

# NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

DECEMBER 2019

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*The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually*

## **TBF will be saying so long to the McCoys on December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

See Carol Wanzor's article on their lives before, during, and (future plans) after TBF on pages 2 – 4.



### **Bible Studies and Events:**

December 1<sup>st</sup> – LORD's supper during 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour

December 9<sup>th</sup> – MOPS at FUMC 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

December 11<sup>th</sup> – Deadline to bring items for Project Christmas Cleanliness

December 15<sup>th</sup> – Wassail Night/McCoy Retirement/McCoys' Farewell Party beginning with a potluck at 4:00

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Kindred Community Dinner at FUMC 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

December 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> – AM services begin at 10:00 and end at approximately 11:30 – no 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour

December 25<sup>th</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup> – No Wednesday evening services

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Hour Teaching Time:**

"Snapshots of the Life of Christ" (a look at passages in the four Gospels not directly dealt with in the Life of Christ A-Z)

**Sunday 2nd Hour Adult Class:** In Brad's Office DVD Driven Series: *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado.

### **Wednesday P.M. Services:**

7:05 – 7:35: Share and Prayer

7:35 – 8:05: **The Book of Colossians study continues**

A pastoral career spanning 37 years, involving positions at only two churches could sound a bit ho hum (although it is a HUGE accomplishment), but a bit of digging does reveal more than a few interesting twists and turns in the lives of Brad and Debbie McCoy.

From the time of Brad's salvation experience at age 9, he always believed if you were truly a sold out Christian, you would be either a pastor or a missionary. But, hey, he was nine and even really bright guys don't generally have total life plans at that age, right? And besides, he really needed to focus on creating some havoc in the life of his 3 younger sisters. So, life seemingly rolled along while behind the scenes God played out his plan to bring him back around to a life dedicated to Biblical teaching.

Brad got to be one of the cool kids who lived in three different states growing up. His Dad's work in the oil storage business took them from Florida, through Alabama, settling in Nederland, Texas, for his high school years where he met Debbie Walker. (She was the lucky girl who spent all her early years in Nederland growing up with 2 sisters). Getting to know each other originally in high school English class their first 'date' was to the library in Port Arthur to do research for senior term papers (so exciting - you can't make this stuff up!)

Finding themselves "immediately extremely compatible", they stayed in touch when they went separate directions for college studies - Brad to University of Houston / Lamar University for a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Debbie to Tyler Junior College to pursue a Dental Hygiene certification.

Married in 1973, Debbie began work with a Houston dentist, while Brad entered Dental School. They found a church home at a small Bible church in Houston where Brad's desire to be the "sold out guy" who shared his love for Christ and brought others to faith was rekindled. Plugging into service there, first in teaching children, he then found himself facing a small group of adults eagerly awaiting his words of wisdom. Unfortunately, the Brad McCoy of 1976 was not the Brad of 2019 who on the outside sometimes appears to be calm, cool and self-assured. Experiencing a high level of anxiety, he describes basically a Class A miracle of becoming totally calm and able to share what he had learned in his week of preparation after a short opening prayer during which his knees were literally knocking!

Not too long after that incredible experience, Brad developed some eye sight issues which forced him to consider a change in career direction. His focus returned to that love for Christ, and the desire to learn more about his Savior and being able to share what he learned with others. During a weekend camping trip with her family, Debbie found a calm assurance that seminary was the right direction for them. Four more years of school with her working to support them, right? No doubt she truly did receive some supernatural affirmation and encouragement.

Brad describes his time at Dallas Theological Seminary as the "sweet spot" in life, at least up to that point in time. Investing in books that earlier would have been a huge luxury and knowing this was now "his job" to read, digest and master the content was a challenge he not only fully embraced, but enjoyed. He chewed through classes with the likes of Drs. Harold Hoehner, Charles Ryrie and Robert Lightner. These were brilliant Godly men who were not household names at that time, but have come to be widely accepted as having accomplished important work in the field of theology. Brad loved seminary so much, he crammed 4 years of study into 3, anxious to get to the work God had ready for them. But alas, God had another time table. . . .



Anxiously waiting through 15 months to find the church for that all important first pastoral position also brought some interesting experiences. Their son Jamie was born in June after Brad's May 1981 graduation, so while Debbie adjusted to the new Mom role, Brad found work at a law firm in Dallas. They trekked to Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and flew into Nebraska in a BLIZZARD in January looking for the place God would have them serve.

Ultimately, they found the right fit at Fellowship Bible Church of Shreveport, Louisiana, in August of 1982. FBC is described by both Brad and Debbie as a "good first church." God added son Jonathan to their family the next February, and they were also blessed to form many lasting friendships during this time. Although there were ministry challenges, they saw spiritual growth in the church and God brought enough encouragement to keep them going in the early years. The move to Tanglewood did not come about as a result of a normal pastoral search, at least not from the McCoy's end. Brad actually received what you might call a "cold call" from Bill Dickinson on a Sunday afternoon, asking him to consider looking at TBF as his next position based on a recommendation by Robert Lightner. Headed to DFW for a theological conference over fall break in October, 1988, they agreed to stop in for a visit at TBF where Brad spoke on Acts 2:42. And, as they say. . . the rest is history - well, almost history at this point. With the current average pastoral tenure being about 3 years, both TBFers and the McCoy's would say it has truly been a great gift for them to minister in this one church for 31 years. That blessing included raising their children in Duncan, with Debbie able to commit to full time "mom-ship" until shortly after Jamie graduated high school in 1999. At that time, she entered the Duncan Public School system, first as a substitute teacher, then spent 18 years serving in the office as Financial Secretary at Horace Mann Elementary.

Over thirty-one years of ministry a lot of things happen, a lot of things change, and others remain the same. One thing that remained the same was Brad and Debbie's quiet commitment to servant leadership at TBF and in our community. To highlight some changes, Brad counts the completion of the "new building" (current auditorium, foyer, kitchen and education rooms) in 1991 as one of the exciting times of his tenure.

Looking back over the years, TBF's connection with Carmen and Tomas Yanez and the Jerusalem Baptist Church in Puebla, Mexico is another special blessing Brad reflects on fondly. Although TBF had always been a church closely tied to the needs of mission work, be that local or across the globe, the first official mission trip involving TBFers including Brad to Puebla, Mexico also occurred in 1991. Since that time, about 40 different TBFers have traveled to Mexico, assisting Carmen & Tomas with many tasks supporting their church and helping to spread the Gospel in Puebla.

Brad was awarded his PhD in Biblical Studies in 2003, climbing that four-year mountain with the primary intent of being able to research and write a dissertation on the unique literary structure of the Prologue and the Epilogue of the Book of Revelation. While the increased Biblical knowledge he gained in his doctoral program has served him and TBF well, it also ultimately led to a part-time teaching position at Cameron University, primarily at the Duncan Branch. Since January of 2004, he has been able to assist students of various ages with overcoming that fear of public speaking, he understood so well. In addition to teaching basic communications classes, Brad has also been able to expand his sphere of Biblical teaching and influence through this position, teaching classes such as The Bible as Literature (for both Old and New Testament), and World Religions.

After many years of contemplation and with the assistance of the Elder Board and church body, Brad and Debbie made their first visit to Israel in 1999. They immediately recognized the great impact such trips could have on other Christians. He and Debbie count these travels to Israel (3 tours), Greece, Turkey, China and three teaching stints in Jordan as extra special blessings that came their way as a “bonus” of pastoring at Tanglewood.

As they transition to retirement, of course Brad and Debbie look forward to spending quality time with their 7 grandchildren. Brad also hopes to do some technical writing for professional journals and delve into some of those books on the shelf - this time more for his own learning purposes and pleasure. Debbie dreams of getting to Switzerland or Paris - even if it's Paris, Texas!

Brad and Debbie leave with us these parting words of wisdom: remember not to “doubt, pout and drop out!” In the 31 years we have been here, Tanglewood has seen many ups and downs including “droughts” in one demographic area or another. Some of you will recall some pretty drastic downturns with Halliburton layoffs that were painful when multiple families left us, yet here we are today with other families who have not only joined us in attendance, but in service. Never doubt the value of simply consistently showing up for church as a positive and plugged in and contributor to the ongoing ministry of TBF. Remember also to make it a point to “catch people doing the right thing(s).” Also, to be eager to do what you can to meet the needs of the overall church and individual TBFers.



Pastor/Dr. Brad McCoy's Retirement Party/  
Brad & Debbie McCoy's Going Away Party/  
Wassail Night  
All in One

Sunday, **December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Starting at 4:00  
with a **Potluck**

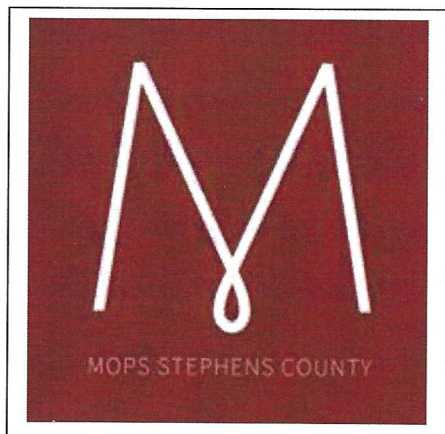
Want to sing a song, do a roast, act out a skit or make a video in honor of Brad and Debbie? Please sign up on the list (when provided) prior to December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**We will have many guests at this party, as some of current members will have their entire families coming in, and Debbie and Brad have been encouraged to invite guests. So PLEASE, bear his in mind when deciding how much food to bring. In other words, bring extra.**

**Dessert and bread will be provided.**

**Please bring a meat/main dish and a side or salad.**



MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All moms with kids 0-5 are invited, but **must RSVP** for childcare.

The childcare RSVP is posted on the MOPS of Stephens County Facebook page.

## Kindred Community Dinner

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

**First United Methodist Church**

2300 Country Club Rd.

**Duncan, Oklahoma**

If you are a TBF woman with a heavenly husband or know of a woman you would like to invite to this event, please **RSVP** by contacting Jan Palovik at 580-467-1925 or [sleepersully@hotmail.com](mailto:sleepersully@hotmail.com) **by December 11<sup>th</sup>**







**Pumpkin Bread:** no nuts or raisins \$6, with just raisins \$7 with pecans and raisins \$8.

**Homemade Cranberry Orange Bread:** \$6

**Banana Bread:** with pecans \$7 without pecans \$6

**Batch of Fudge:** with pecans \$7 without \$6 taking orders.

Taking orders for Christmas, last orders taken  
December 20th

*GG's Holiday Baked Goods*

Regina Stuart  
580-606-3009



Thank you to our TBF family for generously giving to our Thanksgiving Baskets. We are so thankful for each of you in making this possible.

We were able to bless 6 families this year!

Krista & Shawna

## Christmas Cleanliness and TBF Kids Christmas Celebration

When: Sunday, December 15th (1st and 2nd hour)

What we will be doing: Putting together the hygiene kits, making candy and hot chocolate, craft, snacks and Christmas BINGO!

See lists below for items to bring for the kits:

### Christmas Cleanliness

Due: Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Girls' Packets:

BATH TOWEL

HAND TOWEL

WASH CLOTH

BODY WASH

SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER

DEODORANT

TOOTHPASTE

TOOTHBRUSH

### Christmas Cleanliness

Due: Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Boys' Packets:

BATH TOWEL

HAND TOWEL

WASH CLOTH

BODY WASH

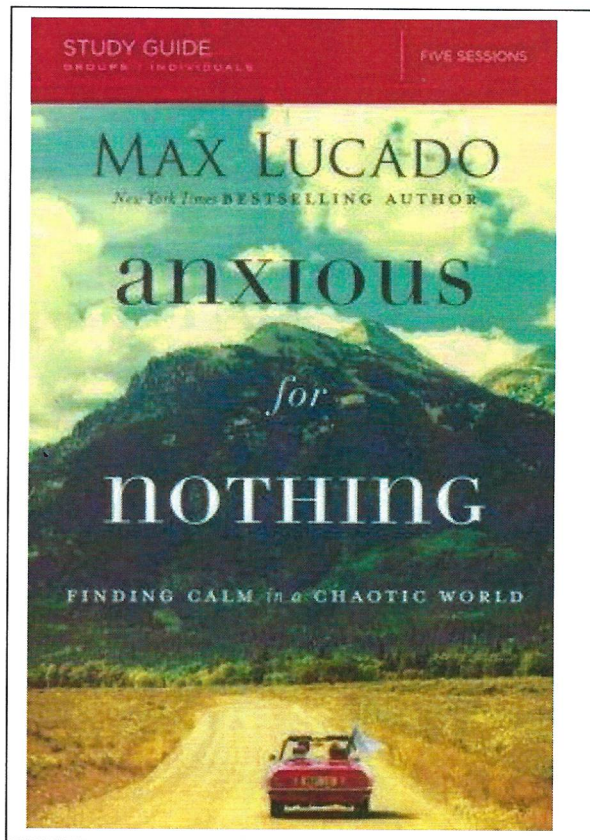
SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER

DEODORANT

TOOTHPASTE

TOOTHBRUSH





The Adult  
Sunday  
School class,  
meeting in  
Pastor Brad's  
office, will  
participate in

Session 4 – on  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

and

Session 5 – on  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

## God Has a Cure for Your Worries

Do you feel weighed down with worry? Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night? Are irrational fears your constant companion? *Could you use some calm?*

In this five-session video Bible study, bestselling author Max Lucado explores God's treatment plan for anxiety found in Philippians 4:4-8. As you follow this prescription—celebrating God's goodness, asking for his help, leaving your concerns with him, and meditating on good things—you will experience God's peace. This is a peace that "transcends all understanding" and will help you reframe the way you look at your fears.

While anxiety is a part of life, it doesn't have to dominate your life. With God as your helper and his promises at your side, you can sleep better tonight and smile more tomorrow. You can talk yourself off the ledge and view bad news through the lens of God's sovereignty. You can discover a life of calm and develop tools for combating the onslaught of anxiety.

The *Anxious for Nothing* Study Guide includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration, and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions.

### SESSIONS INCLUDE:

1. Rejoice in the Lord Always
2. Let Your Gentleness Be Evident to All
3. Present Your Requests to God
4. The Peace of God Will Guard Your Heart
5. Meditate on These Things

Designed for use with the *Anxious for Nothing* Video Study (sold separately)  
9780310087311

With more than 125 million products in print, MAX LUCADO is America's bestselling inspirational author. He serves the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas, where he lives with his wife, Denalyn, and their mischievous mutt, Andy.

THOMAS NELSON  
Since 1798

RELIGION / Christian Life / Inspirational  
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At a women's retreat in Beavers Bend, in September of 2009, many of us ladies were first introduced to Janice Skinner's mother, Carolyn Howard. Fast forward some months, she and her husband, Jim, came to join us as fellow-TBFers. She soon began sharing her gift of teaching and love for the women at TBF. Then she became our friend, our confidant and our sister. She was someone you felt like you had known forever and you could talk to about anything. Instead of saying goodbye she would say with a giggle, "I'll see you here, there or in the air." Well said friend. You will be missed here.

9/15/1936 – 11/1/-2019



# DEC 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 LORD's Supper During 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 MOPS 9:30 at FUMC	10	11 Deadline for Project Cleanliness Items	12	13	14
15 Wassail Night/ McCoy Farewell Party 4:00	16	17 KC Dinner at FUMC 6 - 8	18	19	20	21
22 AM Services Begin at 10:00 and end at 11:30 No 2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	23	24	25 Christmas Day NO SERVICES	26	27	28
29 AM Services Begin at 10:00 and end at 11:30 No 2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	30	31 New Year's Eve	Jan. 1, 2020 New Year's Day NO SERVICES			



## Creamy Chicken and Rice Casserole

- 1 box Chicken-flavor Rice-A-Roni (6 Ounce Box)
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom Soup (10 Ounce Can)
- 1 container Sour Cream (8 Ounce Size)
- 1 whole Rotisserie Chicken
- 1 container French-fried Onions (6 Ounce Can)

Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare Rice-A-Roni according to package directions. While that is cooking, shred/cut up the chicken, removing meat from bones. When Rice-A-Roni is done, add the can of soup and the sour cream, and stir to combine. Add the chicken and mix together. Spread mixture into a sprayed baking dish (9-by-13-inch pan), but you can use what you like for how thick you want it to be) and bake, uncovered, at 350 F for 40 minutes. Remove from oven, cover with the french-fried onions and bake for 5 more minutes.

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