

## First Baptist Church of Yantis

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## The Lord is my Rancher

Pastor Danny Parker

(I wrote this in Kansas, but it still fits – I also published this as an article in the Chronicle previously – sorry if you may have read it there) Sometimes we need to read the Bible as if it were written recently and in East Texas.

### Psalm 23 (Parker Unstandardized Version)

*The Lord is my Rancher. I don't have to worry about much.  
He puts me in spring pastures and sets out hay bales when things run a little lean. He provides me a windmill and a tank of cool, clean water.  
He gives me a shot of medicine when I feel a little blue.  
He keeps a close eye on me daily because I am valuable to Him.  
Even though I wander into marshy undergrowth with snakes and critters, I am not afraid  
For you are always close by.  
Your shotgun protects me and your hot shot nudges me along.  
You set out grain for me even when the coyotes look on  
You dust me for bugs, and doctor up my injuries  
I gorge my myself on Your lavish provision and get fat  
Without doubt You will caringly pursue me on your four-wheeler all my life  
And I will end up in your house when it's all done*

Continued...

A little unstandardized translation however, it tries to communicate what the original does, except in language we more understand. God values us even more than the rancher cares for his cattle. Each one has value. He watches over them daily. He meets their needs. To an extent, their lives are His life as he invests time and resources in them. The stupid cow has little chance on its own unless the rancher watches over Him faithfully and continually.

All of this is true of our relationship with God. Also, notice as the times get tough, the psalm switches to second person, you. When trouble comes, God becomes personal.

Of course, there are also differences in this image of cows instead of sheep. The Middle Eastern shepherd had a deeper relationship with his sheep than a rancher has with cows. He had to — they were even stupider and more fragile than a cow. He knew his sheep by name. He called them and they responded. He led them rather than having to drive them. He often developed an affection for them. He risked His life for them both because of their value and because of this affection. God's care is much more than a business proposition. He personally cares for us.

However, ultimately all images breakdown. No image can match the deep love our Father God has for us. He showed this love when He gave His Son to take the punishment for our sins. The renegade cow that makes life miserable for a rancher ends up at the slaughterhouse. Instead, our Father's Son went to the slaughterhouse in our place. And we were the renegade of the herd.

And we have a choice that a cow or sheep doesn't. We can recognize what our Father did for us and turn in faith to Him, instead of ending in the freezer (or the opposite if you know what I mean). We can live in fellowship with Him if we trust His Son Jesus as our Savior.

And if He showed us all this love while we were still the renegade, how much more will He care for us when we become His child. The picture becomes less like a traditional rancher and more like those silly viral videos of people who raise a calf as if they were a member of the family.

The Lord is my rancher. I live unafraid and at peace. I hope He is yours as well. And that you enjoy His care as much as I do.

## July Activities

Summer is moving quickly now. Engage before it ends.

Youth camp is Sunday, June 28 - Friday, July 3. Be praying for the youth and workers as they travel to camp in the Dallas area. When they return, they will be giving a camp report on Sunday July 5. Pray that this will be a radical time in the life of youth and sponsors. Also, pray for parents to come on that July 5 Sunday. A special effort will be made to get youth and parents to be here on that day. There will be a special lunch for just youth and parents after that service.

The quarterly Heart-to-Heart Ladies Fellowship will be on Saturday, July 18 at 10:30. There will be fellowship, food, and a ladies' speaker. Always a good time.

Do you like ice cream? Homemade ice cream? Ice cream made by Johnnie Murry? OF COURSE you do! Me too! So be in the fellowship hall on Sunday, July 19 at 4:00 PM, for our midsummer ice cream social.

Also, remember to pray for Tammy Mayes as she travels to Chile on her mission trip on July 10.

Not in July, but on Saturday, August 1 at 8:00, the men's breakfast will be held. Invite men and boys to a time of food and fellowship, followed by a men's speaker.

Monday, July 6, is the official Independence Day holiday for the church office (the Fourth is a Saturday). The office will be closed.



# Authentic Youth Update

## Pastor Dennis Wagner

Summer is officially here, and our youth ministry has hit the ground running! In June we kicked off our summer hangouts and Bible studies at our home, and it has been such a joy to open our doors and watch this group grow. We've seen even more students show up this year than in summers past—a real encouragement and a sign of God's faithfulness to our group.

We were also blessed to have a great number of our students step up and serve during VBS. Watching our teenagers pour into the younger kids—leading, encouraging, and sharing the love of Jesus—was a beautiful picture of what discipleship looks like in action. These students aren't just attending; they're learning to serve, and that's exactly the heart we're praying God grows in each of them.

Now we're looking ahead to the highlight of our summer: CAMP! Our group leaves June 28th and returns July 2nd. We're taking 22 students and 4 leaders (Dennis, Sam, Christine, and Lonny), and we would covet your prayers. Camp is often where students encounter God in life-changing ways—where the gospel moves from their heads to their hearts. Please pray for safe travel, for open hearts, for our leaders to have energy and wisdom, and most of all that students would come home changed by Jesus.

As you pray for our group, would you join us in praying this over our students from Ephesians 3:17-19? "...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Our prayer is that each student would grasp just how deeply they are loved by Jesus this week.

Thank you, church family, for loving and supporting our students. We can't wait to share all that God does!

## Your Church Staff

Pastor: Danny Parker

Youth Pastor: Dennis Wagner

Senior Adult: Steve Couch

Music Leader: Craig Ingram

Secretary: LeAnne Bauer

Church phone: 903-383-2393

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# Volunteer at First Baptist Church

If you are interested in joining our volunteer ministry, we have many opportunities to choose from. Contact the Church office for more information. Email: [fbcyantis@peoplescom.net](mailto:fbcyantis@peoplescom.net) Phone: 903-383-2393

We are currently looking for assistance in the following areas.

- **Children's ministries** need teachers for Wednesday after school kids 2026/2027 school year and weekly Sunday School/Children's Church.
- **Hospitality** is a good place to show off your skills in the kitchen while providing relief for our current volunteer staff.
- How about joining our **Praise Team!** Let your talent uplift our congregation on Sunday mornings.
- Do you have an interest in the **Audio and Visual** industry? Helping in the A/V booth is a great place to start.

## BIBLE

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1 2 3 4

5

6 7

8 9

10 11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

**Across**

1. The angel who announced Jesus's birth
6. The disciple who walked on water with Jesus
7. The woman who became queen and saved her people
9. The strongest man in the Bible
10. The promised land flowing with milk and honey
12. The boy who defeated Goliath with a sling
14. Mary's husband and Jesus's earthly father
15. The Hebrew people were enslaved in this country
16. The prophet swallowed by a great fish
17. The last book of the Bible
18. King known for his wisdom

**Down**

2. The brother Moses worked with
3. The sea that Moses parted
4. The garden where Adam and Eve lived
5. The city whose walls fell after trumpets blew
8. Abraham's son who was nearly sacrificed
10. Moses received the Ten \_\_\_ on Mount Sinai
11. Noah built this to save his family
13. The first book of the Bible
14. The disciple who betrayed Jesus

**SUPERSTARWORKSHEETS**

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