

FBC Branch Update

I will give thanks
to the LORD
with all my heart;
I will tell
of all Your wonders.
I will be glad
and exult in You;
I will sing praise
to Your name,
O Most High.



Greetings in the Precious Name of Jesus!

Once upon a time, there was a city which set high upon a hill. The people of the valley looked with wonder at its light shining so brightly. Occasionally one from the towns below would make the journey up the steep hill to live among them. The city gave many people hope.

Yet one day there came to their fair city a visitor. This man did not see a beautiful city of peace, love, and joy but rather he saw an opportunity for himself.

“If only I could get these people to follow me,” he thought to himself. And with that an evil plot began to spring forth in his mind. The further he thought about it the more he smiled. But his smile was not gentle and kind, it was cruel and vindictive.

The next day he announced to the people of the town that he had been given a most wondrous task. He was to help this people to be like the towns that dotted the valley below. Now these towns were well known to the townspeople. They knew that within those towns was much evil and much that was wrong.

So began a great debate. Should the city on the hill be like the towns below them? Some said yes and some said no. But all wondered greatly what would be the outcome.

Now the traveler had a dilemma. He knew what he wanted but how to do it? Finally, the answer came. It was so simple that he laughed out loud when he thought of it. The next morning the traveler announced that he was going to provide for the people of this town a fashionable, new set of clothes. The one thing that he had noticed about these people was that their clothing was rather plain and drab. Many of the people wore the same clothing they had worn for many years. He explained that these new clothes would transform the people of the town and make them more acceptable to their neighbors below.

If he had announced the dragon was coming he couldn't have made more of a stir. Most of the people of the town were curious and some were excited by his generous offer.

In the days that followed he carefully explained to the people that these new clothes would not only make them more acceptable to others but the very patterns and fabrics would reveal the true beauty of their hearts.

He and his helpers (for he had sent for several to help him) began to cut and piece and sew. Yet they would allow no one to enter into their work room. Instead they

called for donations of the finest materials. These poured in as the work continued.

Finally, the day came that the tailors (for so they now called themselves) were ready to begin to show off their handiwork. Yet they carefully explained that these new clothes had such a wonderful quality that they would not only make the townspeople wise and happy but they would be invisible to anyone who was unquestionably stupid.

One by one the townspeople were fitted in their new clothes. There was one problem. The tailors were swindlers. Con men. The clothing they had made... well, there was none. But, oh, how they talked and exclaimed over how good the people looked as they dressed them in their imaginary new clothes.

Some of the people were understandably confused. Some started to object. But none did. Because, each one thought, “That would only reveal my stupidity.”

At last, the job was finished. Most of the townspeople had received their new clothing. They proposed a grand parade to celebrate such a great day. Those who had not received the clothing stood in silent shock as their friends and neighbors paraded down the main street. The people were afraid to say anything for fear of being labeled stupid or bigoted or even intolerant.

But that didn't stop one little boy. He had the most sense of them all and none of the fear. He tugged at his mother's skirt and said quite loudly, “But, Mama, they don't have anything on at all!”

But of course the television news crews were there to document this momentous day. The mayor gave a speech and the key to the city to the tailor and his helpers. The newspaper did a feature story for the Valley Times. The ACLU even turned up to congratulate the people of the town for their enlightened attitudes.

The parade was over. The people began to go to their homes. Some of them were quite cold and cross as they stumbled to their homes, for indeed their fair city of light now seemed remarkably dim and dark. The others marked with astonishment that their city which had sat so high just the day before was now low down in the valley with all the other villages.

Hans Christian Anderson's story, The Emperor's New Clothes, was the inspiration for this parable. Many today have believed a lie. Many are living in the dark who once sat in great light. I pray that our city upon a hill, our church, will let its light shine until Jesus comes. God give us the ability to discern truth and righteousness and holiness in a day of confusion and evil.

Until He comes,
Pastor Tim Hobbs



Ladies Sunday Evening Group

“Sisters”

Time - 5:30 pm Place - 1st Class Room

1st Sunday of each month - Bible Study w/ Susie Hobbs

2nd Sunday of each month - Sweet Hour of Prayer

3rd Sunday of each month - Missions Spotlight

4th Sunday of each month - Share & Care

May's Theme:

Love That Lasts

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

John 7:38

Happenings This Month!

- **Revival** - Bro Ronnie Tullos will join us May 3rd through 6th for revival services at 7:00 pm nightly. We will have a special emphasis each night. Remember to invite the lost and **PRAY!**
- **Youth Camp!** - Signup is still open. Those leaving 6th grade and up are invited to come with us to Summit Camp on June 1st - 6th. \$25 signup fee. Watch the bulletin for details as time nears.
- **Walk for Life** - coming May 9th at 9:00 am to benefit the Pregnancy Help Center in Ft Smith. Sign-up with Marla Reardon.
- **Baccalaureate Service** - We will host the baccalaureate services for County Line High School on May 10th at 7:00 pm. A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall after the services.

Men's Ministry Opportunities

Our monthly **Men's Prayer Breakfast** will be on May 17th. We will eat at 7:30am but the fellowship before the meal starts around 6:00 or 6:30. So, make plans now to set your alarm a little early and join us as we start our Sunday morning with good food and a great time of just being guys. Our **Guy's Night Out** is going to be moving to the first Friday of the month. We have one planned May 8th, with the next on June 5th. We will meet on the church parking lot at 6:00pm and pick somewhere to go eat supper. All men, members & non-members alike, are invited to come on out and join us for either or both events.



May Bible Readings

Read Through the Bible in One Year

	Judges	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	13-15	18
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	16-18	19:1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	19-21	19:15-29
	Romans	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	1-3	20:1-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	4-5	20:16-30
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	6-8	21:1-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	----- Reflection -----	
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	9-11	21:17-31
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	12-13	22:1-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	14-16	22:17-29
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Ruth	23:1-18
	Ephesians	
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	1-3	23:19-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	4-6	24:1-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	----- Reflection -----	
	1 Samuel	
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	1-3	24:23-34
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	4-6	25:1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	7-9	25:15-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	10-12	26:1-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	13-15	26:17-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	16-19	27:1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	----- Reflection -----	
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	20-22	27:15-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	23-25	28:1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	26-28	28:15-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	29-31	29:1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Philippians	29:15-27
	2 Samuel	
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	1-3	30
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	4-7	31
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	----- Reflection -----	
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	----- Reflection -----	
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	----- Reflection -----	

May Nursery Workers

May 3	AM	Kacie Waters & Jeannie Reed
	PM	Aaron & Megan Lovelace
May 10	AM	Kelsey Noble & Maxine Skeets
	PM	Dana Cunningham & Emma Shockley
May 17	AM	Aaron & Megan Lovelace
	PM	Linda Mays & Hannah Hobbs
May 24	AM	Tara Heft & Amber Speer
	PM	Mykka Mitchell & Amanda Wright
May 31	AM	Michele Shockley & Joan Shumate
	PM	Kennon & Kelsey Noble

A heart-felt thanks to all who have volunteered their time.

First Baptist Church

Branch, Arkansas

MAY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Greenhurst Services <u>3:00pm</u>	6	7	8 Guy's Night Out <u>6:00pm</u>	9
Revival Services with Bro Ronnie Tullos - 7:00pm Nightly						
10 Youth Led Evening Service <u>6:30 pm</u>	11	12	13 Business Meeting & Prayer Service <u>6:30pm</u> Awana <u>6:30 pm</u>	14	15	16 Work Day <u>8:00 am</u>
17 Men's Prayer Breakfast <u>7:30 am</u>	18	19	20 Prayer Service <u>6:30 pm</u> Awana <u>6:30 pm</u>	21	22	23 Outreach! <u>9:30 am</u>
24	25 Deacon's Meeting <u>7:00 pm</u> <u>Memorial Day</u>	26 Senior Luncheon <u>Noon</u>	27 Prayer Service <u>6:30 pm</u> Awana <u>6:30 pm</u>	28	29	30
31 Teacher's Meeting <u>9:30 am</u> 5th Sunday Potluck & Free Service <u>5:30 pm</u>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Contact Deacon for May Jimmy Gray 965-7236</p> </div>				

Sunday Schedule

10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Morning Worship
 5:30 pm Discipleship Hour
 6:30 pm Evening Worship

First Baptist Church

P. O. Box 128
 Branch, AR 72928
 Return Service Requested

Church Office - (479) 965-2515
 Pastor's Home - (479) 965-2550
 Pastor's Cell Phone - (479) 965-6135
 Pastor's Email - timhobbs@centurytel.net
 Church Web Site - <http://fbcbranch.org>
 Announcements - bulletin@fbcbranch.org