

# The Witness

Volume XIX, Issue VIII

Newsletter

August 2022

## A New Coat of Paint Does Wonders!

It's always something. When you own stuff, there is always something to fix, but the result is worth it.

When we bought our house, it had been neglected for 40-60 years. Floors, walls, paneling, and even the light bulbs were dingy and old. I admit, I was a little reluctant. However, Janice fell in love with the place. She saw what it could become, not what it was.

So, we bought it. It was ours. Now the work began. At times we have taken it to new levels suddenly. In the first few months we painted everything, changed the flooring, and replaced the electric and light sockets. Did I mention we changed out every light bulb? It became obvious that this house was under new ownership. It was being shaped by our desires.

And since then, we continue to bring about change to our house. Small things like installing new lights in the dark recesses. Bigger things like remodeling the bathrooms. The wish list seems endless – and it is. Regeneration of a house goes on and on, but with each change the house conforms more and more to the usefulness and pleasure of the owner. It is shaped by the owners' desires.

So it is with us, whether we talk about individuals or the church as a whole. We have been bought with a price, and now we are

owned by Him. Immediately, He produced radical change when He completed the transaction, and since then He continues the process, transforming dark places into light, remaking portions of our life so that we might be useful to Him. And in the midst of it all, He sees the big picture, making us into the image of Christ. A place where He will be at home. A place of ever increasing usefulness. A place that reflects well on the owner. Shaped by His desires.

At our church, this process occurs at many levels. It happened with the bathroom remodels. Currently we are in the midst of refreshing the gym. In each case the old is being replaced with the new. Improved usefulness. Improved attractiveness. Clean and fresh, reflecting well on the Savior.

It also occurs in our church lives (which is even more important than the physical), with fresh sensitivity to the Lord's leading, engaging people as He desires, caring for one another at a deeper level, putting the darkness of gossip and dissension away and replacing it with healthy relationships, seeking to serve Him in community, focusing on true worship and spiritual growth, desiring to serve in fresh ways, and becoming shaped by His desires.

We all have a long way to go. It really is a never-ending renewal (at least until He comes). But let us enjoy the journey. Let us yield to His desires. Let us invite Him

to be at work in our lives. Let us allow Him to bring light to any places of darkness. To paint over the old and replace it with the new. Let us be shaped as He desires.

He owns us. He delights in us. He has a vision of what we can become. Let us let Him do it.

Danny

## From the Heart

This Summer has flown by fast! In July, the youth enjoyed several fun activities: skating, paintball, and bowling. We hope that these activities will provide great memories for them and remind them that Christians have fun!

In my over 30 years of serving in ministry, I feel our youth of today need, more than ever, encouragement, love and discipleship. Many of America's youth are raised by a single parent, grandparent, or foster parent. Many of them do not attend church and some of them know far more about social media than Jesus. The spiritual future of our nation is at jeopardy.

I want to thank you all for giving, praying, supporting, volunteering, teaching, making refreshments, encouraging the children and youth leaders and volunteers, and being faithful to encourage the next generation. Many of today's youth will be leading our country in 20 or so years. Don't let this discourage you, but let this motivate you to pray and pray specifically for the spiritual health of to-

day's teenagers. God has a plan for them to walk in His ways and we have to engage in spiritual warfare with prayer for their very souls.

August 18<sup>th</sup> is the First Day of School for the 2022/2023 School Year. Let's begin to pray now for a true revival to break out in the hearts of America's youth.

In Christ,  
Bro. Chad

### Worship Matters

Singing hymns and praise songs has always been one of my favorite things to do. I love music and have played the piano since I was 8 years old. However, singing and playing music doesn't automatically qualify for Worship. What is worship?

John 4:23 tells us that the kind of worship that the Father seeks is true worship in both Spirit and Truth. What does that mean? To me, true worship must be based on who the Bible tells us God is and we must be in right relationship with Him. It flows out of a grateful, obedient heart that longs to praise our Heavenly Father. It seems pointless to sing "I surrender all" when I refuse to obey God in an area where He has been convicting me about.

Today more than ever, many people say they love to worship and probably what they really mean is they love to sing and hear music. True worship is much more than a song; it's a submissive and surrendered heart unto Jesus.

### Heart of Worship by Michael W. Smith

*When the music fades  
And all is stripped away  
And I simply come  
Longing just to bring  
Something that's of worth  
That will bless Your heart*

*I'll bring You more than a song  
For a song in itself  
Is not what You have required  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear  
You're looking into my heart*

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus*

Let's make true worship a priority each and every day.  
Love you all,  
Melaina

School starts back on August 18th for our students. The Wednesday Night programs will kick off on September 7th! Please be in prayer for these ministries!

## At A Glance

June's Gifts:	\$20,885. <sup>30</sup>
2022 Gifts So Far:	\$131,381. <sup>52</sup>
2022 Budget:	\$262,763. <sup>00</sup>

### Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**  
Cell: 620-397-1753

Email: [fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net](mailto:fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net)

Youth Minister: **Bro. Chad Ferrell**

Cell: 903-243-7103

Email: [brochadferrell@gmail.com](mailto:brochadferrell@gmail.com)

Music Minister: **Bro. Chad Ferrell**

Cell: 903-243-7103

Email: [brochadferrell@gmail.com](mailto:brochadferrell@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 Website: [www.fbcyantistexas.com](http://www.fbcyantistexas.com)

## Give online!

Go to:

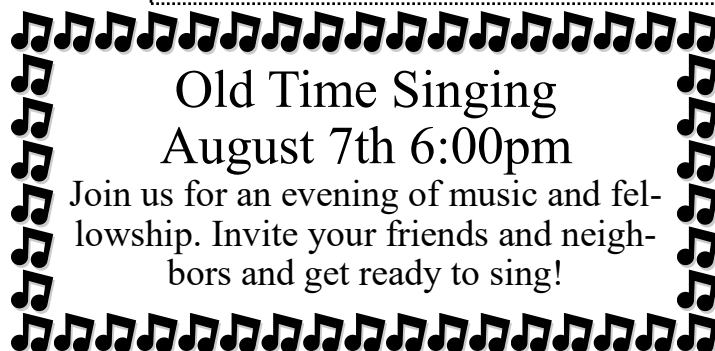
<https://onrealm.org/fbcyantistexas/give/now>

## Don't miss mid-week activities at FBC Yantis!

Prayer Meeting on Tuesday mornings, 7am.

Ladies' Bible Study on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am.

Men's Bible Study on Tuesday evenings, 6:30pm.



## Old Time Singing August 7th 6:00pm

Join us for an evening of music and fellowship. Invite your friends and neighbors and get ready to sing!

Men's Breakfast takes place quarterly.  
Next breakfast: August 6th at 8:00am