

COOL CONNECTIONS

Volume 6 Issue 4

April 2016

Good Friday Service A Blessing to All in Attendance

What a special night of Praise and Worship we had on Good Friday last month! We had a wonderful meal of hot and fresh baked potatoes, with toppings and all and some wonderful cookies for desert. The Fellowship Hall was filled with excitement and people who came to eat and enjoy a night of praise.

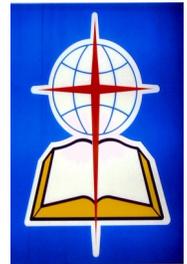
Our Youth did a wonderful job with our dinner entertainment. But it was a whole lot more than just entertainment as they, in using the puppets with a bilingual script truly prepared our hearts for worship that would follow.

After dinner we made our way to the Worship Center where our Worship Team had prepared an extensive list of songs of praise and worship. Our theme was to Thank God for His Love for us Shown to Us in the Easter Events. We sang together many of our Easter Favorites both in English and in Spanish. We heard the Word of God at each juncture of the service, pointing us again to the Love of God for us. It was wonderful to hear our center filled with the sounds of the people of God singing out in

their thanksgiving to Father God. We sang old and new favorites and everyone was invited to sing along. This was not a performance by our Worship Team, but rather they worked very hard to prepare a ministry to prompt us to worship corporately as a local church. Their mission was accomplished and everyone in attendance received a very special blessing from the Hand of Father God.

Brother Bryan Beale from Arlington, Texas was our special guest artist. He brought three very special songs in our service that blessed all of us who had the privilege to be there that night. Bryan's love for the Lord and for our church was evident in everything he did. We all believed that we had been with Jesus that night as the program ended with a special time of Prayer.

Thank the Lord for His goodness to us, His mercy endures forever!



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It's on my heart...

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to help make our Easter Celebration a great success. What wonderful times of worship together we had in the very Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. From Friday to Sunday we worshipped our Lord and remembered the price that was paid for our salvation. On Sunday morning we had a wonderful congregation and we ended that very special service with a careful and biblical

observance of the Lord's Supper. Thank you to so many who helped with our Clean up day. You all did a wonderful job and gave wonderful hours of work to clean up the buildings of the Lord.

Now in April we turn our collective focus to our Outreach efforts with Mesquite Tree Festival and with our Vacation Bible School efforts. We need to be in much prayer about how we can continue to reach out into our community with the love

and mercy of Jesus that He has so freely given to us. We need to remember those in our Congregation that are facing health challenges and find ways to serve them in the love of Christ.

Mostly I pray that God will open all of our eyes to see what He is doing in Coolidge and that we can witness first hand the power of His hand in our community.

As the song says: "We serve a risen Savior!!"

Pastor Chuck

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

Jesus, however, invited them: "Let the little children come to Me, and don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Luke 18:16 (HCSB)

What a wonderful time we had sharing the story of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection with the children this past month! Even the youngest children listened attentively and had

questions and comments to share. We feel so humbled and blessed to be used by God to present His Gospel message of salvation to the children. They are so

eager to learn about their God.

Please continue to pray for our Back Yard Kids' Club meetings this summer. The dates are June 20-24. Talk to me or Deborah Hullum if you would like to help in any way. There will be training meetings on Saturday, April 2, and Saturday, April 9, at 10:00 in the church fellowship hall. Please try to come to at least one of these meetings. Come find out what a joy it is sharing your faith with the children of Coolidge.

Jo Lynn



Outreach Opportunities

(Keeping the "Main Thing"
the "Main Thing"!)

By the time we read this, Easter will have passed! But, the Good News is that Jesus' power of the resurrection is with us every day! And that power is what we all need! This morning as I was reading Rick Warren's daily devotion, he used the Scripture in 1 Corinthians 1:9b NLT as Paul wrote, "But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead." I love the song "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Do we just sing the words or do we believe them? God has provided us so many resources to turn our eyes to Him! It's in Him we find the power to be who He wants us to be, the wisdom to do the things He wants us to do, and the love that will bring people to Him!

I am trusting Him to bring a new work in Coolidge with our Backyard Kids Club, June 20 - 24th . I am trusting Him to bring the workers needed for the harvest of lost souls, for children, youth, and adults! Trust is a small five letter word, but it is huge in the life of the Christian. With trust comes POWER! Praise God!

Sunday, March 20th, we had a blessed time as we went out into the community to invite people to our Good Friday services, to Gospel Kids, to Easter Sunday services, to Backyard Kids Club! I am so thankful that I serve in a

M.E.N.'s Prayer Breakfast

Saturday April 16th

at 8:30 am

The food is great!

**Come together as the
Christian Men of Coolidge
and Pray for God's Presence
in our city!**

church where we have many opportunities to share God's love. Thanks to all that went out with us.

I look forward to all the exciting things coming up in the next few months. They will give us many chances to "Walk Across the Room!"

Deborah



I want to thank everyone who came and helped on our Spring Work Day. Many things were accomplished, and the church looks great! Thanks again for giving up your Saturday!

Glen

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He Came, We Go

Worshipping God Together

Experiencing God

Reaching Out

Giving Generously

Bellevue (Nashville) security subdues 'heavily armed' man

by David Roach, posted Monday, March 28, 2016

MEMPHIS (BP) -- A "heavily armed" man was subdued and arrested at the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church **Easter Sunday**, the congregation's director of security services told Baptist Press.

Just before Bellevue's 11 a.m. worship service began March 27 with an estimated 3,500 attendees, greeter Kathy Jackson noticed a man entering the church with "a pistol sticking out of his pocket," administrative pastor David Coombs told BP. She told a nearby ministerial staff member, who radioed security.

Andy Willis, Bellevue's director of security services and a reserve officer with the Memphis Police Department, approached the man, identified himself as a police officer and escorted him into a hallway.

"I figured this was a guy with a [concealed] carry permit who just ... didn't know that it was appropriate to hide [the weapon] if he's going to carry it somewhere," Willis said.

Donald appeared calm when Willis took his pistol -- a .40-caliber Beretta according to the Memphis

first baptist church
COOLIDGE

Commercial Appeal -- and asked him to put the weapon in his car before entering the service, the officer said. Donald said he had the weapon because "Memphis is dangerous."

Donald told Willis he had a permit to carry the pistol and did not have any other weapons. Donald then agreed to let Willis put the gun in a backpack Donald was carrying. When Willis opened the backpack, he discovered an automatic rifle and "lots of ammo," Willis said. The Commercial Appeal reported the rifle was a .300 Blackout assault weapon. He was immediately placed under arrest.

Since 1999, there have been 625 violent deaths at houses of worship in America, Meeks said. To avoid additions to that statistic, churches of all sizes should form security teams trained to watch for suspicious behavior like individuals carrying backpacks or wearing large jackets in hot weather.

Church security follows a biblical precedent, said Meeks, whose next seminar is April 2 in the Nashville area.

"Paul used armed security in Acts 23, if you'll recall," Meeks said. "His nephew told him, 'Paul, there are 40 men who are going to kill you. They vowed to not eat until you're dead.' Paul said, 'Well, go tell the police,' and they put 475 armed guards on him. That's how he got to Rome and how the Gospel got all the way to Nashville and Dallas" eventually.

At Bellevue, security helped play a role in spreading the Gospel as well. Under the protection of the congregation's security team, 148 people made first-time professions of faith Sunday, the largest number of which occurred during the 11 o'clock service, Coombs said.

Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

(If you see something, say something)

Pastor Chuck