$100 to purchase two donkeys. The children actually were collecting money for GOATS, not donkeys, for families in Haiti.



Besides Betty Joe, winner of the drawing, who found the error were: Chelsea Daniels, Winnie Davis, Dayna Fields, Patty Hodge, Mary Petrik, Laura Semler, Gayle Smith, and Michiko Snell.

***— Sunday Report —***

***Sunday, March 13, 2011***

Sunday School.....	139
Morning Worship.....	250
Budget Receipts.....	\$ 7,188.00
Building Fund (Retire Debt).....	\$ 325.00
Gifts (memorials, missionaries, White Cross, and etc.).....	\$ 540.00
America for Christ Offering.....	\$ 367.00

***Sunday, March 20, 2011***

Sunday School.....	114
Morning Worship (All Services).....	249
Budget Receipts.....	\$ 7,486.00
Building Fund (Retire Debt).....	\$ 730.00
Gifts (memorials, missionaries, White Cross, and etc.).....	\$ 340.00
America for Christ Offering.....	\$ 402.00
Japan Relief.....	\$ 320.00

***Thank You!***

Every Upward season, I'm amazed and humbled by the commitment of the volunteers who make it happen. So, while “thank you” doesn't seem sufficient and even though I can't name every person, I want to offer my sincere appreciation to everyone who volunteered with the Upward program this past winter. It was a very positive, successful season, and the feedback from parents reflected that. Thank you so much!

— *Pastor Corey*

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for the pretty flowers that have been helping keep my room cheery all week. I do appreciate you thinking of me and have really enjoyed looking at the lovely arrangement.

— *June Anderson*

Thank you church family for all the kindnesses extended after the recent death of my father. Your cards, messages, flowers, thoughts and prayers of support were greatly appreciated and truly felt. May God continue to bless you beyond what these words could possibly strive to convey.

— *Mary Jo Roush*

We are very grateful for your prayers, telephone calls, visits, cards and the flowers delivered by Joan Kerchner during Jim's recent 'episode.' The visits and prayers by Pastor Cheryl and Pastor Corey were very encouraging.

— *Jim & Letha Zahourek*

Thank you for the outpouring of leadership, planning, love, hard work and strategy of so many that was given to our new nursery update and relocation. The wee ones and adults enjoyed their first Sunday in the new rooms with its blend of familiar and yet new space. We were the blessed recipients of so many fun and also practical gifts. Our church family truly loves and has not only said it, but shown it.

We also want to thank those who stopped into visit us last Sunday, and invite those of you who haven't to please do so. You're welcome any time!

— *Children's Ministry Team*

**First Baptist Church**  
**3033 SW MacVicar Ave.**  
**Topeka, KS 66611-1899**

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The First Baptist Star, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave., Topeka, KS 66611-1899.

*Note: Dated Material Enclosed*

**— Looking Ahead —**

**The tomb is empty! Christ is risen!**



*Come join us as we  
celebrate Jesus' resurrection!*  
**Easter Sunday - April 24**

- 7:30 a.m. *Sunrise Service*
- 8:30 a.m. *Breakfast (Please contact the church office to RSVP.)*
- 9:45 a.m. *ConneXion Gathering*
- 9:45 a.m. *Adult Sunday School*
- 9:45 a.m. *Faith Forest*
- 11:00 a.m. *Common Ground*

## Maundy Thursday Service

PERFORMED BY THE  
CHANCEL CHOIR  
DIRECTED BY RICK KREADY  
APRIL 21 • 7:00 P.M.  
SANCTUARY



## CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

April 2 ◆ 8 a.m.-Noon  
*A light lunch will be served.*  
*Sponsored by the Service Committee.*

*Some of the projects include:*

- Clean kitchen appliances
- Scrub the cabinets in the kitchen
- Machine scrub all the chairs in the Fellowship Hall and Café
- Install landscaping timbers along the concrete in the playground to prevent erosion
- Clean all the blinds in the daycare rooms.
- Clean, wash and wax the church van
- Several painting jobs
- Polish all the wood work in front of the sanctuary, and all of the oak doors
- Clean and sanitize the nursery toys
- Varnish the chair closet doors in the parlor
- Clean out the parlor closet