

# The Witness

Volume XXII, Issue VIII

Newsletter

August 2024

## Let's Pick Pears Now

*The mystery of the missing pears.*

When we bought our house several years ago, our tree was full of pears. Big juicy ones. Two weeks later, as we moved in, we went out to enjoy the harvest – they were all gone. Last year, we again had a vast amount of pears. A few weeks later, we went to reap the harvest. .... No pears. Where did they go? Did someone sneak in during the night and get them? Did squirrels invade and carry them off? Did giant birds descend and haul them away? Did they rot and disintegrate overnight? We still have no clue. All we know is that the harvest was lost. We waited too long.

This year, we did it all differently. When the pears got close to being ripe, we watched very carefully. We examined their progress. We sampled the fruit. When it was time, we did not delay. We did not get complacent. We acted immediately. We reaped the harvest.

Jesus often talked about the harvest. His viewpoint was very different than His disciples. They thought little of the harvest. They had their mind on the future and on themselves. They thought about the coming kingdom, about overthrowing corrupt governments, about a future peace. But not about the harvest of people all around them.

But Jesus thought about the harvest. He told His disciples "Do

you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest. Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest' " (John 4:35). He saw that people were ripe to receive the gospel. He saw people in their misery who were ready to respond. The need was only for workers to reap the harvest. "And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out ...'" (Luke 10:2-3).

The problem is not that people are not receptive to the gospel. The problem is not that the harvest is still off into the future somewhere. There is no problem with the harvest. The problem is that we don't see that it is time to reap. That it is time to engage. That it is time to be harvesters. This is no time to be distracted with less important things. It is time to focus on the harvest.

There is an urgency. We have tasted bits of the harvest in our church. Last year we saw many come to Christ, get baptized, and begin a new walk in the kingdom. But, what about now? Are we willing to reengage? To once again be laborers in the fields? Let's see the need, see the opportunity, and get to work before our opportunity to harvest is gone.

Pastor Danny

## August Outreach – BACK TO SCHOOL

Hard to believe it is time to transition from summer to back-to-school/Fall ministry. But ready or not it's here! Time to refocus.

We honor and serve our local teachers with our annual teacher's breakfast on August 7. The first day of school is August 14. Wednesday after school programs begin August 21. The Jesus Kids' worker meeting is 3:00 PM Tuesday, August 5. This is a required meeting – if you plan to work but cannot attend, see Shi. Talk with Shi Cruse (children) or Dennis Wagoner (youth) if you are interested in being involved in the after-school programs.

The quarterly Men's Breakfast is Saturday, August 3 at 8:00 AM.

Coming soon. Susan Duke, will be speaking on September 22. She is an author and speaker (lives in East Texas). She has written an excellent book concerning grief recovering, but also speaks to a variety of Christian life areas. More information will be coming shortly.

Let's all recommit and realign our routines to serve.

Pastor Danny

### At-A-Glance:

June's Gifts: \$19,950.<sup>00</sup>  
2024 Gifts : \$122,067.<sup>00</sup>  
2024 Budget: \$287,870.<sup>00</sup>

## July and August in Authentic Youth

It feels like we just got back from camp, and school is already just around the corner! As we come to the end of summer, I think it's a good time to reflect on the summer our youth ministry had and talk about the coming fall.

This summer has been very successful for youth. The goal of the summer was to ramp up versus the typical slowing down or taking a break that the summer often brings. The big emphasis was consistent relationship growth rather than event focused. We accomplished this through two different avenues: weekly times where our house was open to the students to hang out and study God's word and through having occasional planned outings. All of which allowed us to focus on the relationships in a less formal setting. This was a big success.

Secondly, the summer featured our biggest event of the year: youth camp. We were able to take eighteen students down to Newton, Texas. The week focused on five different GREATS in Scripture: great confession, great calling, great commandment, great commission, and great culmination. Our students were encouraged to weigh out who they believed Jesus is and how that impacts every aspect of their lives. The week was a great time of growth, discipleship, and fellowship.

Finally, school begins THIS MONTH!!! We're getting our facilities ready, putting together final preparations, and anticipating an awesome new school year. That's where you come in. Please join us in prayer. Pray for our students who are now returning to

their mission field and have an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with their friends. Pray for our leaders as God prepares us and gives us opportunities to minister. Pray for the families of our students and that God would help us to reach them as well. Second, ask God if maybe He would have you serve in youth. You could be the one who makes an ETERNAL impact on a student.

Thank you,  
Dennis Wagner

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### FBCY Sr Adult Cooking Video

The Cooking Video took a break in July. The next Cooking Video will be Thursday August 15th in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to tune in, or even better, come be a part of the audience and taste some awesome samples. Be sure and watch on our Facebook page, Facebook.com/fbcy1870 , or on You Tube, or come be part of the audience and enjoy samples of all the tasty goodies!

### Music Ministry

I have given the Praise Team a break for the summer. We plan on them returning this fall.

It is good to have Sherri back playing the piano. Pat Brown has been fantastic filling in with her outstanding playing. Also, I want to thank Janice Parker for her help when needed. I appreciate all these ladies stepping up when needed, sometimes at the last minute.

### Attention Veterans

If you are a United States Military Veteran, stop by my office. I have a card for you to fill out to be invited to the yearly Lake Country Neighbors Veterans program. The program is free to all veterans and spouses or a guest. They feature a BBQ lunch, patriotic music and program with a special speaker.

Thanks  
Bro Steve

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### Thank You...

I want to say thank you to the anonymous donor that gifted me through Mission Dignity. The Lord knew my needs and allowed you to provide. The day I received the check, I had to purchase new hearing aides that were very expensive.

Thank you and this church for your love and support.

A Thankful Recipient,  
Jeanetta Watson

The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 1:14

### *Your Church Staff...*

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