



The Global Flyer

FIRST BAPTIST ATHENS

Release the Kittens

We had a great barn cat. His name was Momo and he loved to hunt, roam, and come over for the occasional and appropriate amount of affection. Momo happened upon us during the big snow storm we had a couple of years ago. First we heard the meows, and over time and feeding, trust was built. However, he was an independent cat - he loved to roam all over. Unfortunately, we don't know where he went or what happened, but Momo is no longer with us. Slowly but surely, we have noticed that the rodents have taken advantage of their new found freedom. Since we live in the country on a farm, we have many field mice and they have been drawn to the house. We have done our best to manage this situation but we have decided that it's time to break in some new barn cats.



I have been reading and watching videos of the best methods to train barn cats. It seems straightforward but there is some work you need to do in order to ensure that these cats stick around the home and don't wander off too far. There are predators in the nearby woods. But you also don't need them to become too domesticated because barn cats are so helpful on a farm. They need to hunt to keep the rodents at bay.

Part of training a barn cat, I have learned, is giving them a safe place in the barn and keeping them contained in that safe space for several weeks so they learn that this is their home (with regular time to let them out and run around supervised so they get appropriate exercise). Then for a period of time you begin to let them out during the day but put them up at night. But eventually, you have to release them to be true, grown barn cats. I prefer the method of a cat just showing up but we haven't been so lucky so we are going to take a shot at this. When the day comes, we will have to release them and trust that they know where home is and they know how to get to safety in the night filled with predators.

It is graduation season. Next weekend we will celebrate and send out our graduating Seniors. Parents and grandparents, we believe that you are the primary spiritual leaders for your children. We are all called to be disciples - apprentices - of Christ. Barn cats aren't teenagers even if, at times, you may consider them as such. As the church community, we all have poured love into and modeled for our students the way of Christ. But there comes a time when we must commission them to live out their faith as they leave our homes and, hopefully, become mature followers of Christ.

The research is clear. If a student who goes to college can have five or more people who pour into them, check on them, encourage them, and walk with them in the way of Christ, they are at much higher odds to continue to walk in a faith community. Now our job is to check in on these graduating students. Be a part of their lives. Offer them support and guidance. If you know someone graduating, headed off to college or the work place, find ways to be Christ to them. Our job is changing, but it's not yet done. When they are set free in the world, they know where home is. "Being confident of this, He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil. 1:6

Grace and Peace,
Wade

Watch Online @
Lovingtheworld.com
YouTube
Vimeo
Facebook
8:30AM
11AM Worship Center
11AM Bilingual



Members' Birthdays

Sun, May 19 – Juan Moreno, Katherine Romero
Mon, May 20 – Mary Eick, Courtney Gymonprez Chan
Tues, May 21 – Buffy Kirwan, James Quattlebaum, Teresa Ratliff
Wed, May 22 – none
Thurs, May 23 – Allison Boening
Fri, May 24 – Janice Griffin
Sat, May 25 – none

Prayer Requests (church attendees & families). Please call with updates

- Kellis White...fluid drained from lungs/Christus Mother Francis, Tyler
- Zulema Torres...cardiac treatments/Tyler
- Renaldo Zavala...knee surgery 5-22/Christus Mother Francis, Tyler
- Mike Eich's brother, John Eich...throat cancer surgery 5-22/Sioux Falls
- Becky Pemberton's brother, Fred Ham...rehab/Waxahachie
- Malcomb Quattlebaum...knee replacement 4-29/home
- Josh Moreno...blood pressure issues, cardiologist appointment, Sept.
- Gracie & Carlos Murillo's son, Max...awaiting kidney transplant match
- *Hospice Care: Jesse Richardson's sister, Clarice Fogleman; Anita Wiggin's brother, Bill Meadors; Lisa Collins' mom, Glenda Beard; Roger Littleton's sister, Elizabeth Boynton; Tammy Womble's mom, Jessie Dixon; Kern Railsback's mom, Billie Railsback*
- *Military: Mandy Hauck's nephew, Mason Beard, Philippines; Hattie Graham's granddaughter, Karah Lawyer, Asian Countries; Judy Ward's granddaughter & husband, Gabriella & Tanner Burtrum, South Korea*
- *Cancer Diagnosed: Drew & Lori Douglas' daughter-in-law, Thiana Douglas; Bill Hauck's sister, Marie Kirby; Daniela Matchael's sister-in-law, Joana Cortez; Cindi Livingston, mother of Anna Fay Wicker's daughter-in-law; Doris Raney's niece, Stacy Bates; Rusty Morris; Miriam Inestroza's mother, Luce Torres; Trayona Skiles; Mary Boehler's niece, Denise Leach; Kellis White; Jack & Paula Harris' son-in-law, Carlos Banuelos; BJ Davies; Bob & Tonya Foster's son, Jim*
- *In Rehab or Recuperating: Terry McNatt; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Billy; Elizabeth Flores' granddaughter, Aleyah Maldonado; Bruce Andrews; Piper Gillert; Claudia Limon; Betty White's brother, Dwaine Coley; Dwight Millar; Lisa Montgomery's mom, Selah Mason; Nikki DuBose's mother, Nancy Kissinger; Wanda Kinney; Wanda Kinney's daughter, Jeudi George; Bill Dye; David Yarbrough; Christy Warnock's brother, Duncan Frizzell; Ginny Hedge; Linda Campbell; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Brady Pollock; Barbara Hearn's nephew, Jeff Shumate; Barbara Hearn's great nephew, Blaise Shumate; Kern & Barbara Railsback's granddaughter, Waverly; Beverly Moore; Shirley Bailey's sister, Charlott Hutson; Win James; Drew Douglas' mom, Pam Douglas; Katherine Hellwig; Marylyn Wright's sister, Jeanne Gage; Jamie Luper's aunt, Brenda Bickley; Tom & Catherine Ward's daughter, Brandy Shirvinski*

Bible Reading Plan, Grace & Peace

Day of the Week	Date	Scripture
Sunday	5-19-2024	John 8:1-20
Monday	5-20-2024	John 8:21-36
Tuesday	5-21-2024	John 8:37-59
Wednesday	5-22-2024	John 9:1-23
Thursday	5-23-2024	John 9:24-31
Friday	5-24-2024	John 10:1-21
Saturday	5-25-2024	John 10:22-42