

**June 2012**

**2012 Graduates**

Crista Newsome, Plainview High School

Curtis Williams, Collinsville High School

Maggie Cox, Sand Rock High School

Zachry Bobo, Clear Lake High School, Houston, TX

Shawn Ross, Northeast Alabama Community College  
A.S. Degree in Religious Studies

Michelle Borntrager, West Alabama University  
Master's Degree in Counseling and Psychology

**Operation Christmas Child Schedule**

May – Girls' Toys

June – Boys' Clothing Items

**Vacation Bible School**

***Daniel's Courage in Captivity***

Sunday, June 17 – Thursday, June 21

5:30 – 7:45 P.M. Daily

Snack Supper Each Day

Biblical Attire and Decorations

Preschool – Completed Grade Six

Join Us For The Excitement -- Lions' Den, Fiery Furnace, Strange Diets, Strange  
Dreams and a Long, Long Way From Home

Join Us For the Excitement – Bible Stories, Songs, Crafts, Games, Food and  
Lots and Lots of Learning and Fun

Join Us in Biblical Babylon

Needed for VBS – Paper Grocery Bags, Empty Paper Towel Rolls

**Father's Day – Sunday, June 17**

**June Volunteers**

Flowers – Karen, Sheila, Jennifer June 3; Marilyn Borntrager June 10; JoAnn Myers June 24

Lord's Supper – Mark and Glenda Morgan June 17

**Cold Coffee and Bible Study**

Sunday Nights at 5:00

Fellowship Hall

**Coming in July – Stewardship and Budget Committee, Nominating Committee – Turn Any Suggestions into the Committees**

*Cbc Kids, military, nursing home  
Shocco Springs Dates from last time*

**A Light on A Hill**  
***175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration***

Saturday, August 11

Informal Sharing Time in Fellowship Hall  
We Provide the Place and Some Refreshments  
You Provide the Memories  
Casual Dress  
1 – 3 P.M.

Sunday, August 12

Worship in the Sanctuary  
10 A.M. – Noon  
Lots of Music, Lots of Remembering, Lots of Worship  
Group Picture at 11

Covered Dish Dinner and More Sharing  
Noon  
We Will Provide Ham  
Talk and Eat as Long As You Want to Stay  
No Evening Service

From John and the Anniversary Committee: Please help us be sure that we get the above information out to everyone who should be invited. You might want to make a copy of this page and send it to family, friends, others who may not be on the church newsletter mailing list. The committee is preparing a formal invitation and is getting together a mailing list for it. If you do not want to copy and mail this page, or if you do but want a formal invitation sent to someone special, please:  
Turn in Names of People You Want Invited

After the invitations: Be Ready for Lots of Getting Ready at the Church

Some thoughts during June about Father's Day.

Several years ago, something magic happened to me. Something transcendent. Something miraculous. I held in my hands a little baby named John, and my life changed forever. All parents have that experience.

And it is a miracle that was repeated for me three more times with the birth of three other sons. Each time I held that baby in my hands and felt the miracle of life. I looked at those babies and saw in them my love for Gloria and my love for God.

I love being a dad. A daddy. Love it whenever one of my boys calls me that.

I am so thankful for happy memories of time with them. Of sitting on the couch and reading to them as they draped themselves all over me. Of watching them play in the sandbox. Of playing in the waves with them. Of driving down the highway on family trips in the middle of the night when they were all asleep and so was Gloria, but I could feel them all around me. Of events that led to oft told family tales – Joseph's bike wreck, carnivals in John and Mark's room, a meal of Cheerios and peanut butter, and on and on.

Of all those ball games watching John and Matthew march and Joseph and Mark play. Of rides home from games with them as they did their homework. Of their passages in life – choir programs, summer camps, graduations. Of being with them on youth retreats and watching their love of God grow. Watching them at programs or awards days and swelling up so much with pride I could hardly stay sitting down. Hardly keep pretending to other parents that I was not about to "pop my buttons" (a phrase I learned from my father-in-law concerning his children). How long can this article be?

There are a couple of things that you should know about my boys. One is that they have done great things in spite of having a very imperfect father. I failed them so often. I am thankful that they all know they have a heavenly Father who does not fail them. And for the grace He gives to all of us who are fallen fathers and mothers. And that God used many of you to fill in for my failures – you have been wonderful substitute parents, grandparents and brothers and sisters in Christ for my boys. We must do that for all the children in our church.

And you need to know that my boys are not perfect (their grandparents would disagree). This is a fallen world. There have been hard times when I had to grope with how to be a father for them. To help them when life was not perfect. And

they had to learn to give those things to God. To seek help that only their Heavenly Father can give. I am thankful that God allowed me to baptize all four – to see them become sons who are my brothers in Christ. And God used many of you to help them – you let them be normal and not just the preacher's kids. You showed them patience and love. We need to let all the children in the church – and all the rest of us – be humans in a fallen world in need of the grace of God and the love of the Church.

Do you realize all of my babies are older than I was (29) when I became pastor here? I have learned to be a father – a daddy – of adults. It is really fun. Though I would confess that I often look at these grown men and imagine little boys playing with Legos (of course, they all four do still occasionally play with Legos, but that is another story).

And so, this month, and all others – I love you John, Mark, Matthew and Joseph. And Glenda and Susan. And soon Kara. And don't get me started on Elijah, Isaiah and Sarah and number four.

I thank God for my every remembrance of you. And for all of you who have allowed yourselves to be instruments of God's grace in their lives. They are miracles. And so are you.