

HELICOPTER EGG DROP IS DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR - 10:15AM



Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Castroville
April 2017

Only 1 service at 10:45 am **Palm Sunday service will be powerful, somber**

Our Palm Sunday service on April 9 will be one that you probably have never experienced.

It recreates the agony of the events of Jesus' last hours as He headed to the Cross.

"The point is to be somber and reflective," Pastor Joel Warren said. "There will be some scenes from The Passion of the Christ." The scenes will have background music rather than the graphic sounds from the movie.

There will not be our usual joyful singing, and everyone will partake of The Lord's Supper, Pastor said. There will be scripture readings rather than a sermon.

You will be able to physically touch the Crown of Thorns and other items used during the betrayal, abandonment and agony of our Lord's trials and crucifixion.

The congregation will leave in silence.

Pastor Joel encourages you to attend the service to understand the grief that Jesus suffered so you can share in the joyful experience of Our Risen Lord on Easter Sunday.

Because of the nature of this service, Pastor Joel is recommending that parents send their children to Children's Church, which may be held in the Chapel since the number of children who attend may be more than usual. Children through 9 years old can go to Children's Church on that day, but if parents want older children to go to the Chapel, they can.

This service is known as a Tenebrae service. FBC-Castroville will have only one service that day – at 10:45 a.m. Sunday School will precede it at 9:30 a.m. The Easter Services will be at our regular 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. times with the Helicopter Easter Egg Drop between the services.

Special Worship Services

Easter Egg Drop

Search Committee Update

APRIL

- April 5 (Wed)** – Preview of *The Case for Christ* Movie, 6:30pm, Worship Center.
- April 9 (Sun)** – Palm Sunday. One Service, 10:45am. Sunday School, 9:30am.
- April 13 (Thur)** – Prime Timers Lunch at Bill Miller, 11:30am.
- April 16 (Sun)** – Easter Services, 9 & 11:15am. Continental Breakfast, 9:30-11am. Helicopter Easter Egg Drop, 10:15am.
- April 20 (Thur)** – Food Truck, 10am. Volunteers needed at 8:30am.
- April 21-23 (Fri-Sun)** – Youth D-Now Weekend.
- April 22 (Sat)** – Distribution to Homeless. Leave church at 8:30am.
- April 23 (Sun)** – Church Council after 2nd service.
- April 26 (Wed)** – Pack food for pantry, 10am. Business Meeting, 7pm.
- April 30 (Sun)** – Taco Sunday during Sunday School hour. Baptism at second service. Fifth Sunday Singing, 6pm.



- May 7 (Sun)** – Church Picnic on Church Grounds, after 2nd service.
- May 14 (Sun)** – Baby/Child Dedication on Mothers Day.
- June 12-15** – Children's Camp, Alto Frio.
- July 23-27 (Sun-Thu)** – Vacation Bible School.

Youth/Music Search Committee Update

By Daniel McDowell, Chair

Youth/Music Minister Search Committee

This committee was originally seeking a part-time Youth Minister, but revised its charge to seek a full-time Youth/Music Minister last November and has been reviewing resumes for that dual role.

The committee has faithfully sought out a number of candidates over the past several months and engaged in a number of interactions largely via e-mail and telephone communications that have ended in one party or the other parting ways in discernment of God's will for the church and community.

Some of the reasons that candidates have withdrawn interest or the committee has elected to decline going to the next phase include: a poor fit, lack of experience/qualifications, a decision to take another offer from a sister church, disinterest in geographic location, difficulty in balancing job requirements, and/or other extraneous factors/personal/undisclosed reasons.

The position has been widely advertised in *The Baptist Standard*, the BGCT minister connection (TexasBaptists.org), Baylor/Truett Ministry Connection, Logsdon Seminary Minister Connection, SABA newsletter, and the internal church newsletter.

The position is still being advertised and has not been retracted. No other candidates have currently expressed interest, but we are reviewing 3-5 more prospects actively seeking a position that we will be reaching out to soon to determine if they are a fit.

There have been about 3 candidates/applicants that we have identified as potential fit/hire that we have reached out to for interview, but have since withdrawn candidacy and/or accepted other offers.

The qualities we are seeking are:

- Bachelor's Degree, preferably in Ministry/Religion with 5-10 years experience,
- family-oriented,
- youth-focused,
- musically inclined with past experience leading worship in a youth or church setting,
- preferably ordained and theologically aligned with the BGCT and/or SBC, and
- preaching/teaching experience to fill the pulpit when pastor is out.

We have reviewed 26 resumes, but that included people interested in just the youth position before the church decided to seek a dual role. Approximately 5 expressed interest, but many accepted other offers or were in negotiations for closer regional locations than us based on their current location.

YOUTH/MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE

Daniel McDowell, Chair
Lindsay Carnes
Jo Anna Franke
Betty Holt
Christian Martinez

Kayte Pace
Justin Russell
Susan Sandoval
Pastor Joel Warren,
Ex-Oficio

Some of the questions we are including on a questionnaire to determine an applicant's eligibility for an interview are:

- Describe your current approach to spiritual formation.
- Tell us about accepting Christ as your personal Savior.
- What training and experience do you have in music ministry?
- Describe the diversity of some of the youth groups with which you have worked (race, theology, sexual orientation, etc.)
- What activities characterize your evangelistic interest? What is your approach to personal evangelism?
- How do you describe your teaching style?

It is difficult to commit to a timetable when the position will be filled since the committee is not confident with one candidate yet. As much as we all want to see the position filled, we want to ensure that we do not settle or rush into anything or anyone in whom we are not confident due to a relatively small pool of refined and qualified applicants.

We are hoping for some forthcoming developments as we move into a new season where mobility is higher for many that are in ministry in the spring and summer months.

The committee is meeting a minimum of once per month face-to-face and with regularity multiple times a month in a group e-mail forum. We also utilize a Dropbox account where collaboration to review digital resumés, committee meeting minutes and agendas, etc., can be reviewed by all personnel in a centralized location. We are asking candidates to provide sermon audio and videos of themselves leading worship or a self-recorded performance of their musical ability. We have set a maximum threshold of no more than 5 meetings a month which we anticipate will come into play full-circle as we close in on final interview phases.

I hope this provides a climate check for our committee status and is indicative of the efforts to date.

We are confident that God's perfect timing will lead us to the right candidate when the time comes and are grateful to be a part of the process for developing our student and music ministries.



Children highlighted in March 5 service

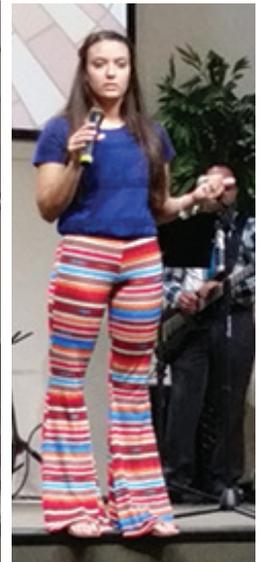
TOP: The children's large group sang scripture along with choreography led by Children's Music Ministry Leaders Matthew Waechter and Allison Sostarich.

RIGHT: Quartet, from left, Jordyn Russell, Emma Basinger, Ariel McDonel and Avery Wilks wa led by Children's Cantata Director Pat Becker.

FAR RIGHT: Brittany Church gave her testimony about how starting a Children's Ministry helped lead her to the Lord.

The Children's AWANA program served as ushers and greeters, holding the doors and passing the offering plates, led by AWANA Directors Charlie and Cheryl Carnes.

Children's Minister Debra McDonel ended the service by asking the congregation to help lead more children to the Lord



through the Children's Ministry. Children stood outside the sanctuary with envelopes numbered \$1 to \$100. Members could then pick an envelope and insert that designated amount. That effort

raised \$2,715.45. All donations help support the Children's Ministry and all that they do to help reach more children in our community through Bible-based programs to hide God's word in their hearts.

*Easter Bunny
is coming
via Helicopter*



The Third Annual Helicopter Easter Egg Drop is an outreach event that reaches children and parents from all around Medina and Bexar counties.

We've spread the word through postcards mailed to homes, flyers sent home with school children, flyers in utility bills, articles in the media, our website and Facebook, and our internal communications.

After the first service, we'll gather on the hill. Children will be divided into age groups. They will stand behind the "starting line" for their age group, waiting for the helicopter to scatter eggs throughout the area.

Construction fence will keep the older kids from invading the little kids' areas so everyone has an equal opportunity to gather lots and lots of candy-filled eggs. Please encourage your guests to bring their own Easter baskets or bags to collect their eggs.

Then we invite our visitors to hear about The Big Event during the second worship service.

Thanks to all in our congregation who donated eggs and candy for one of our most anticipated events!

IN THE LOOP

If you miss a Sunday – or want to hear a special **sermon** again – an **audio version** is now on the website under the What's Happening tab.

Do you ever wonder how to convince someone that Christ really did exist? That the Bible isn't just a nice story? That God is real and still is active in today's world?

Then you might want to hear from Lee Strobel, a former atheist, who set out in the 1980s to prove that God was a fairy tale.

This investigative reporter wrote a book that has been made into a movie as Lee explains how he used facts to prove that God does exist and that Jesus is real.

The book has been made into a movie, "**The Case for Christ**," which will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, in our Worship Center. It is being released in theaters this month.

Strobel, as a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, set out to discredit Christianity after his wife converted.

As reporters do, he talked to a lot of people and asked a lot of questions. He read a lot of books and picked apart the Bible.

"We can't have absolute proof about virtually anything in life," he wrote. But his investigation persuaded him to believe in Christ.

Don't expect a documentary. This is a personal story about how it impacted his relationships with

his wife and other family members.

And now he is a teaching pastor at The Woodlands Church in Houston and Professor of Christian Thought at Houston Baptist University.

Our Youth are embarking on a weekend that changes lives.

D-Now (Disciple Now) Weekend is April 21-23.

A deposit of \$30 is due by April 5 to reserve a spot and to receive a T-shirt.

They will stay with host families during a weekend filled with Bible study, mission experiences, powerful worship led by outside leadership, and tons of fun.

If you have an infant or small child that you have not publicly dedicated to the Lord, please contact the church office. We will be having **Baby/Child Dedication** on Mother's Day, May 14.

We provide mementoes of the event, so please register with the Church Office.

The **Church Picnic** will on Sunday, May 7, after the worship service.

The church will provide fried chicken and burgers. Families should bring side dishes.

Food, fun, games and wonderful fellowship with your entire church family – not just those who attend the same worship service as you – will make this a great day.

The church has adopted a new **Facilities Usage Policy** that provides discounts for members to use the Chapel, Education Center and Worship Center for events.

The policy deals with requirements such as security police at large events, clean-up of the facility, use of an event coordinator, and what musical equipment or decorations can be moved.

Please consult with the church staff when planning weddings, baby showers, or other private events.

With a goal of 200 children attending **Vacation Bible School** (VBS) this summer, Children's Minister Debra McDonel needs volunteers!

"Galactic Starveyors" will be from Sunday-Thursday, July 23-27, from 6-8 p.m.

If you're willing to help in any area (decorating, crafts, music, recreation, lessons), please sign up with the team in the Children's Department or contact Debra at 830-212-1703.

This newsletter is the leadership's way to keep you "in the loop." To submit items, send to gcarnes2@satx.rr.com. Deadline is the Sunday after the monthly Business Meeting. It is sent via email and is available on the What's Happening tab of the church website. Printed copies are available at the Welcome Center in the Worship Center foyer.

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Website: www.fbccastroville.com

Facebook: First Baptist Church of Castroville



FBC-Castroville first met at the building that now is City Hall. The group's first permanent building was where the current Post Office is located.