

THE MESSAGE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS OSOS

January 2021

I cannot even believe this year is over and a new one is about to begin, or is it that 2020 just added another month, since nothing really seems to be changing anytime soon, due to the Covid re-strictions. I remember years ago, taking our youth to the State Youth Convention put on by the Youth Department of the California Southern Baptist Convention. This was an annual event our youth looked forward to, as they got to get away for three days, stay in a hotel and got to buddy around with their friends, and oh yes, attend worship services and break-out classes on different topics of interest.

This event was always scheduled the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, and was typically held either in the Los Angeles area or the San Francisco/Sacramento Area. In 1999, the event was to be held down in Anaheim, and none of our youth leaders were really wanting to take a group of teens to the Anaheim Convention Center, right across the street from Disneyland, on the eve of Y2K. Not knowing what was going to happen, the last place we wanted to be was in the LA area, with vans full of teens, with electrical grid issues, computer glitches, gas pumps not working, traffic signals on the blink, etc.

Basically, the whole Y2K (end of the world prophecy) really amounted to nothing. At the time, we did not know for sure what could happen or would happen, so we played it safe and stayed home, much to the youth's chagrin and the adult's approval. There are times when we fear the un-known, we end up playing things safe. With the Covid 19 virus, many churches have played it safe, again, much to the chagrin of some, and the relief of others.

It has been my goal as your pastor to encourage our church to follow certain guidelines and try our best to not become a breeding ground for this disease. Trust me when I say, I have heard from both sides and the different opinions on the shutdown and the way it has affected the church and all our members. I will be the first to say, I do not enjoy preaching to a virtually empty church. It crushed me when we closed church for Easter, our Annual Egg Hunt, Camps, Vacation Bible School, etc.

The greatest part of my job is getting to see people, and when there are no people, my job be-comes just that, a job. I am not sure who said it, but there is an old saying that goes, "do what you love and you'll never have to work another day in your life." Well, the year 2020 has been a year many have lost their jobs, and it has been the year I got a job. (Lol) I say all this to let you know how much I miss you. I miss the chance to worship and study scripture together. I miss seeing you use your different gifts. I miss watching God at work in your lives. I miss knowing you are growing in your relationship with Christ. I miss just seeing you, talking with you, praying for you, hanging out with you, eating with you, and yes, even serving you.

One thing I enjoy is having church potlucks, because I like to eat, but I also enjoy serving oth-ers. I don't say this to toot my own horn, but because this is who God gifted me to be, and this is when I am the most blessed. Pray with me that this season of shutdowns, closures, job losses, schools closed, etc. comes to an end soon, and we can get back to the business of being together in worship, study and in using our gifts.

It is my hope and prayer that soon we will be able to get back together and we can all see the evidence of the Spirit, Lord and God the Father working in and through us to accomplish His great will. 1 Cor 12:4-7 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (NASU) But no matter how long this season holds on, continue to serve the Lord and others with a glad and cheerful heart, using your spiritual gifts as He has equipped you for ministry.

I Love You,

Pastor Bob



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Rick Carroll |
| 3 Amanda Mendoza | 4 | 5 | 6 Amilio & Marilou Ubay | 7 Judy Elliott Joanne Wade | 8 Elliott Paulson | 9 |
| 10 Dave Copple | 11 Kimberly Eytcheson Marilou Ubay | 12 Bev Boitel Hannah Grotte | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Church Council Meeting 7 pm Kevin Hodges | 20 | 21 | 22 Bruce & Marty Forsyth Destin Copple | 23 |
| 24 | 25 John and Judy Elliott | 26 Linda Andrade Melissa Wilson Suzy Nelson | 27 | 28 | 29 Donna Tubbs | 30 |
| 31 Allison Bruce Kay Graves | | | | | | |

did YOU know?



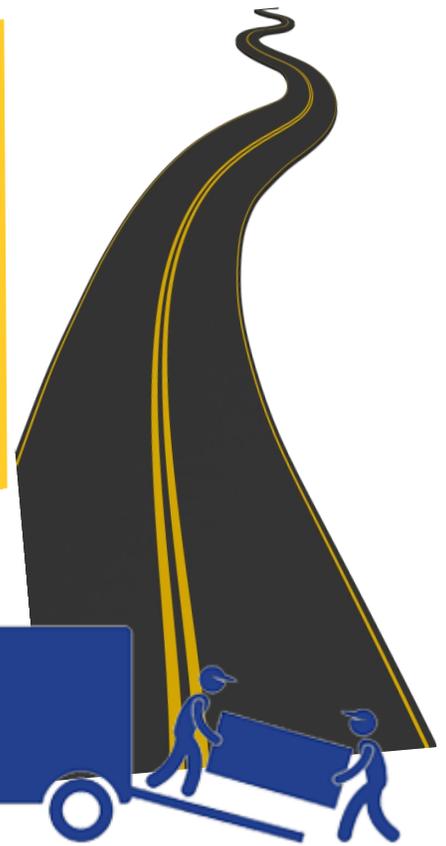
Tracy Sheek

Was married on Saturday, December 26th to Oscar Llamas. We can now call her Mrs. Llamas. Andrew and Phillip walked their mother down the aisle with pride.



Lucy Haydu

One Saturday afternoon in December, Lucy was with her mom and a few friends and she asked Kim Pruitt to lead her in the prayer of salvation. She will be baptized in January.



Bruce and Marty Forsyth

Most of you have heard that they are moving to Texas. They have sold everything they don't need and will be leaving California to the promise land of Texas early January. They have bought a brand new home and this move places them in the same state where their daughter lives. We will miss them both.



You were very generous with your **International Mission Board** offering . Our church goal was only \$1,00.00. Our church gave **\$1,875.00**. Thank you