

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## of Weatherford

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**Attending Regularly   Serving Willingly   Giving Generously   Living Uprightly**

### BBB IV

#### “Bountiful Blessing Burn”

April 26th

Following the evening service we will watch a brief video of what God has done in the “Expanding His Reach” building project. We will then voice thanksgiving to God before dismissing to the parking lot east of the FLC where pieces of paper on which each of us have listed thanksgivings, requests, and commitments to God will be symbolically burned as an offering to God. A snack supper in the FLC will follow. Everyone bring something.

“May my prayer be set before you like incense.” Psalm 141:2

### Missions Emphasis/Dessert Auction

This Sunday Night

March 29th

The entire service will be held in the FLC.

Bring a dessert to auction off.

Come prepared to bid.

All money raised will go to the support of Missions through FBC. You can even purchase the privilege of throwing a pie in the face of Kendall Johnson, Jeremy Johnson, Byron Cox, etc. Our plan is to enjoy the desserts together after the auction.

### Rejoice!

By the time she made it to the bottom of the mountain she was puffing like a steam engine. Her descent had required only a fraction of the time she spent climbing up the south side of the granite structure that jutted upward on the farm where our daddy was raised. My sister Sandra had joined our sister Sheri and her children on a short mountain climb in our part of the Wichita Mountains.

We were raised doing so. We picked berries that grew wild. We jumped from rock to rock. We raced to the top. We pushed boulders (in our minds) over the edge and savored the smell of granite crushing against granite. A trip to the farm “down yonder” began in the pickup bed and often ended enjoying the scenery from the top of the small mountain just north of the Stephenson house that once stood. In all the years of his raising, Daddy had never seen a rattlesnake on that little mountain.

Our confidence came from him and continued after he did not. Climbing the mountain included no dangers from the reptile population greater than mountain boomers. That all changed on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Pleased with her rapid ascent to the top, Sandra reached up to scale the final, highest rock. Before she lowered her grip, she spotted the mid section of a rattlesnake warming himself in the sun. The sprint down the mountain ensued. Mama, waiting safely on the ground, said she could hear Sandra breathing as she made her exit.

The next day a man who likes to catch rattlesnakes visited the mountain and discovered a huge den of rattlesnakes. On his initial trip he captured six and let four more go. He plans to return another day with a helper. Are you interested? I can contact him on your behalf. I hear the meat tastes like chicken.

When Mama related the story of the snake invasion I could almost hear Daddy making one of his famous observations. “Life as I knew it has passed me by.” How true it is that change continues to happen all around us. Rattlesnakes now thrive where they once never showed themselves. The world around us never remains the same.

But Jesus does. He remains the same yesterday, today and forever. He keeps His Word. He provides for His people. He saves those who believe. He will come again one day. He will never forget about us.

I love you,  
Earl

### FRIENDSHIPS

It has been said that if we have one true friend in our lifetime we are very lucky. I consider myself one of the luckiest people in the world. Five years ago God set in motion a plan He had made several years before. On what was to become the darkest day of my life He sent a godly woman to the Weatherford Hospital to be with me. It was not an accident that she arrived there just prior to the doctor coming out to tell me that my mate of 52 years had passed away. He knew she was a person I would need in my life. She was there that day and has been every day since. She has driven me to doctors in Oklahoma City, to the airport, to my children’s homes and any other place I needed to be. She never questioned me nor has she ever told me no. Because of my limited ability to drive at night, she has picked me up to attend any function at our church, as well as on Wednesday night for choir practice. We have been asked if we are sisters, and we are “sisters in Christ.” We have been accused of being joined at the hip. Maybe we should have been since we both could use a new one. Our relationship has always been based on honesty, respect, and loyalty. A couple of years ago our roles reversed. She called me one day to report that her husband had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. I cried when she gave me the news. She later apologized for upsetting me. I explained the tears were not for her husband, even though I was sorry to hear it. My tears were for her. I had been devastated to lose my husband so unexpectedly and suddenly, but I knew I would not want to carry the burden she had been handed. She had been the giver and I was the receiver. Now I had to be the giver. Although limited in what I could do, I had to be there as much as possible. I have tried to be. With that, I would ask, where possible have you been that friend? Have you stepped up and been willing to give your time and efforts? If not, I would encourage you to do so. You will be truly blessed. Now, this godly woman will soon be leaving our church and our community and she will be missed. God has so blessed me through our friendship. So to you, Veda Tull, my true friend, I say goodbye and God bless you in the days, weeks, and months to come.

Your friend, Eva Johnson

### 90th Birthday Reception for Lillian Byers

This Sunday - March 29th 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall



Ladies' Retreat  
April 3 - 4 at Falls Creek  
More Info: Contact - Allison Kendall

Men's Retreat  
April 24 - 25 at Falls Creek  
More Info: Contact - Doug Hale



### New First Family



Crystal  
Tipton



Michael, Leah, &  
Avery Barker



Jim  
Young

### Expanding His Reach Building Campaign



Amount Given to Date - \$ 2,594,144.13

### Sunday School Attendance

March 22

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