

First Baptist Church
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Tulia
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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**Pastor's
Corner**

Dear First Baptist Church Family:

The past months have been a grueling time of prayer and decision-making in our house. Beginning last fall, numerous churches began contacting me in regards to coming as their pastor. Both Shannon and I prayed diligently regarding the Lord's leadership, and we felt as though the Lord was not through with us in Tulia. Subsequently, we turned down each offer.

However, just prior to Easter, one of these churches came back to us. This church is called Agape Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Agape is a five-year-old congregation in the southwest part of their city. The church carries with it an intense potential to be a lighthouse church in an area plagued with congregational dissention and a fading Christian Baptist witness. After nearly six months total of conversation with Agape, and after many sleepless nights, Shannon and I have felt the Lord's urging upon us to take an immense risk of faith and pastor this newer congregation.

Accordingly, I submit my resignation to the First Baptist Church of Tulia, effective September 24, 2010. My last Sunday in the pulpit here will be September 19.

Please know that this decision has not been easy. I was not seeking to make a move away from Tulia, nor was I dissatisfied in any way with this wonderful church. I will always count this part of the state "home," and you will hold a special place in our hearts as the bold church that took a chance on us. In fact, Shannon and I are viewing this move as God's calling us to the mission field. We will be missionaries to Fort Worth. We pray that you will commission and send us out with much love and prayer.

Just prior to his passing, a great former pastor of this church, Frank Pollard, and I had conversation about Frank's time here in Tulia. Frank (who served this church for less time than I have) went on to pastor one of the greatest churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. However, he told me that FBC Tulia was always home. I know now what Frank meant. You have a tremendous calling and legacy as a church. The brightest days lay ahead.

*Blessings,
James*

Happy Birthday

- 9 - Leonard Gunkey
- 10 - Charlea Ewing, Jeff Matsler
- 12 - Dale Bremmer, Michelle Nolen
- 13 - R.L. "Butch" Bryan, Brian Hill, Barnie Latham
- 14 - Joseph Gonzales, Jack Inman
- 15 - Lindy Mabry, Zach Reeves
- 18 - Kayla Chadwick
- 19 - Erlene Barbour
- 20 - Aaron Anderson, Jim Moore
- 21 - Dayton Bremmer
- 22 - Tim Barnes, Shavonne George, Mike Simon



Mission Outreach Project

It's not too late to help with outreach to children in rural, war-torn Afghanistan. A family member of Charlotte Fulkerson has requested small items that he and his team can hand out to the children. They are asking for small items that don't require electricity or batteries. Toys and practical items are both appreciated by the children. There will also be a need for money to cover the postage.

Notes of encouragement to the soldiers who are serving and reaching out to the children would also be great! Items will be collected through **September 5**. For more information, contact Charlotte at 994-9151.

Wednesday Night Schedule Begins September 8!

Please be aware of one small, but significant Wednesday Night Schedule change. Our Wednesday night mission group (Mission Friends, RA's, GA's) leaders met last week about the possibility of adding a brief time of worship to our format. **This will take place in the sanctuary from 7:20 pm until 7:30 pm.** Children and adult small groups will be dismissed at 7:15 pm from their classrooms to meet together in the sanctuary. We will then sing together, share what we're doing in our classes, and have a brief devotional. All of the children's parents will be invited to meet in the sanctuary for this time and pick up their child inside the sanctuary. Not only does this provide better security for our children, but also this will help us better connect with families who do not attend on Sunday. So, the Wednesday night schedule is as follows:

- 5:30-6:00 pm – Children's Choirs meet
- 5:45-6:30 pm – Family Supper time
- 6:30 pm – Children's mission activities and Adult small groups
- 6:45 pm – Youth activities begin
- 7:20 pm – Children and Adults meet in Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm – Adults must pick up children from the sanctuary
- 7:35 pm – Adult Choir rehearsal

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you for the prayers, visits, phone calls and cards during this difficult time. A special thank you to those of you who lovingly prepared food for and served our family lunch after Karen's funeral. We appreciate you all.

Sincerely,
Don Sanderson & family

Dear First Baptist Church,

We are very grateful for your prayers and concern for Thomas in his illness and surgery. Thanks to Brother James for his card and visit to the hospital. God bless and thank you for caring about our family.

Thomas and Dessie Evans

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have many of our teams ministering in the countryside this summer. Last week a 70 year old Nomadic herder accepted Jesus after he understood who the Great Shepherd is. You at First Baptist Church are sowing into the lives such as this herder. You are making an eternal difference in the uttermost part of the earth.

Blessings,
Richard & Mary Ballenger

Sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Joe & Cynthia Archer and family in the death of his brother-in-law, Joe Purcell.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Karen & Derrel Martin and family in the death of her uncle, Merrill Hutto.

To each of you, who in any way expressed your interest and concern for the change in my life, at this special time, I want to tell you how much I appreciate your love and prayers. I'm reminded again, that my church family is such a vital part of life and I count my blessings over and over for being a part of the best – First Baptist Church, Tulia!

Martha Anderson

Dear Friends,

The food you sent on "Sunday Serve" was delicious! Thanks to all who helped, and to Linda and Dennis for the "Special Delivery."

Sincerely,
Jo Wilkerson

Dear FBC Brothers & Sisters,

Just a note to say thank you so much for the "Sunday Serve." The lunch was good and we sure did enjoy the lovely visit with Dennis and Linda. Thank you all for thinking of us. May God bless you.

We love you,
Frances & Royce Crawford

First Baptist Church Tulia –

Words cannot express our gratitude for the love and grace you have shown to our family during this tough time with our parents. It's hard to put into words what your phone calls, cards, visits, and concerns have meant to us. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The Family of
Wayne & Billie Pearson

We want to thank Sheila & Ronnie Via and their granddaughter for bringing a pound cake and Jerrella Keim's casserole. Thanks to Nancy and Clyde Vaughn for the casserole and watermelon they brought when we came home from Henry's surgery. And, thanks to all of the different people who drove us to doctor appointments and for Faye helping to find someone. We and our family thank you so much and appreciate your continued prayers.

Margarete & Henry Boston

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