



**Week of Prayer: March 7–14**

**Church Goal: \$15,000**

“The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) is the primary way we support mission efforts in North America. One hundred percent of gifts given to AAEO are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving across the United States and Canada.”

—North American Mission Board

Donate at [fbcep.com/give](http://fbcep.com/give) or mail donations to the church office using the address below.

Learn more about the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering at [anniearmstrong.com](http://anniearmstrong.com).

**February Giving**

**2020**

**Budgeted** \$134,101

**Received** \$133,105

**2021**

**Budgeted** \$132,871

**Received** \$109,240 (est.)

**Ways to Give**

- Text “Give” to (915)975-7300
- Online at [fbcep.com](http://fbcep.com)
- First Baptist Church El Paso Mobile App
- Mail Gift to:  
805 Montana Ave.  
Attn: Finance  
El Paso, TX 79902



*Attitude of Gratitude*

**by Dr. Robert Nickell, Executive Pastor**

**“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.”**  
Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)

In 1999, Kathleen and I had the privilege of going to Europe. Before our trip we asked friends, neighbors, family who had gone before, what to expect. Some said, “The French are snooty,” “the Italians don’t like Americans,” and “the Germans are rude.” That was not our experience. Most Europeans were kind, gracious and helpful, but then we didn’t expect to be treated any differently than we were at home.

In 2007, Kathleen and I moved to El Paso to help our daughter with, eventually, four grandsons. Three of those grandsons were born in El Paso and have known nothing else; the oldest was four when he arrived in the Sun City. Again, we asked people about El Paso and we received numerous responses. But, one more time, we went expecting nothing more than to be accepted for who we are...and you did.

When I retire fully the end of March, I will be within two days of my 72nd Birthday and near our 14th anniversary in El Paso. You have made the transition a time of joy and excitement for us. You have treated us like family and we appreciate it. We are not planning on moving, but remaining “home” in El Paso. We have gone through too much together in 13 years to do nothing less than remain faithful to FBC and the community of El Paso.

We are grateful for your love, acceptance, kindness and support for my family, immediate and extended. We will continue to live among you with an attitude of gratitude. That is how we came in and that is how we shall remain. We love you.

—Bob & Kathleen Nickell

Retirement  
*Celebration*

**Celebrating Dr. Bob and Kathleen Nickell**

Sunday, March 28 in Price Hall

## **FBC Youth—Moving Forward!**

by **Jeremy Kroeker, Minister of Youth**



It's still hard to believe that we are almost a whole year into the shifts that COVID-19 has brought upon our world

and our church. It feels like things are changing week to week, and FBC Youth has been at work to help our students experience God, grow in their faith, and reach out to others. Here's a quick recap of where we've been, where we are, and where we are going:

- One of our core values for FBC Youth is that "we are a family," and since April 2020, our team of adult leaders and student leaders have worked really hard to keep that value up! Through online Bible study times, weekly check-ins with students and their families, text group devotions, and a variety of home visits and gift deliveries, as well as opportunities for students to be part of video projects for our church, we were able to maintain steady involvement of students in FBC Youth even though national and local trends showed a significant decrease in virtual church participation. Our online options even gave us a chance to stay connected with several students who recently moved out of state, and we've had participants join us regularly from Virginia, Tennessee, and Missouri!
- Now in 2021, we have been increasing our opportunities for students to connect in person through Sunday school and our new event taking place on Wednesday evenings called "The Mix." This event gives us a great place to invite friends from school and youth in the FBC neighborhood to our Price Hall gym area for a time to hang out, play games and activities, and discuss life issues through the lens of the Bible. We look forward to how God will use this time to help us continue becoming "world changers," which is one of our other core values for FBC Youth.
- Plans for the rest of this year are still a bit uncertain, but we are looking for the best ways to maintain health and safety while taking steps forward to serve our community and the world. We will be working closely with our FBC Missions Committee to plan local service projects and outreaches in the coming months, and we are hoping to connect with several other local church youth ministries to plan a Summer Camp event in June. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your continued prayer and support. God is working in the lives of our students, and we are doing our best to join with Him in what He wants to do in them and through them for His glory! We feel the love and support of our church family, and we are so glad to be part of FBC's mission of "building bridges" that connect people with the love and the life of Jesus!

## **UPWARD 2021**

by **Martha Jackson, Minister of Preschool & Children**



March 6th will be the last of our Game Days for this year's season of UPWARD Basketball & Cheerleading, and I can't stop praising God for His provision and protection.

The UPWARD mission is to promote the discovery of Jesus through sports. This is accomplished through healthy competition and sportsmanship while teaching valuable life lessons.

FBC has been partnering with UPWARD Sports for many years because it gives us the opportunity to connect with our community and plant seeds of the Gospel in the life of children and their family.

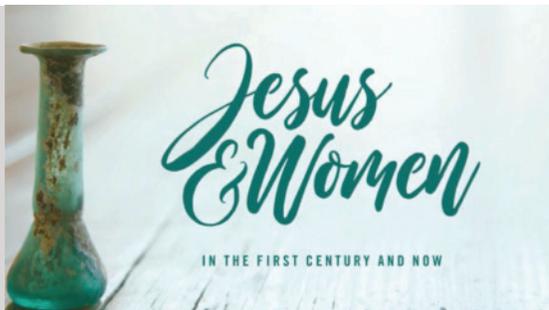
For that reason and after much prayer, many planning and discussion meetings, numerous adjustment and changes of policies and procedures, we thought it was important that this year we do all we could to provide a safe place for kids to play and cheer and recover a little normalcy, something that was elusive for the last ten months.

I thank God for providing everything we needed for this season including all the volunteers.

I want to give a word of appreciation to Tom and Denise Trumbull for their desire to serve God by leading this ministry for the past three years. Their hard work and dedication in our Church was contagious and their love for people was evident each week as they interact with kids and adults.

Thank you also to all the volunteers that made this season happen. To all our coaches, assistant coaches, referees, hall monitors, concession helpers, security, cleaning, sanitation, set-up/tear-down crew, thank you! We couldn't have done it without you.

Church family, thank you for your prayers and your support. Together let's praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below.



### Ladies' Spring Bible Study March 11–April 29

Thursdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

"Imagine walking the dusty roads of Galilee with Jesus of Nazareth—braving jostling crowds just to touch the edge of His cloak and hear Him say, 'Take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you.' Those words, once meant to comfort a hurting woman's soul thousands of years ago, were also meant for you."

Ladies are invited to join this 8-week Bible study, facilitated by Donna Curlin and Deanna McSwain, each Thursday morning in person or via Zoom. Books are \$15 each and may be purchased in the church office. Childcare will be available by reservation. Call the church office to RSVP.

**...for the LORD will be your confidence  
and will keep your foot from being  
caught.**

—Proverbs 3:26

### New Member

Jody Thornton, by statement

### Sympathy

- Susie Shinaut and Cindy Aboud in the passing of their mother, Valentine Hahn.
- Phil and Karen Walls in the passing of his mother, Alice Walls.
- Leticia Medrano in the passing of her brother, David Hernandez.

### Dates to Remember

- 3/14—Spring Forward Time Change
- 3/15–19—Spring Break
- 3/21 @3:30 p.m.—Deacons' Meeting

### Women on Mission in March

The WOM leadership team will present the Women on Mission (WOM) Meeting by zoom March 2, 2021, from 11:00-12:00 am which is the first Tuesday of the month. We will also continue the email newsletter. Sherry Maxsom will host the zoom meetings. I will send the zoom link information later in a separate email.

**Mission Service Projects for March:** • Giving to Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missionaries. FBC goal \$15,000. The week of Prayer for North American Missions is March 7-14. • Contributions to Kelly Memorial Food Pantry and Jardin de Milagros (garden of miracles). They raise vegetables and give to Kelly Memorial Food Pantry. Contributions can be given online at fbcep.com or send to FBC, Attn: Finance, 805 Montana, El Paso, Tx 79902.

**Pray for Missionaries Passage:** Genesis 45:1-15

What I love about this story is seeing it in its entirety and knowing God's plan for Joseph played out through some really dire circumstances. It's possible you have walked through some hard times in your life. Take comfort in knowing the same God who worked things together for good in Joseph's story is doing the same with your story, whether you see the results of that in your lifetime or not.

Joseph could not have known all God planned for him as he sat in a pit thinking he would die. Then when he was rescued only to be sold into slavery, he might have wished to die instead. But God had much bigger plans, and as we see in verse 8, Joseph realized it was God who sent him to Egypt, not his brothers. Joseph's good character and sharp mind led him to a place of leadership, and God's prophetic words through Joseph led to salvation for Egypt and the people of God through Joseph's work. Joseph's love for his family and God made him relentless in his work and generosity. Pray today, and ask God to show you His plan for you in a situation you are facing.

**Prayer Focus:** Central Asian Peoples, Esma, a woman in Central Asia, has many unanswered questions about religion. Her family recently shared the story of Adam and Eve and God's plan to redeem humankind. Pray Esma would consider the spiritual truths her family shared and would look to God's Word for answers. North American Mission Board: New Mexico, Mark Dunn, Ontario: Gene Ridenour. International Mission Board: American Peoples, ES, Charlotte Wester, Central Asian Peoples: KS, East Asian Peoples: ME, HN, European Peoples: Earl Pinkston, Kyle Roy, Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples: JS, WS, South Asian Peoples: JC, Southeastern Asian Peoples: SJ, LT, Global Resource Team SS, Chaplains, Volunteers, State Convention Missionaries, Retired NAMB, Bertha Gonzalez, Anita Green, Mary Henson, Alice Lawton, Don Lee, Marie Ramirez, Frank Shope, Brenda Smith, Tom Sykes. Retired IMB: Jackie Bursmeyer, Betty Hogue, Barbara Randolph, Murray Smith, Barbara Workman.

—Martha Caldwell, Director, WMU, and Pat Murtland, WOM Facilitator.