

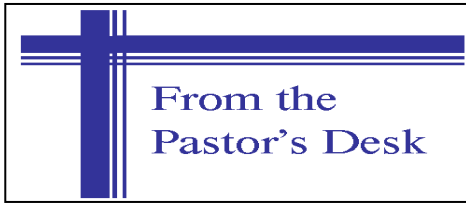


Discover A Place to Call Home

THE MESSENGER

May 2023

Volume 1, Issue 126



I left the pastorate for a season in 1995 and a weird thing happened when I did. It was like someone had lifted a “weight” off of me. Not a particularly heavy one but one that I definitely noticed when it was gone. I had come to accept and live with a stress burden that was on the surface, undetectable and assumed to be just a part of the job.

Church strategist, Thom Rainer says there are at least nine, what he refers to as, “micro-stressors” pastors’ experience by the very nature of their jobs and calling. He is not saying that pastors alone have stressful jobs, nor does he imply that their work is more difficult than other jobs, and not all of them are the result of negative circumstances per se. “But left alone without care, these micro-stresses can lead to a total collapse.” Rainer uses the illustration of a bridge collapse on the Ohio River in 1967 that was attributed to a micro-stress in the structure of the bridge that was unnoticed and unattended to. (Blog Post – “Nine Microstresses of a Pastor,” by Thom Rainer)

In the twenty-eight years since, I have become much better at detecting and managing those stressors in my life and ministry. What are they?

I think two are interrelated, that is, “The decision making and omniscient micro-stressors.” Decision making overload is just that, all decisions falling on the pastor. Omniscient simply means a pastor who is competent in multiple areas, even ones outside of the ministry (business and finance or construction and maintenance).

I have accepted my incompetence in certain areas, and I am thankful there are those in our church who are not. While I want to be informed and knowledgeable as possible in all areas of church life, I am comfortable with allowing someone else to make those decisions.

Another two are the critical comments and bill pay micro-stressors. In my first pastorate, while most of the congregation was incredibly gracious and supportive, there was a retired pastor who was critical of me, often behind my back. He carried enough weight to influence the congregation. The other issue was the church could not afford to pay me a living wage. When the opportunity opened for me to be co-vocational, they denied me that opportunity at the urging of the critical retired pastor.

Today, I feel incredibly grateful for the way I have been treated these last eighteen years. You have taken these stressors “off the table” by paying me a living wage and when I have faced criticism it has been done in love for both me and the church and to my face. Thank you!

The family failure micro-stress is one that I have to deal with on my own. No one can own it but the pastor. It is the temptation to always place the ministry and church over one’s own family... the family always gets the “leftovers.” This often has to do with the pastor’s own fears, ego, and need of approval from the church.

I am grateful to my wife for helping me stay balanced, releasing when I had to go in an emergency, and for you for protecting me in this. You have not made this one difficult to deal with.

Related, but not an issue for me, is the “theologian-in-residence” micro-stressor. This simply has to do with being asked a multitude of biblical and theological questions. The only time it was ever an issue was when a person the church was ministering to called and woke me up from a deep sleep in the middle of the night asking where the Ten Commandments were found in the Bible. That is an extreme case. I love your questions, keep them coming.

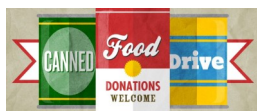
The last three are the ones I ask you to pray for me over. First, is the issue of emotional extremes. Rainer tells of a pastor who had celebrated the birth of a child, a new Christian coming into the church and the funeral of a 16-year-old girl killed in a car wreck in the same week. Being able to successfully navigate those emotions, not just for oneself, but the other people involved requires the power of God.

Second is the pastoral care stressor. Often tied to the emotional extremes, this is simply walking with people through life, from conception to death. It is a key part of the job and requires both the compassion and wisdom of Jesus.

Finally, is the continuous deadline stressor. I love Jesus, I love the church, and I love to preach, but 11:20 Sunday morning comes every week with out end until I retire, I am called home, or Jesus comes back. It is not just preparation but the weight of communicating the truth of the word of God correctly, with clarity, which has an impact on a Christian’s life.

I’m out of my room, thanks for letting me share!

~Pastor Mark



For Grace Ministry we collected a total of 32 pounds of food in March. The May needs for Grace Ministries are any and all canned goods.

For the month of April we delivered a total of 10 blankets to hospice. Without the support of all that contribute money and ones that make the blankets, this mission would not be possible. So thank you. As always, anyone that would like to come on Tuesdays, we meet in the Fellowship Hall from 1-3 pm. We would enjoy your company.

We are planning our next Garage "No" Sale on August 12th. If you have items to donate, you can bring them to the church. However, if you have clothing, please make sure your clothing is clean, separated by size and gender, and labeled before being put in a box or bag. Please keep sizes separated. For bedding, please be sure the size is clearly marked on the box or bag it is contained in.

Thank you,
Steve & Ida Jones



The revised Constitution & Bylaws were voted on and approved.

Brad & Sandra Miller were approved for membership.

The office computer had some issues and Jennifer is working to retrieve the information.



Prayer Walk
May 7th at 9:15am
Meet in JLBC Fellowship Hall



Wednesday Night Services
Meal for Everyone at 5:20pm
Adult class in Sanctuary at 6pm
Youth & Team Kids class at 6pm

Beginning May 21, there will only be prayer meeting and devotional until August 16th.



Deacon Meeting
May 7th at 4pm

Family Business Meeting
May 17th at 7pm



National Day of Prayer
May 4 at 12:15pm
Meet at Gazebo in Permian Park

Join us Tuesday, May 9!

May-Him



May-Him Choir Presentation
May 9 at 10:30 am
\$12/person Lunch Included



New Member Classes
May 17
Open to Everyone



Volunteers Needed!



Crochet & Knitting Fellowship
May 18th at 6pm
JLBC Fellowship Hall



Team Kids Skating Trip
May 20 @ 11am



South Africa Mission Trip
Collecting new/gently used
reading or sun glasses.
No prescription glasses.



Ladies Craft Night
June 3 @6pm
\$25/craft

PASTOR & DEACONS

Please feel free to call any of us at any time.

Mark Simons	940-867-5066
Rick Griffin	940-249-8461
Bill Lindenborn	940-781-2504
Marvin Maherg	940-636-2207
Robert Ritter	940-631-7437
John Naas	501-607-0713

MARK SIMONS – PASTOR

jlcburk@gmail.com
www.jlcburk.com

Office hours: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Monday – Thursday

Located on Kramer Rd across from Burkburnett High School

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3  BISD FAMILY NIGHT IN THE PARK 6PM	4  NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 12:15 @ PERMIAN PARK  Faith Mission 7:30 PM	5	6
7  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	8	9  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP <small>Join us Tuesday, May 9! May-Him Coke's Church 11:00am - 12:00pm 12:00pm - 1:00pm 1:00pm - 2:00pm 2:00pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm - 4:00pm 4:00pm - 5:00pm 5:00pm - 6:00pm 6:00pm - 7:00pm 7:00pm - 8:00pm 8:00pm - 9:00pm 9:00pm - 10:00pm 10:00pm - 11:00pm 11:00pm - 12:00am</small>	10  MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	11	12	13
14  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	15	16  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	17  MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	18  FAMILY BUSINESS MEETING @ 7PM ON MAY 17 	19	20  TEAM KIDS ROLLER SKATING TRIP
21  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	22	23  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	24  FINAL WEDNESDAY SERVICE BEFORE SUMMER BREAK	25  NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	26	27
28  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	29  OFFICES CLOSED	30  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	31  DEVOTIONAL & PRAYER 6 PM	27	28	29

April 2023 Sunday School Attendance Record

April 2	59
April 9	66
April 16	49
April 23	50
April 30	61

Average Attendance: 57

Average based on 5 Sundays

April 2023 Financial Report

Tithes	\$18,865.71
Estimated monthly budget needs for 2022 - 2023	\$15,695.00
Designated	\$ 6,689.45



May 2023 Deacon of the Week

May 1-7	John Naas
May 8-14	Robert Ritter
May 15-21	Rick Griffin
May 22-28	Bill Lindenborn
May 29-Jun 4	Marvin Maherg

Prayer Chain

If you have an e-mail address and desire to be on the prayer chain, please call the church office with your email information.

Questions? Call Jennifer @ 569-1211

We're on the web!

www.jlbcburk.com

Jan Lee Baptist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:45 AM
MORNING SERVICE	11:00 AM
ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE	Resumes in Fall

MIDWEEK RENEWAL SERVICE

MEAL	5:20 PM
PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY	6:00 PM
YOUTH & TEAM KIDS ACTIVITIES	6:00 PM



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