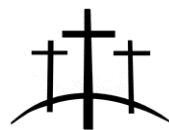


THE FIRST WORD for April 6, 2025



First Baptist Church Eden

**A Place of Grace to
Believe, Belong, and Become**

101 Burleson Street (325) 869-3681

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday Small Groups 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Pastor: John Curry (432) 923-2163 edenpastor@frontier.com

Worship Ministry Leader: Mike Turner conchospringsgolf@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry Leader: Loren Briggs (325) 656-3234 loren3484@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry Leader: Pam Young (432) 413-3205 jeunejoven@gmail.com

Adult Ministry Leader: Teresa Escue (325) 450-7279 edenfbsec@frontier.com

**FBC Eden exists to bring glory to God by becoming a "3E community":
Embracing God in worship, Encouraging one another in love to become
fully-devoted disciples, and Engaging the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

April 8: 10:00 am Community Ladies Gathering @ Church of Christ

April 12: 9:00 am Church Work Day

April 14: 6:00 pm MOC Meeting

April 18: Passover Sedar Celebration

April 20: 7:00 am Sunrise Service at the Square

Easter Sunday, LORD's Supper

April 26: 10:00 am Natural Remedies & Herbs

April 27: 5:30 pm Church Leadership Council Meeting

**Conspiracy Series:
Conspiracy to Detain
John 18:1-4**

**Deacon of the Month
Bryan Briley**

**Annie Armstrong
Goal \$2,000
Received: \$900**

**Thanks again to Tina Briley for her
article for this week's First Word.**

FOR THE RECORD ...

Worship 108

Small Groups..... 71

Wednesday Night..... 51

MARCH 2025

Budget REQUIRED:

\$20,832.00

Budget GIVING:

\$25,958.45

Fill a Bucket

There is a picture book called "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" It is intended for children, but its message is for all of us. The book describes how each person carries an invisible bucket that is either filled or emptied by the words and actions of others. Kind words and actions fill our buckets and make us feel good about ourselves while hurtful words and actions drain our buckets and make us feel unimportant and worthless.

It grieves me how many people do not understand their intrinsic value. They see themselves as worthless and their lives as hopeless because they do not know that the Creator's image is upon them. They see themselves through the judgmental eyes of the world rather than through the eyes of the Creator.

We, as the disciples of the Messiah, need to be seeking and saving what is lost. We need to fill buckets by speaking blessings into people's lives on a daily basis. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen," Eph 4:29. In spite of what others may say or do, we must respond in godliness. The more the world beats people down, the more we need to build them up. We cannot influence people for God until we start treating them as he would.

I had a very upset student speaking disrespectfully to me and using expletives. At one point, he shouted, "Just kick me out. That's what everybody does. Then I won't be your problem anymore." I said, "No Sir. I will not give up on you." A little while later after he had calmed down, he said, "Miss, you know when I was cussing at you and stuff? How come when I was disrespecting you, you kept calling me Sir and being nice?" I told him his actions did not deserve my respect, but he as a person did. In confusion, he furrowed his brow and shook his head. I explained that because God created him, if I disrespected him, I would also be disrespecting God.

As one who has spent 33 years working in the schools, I have seen firsthand that these people need to know they are created in the image of God. I think they need to be treated as fine works of art created by a Master Sculptor. And one thing I've learned, the hard to love are the ones who need love the most. Often, they have a hard exterior shell because it's a defense mechanism. They have been mistreated and disrespected so much that the only way to really get their attention is through gentleness, kindness, and love. In the words of Solomon, a man of great wisdom, "A gentle answer turns away wrath," Pr 15:1. We need to learn to be gentle in the way we deal with others.

Pray that God will open your eyes to those who are hurting. You may recognize them by their harsh words and disrespectful attitudes. Find a way to speak blessings and healing into their lives. You may be the only one who speaks a kind word to them, and it could make the difference between life and death. "The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life," Pr 15:4. May you be a tree of life to a lost and hurting world. Go forth and do good.