

# Welcome!

We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today. Please help us get to know you by providing the requested information and placing this tear off tab in the offering plate during the Worship Service.

May 20, 2012

I would like to receive the church mailings

Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

What brought you to us today?

- New to town
- HPU student
- Looking for a new church home
- Website
- Yellow Pages
- Invited by a friend: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of a church?  Yes  No

Church name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Did you attend a class today?  Yes  No

Which class \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact you:

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Names and birthdates of children living at home:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Our Pastor would love to meet you today. He will be at the center door as you exit the Worship Service. Please introduce yourself to him before you leave.*

## Today's Worship Music

*We Are Called to Be God's People • Hymn #390  
This is a Day of New Beginnings  
Marvelous Light  
God, the Father of Your People • Hymn #382*

*Ancient of Days  
Revelation Song  
Lord, Here Am I • Hymn #486  
Doxology*

**Today's Scripture Readings: John 17:6-19; Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

## Congratulations Seniors 2012!



## How to unite with the First Family

At First Baptist Church, Brownwood, we welcome you to become a part of our family of faith. We invite you to visit one of our Sunday School classes & Bible Study groups, as well as the worship choir, student & children's groups.

Membership in the church is offered to anyone who professes Jesus Christ as their Savior and follows Him in believer's baptism. One of the ministers will be glad to visit with you during the invitation or make an appointment to discuss this or any other questions you may have about FBC at your convenience.

*If you have a decision to make or wish to talk or pray with someone, we invite you to come to the front of the Sanctuary during the invitation hymn, immediately following the sermon, and speak with one of the ministers.*

# @First

May 20, 2012

Volume I, Issue 20



**Dr. Rodney McGlothlin**  
Senior Pastor

It often seems our lives are lived in separate squares, calendar like, with unbroken lines that segment our days. We live in boxes that limit our vision to the 24 hours immediately around us. We lack a sense of connectedness with all our days. We miss the linear progression of time.

Sometimes we expand these squares into "life stages" such as high school, college, career, or retirement. But like the days of the year, these too are linear events, connected by the progress of our lives and the growth, or lack of it, of our character.

Today we honor our high school graduates. It is just one day. They will step from this day into the next. It is just one "life stage" coming to a close and the beginning of the next one. But something connects them. Or should I say, Someone connects them?

I am reminded of these lines of William Wordsworth.

My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began,  
So is it now I am a man,  
So be it when I shall grow old  
Or let me die!  
The child is father of the man:  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety

Jesus said, "Follow me! I will make you to become fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

We are becoming. That is what connects our days. There is a connection between the child and the man. Character does not spring forth in a day. It is the result of walking with Jesus. It is a progression from beginning to end. It is a journey.

"But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to his coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own." (1 John 3:2-3, The Message)

Congratulations graduates. Boldly follow Jesus into the next square. Your days are connected by Him. He will lead you to become the person God envisioned you to be. I am glad to be

Your Pastor,

