

The Witness

Volume XXI, Issue IX

Newsletter

September 2023

Will It Ever Rain Again?

Dry. Hot. The countryside is thirsty. Burn bans are posted in every county. About this time every year, I wonder if it will ever rain again. It must be the end of August in Texas.

Life needs rain. Without it, life withers. We long for rain when it is delayed. We feel helpless. We begin to pray. We watch the weather forecast. We look at the sky. If a dark cloud appears, we can feel a sense of excitement sprout. And when it rains (it actually rained for 5 minutes at our house on Sunday), we want to run around and get wet. Thrilled and exuberant. Fresh life emerges everywhere.

Christian community can get dry as well. A malaise can set in. Church attendance shrivels. Little life is evident. It feels as if nothing will ever change. But that is not the way it should be. We should see this state as abnormal. So what do we do? Is it a matter of changing the preaching, the music, the order of service, the programming? No, I think it is primarily a spiritual issue. One that resides in all of us. Most often the dryness resides within each of us individually.

Renewed life starts from within. Within each of us. We need the rain that waters our soul. What is my relationship like with Christ? Am I seeking to listen to His Word, during corporate/private times? Do I respond to His Word when He prompts me through the Spirit of God – to listen to Him and to yield

to Him? Am I engaged in serving others or am I just self-consumed? Is my life about me or about Him? Do I care about sharing the hope of Christ with others?

Let's pray for our church to be renewed. For life to spring up and excitement to sprout. For people to come to Christ and see their lives change. Hope to sprout up. Faith to be fostered. Sin to be abandoned. Commitment and dedication to become pronounced. An eternal perspective to emerge. It starts with us (me).

Pastor Danny

Youth Ministry

The summer has come and gone quickly, and now we're in our normal routine. There's a lot about the summer to reflect on. We had a successful trip to camp, where twelve of our students were able to hear the Gospel and be poured into by our volunteers and the camp staff. We were blessed by having such an awesome church that generously supported us in this endeavor. In addition, I was able to return to the camp I once worked at to speak and I was blessed with an awesome opportunity to teach them God's word. Overall, the summer was a great display of God's goodness and provision.

I'm writing this a week before Wednesday night youth begins,

and I am beyond excited for the things to come this year. I've been able to update some of the facilities upstairs, and it is ready to host the students who God brings to our ministry. We've updated our logo and mission statement, centered around I Timothy 1:5. This verse says, "the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith." This verse embodies the goal of our youth ministry, to teach students the Bible and allow the Gospel to transform their hearts, holiness, and faith.

Soon, we'll have these students and all of their problems in our building, and the challenge is to show them how awesome and relevant Jesus is to their lives. Going into this year, I ask you to partner in praying for our students. Pray that those who don't know Jesus will be called to have a relationship with Him. Pray that those who do will have their faith deepened and fall deeper in love with their Savior and God. Pray that revival can happen among the students in our community and school. Pray that our leaders can have wisdom and genuine Christ-like love for the students. Pray that the leaders themselves will fall more in love with Jesus and that this will overflow into the students. Above all, pray that God will be glorified through our ministry!

There's so much to be excited for this year; will you partner with us and be a part of it?

Bro. Dennis

Fall Outreach Opportunities

Now that the Community Health Fair and Back to School Bash is in the books, we have a couple of outreach events on the horizon. First, September 27th is See You at the Pole and Saw You at the Pole. This is an opportunity for our church and other churches in the community to partner with the school and display the importance of prayer. That evening, we have the opportunity to host students we don't normally have contact with and encourage them and bring them the Gospel!

Second, we have our Fall Fest on the calendar for October 28th. This is an awesome opportunity to serve our community and share the Gospel with them. We have big plans for this festival this year and would love to extend the opportunity to you to serve this year. This event takes all of us! If you have any interest in helping to plan, advertise, or share an idea, reach out to Dennis Wagner at (757)-235-3766. Thank y'all!

At-A-Glance:

July's Gifts: \$29,229.⁰⁰

2023 Gifts So Far: \$143,650.⁶⁸



**Reach
Texas**
OFFERING

Week of Prayer Sept. 10-17th.

Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**
Cell: 620-397-1753 Email: fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net

Youth Pastor: **Bro. Dennis Wagner**
Cell: 757-235-3766 Email: fbcy.youth@peoplescom.net

Music and Senior Adult Pastor: **Bro. Steve Couch**
Cell: 903-456-4220 Email: stevecouchmusic@gmail.com

Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**
In the office Mon. - Thurs., 8:30am - 2:30pm

Church Phone: 903-383-2393 Church Fax: 903-383-2384
Church Email: fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net
Church Website: www.fbcyantispastor.com

Community Fair and Back to School Bash

Saturday August 19th saw our first Community Resources & Health Fair and Back to School Bash. I was so proud of all the FBCY folks that came out. Not only for the Fair, but all the folks who showed up to help set everything up on Friday. We had a great turnout of organizations displaying information that is available to us all. The Carter Blood Center was thrilled with the number of people who gave blood.

We also had 20 Local Businesses displaying information about their business from menus from our Restaurants, to peaches from the Lake Fork Peach Orchard, to floral arrangements from All Mixed-Up Florist. We are very proud of all our local businesses and appreciate their support.

FBCY Cooking Video

The FBCY Cooking video on August 10th featured Marty Smith and Pat Couch demonstrating recipes for the Back-to-School Wednesday Afternoon Program. They showcased the French Bread Pizzas, Raspberry Lemonade, Home-made Trail Mix and an Oreo Cake.

The next Cooking Video will be Thursday September 14 in the Fellowship Hall at 11am. The featured cook will be our own Youth Minister Dennis Wagner preparing his BBQ Air fryer chicken. Be sure and watch on Facebook or You Tube or come be part of the audience.

Thanks,
Bro Steve

Fall Outreach

And so it begins. The joy of Fall ministry is underway. Hard at times? Yes. Exhausting? Yep. But what an opportunity to pour into lives. Wednesday fall ministry has begun.

Lots more opportunities in the days ahead. See/Saw You At the Pole (Sept 27). Fall Festival (Oct 28). An evening singin' (Sept 17). And the next business meeting (Sept 10) will include a fellowship potluck after church. Let's participate and enjoy all that goes on -- and let's use every event as tools to reach out to others. It's so easy to invite folks to food / fun, and in so doing we build relationships that can have eternal consequences.

And let's not forget to look back and praise the Lord. The Lord is good. All the time. And sometimes He shows just how great He is. So it has been in the last month, as He has provided the worker needs for Wednesday night activities. And the kids just flowed back in. May we never take it for granted. Let's honor Him for what He does. Same with the Fair activity. Everyone joined together and created a great community event. In it all let's praise the Lord.

And may we not take for granted the leaders/workers that He used either. Thanks to all.
Pastor Danny