

The Baptist Breeze

First Baptist Church, Galveston, IN



April 2025





BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Apr. 1st @ 7pm

Christian Ed: Apr. 8th @ 6pm

Trustees: Apr. 8th @ 7pm

GBW Board: Apr. 22nd @ 6:30pm

APRIL GREETERS

Parking Lot: Molly Kincaid

Carport: Josh Kincaid

APRIL WELCOME CENTER

Sonya Austin

NURSERY SCHEDULE

- Apr. 6 - June Cotterman/Karan Faust
Brent Anderson/ Jeanne Miller
- Apr. 13 - Brooke Miller/Aaron Miller
Audrey Leicht/Patty Ingram
- Apr. 20 - Rita Long/Amanda Walker
Brenda Parker/Jeff Parker
- Apr. 27 - Liberty Harp/Alachia Sturgess
Denise Morgan/Anita Keeney

MUFFIN MINISTRY

- Apr. 6 - Gabrielle Anderson
- Apr. 13 - Rachelle Leicht
- Apr. 20 - Kayla Yeakley
- Apr. 27 - Russell Stier

DOOR USHERS

- Apr. 6 - Rodney Thompson
- Apr. 13 - Neal Rouch
- Apr. 20 - Dennis Long
- Apr. 27 - Brian Riley

DEACONS ON CALL

- Apr. 6 - David Austin
- Apr. 13 - Dan Miller
- Apr. 20 - Jeff Parker
- Apr. 27 - Aaron Miller

The BAPTIST BREEZE is available at both entrances of the foyer. It is also available for viewing on our church website: www.galvestonfbc.org

Weekly bulletins can also be viewed online. Click on the "What's Happening" link.

LADIES "PTL" BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies' Praise the Lord Bible Study meets each Wednesday morning from 9:30-11am. For more information, please see Jean Roberts.

PRAYER CHAIN

Contact Shirley Finney

Shirley.finney@comcast.net

574-699-6394

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 9am-2pm

Phone: 574-699-6243

Email: secretary@galvestonfbc.org

Deadline for the *May Baptist Breeze* is **Wednesday April 23rd**.

The Baptist Breeze will be printed and put in the foyer on the Sunday prior to the first of each month.

If you have any news you would like to put in our newsletter, please contact the church office.

"TEXT GO GIVE"

You may now give your tithes & offerings via text message. Text "GIVE" to 765.302.4564 and follow the prompts.

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who would enjoy a visit from one of our Lighthouse Visitation Ministry members, please contact the church office M-F 9a-2p. 574.699.6243



Happy Hearts

Happy Hearts Widows Group will resume meeting on Tuesday, April 8th. This month's luncheon will be at Panara Bread at 11:30am and dessert and fellowship will follow at the home of Jeanne Sisson. Please let Jeanne know if you plan on attending.

MOB

MOB (Men of Breakfast) is a monthly event sponsored by the GFBC Board of Deacons. This is a free breakfast located in the upper fellowship hall. A speaker will follow along with fellowship. **MOB WILL BE MEETING APRIL 26TH @ 8AM.**

GBW

The Galveston Baptist Women has invited all members to join them on a trip to the Long Cliff Museum on April 5th @ 10am in Logansport. They will tour the facility then meet at the Westside Diner for lunch. Thank you to Jodi Osenbaugh for her role in getting this trip set up for the church.

Don't forget, ladies...

Saturday, May 3rd will be the Secret Sister Reveal Luncheon. This will take place in the Upper Fellowship Hall at noon. Please bring a dish to share.

A Special Thank You...

The month of March was Pastor's Wife Appreciation month. We would like to take a moment to thank our Pastor's wife, **Amber Cooper**, for her kindness, her service, her sacrifice and her love she has given to each and every one of us here at Galveston First Baptist Church. She has shown each of us what true grace is. We love and appreciate you, Amber. Although we know Pastor Sean is your personal rock in your marriage, you are a rock to those of us here at GFBC and we are thankful you are here with us.

Family Fun Night

A few months ago, Anita Keeney and Gabrielle Anderson approached Pastor Sean with a wonderful idea to add a little fun and fellowship in the form of a monthly gathering here at Galveston First Baptist Church. GFBC Family Game & Movie Night has been a wonderful addition to our church and community. Alternating each month, members, along with family and friends are invited to bring their favorite games and snacks one month, and chairs and blankets another to enjoy a family movie together. We are thankful that Anita & Gabrielle have stepped forward to start this ministry of Christian Fellowship.



WANDERERS Nursery is available during Sunday Service.

TREKKERS church is held during regular Sunday service each week. On the last Sunday of the month, they will be with the congregation.

SUMMIT meets on Sunday evenings from 5-7:30pm. This is for grades 6-12.



Summit Youth engage in the lesson taught by the youth leaders.

April 2025

April 2025							May 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 30 	31 	Apr 1 Deacons Meeting 7p	2 Easter Egg Packing Night-Meal @ 5:30 Packing @ 6p McKays Thompson	3 Elise Harris	4 	5 GBW State Hospital Museum Tour Trip @ 10a
6 	7 	8 Christian Ed Meeting 6p Floyd & Marcia Shaw Trustees Meeting 7p	9 Easter Egg Packing Night-Meal @ 5:30 Packing @ 6p	10 	11 6:00pm Easter Egg Hunt @ Galveston Community Center	12 Kathy Boyer Kent Johnson
13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 Good Friday - Office Closed	19 Phil Reed
20 Brian & Charlene Allen EASTER DAY Quarterly Business Meeting Rebecca Hudspeth	21 Harold Braden	22 Alan Henry GBW Meeting 6:30p	23 Jim Horvath Marcia Shaw	24 Kaden Clark	25 	26 MCOB BERT
27 	28 Jacob Archer	29 Eric Lumpkin	30 	May 1 	2 	3

Soles to Souls



Webers' Wanderings



Paul, Rachel, Anna and Sarah
Serving in Sydney, Australia with ABWE
February, 2025

Praises

1. An eventful, restful, and satisfying summer.
2. Sarah turns eighteen on March 15th. We're celebrating with a party.
3. Six years of fruitful ministry at Fellowship.
4. A possible church planting opportunity.
5. A good report from doctors regarding Natalie and the baby.

Prayer

1. Wisdom for future ministry.
 2. Finding replacements for our current ministries.
 3. Anna has had a mystery respiratory infection for two months.
 4. Sarah needs a job to start saving for college.
 5. Rest and full recovery from COVID.
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Seasons

Today, February 28th, is the last day of season here in Australia. The Lord has seen fit to give us one last burst of summer, with temperatures hovering near 100 degrees today. While we'll no doubt get more warm days in the future, things will start trending gradually cooler from here. Our long days that have allowed us to enjoy the outdoors until late are getting shorter as well. Changes are already taking place.

As our family looks to the future, we can also see changes taking place. Our youngest daughter, Sarah, turns 18 years old on March 15th. Can we really be that old? She'll be graduating from high school in September. Although she'll be around for a couple more years working and saving money for school, we know that before long we'll be taking her to the US and leaving her there for college. For over 30 years we've had children in our home, and now the end of that season is on the doorstep. A new season of empty nesting begins.

We've had seasons in ministry too, each one with its own distinct feel. Our ministry at Fellowship started in 2019, when Pastor Mike Kwok asked us to join the staff, as he was dropping back to pastoring the church part time. A world-wide pandemic hit us which had us locked down here in Australia on and off for over two years. A new church plant was not an option last term, so we've been at Fellowship since then. At the end of last year, Pastor Mike returned to Fellowship full time, and we began once again looking for a new ministry.

Just recently, we learned from Pastor Jan Digno at Central Mountains Baptist Church of a group of believers in the Bathurst area who are asking for someone to come and get a church started. Central Mountains has rented a hall in the area and has sent someone to drive there to minister and preach once a month to this small congregation. Not being officially a church, they've named themselves Living Word Baptist Fellowship. We met this month with Pastor Jan and many of the people involved, and will be there in person to minister to the fellowship on April 6th. God willing, if all works out, we could possibly move to Bathurst by the end of the year, after Sarah graduates. Pray for wisdom, as we consider this new season of ministry. This is well out of our comfort zone (three hours west). We wouldn't be working with a partner either, but Pastor Jan has said he will continue sending people and supplies to help as they can. Most of all, pray for God's will to be made clear, whether it's yes or no.

So, Where Are We Now?

In the meantime, we continue with our work at Fellowship. Things are only seeming to get busier as we try to wrap things up. In addition to the regular duties we've done - preaching, SS teaching, music, young adults, teens, care group and ladies' ministries - we've begun mentoring and counselling some younger couples on different nights of the week. Last year Rachel had been working with a couple young ladies, teaching them to sew. This year, more ladies have found out and want to learn as well. What an opportunity to get into lives!

We've already spoken to the church leadership and prepared them for our possible departure by year's end. We're working on finding suitable replacements for our current ministries - a task that is more difficult than we expected. We also know that, as in every work we've been involved in, there will be some who will be hurt when we leave. We've developed some close relationships here, more so than any of our works, and saying goodbye won't be easy. Please pray for wisdom in each situation.

There's been some pretty bad coughing in the family this week. After testing, we discovered that it was COVID. Apart from the coughing, things are fine, but we're staying away from people for a few days. Tonight, we had to cancel our care group Bible study. There's a men's coffee and a wedding on Saturday that we're sorry to have to miss. We'll also be Zooming church Sunday from the safety of our lounge room. Anyways, God has given us this forced rest, and we'll take it.

On a brighter note, when we were in the US at Christmas time, our children all pitched in, and as a combined Christmas present bought Rachel and me a hot air balloon ride here in Australia. We scheduled and took our flight on Valentine's Day. We'd never done anything like it before. We had a wonderful time, while Sarah enjoyed a sleepover at home. Thanks guys!

We Are Barabbas

by Dave Furman

Pilate's Ruling

Jesus became a substitute for us in a colossal way.

On Jesus's final day on this earth, he was arrested in a garden and taken for trial. It was a brief ordeal because there was no real evidence. There was no attorney with exhibit A or a last-minute witness to take the stand who would clinch the verdict. The three mock trials probably lasted a few minutes each. Jesus bounced from Pilate to Herod and then back to Pilate again.

It was in the final trial that Jesus was sentenced to death. It seems as if Pilate didn't necessarily want to send Jesus to his death, but he bowed down to the pressure of the Jews (Matt. 27:22–24). As the Roman governor over Jerusalem, Pilate already had a difficult relationship with the Jewish population. He previously had remedied a budget shortage by pillaging the temple treasury for funds. The Jews were so angry that many rioted. The soldiers Pilate sent to stop the riot ended up beating many Jews to death. That will certainly make you an enemy of the people. At another point, the Jews were so exasperated with Pilate for decorating his palace with idols, they actually appealed to Caesar. The ruler was less than thrilled at the bickering and asked Pilate to remove the idols. Pilate was supposed to keep the Jews

under control, but he just couldn't seem to do it.

Now Pilate faced yet another potentially explosive issue: what to do with Jesus? Another riot would have been costly. With two strikes against him, a third one might put Pilate out of work and on the streets for good. The situation with Jesus came to a boiling point during the Passover. It was tradition that the Roman Empire would allow one convicted felon to go free, and the Jews could choose who this would be. Matthew 27:15–18 records this moment:

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

Pilate might have said to himself, "Here's my opportunity to simply let Jesus go free. We'll put forward the worst prisoner, a murderer, and we'll put forward Jesus. Surely, they won't let the other guy go free." But they did. The chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to release Barabbas. Pilate was so surprised, he asked them again a second time, "'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas'" (Matt. 27:21). And so just to clarify, Pilate asked them one last time, "'Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' And he said,

"Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" (Matt. 27:22-23).

This whole scenario is surprising to say the least. Jesus had been accused of crimes that could not be proved. Then there was Barabbas who was basically a terrorist. The crowd chose a murderer over the one who brings the dead back to life. They chose evil over the one who loves perfectly. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, but the crowds roared to free Barabbas and to crucify Jesus. And Pilate caved in to save his job.

Jesus took his death, and Barabbas was given the freedom Jesus deserved.

I have often wondered what Barabbas was thinking at that point. He was sitting on death row in a Roman prison and certainly aware that he could be killed any day. There was not a clear or straightforward process of parole or further appeals for him to count on. Prisoners didn't have any rights. It was over for him. There was no hope. He was a murderer who deserved death, and deep down he probably knew it. Each passing day was one day closer to certain death. He may have been imagining it—the flogging, mocking, and eventual death. It was coming.

And then the day comes. He can hear the shouts ringing throughout the courtyard: "Crucify him, crucify him!" Perhaps he was thinking to himself, "They are coming for me." The guards open the door to his cell and drag him outside. But then an astonishing thing happens. Everyone is celebrating his

new freedom. His chains are released, and he is set free. The murderer is set free.

Put yourself in his sandals for a minute. You are walking to your death in chains and then all of a sudden, when you least expect it, you are a free man. Then you hear the words begin again: "Crucify him, crucify him." And you see another walking by. Those chants are not for you. The guards are dragging another man to his death—Jesus of Nazareth. He's beaten and flogged and is forced to carry his cross to his death. It's the very cross you had imagined yourself carrying only moments earlier. You think to yourself, that's my death he's dying. Barabbas is the one person in history who could say that Jesus literally carried his cross. Jesus took his death, and Barabbas was given the freedom Jesus deserved. Jesus bore the guilt and shame and curse and disgrace and death that Barabbas deserved. Barabbas received the release, the freedom, and the life that Jesus deserved. It was an incredible scene.¹

We Are Barabbas

I wonder if Barabbas ever got over that moment. You would think that the image of Jesus carrying his cross would have been etched on his mind and heart for the rest of his life. There are too many ironies for him to miss it. Barabbas's name means "son of the father." Bar means "son" and Abba means "father." In the book of Matthew we learn that his full name was Jesus Barabbas.² Jesus, son of the father. Tim Keller points out that we have two Jesuses in our story.

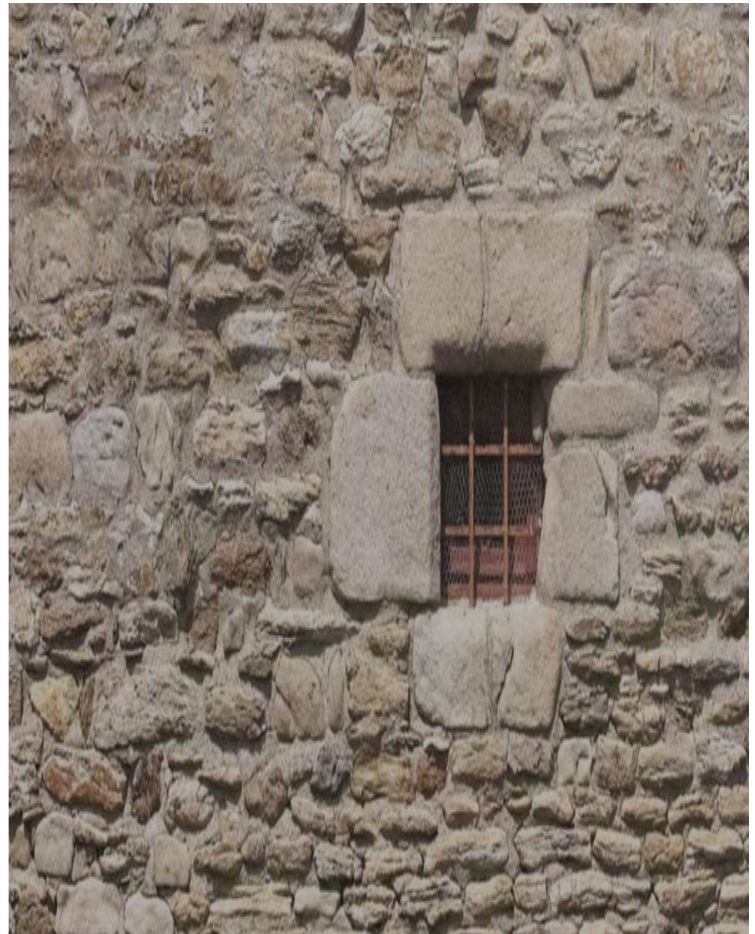
Both "son of the Father," and yet they could not be more different. One rules by taking the lives of others, and the other rules by giving his own life. One wants to overthrow the king, and the other is the rightful King of the people. One is guilty and will be set free, and the other is an innocent man who is about to be killed. The real Son of the Father, who is innocent, will go to his death. They freed the wrong son.³

Jesus was going to be killed for the kind of crime that the man set free actually committed. The ironies continue. Jesus literally took Barabbas's punishment for him. Jesus even marched to his death as Barabbas would have. Jesus marched willingly and quietly. And yet it wasn't because he had lost. Jesus was not outsmarted by his opponents. This was not a mistake or an accident. It was not plan B in God's eternal plan of salvation. The crucifixion of the innocent Lamb of God was God's plan from eternity past.

In Luke 9 we read that Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem because he was on a mission. His whole life was moving toward Golgotha, toward that hill where he would die. His life was a march toward that cross. He lived to die. Jesus once said, "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:18).

The Jews chose the wrong man, but the Lord put forward the right one. That's the gospel. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). You and I are sinners. We sit in a spiritual prison, bound helpless,

awaiting the day when we will receive the just punishment we deserve. We sit on the death row of all death rows waiting to be dragged out to death not knowing when God's righteous judgment will come down. But the good news is that when you repent of your sin and trust in Jesus to save you, Jesus goes off to the cross in your place. He gets what you deserve; you get what he deserves. It is the greatest exchange in all of history. Jesus gives up his life so you can have life.



The Baptist Breeze is a monthly publication of First Baptist Church located at the corner of Sycamore & Washington Streets in Galveston, Indiana.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 626
Galveston, IN 46932

Street Address: 207 S. Sycamore St.
Galveston, IN 46932

Church Office: 574-699-6243
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-2pm

Pastor: Sean Cooper - pastorseancooper@galvestonfbc.org

Summit Youth Leaders: Tyler & Kayla Yeakley

Church Secretary: Sonya Austin - secretary@galvestonfbc.org

Sunday Schedule: Sunday School – 9am
Sunday Worship – 10:15am
Trekks Church – During Sermon
Facebook Livestream – 10:15am
Summit Youth Group – 5-7:30pm

Deacons:

Jeff Parker – Chair	Jim Horoho
David Austin – Vice Chair	John Troutman
Aaron Miller – Secretary	Dan Miller

