



Dear Bel-Aire Family,

Happy Fall! Autumn is always a great time of the year on the Gulf Coast. Speaking of seasons, this has been a season of change for all of us. As you know, we have had several ministry changes at Bel-Aire recently. My heartfelt desire is to explain why a few ministries look different since we have returned after Covid-19. Please allow me to answer some of the questions I have been asked.

1. Why do we no longer offer Children's Church for kids in first and second grade?

(Children's church is currently available for ages 4-5 years from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) We believe there is value in young children worshiping in an environment that is intentionally designed for their level of understanding. We are working on a systematic plan to revamp our children's ministries. In the meantime, we encourage families to bring their children age 6+ to worship, pick up a children's activity booklet in the foyer, and set the example for what it looks like to worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth. Children understand more than we give them credit for. There's a lot to be learned in "big church." The cry room and foyer are available during the 9:00 a.m. service if you need to step away.

2. Why did we move AWANA to Wednesday nights? (AWANA is currently held every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.) There are three primary reasons for this change. Most importantly, it is good to have discipleship opportunities for all ages on the same night, at the same time, in the same place. This is a benefit for many Bel-Aire families and guests who may be attending. Moving AWANA to Wednesday night allows all of our families to participate in MFRO (Multi-Family Residential Outreach) events which will primarily be scheduled for Sunday evenings. Moving AWANA to Wednesday nights also allows workers to be able to attend Member Meetings, MFRO functions, and other special events that may meet on Sunday nights.

3. Why are our youth no longer serving in AWANA? We understand that AWANA has been a valuable time for our students to participate in assisting leaders. It is also important for our students to spend time with their peers digging deeper into God's Word on Wednesday nights. We fully intend to provide our students with new ministry opportunities to make disciples through MFRO and other areas in the church.

4. Will we resume Sunday night Services? (Corporate Prayer is currently being held on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 4:30 p.m.) Moving forward, we do not intend

to resume Sunday night services at the church. We are, however, commanded by the Lord Jesus to *go and make disciples*. (Matthew 28:19-20) Sunday nights are free so that families can spend time making disciples. It's a time to go into our neighborhoods and build relationships with people in the community through our MFRO ministry. (There is a place for every age to serve and we hope you will consider plugging in.) Sunday night is a time to focus on *relational evangelism* with your family, your neighbors, friends, and co-workers. Sunday night is a time to have family worship at home before you prepare to start another week. Sunday nights will be a consistent time slot for us to *make disciples*.

Each of these changes have been bathed in much prayer and implemented with one purpose in mind: *to make disciples*. This is our purpose and mission as a church. If you have more questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to schedule an appointment or phone call to discuss what's on your heart. Thank you again for allowing me to serve and lead as your pastor.

I love you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Brian

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