Volume XLVI, Number 2

March 1, 2025

Notes from the Brandon Lewis Lead Pastor

I'm so glad God treats me like this sometimes. He doesn't stop warning me when I

ignore His first, second, and third warnings. He loves me enough to repeat Himself time and again! His Spirit will get my attention in a number of ways and point me back to His Word (John 14:26). He doesn't grow tired of steering me in the right direction and flagging me down when I'm going off course. He never says,"Well, if Brandon isn't going to get the message, I'll just sit back and watch him wreck things for himself royally!" Instead, He throws me signal after signal and pulls out all the stops when it comes to keeping me from destructive paths.



Philippians "3:1- To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you."

In other words, God directed Paul to repeat himself often when writing to Christ followers because we're slow to get the picture sometimes, and the additional warnings may be just what we need!

Pastor B





Notes from the Harry Sexton Assoc. Pastor

It's March already and not, to scare you or anything, but in a mere 30 days this year will already be ¼ gone! Just a couple of months ago we were starting the new year with all kinds of hopes, dreams, and plans for 2025 and now that we're well into the year you may already be at the point of realizing that you might have to adjust those plans somewhat.

We're no different here at the church office. We're always looking at the plans for the church and the plans that all of the different ministries and groups have as we try to weave them into a tapestry that works for everyone and brings God the honor and glory that are rightfully His. Much like you we often find ourselves having to tweak various details here and there to accomplish the goal, but the good new is that God's plans are moving forward on schedule and without change and are accomplishing everything that He designed them to do. Psalm 33:11 states this well: "The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation."

So if we want our plans to work, the solution is really quite simple; we have to align our plans with what God has planned. When we do that then we can know with absolute certainty that the plans will come to fruition. We can agree with Job when he said: "I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted – Jobs 42:2." When we get our plans in sync with God's plans then

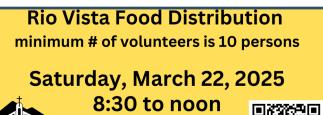
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we can claim along with Solomon when he wrote in the book of Proverbs (16:3) "Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established."

The question then is how can you know what God's plans are? And it's not that hard; just read the manual. God's plans are really well articulated throughout the Bible, and they haven't changed. But your next comment then is "Yeah, I get those but I'm talking about the specific plans that God has for me!" My response is how well are you following the plans that you do know? What I've found is that when I'm following the big plans that God has revealed for all of His followers that then He is consistently faithful to direct my steps (Prov. 16:9) to move within those plans that He's already revealed.

We're only a little less than ¼ through 2025, and there's a lot of the year left to go. Lots of things look and feel different than you probably thought they would, but the good news is that God's plans are perfect and are moving to completion without any change or adaptation. So let's make sure as individuals and a church that we're moving with God's plans and know that they'll happen at just the right time.

In His service, Pastor Harry



Sign up in Bldg B or Scan the QR Code

For more information contact: Diane Williams or Lisa Valdivia





Notes from the Youth Team

By Diane Williams

March? Already?! It seems like this year is moving even faster than last year. God gave the Israelites a number of feasts to celebrate throughout the Jewish year. They were meant to help the Israelites remember what God had done in the past, repent of sin in their lives, worship the One True God, commit their lives to Him, and look forward to His provision in the future. It's also a pretty good way for us to face the rest of the year.

One of my favorite types of Bible study is learning about the names and attributes of God. Many times, His names and His characteristics go hand-in-hand. El Shaddai, the self-sufficient God Almighty – our protector and provider. El Chai, the Living God – the source of all life and not made by human hands like false gods. Yahweh Rapha, the Lord Who Heals – our healer of body, mind, and soul.

But the name I like the most is Immanuel, "God with us." The fact that the Almighty Creator God of the universe – eternal, all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful – set aside His rights as God to become as one of us amazes me every time I think about it. That He would set aside glory to live with hunger, pain, fatigue, sorrow, and all the other hardships of a fallen world and, ultimately, to die on a cross for us is beyond my comprehension.

Ann Spangler wrote, "...the Bible is nothing if not the story of God's persistent desire to dwell with His people. In Jesus, God succeeded in a unique way, becoming a man in order to save the world not from the outside, but from the inside. Immanuel, God with us, to rescue, redeem, and restore our relationship with Him."

Why would He do such a thing? Why would He choose "...to rescue, redeem, and restore our relationship with Him." at such a price. The answer to that is in several places in scripture, but the most familiar one is, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son..." (John 3:16). Before time even began, God was already planning to show His love for us from the inside.

That's why, as we look forward to the rest of the year with all of its promise and uncertainty, I am thankful for Immanuel, God with us. He is the Sovereign God whose purpose will be accomplished, but He is also the inside God who loves us and lives with us.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Psalm 37:5

Wednesday, March 5th – Deadline to purchase tickets for LBC's Got Talent Dinner

Sunday, March 9th – LBC Volleyball Tournament (students set up and serve)

Tuesday, March 11th – Video Scavenger Hunt Wednesday, March 12th – Worship Night Saturday, March 15th – LBC's Got Talent Dinner

April 4th-5th - Indoor Rummage Sale/Car Wash **Sunday, April 13th -** Bake Sale **Sunday, April 27th -** Afterglow





Notes from the Worship Leader

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is in the books of the Gospels of the "Widow's Offering". This widow gave everything she had according to Mark 12:44, "They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

I interpret it this way. As mentioned in the book of Mark, "many rich people put in large amounts". They gave a portion of what they had and still remained rich, but the widow gave her only two cents she had. In other words, she gave it all by faith. Her devotion and her faith toward God is an example to us. Please, understand I don't mean by the way we give financially but the way we give when we serve God. The way we seek God. Let's serve God all the way; let's seek God all the way with everything we have.

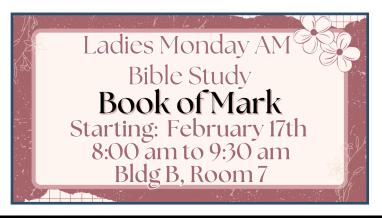
The rich people in Mark wanted to make noise with the money they were giving and for people around them to see them, but the widow made noise where it matters, heaven. And this is why Jesus mentions the widow's sacrifice. She is an example of a cheerful giver although she herself was in need. We, too, must be cheerful givers whether with money or our time. When we serve we do so with such joy because we do it for God and should not do it so others can see us.

You and I are taking part in serving in God's Kingdom. A kingdom that will not cease to exist. A kingdom that will not be defeated. Let's praise His name forever and ever! Let everything we do glorify God and not ourselves. We must continue our walk in faith with God just as the widow did, and although we can't know tomorrow, we know God will provide.

God Bless, Cesar Aleman











1 st	Hoa Tran
2 nd	Quincy Southern
4 th	Ernie Esparza
	Joy Teferra
6 th	Sotirios Yiannou
8 th	Laura Jimenez
	Mindy Harry
9 th	Gerald Trussell

11 th	Alejandra Aleman
12 th	Amy Lewis
14 th	Queen Bialo
	Cedric Kaneza
18 th	Thierry Kiyogiera
19 th	Claudine Uwamahro Kiyogera
20 th	Edward Monie

Richard Gajdowski

24 th	Ann Servant
25 th	Anthony Nicholas
27 th	Leon Sexton
28 th	Callie MacDougall
30 th	Luna Jimenez-Acosta
	Smitha Konki



1st Nazario & Minerva Prieto
12th Frank Holly James
14th Ernie & Raquel Esparza

21st

15th Sotirios & Ruth Ann Yiannou

18th Steve & Tina Worley

31st Jack & Karen Tolmachoff

Welcome New Members







SteveMurage, David Birori, Justin Byabagabo Joined January 19, 2025



March



Regular Events

SEPTEMBER - MAY

SUNDAY

8:30 am Sunday School Classes Worship Service 10:05 am Evening Study (ALL WELCOME)

5:00 pm Bldg B Rm 4&5

MONDAY

AM Ladies Bible Study - Malachi 8:00 pm PM Ladies Bible Study - Isaiah 6:00 pm

TUESDAY

Victorious Overcomers Support Group 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Dinner 5:00 pm Adventure Club (New Kids Program) 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study 6:00 pm Praver Hour 6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm

THURSDAY

GriefShare 10:00 am College/Young Adult Bible Study (off Campus) 6:30pm

FRIDAY

AA Meeting 6:30 pm

Special Events

MARCH

Mar 2nd

Red & Green Burritos Fundraiser 11:45 am

Mar 7th

Ladies Fellowship Potluck 6:00 pm

Mar 9th

Volleyball Tournament 11:45 am

Mar 11th

Crafting in Ruth's Footprints 9:30 am

Mar 15th

Student Dinner, Talent Show, Auction5:30pm

Mar 22nd

Rio Vista Work Day 8:00 am - Noon

Mar 23rd - Mission Committee 11:30 am

Mar 25th

Crafting in Ruth's Footprints 9:30 am

Registration will Open on Monday March 3rd.

VBS 2025

June 2nd - 6th

8:30 am – **N**oon

Volunteer Children: Infant to 4 Years old

Ages: 5 Years old - 12 Years old

> **Volunteers:** 13 + Years







