



FIRST CHRONICLES

November, 2024

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” – Ephesians 4:11-12

I don't know if you remember this, but when I came as a candidate over 3 years ago, the passage I spoke out of was Ephesians 4:11-16. The primary reason I chose this passage was because it lies at the foundation of my philosophy of ministry. This is a core part of who I am as a pastor and it continues to inform everything that I do at First Baptist.

There are two groups of people described in these verses: a group of leaders and a group of saints. First, Christ has placed leaders in the church for a specific reason. He doesn't gift leaders to the church just for organizational purposes—but so that these leaders can serve the body. The way these leaders serve is to provide equipping to the saints. This equipping can include explaining what the Bible means, how to study the Bible, how to pray, how to worship, what tools for evangelism exist and how those tools can be used, and so on. As a pastor, my primary function is to equip the saints. Who are the saints?

Put simply, you are—and me too. Biblically, the word “saint” means “set apart by or for God.” This word is applied to every single believer. Any person who places their faith and trust in Christ is set apart by God as His—we become a part of His family and His kingdom. So, the term “saints” includes you and it includes me. So, my function is to equip you. Why?

There are two reasons given in verse 12—it's so that you will do the work of ministry AND so that the body of believers will be built up. What does the work of ministry include? It includes teaching kids about Jesus, teaching others what the Bible means, visiting the sick, praying with the hurting, counseling the confused, evangelizing the lost, and much more. What does building up the body of believers include? It includes encouraging, comforting, supporting, and fellowshiping with one another. Now, this doesn't mean that only you do these things and I don't do any of these things. Remember, I'm still a saint too and this is my call just as much as it is yours. But in addition to these things, I'm also supposed to equip you to be able to do them as well. We are called to serve together.

Unfortunately, I don't have room here to dive into every facet of this passage, but the encouragement that comes out of it remains: we need to be equipped so we can do the work and build each other up. Some opportunities that exist for this equipping to occur are through Sunday School, Sunday morning service, Sunday evening service (Discipleship U), AWANA, Youth Group, Wednesday Night prayer meeting, and small groups. Plug into one. Plug into a few of them. And together, we will grow in Christlikeness and be a light in our area.

In Christ,
Jesse

OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
Sunday, November 3 Greg & Sharon DeBoer	Sunday, November 3 Donna DeBoer	Sunday, November 3 Sarah Gruis
Sunday, November 10 Stan & Crystal deBoer Judy Eben	Sunday, November 10 Alyssa den Hoed	Sunday, November 10 Katie DeBoer
Sunday, November 17 Jim & Sharon Douglass	Sunday, November 17 Judy Eben	Sunday, November 17 Rachel Kramer
Sunday, November 24 Bryan & Rachel Kramer	Sunday, November 24 Katie DeBoer	Sunday, November 24 Kayla Reck

*Thank You
So Much*

Just to know that in countless ways our family and friends are with us, make the way easier. Thank you - The Family of Larry Reck

Thank you for the acknowledgement and gift for my years of service as camp nurse. I want to thank our church family for all the prayers and the financial support of the camp kids over the years. The lives of kids can be changed at camp! Thank you for thinking of me!
- Judy Eben



November	1	Brandon DeBoer
	3	Janice Schneidermann JoAnn Schneiderman
	4	Hannah Kramer
	18	Jim & Sharon Douglass Sharilyn Reemtsma
	23	Brenan Schneidermann
	25	Kelly DeBoer
	27	Eric Gruis Lena Ruddy
	30	Brad & Ashley Van Tubergen



Rick and Debbie Bardin, NAB Missionaries in Cameroon

It has been 8 years since the socio-political conflict started in their region of Cameroon. The conflict has had a major impact on their hospital and daily life. Frequent roadblocks or threats of insecurity have often prevented patients from having access to hospitals. Yet God has been with them through it all and continues to hold them up.

They are thankful for the progress and growth in their Christian Internal Medicine Residency Specialization (CIMS) Program. With the retirement of their CIMS director, the CIMS program is now led by 3 former CIMS graduates. Their Cameroon staff has increased as their missionary staff has decreased over the past 15 years.

Although this latest newsletter from them is dated August 2024, they still need prayers for open roads and an end to the conflict, training for radiation therapy techs and new, well-trained, enthusiastic workers for the path lab and new staff as the work increases.

Mission Board



- We will be packing boxes for Operation Christmas Boxes after church on Sunday, November 10 after a soup and pie lunch. If you have any other donations, please refer to the list in the Foyer. We hope to pack 100 boxes! Group 5 is asked to work in the kitchen.
- The Annual Business Meeting will be Sunday, November 24, following the morning service.

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Discipleship U	4	5	6 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	7	8 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission	9
10 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Music Board Mtg 11:15 AM Soup & Pie Luncheon Pack Shoe Boxes	11	12 7:00 PM Ladie's Night 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	13 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	14	15	16
17 MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Discipleship U	18	19	20 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	21	22	23
24 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir 10:00 AM Worship Business Meeting 6:30 PM Discipleship U Bday/Anniv Celeb	25	26	27 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 THANKSGIVING DAY	29	30