

The Witness

Volume XIX, Issue III

Newsletter

March 2022

Renewal is all around us

Grass springing up. Buds pushing forth. Flowers unfolding. Birds coming home. Cows giving birth. Fish having babies. Warmth in the air. Hope abounds! Life overflows. It feels like Spring. Renewal is all around us.

How do you see the world about us? Someone can view all this like a big machine that makes a cycle. Same ol', same ol'. Nothing to be excited about. Head down. Drawn face. The whole world is just in chaos that goes around and around and then you die. And you don't really expect it to be any different.

However, another option is to recognize this time as an opportunity to see the grace and goodness of God creating renewal in His creation, God giving a picture of the need to arise from the status quo, from the dead and dormant. To find fresh life, fresh hope. A physical picture that also hints at a spiritual need.

Yes, let's not limit renewal to the world around us. What about within us? Don't we need to be renewed as well? Life grows dry, whether it is because of external distractions like COVID or other circumstances. Or maybe it's due to a spiritual cloud that has settled in on us. Trouble from without, trouble from within, or just a staleness that can take over our life. Regardless, we regularly need to be renewed and refreshed.

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and

to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40: 28-31, ESV)

We need to arise like the grass. Burst forth as the bud. Display His greatness again like the flowers of spring. We need to be renewed. We cannot do it on our own, but the great God can produce new life / renewed life within us. Lamentations 5:21 says, "Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old—" (ESV)

May we pray for a fresh moving of the Lord among us and within us, producing transformed lives. That He might revive and renew us. Impacting the church - moving us forward like the Spring out of Winter. Seeing lives changed. Seeing people flooding our buildings, desiring to grow and walk with the Lord. May we see a work of God in a dead and dormant land.

As we look about us, may we pray intently that God would cause a spiritual Spring to arise in our own lives and in our church.

Pastor Danny

From the Heart

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request

be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)

No matter what is going on, we can rejoice in our Lord and Savior. As the hymn writer, Horatio Spafford penned, "Whatever my lot Thou has taught me to say, it is well with my soul!" If all goes wrong we know that our souls are secure forever because of Jesus. It is a matter of where our focus is. When we begin to rejoice in Him our anxiety begins to subside. When our anxiety subsides and we are trusting in Jesus, we are able to deal gently with other people as well. We can rejoice that our God is near us. He promised to never leave us or forsake us. If we believe this, we can cast off our anxiety by taking advantage of His presence, pouring our hearts out to him in thankfulness and laying down our burdens knowing that not only is He near but He truly cares. The end result of focusing on Jesus and trusting Him will be peace in our hearts. During these uncertain times, we can remember that God never changes, is constant and His love never fails. If we truly receive God's love personally, then we can allow God's love to flow through us to others to the praise of His glorious grace.

Please be praying for our upcoming D-Now Purity Retreat on March 12-13th. If you would like to send cookies for the retreat, please bring them to the church by Thursday March 10th and let us know they are for the D-Now Retreat. We appreciate your love, prayers and support for the future of FBC.

Bro. Chad

Worship Matters

We live in an unsettling time in an unsettled world. Fear, anxiety and depression seem to be affecting many people. How about you? Are you struggling? I think all of us have waves of anxiety, however, even during a global upheaval we can have peace. Isaiah 26:3 reminds us of this truth: *You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!* Each day we hear more and more bad news. What will we fix our thoughts on? Will we focus on negative reports or will we focus on the God that is in control of all? This is a great time to dig deeper into God's Word and to remember His promises. He is faithful and trustworthy. Russell Kelso Carter's hymn *Standing on the Promises* reminds us of this fact.

*Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.*

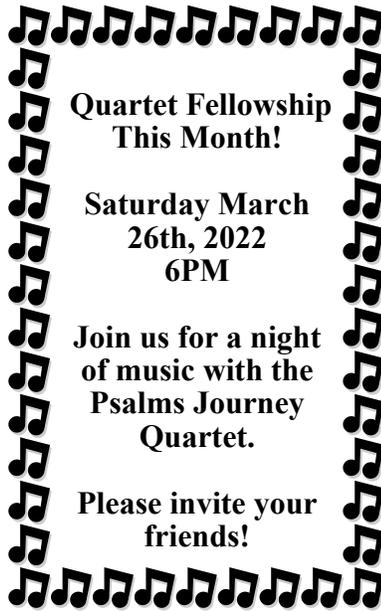
*Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God.*

Keep your eyes on God and remember He is faithful!
Melaina



Quartet Fellowship This Month!

Saturday March
26th, 2022
6PM

Join us for a night
of music with the
Psalms Journey
Quartet.

Please invite your
friends!

Prayerfully consider giving to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**. The week of prayer for this offering will be **March 6th-13th**.

The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO)** is the primary way we support mission efforts in North America. One hundred percent of gifts given to AAEO are used to support more than 2,200 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada.

PURE

Youth D-NOW

March 12th-March 13th

Pray for the youth as they learn what it means to remain pure over this weekend of worship, study, and fellowship.

At A Glance

January's Gifts: \$23,536.⁷⁶

2022 Budget: \$262,763.⁰⁰

Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**

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Youth Minister: **Bro. Chad Ferrell**

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Music Minister: **Bro. Chad Ferrell**

Cell: 903-243-7103

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Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**

In the office Mon. - Thurs., 8:30am - 2:30pm

Church Phone: 903-383-2393

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Church Website: www.fbcyantist.com

Give online!

Go to:

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

RBA Evangelism Rally
Sunday March 27th @ 6:30pm
First Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs



Guest Speaker **Nathan Lino**, Pastor of North-east Houston Baptist Church

Worship Leader **Tim Whedbee**, Sr. Associate Pastor of Worship and Administration at Mobberly Baptist Church in Longview, TX



Next Quarterly Business Meeting Sunday March 13th.
Come participate in the vision for our body of believers!