Serve like Jesus
Summer Events:

June 7-8: Children’s Ministry Art/Science Camp

June 12-18: Youth Pine Springs

June 25-26: Keith Lancaster Praise & Harmony Seminar

July 2-10: Youth TREK
July 11-15: CM Music Camp
July 17-24: Youth Mission Trip

August 5-7: BLAST! Transit 56 & Middle School
I’ve always been a visual learner. Since my childhood I’ve been more inclined to really absorb something if I could see it modeled and then try it out myself. Whether I was trying to solve an Algebra equation or shoot a free throw, something about the power of seeing and doing, that combination has been significant in my life.

Truth is, that combination has shaped more than just my education and recreation. It’s played a part in shaping just about everything; especially my spiritual life. I’ve learned more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus by watching and imitating others who’ve committed themselves to the ways of Christ than I ever have just listening to a sermon (though that’s a good thing to do!). The combination of seeing and doing, when applied to a disciple’s life, has a ripple affect that can impact generations.

This is one of the reasons I love the gospels so much. They are, among other things, a see and do experiment. In and through Jesus’ first followers we get to watch them wrestle with what it means to be salt and light and a neighbor to a world that has grown bitter and dark and lonely. I’m challenged not only to think differently, but live differently, and invited to run my own little love and grace experiments.

One disciple that has captured my attention recently is Andrew. We don’t know a lot about him; one thing we do know, he was a connector. In John’s gospel we first encounter him following John the Baptist. Jesus walks by them one day and John exclaims, “Look, here is the Lamb of God.” Immediately Andrew turns and follows Jesus. It isn’t long before Andrew runs to find his brother Simon Peter and bring him to Jesus.

Andrew fades from view for a few chapters until we see him again at the feeding of the five thousand. As Philip tries to explain to Jesus why it doesn’t make much financial sense to try and feed such a large group, Andrew simply brings to Jesus a young boy with a sack lunch. Once again he disappears into the crowd.

His last appearance in John’s gospel occurs when a few Greeks approach Philip wanting to meet Jesus. Philip, unsure of what to do takes them to Andrew. Andrew’s response? Let’s take them to see Jesus.

Andrew is the disciple who always seems to notice the little things and then does them. He never finds himself in the spotlight; he doesn’t experience the notoriety or leadership opportunities of his brother. Yet he seems perfectly content with being the person in the right place at the right time to facilitate God’s grace through little things, whether that is bringing a person to see Jesus, or recognizing a need and serving. He was content to see and do, trusting that God would use his service in a powerful way. Andrew lived with his eyes open to something good that he could do.

I’m trying to put Andrew’s way into practice. I want to invite you to learn from Andrew’s example as well, that together we might work on becoming a people who keep their eyes open for those who need to know Jesus and for opportunities to use our gifts and resources to serve.

We’ve devoted this issue of By the Way magazine to doing just that: helping us discover some of the places and people in need in our community as well as some of the creative and innovative ways that we’re partnering with God to meet them. Our desire is for Broadway to become a church who doesn’t simply talk about service, we serve. We hope that you’ll take the time to read through and experience in a small way the joy of serving together and that you’ll be inspired to take a next step in getting involved in using your gifts as well.
Summer is just around the corner! While the days definitely will heat up for all of us temperature-wise, for some the pace of life will slow down a bit, but for others it will get even busier! We know that many of you will be traveling on vacation over the next three months. While we wish for you safe and fun adventures, we do ask that you not let your regular church contributions sneak into your luggage and go along with you.

Summer is a busy time at Broadway as a large portion of our children’s and youth ministry budgets are spent during June, July, and August. Plus, we still have to make payroll and maintain our facilities as well as prepare for the area-wide Praise and Harmony workshop we are hosting in June. Church contributions tend to drop during summer months, which can result in some cash flow crises.

Karl brought us some excellent encouragement last January regarding tithing and giving and so many of you have been faithfully tithing since that time. As we head into summer we are $48,994 behind budget in giving. That is well over one Sunday’s budgeted giving that we already need to make up. Please continue your commitments and give generously in the coming months so that we can adequately fund our summer ministry activities and not fall any further behind our budget.

Many of our members have taken advantage of giving by bank draft. You can set up to have your bank account drawn for your contribution either weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. This eliminates the need to make up missed contributions or mail checks to the church office. If you are interested in contribution by bank draft, please contact Tracey Horne in the office, 763-0464. Using PayPal on the Broadway App or Broadway website also are options for staying current in your giving.

In Romans 12:6-8, Paul encourages members of the body of Christ by pointing out that we have different gifts and should use those gifts accordingly as we serve others. You may not consider “giving” to be a gift through which you can serve, but it appears in Paul’s list.

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

If you have health or time constraints, you may not be able to serve in many of the ways presented in this issue of By The Way. Perhaps you could consider if giving is the best way you can serve the church family at Broadway this summer.

As always, the leadership of this church is thankful to you for your generosity.
Broadway serves the Lubbock community by offering a clothing room. There are times when individuals or families have lost everything, and are able to receive clothes and blankets. Families are also able to clothe their children as they grow sometimes faster than their pocketbooks can keep up. The clothing room has also benefitted those just starting a new job and who are in need of specific kinds of clothes to wear for that job. The list could go on and Broadway is honored to serve God in this way.

The clothing room serves approximately 40 people a month.

Broadway is also able to help the community with prescription vouchers. Often times prescriptions are expensive and many people are unable to fill them without help. It is not uncommon for individuals to go without their medicine because of financial reasons and then their health gets worse. On average 15 prescription vouchers are given each month.
PRAISE & HARMONY SEMINAR

JUNE 25-26
BROADWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
featuring
KEITH LANCASTER

Keith Lancaster will bring his internationally-known PRAISE AND HARMONY SEMINAR to Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, TX and you are invited to attend this 2-day event.

SAT. JUNE 25 6PM | SUN. JUNE 26 9:15 & 10:30 AM

For more information, please call 806-763-0464 or visit bwaychurch.org
As you have hopefully heard, Keith Lancaster will soon bring his internationally-known Praise & Harmony Seminar to Broadway. On the weekend of **June 25-26**, singers from all over West Texas (and even a good number from across the US) will join us for three sessions of singing, worship and instruction.

Keith will meet with our Leadership Team earlier in the week and help us work through our theology and ideology of worship. **For the church as a whole**, it all starts on Saturday evening at 6:00 PM with a session designed to help us understand not only the basics of acapella worship, but also the underlying principles of worship - both personal and corporate.

On Sunday morning, June 26th, Keith will continue the seminar during a combined Bible class at 9:15. At 10:30, Keith will put all of it together and lead us in worship in a service specifically aimed at intentionally and purposefully glorifying God.

The question has been raised - **why are we doing this?** That’s a fair question. As a church body, we are not struggling to sing. Our worship seems to roll along quite nicely, and I certainly enjoy standing up front and getting the best end of the singing since you’re all facing me. Might I suggest that, possibly, having a church that worships well might be a problem in itself. Let me expound on that just a touch. When a large group of people do something, anything, well, it can become very easy to leave well-enough alone. While the group activity might be successful, it can lead to a sense of complacency and a lack of desire to improve.

Is Broadway at that point? No, I don’t believe we have stagnated in our worship. Still, this seminar is a wonderful opportunity to keep the ball rolling forward. It’s a chance to improve our offering of worship to the only One worthy of being praised. We can never give Him what He deserves, but we sure can try. Additionally, this will be good practice for heaven.

Along with that, we want to use this as a resource tool for the great number of churches in our area that are struggling with worship. The vast majority of churches in the West Texas and Eastern New Mexico area find it a challenge to even identify a song leader, much less foster an environment of full participation in worship. With that in mind, we’ll be reaching out to churches within a 200 mile radius of Lubbock, inviting them to join us for this wonderful weekend.

We want this to be missional in its full effect. One of the biggest factors in a visitor’s decision to return to a church or not is the overall quality of worship. In many ways, it is the public face of the church. While a visitor may not remember what else happened during their time at a church service, they will quite likely remember the songs and the worship. Hopefully, they will leave singing one of the songs that was just in the service. For this reason alone (not to mention all the other benefits), this seminar is important for us and other area church leaders who will attend.

I encourage you to reserve the weekend of **June 25-26** to be here at Broadway Church of Christ for this amazing event. I promise you, it’s something you do not want to miss.

Gary Moyers
Worship Minister
g.moyers@bwaychurch.org
University Students Serving the Church in Quad Cities

Some of Broadway’s Christ in Action university students enjoyed the long journey to the Quad Cities area of Davenport, Iowa this past spring break. Seven students, (representing TTU, LCU and SIBI) partnered with the leadership of the Central Church of Christ in Davenport for a week long effort to serve their members and their community. Our college students taught youth classes and helped canvas the nearby community to invite neighbors to a special Easter service and meal. They joined church members in a spring clean up of their grounds and their coat pantry. One morning was spent at a food bank, preparing and then delivering food boxes to people living in a needy apartment complex. The highlight for many was assisting at a downtown soup kitchen called Cafe on Vine. It was a great week full of hard work and joy-filled service. Thank you college students for giving your spring break to serve like Jesus!
Serving International Students and Scholars

Broadway’s Christ in Action Student Center has become an important place in the lives of many international students and visiting scholars. Many of you have heard about the success of the International Student Fellowship that meets at CA most Friday nights during the school year. It is not uncommon for the attendance at these gatherings to swell to over 100 individuals. This weekly meal and fellowship provides a warm, safe and friendly environment to students who represent dozens of nations, cultures, languages and religions. This important social event allows us to serve and show the love of Jesus to many.

What many of you may not have heard about is the recent success of our English classes offered at the campus center. Shella Baccus is heading up these classes that are taught on Monday and Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The interesting and very significant aspect about these classes is that most of those attending are visiting scholars at TTU. Professors and doctoral students from China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Iran are meeting regularly with Shella to improve their English so they can better engage in research here or go on to further degrees. A small group of these professors are also coming early to the center to read and study the Bible. God is providing us with an incredible opportunity to serve our international friends.
Who is My Neighbor

Luke 10:25-29 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” (NRSV)

As we look at the verses above, it is very easy for us to somehow perceive them in some kind of abstract form and not as concrete ideas and concepts that are not to be held as ideals, but are to be practiced and lived out in everyday life. In ancient Israel, they held ideas about neighborliness that were rooted deeply in the Torah, “the teaching” of God given to Moses. Especially in the book of Leviticus, there were detailed commands given in order to help the people of God live out a life of neighborliness. By the time that Jesus comes onto the scene these things have been taught in Israel for more than a thousand years and yet it is exactly at this point that a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. Surely after a thousand years they would have the answer to this question worked out? And yet the lawyer asked the question in order to test Jesus. How would you have answered this question? Indeed, how do you answer this question each day?

Israel had answered this question in the past by asking God for a king to replace his rule; and the concept of neighbor helping neighbor was traded for the call, and desire, on the part of the people to be like those who lived around Israel, to be a nation ruled by a king. The development of a power nation then leads Israel into a social life that loses its neighborliness. Helping the citizens of the nation (their neighbors) becomes the responsibility of the king and the government rather than the responsibility of each person, one toward the other. They are no longer neighbors, they are now citizens. They abrogate their responsibility to the government and therefore they now have more time to focus on themselves, upon their personal fulfillment and they can feel vindicated as good citizens while not being good neighbors.

In the book of Genesis, after Cain had killed Abel, God asked him where his brother was and his response was, “I do not know, am I my brother’s keeper?” The answer, of the good neighbor that Jesus calls for, in Luke chapter 10,
is the answer that God called for from the beginning of creation and the answer is “YES, I am my brother’s keeper.” We are called to be like Jesus who went to the cross as his brother’s keeper. He was our neighbor. He saw that we had a need and he was willing to lay down his life in order to meet that need. He was willing to be inconvenienced, to sacrifice his time, to sacrifice his life, to sacrifice all that he had in order to help his neighbor. He held nothing back for self.

Who were his neighbors? In John 3:16, we have these words “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (NRSV). The answer is “the world;” everyone who had a need was the neighbor of Jesus. When he hung on the cross, Jesus prayed for those who crucified him. They were his neighbors and Jesus fulfilled the call of God in loving his neighbor as he loved himself. He sought their good, their forgiveness, their salvation, and thus he also fulfilled the first commandment of God and loved the Lord his God with all of his heart, with all of his soul, and with all of his might.

Sometimes, like so much of humanity, we seek to justify ourselves and love only those who deserve it. Jesus said, in Luke 6:32-36

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (NRSV)

Who is your neighbor? What do they need today? “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”
unlight filtered through the woven branches of the crowded shelter onto the refugees seated in its shade. The worship leader plucked a ‘raboba’, a local stringed instrument. Two other men kept the beat on handmade brass drums fashioned from artillery shell casings. Over and over the worshipers sang of God’s peace. I marveled at how instruments of the war that had driven these refugees from their homes had become instruments for celebrating their newfound peace in Christ.

About 90,000 N_sa* people -- nearly half of the total N_sa population -- live in this refugee camp or one of three neighboring camps here in North Africa. They follow a religion that openly opposes Christianity. A year ago there had not been a single group of Christians among them. Now I sat surrounded by 40 men and women praising God together. What’s more, there were three other groups just like this one, one in each of the other nearby N_sa camps. More than 200 new believers and seekers had suddenly emerged in the last few months. How did this happen?”

Thus is the beginning of a PBT report of the emerging work in Doro, South Sudan. It follows with stories of incredible “coincidences” . . . that Aziz*, one of the only four Christians from the N_sa people, happened to meet Broadway missionaries, Bryan and Libby Harrison, while they were in Uganda for resupply . . . that Aziz happened to have a burning desire to help translate the Bible into his mother tongue, despite suffering excruciating torture for trying to tell his N_sa community about Jesus.

Other curious “coincidences” continued soon after. A linguist who had previously studied the N_sa language

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*Names have been changed for security purposes.
happened to send Bryan an email expressing his desire to develop its alphabet . . . three N_sa men happened to walk to the Harrison’s home from their refugee camp and asked to learn about following Jesus. They asked to meet at the Harrison home for fear of how their neighbors might respond. But fighting between the N_sa people and another tribe happened to make it too dangerous for them to come, forcing Bryan to go to their camp. They soon found the courage to invite their neighbors to read and discuss Scripture and eventually started leading new groups to share what they were learning.

Local religious and political leaders happened to hear of the spread of this new teaching and called a meeting, asking Bryan to speak. Bryan happened to have in his backpack the results of much hard work: a copy of the N_sa alphabet and some traditional stories in their language. He shared plans to train literacy teachers so the whole community could learn to read and write the N_sa language.

The PBT report continued. “The N_sa leaders were ecstatic at this historic development for their people. Everyone wanted to see the materials. The chief concluded the meeting by praising this work. His next words were stunning. “Even if these young people are meeting to study other teachings, we are a democratic society now. We support freedom of religion. It is okay for them to keep meeting.”

“The groups continued reading Scripture and soon began singing Christian songs together. More and more of their neighbors became interested. Before long the leaders called another big meeting. This time, the chief openly declared that he would like to see a Christian church in every N_sa community.”

“As I sat with some of these refugees in that crowded little shelter and listened to their heartfelt songs of praise, I marveled. Verse by verse, story by story, person by person, God is making Himself known and ushering in His kingdom of peace among the N_sa people.”
Serving the Incarcerated and their families

Broadway Prison Ministry is a culmination of both the corresponding and the onsite ministry partnering together as God opens doors. We have been able to touch many lives around the Nation. Eddie Harris works with the Warden, Chaplain, and Medical Department at the J.T. Montford Unit and the County Jail. He serves as a Certified Volunteer Chaplain Assistant (CVCA). Personal ministry is very much needed in prisons and jails. Eddie serves once a week in the Psychiatric and Hospice Departments or at the Hospital ministering to patients. For approximately ten years, he has evangelized personally with other volunteers at the Lubbock Parole Office, County, and Prison units.

Our main focus in prison ministry is to be the hands and feet of Jesus, either through personal one-on-one or group interface in ministry and teaching, or through mail correspondence with the men and women and their families while they are incarcerated.

We have over twenty volunteers who come into the church office during the week to grade and return correspondence courses, answer personal requests for prayer or questions about scripture and faith. Each week between 450-600 pieces of correspondence are mailed out. We have ten volunteers who also minister inside the facilities. Last week we completed our bi-annual Kairos Weekend at the Montford unit. At the Kairos in May, ten men surrendered their lives to Christ and two confirmed with a strong desire to be baptized and become disciples of Christ. Our baptism is scheduled for June 12th. Twenty-four men completed a New Life Behavior course and were given a celebration by Broadway Prison ministry. They have expressed their thoughts of appreciation, gratitude, and love through the hand-made card displayed on the next page.

In June, the 43rd National Jail & Prison Ministry conference workshop is being held in Texas. Eddie has been asked to do a talk on "Public Relations and Prison Ministry" inspiring others in this ministry around the country to encourage their congregations by sharing the work Christ is doing all over the world. For many years the Broadway Church family has expressed love and concern for inmates and their families. If you feel within your heart or know God is calling you to evangelize and make disciples in our ministry, please answer the call and join either one of our ministries by contacting our church office at 806.763-0464.

Eddie Harris
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Dear Broadway Church of Christ,

Time after time, your generous displays of love & support have compelled all of us to continually exalt the name of The Most High. We sincerely thank you! Your many acts of kindness have brought about encouragement & instilled hope for the way we view our future. It's a joy to see how good people are still utilized as instruments of blessing for those who choose to follow Christ.

My, how we thank God for opportunities & chances! May the Lord bless you a thousand times more than you've blessed us here!

You will be in our prayers.

F. Gonzalez
Many people see **Children’s Ministry** as a service opportunity; and that is very true. When you serve the children of Broadway you are living out the Gospel, sharing the Good News, providing a place of love and belonging to God’s children. **They need their brothers and sisters who are farther along in the JOURNEY to guide them in what it looks like to love God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind.** They need us to show them in tangible ways how important they are to God and His Kingdom.

**But** it is equally important that we also serve alongside our children. As the family of God, we serve together to make things right in this world. Our children are eager to be a part of what God is doing. **We must teach our children first hand what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.** And truthfully, most of that isn’t going to happen on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night. When your class or small group serves in the name of Jesus, consider asking one of our children’s classes to join you. When you go to visit an elderly friend, invite a young friend to go along. When you prepare a meal for a sick sister, ask a first grader to help you prepare that meal. When helping fix up a neighbor’s fence, invite a preteen to share the labor.
Summer is here and our kids have more time. Let’s ask them to join us in God’s Kingdom work and the blessings will overflow for everyone involved.
For more ideas on ways to serve our children and serve alongside our children, contact:

Jennifer Porter  
Children’s Minister  
806-891-0198  
j.porter@bwaychurch.org
A Parent’s Perspective

There’s an unexplainable joy that comes with seeing your child learn. I have seen both of my children learn so much through the wonderful teachers at SSPS this year. Not only does Bowen come home with new skills and accomplishments, but he prays each and every night thanking God for his family, for Ms. Traci and Ms. Carla and all of his friends at school. He’s constantly telling me about all of the new Bible stories he has acted out at school and, when he hugs Layton, he says, “Let the children come to me.” Just this year he has learned to recognize his name, can tell me how to spell it and loves to point it out whenever he sees it on a paper. He has learned his colors, numbers, the Pledge of Allegiance, the ABC’s and other countless songs. He has been challenged and encouraged while learning other useful skills such as sharing, playing nicely with others, taking turns and being courteous.

Even in the nursery, Layton is also exposed to a world of knowledge. She is learning colors, textures, sounds and words. She loves music and her favorite time in class is their music time. She started SSPS when she was 7 months old, when her development is crucial, and her teachers have exceeded my expectations in teaching her age appropriate curriculum.

I thank the Lord each day for SSPS and pray blessings on the works of each teacher. I would absolutely recommend our school to any parent for countless reasons, but knowing your children are safe, happy, learning and retaining, and being taught how to be Jesus in our world is a wonderful feeling.

—Allison Maxwell
A Teacher’s perspective:

What is your favorite thing about SSPS? What keeps you coming back each year?

**Breanne, PE** - Not only do my kids learn basic skills, but the teachers go beyond to teach them about God and that means so much to me. The teachers and staff show so much love to the children and their families and that’s a place I want to be.

**Jessica, Fours** - The loving Christian environment for myself and my child who attends SSPS is what I love most.

**Traci, Twos** - The children and the joy of loving on them keeps me coming back. They learn so much at this age and I love how everything is new each day.

**Carla, Twos** - I love watching the children change from the beginning of the year to the end. It’s rewarding to see God use the seeds he has planted in them.

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**Maria, Toddlers** - I lost my grandpa earlier this year and began working at SSPS in the middle of the year. It would have been easy for me to stay home, but the women I work with are always so encouraging, making me want to be a better me and I realized I wanted that.

**Glenda, Toddlers** - I saw God working on me and my attitude. SSPS is a place that makes me happy and builds me up and I look forward to coming to work each day.

**Kay, Threes** - I enjoy watching the children experience God’s creation. They love to explore and ask questions. Watching that process is amazing.

**Traci, Twos** - The children and the joy of loving on them keeps me coming back. They learn so much at this age and I love how everything is new each day.

**Stephanie, Nursery** - I have seen God move through the women I work with. They have shown me how to be strong and when you have faith, anything is possible.

**SonShine Preschool Teachers**
THE KITCHEN TABLE
By Frank Harmon

As I sat alone at a rickety old dining table, weathered and scuffed, waiting to visit with the administrator of a nursing home in Slaton, Texas, I was surprised by a little old lady (90 something), who came up to the table with her walker. She extended her thin and wrinkled little hand and tapped on the table, stating in her weak voice, “This table is so pretty”. We talked a bit, mostly about her family; then the administrator cut us off by calling me into her office. As I was leaving sometime later, the little old lady was gone, but I did stop and gaze at that ugly table.

Driving back to Lubbock, into the sun, I reflected on that little old lady and what she said. It hit me like a brick wall; she was seeing her family at that table. She could see the special settings with her best dishes and silverware, adorned with flowers and decorations. She was seeing the loving things from her past; children, family, and especially the loving way she served them. As I thought about her, tears welled up in my eyes, and with the red glare from the setting sun, I had to pull over and stop, crying like a baby.

That evening, I recalled being trapped by a kitchen table. “Mom” Womack, a fabulous cook, who later became my mother-in-law, was very instrumental in that. Having been invited to LaJuana’s home in the country after church service one Sunday for a good meal, of course I went. Now, sitting at their VERY large table accommodating 11 children plus new additions to the family, and friends, the food starts parading in from the kitchen. Oh wow! First, there was a gigantic steaming bowl of mashed potatoes, bubbling butter on top, followed by an equally large bowl of good old country gravy. My mouth was watering, but then here comes a huge bowl of green beans, fresh from the garden and then I really lost control when they brought out the biggest platter of chicken fried steak I had ever seen! After eating myself into oblivion, and sitting there listening to everybody talking and sharing stories, laughing and having a great time together, I knew that if this beautiful daughter of theirs, (the tenth of eleven children), could cook like that - I’m going to marry her! Then after a dessert of cornbread and molasses, with a little iced tea, there was no doubt in my mind. For the longest time, my prayers were to meet a girl with few vanities who is also a good cook. God answered my prayers, granting me that and so much more.

Many of us grew up in the 40’s, 50’s, and 60’s, with the family sitting down two or three times a day to eat a meal together. We live in a different, fast paced world now. Most of my grandchildren ate in the car on the way to their next soccer game, band practice, and football game. The times we sit down as families now are so rare. It’s a shame. These children won’t be at home very long and then they are gone; and parents wonder where the time went and wish they had had more opportunities to be with their children when they were young.

A friend and mother of three boys confided in me once how they changed their family’s life. The boys were growing up in a drug infested area and targeted by bullies. One Saturday, the father loaded all the boys into the car along with the TV set, and drove out to the dump grounds where target practice was allowed. He instructed the boys to put the TV on top of a pile of rubbish about 50 feet away, telling them to open fire; they reduced the TV to a pile of rubbish. The boys thought it was fun, until they found out they were not getting a new one! The result was amazing. The family ate their meals together; played together; the boys even talked to their parents and participated in family activities; and their grades shot up as well.

My point is simple. Family time is precious and that time can go by so quickly. Something as simple as sitting around the kitchen table and actually talking is so important. With a prayer of thanks at each meal, and a gentle conversation, you will be surprised at the outcome. Ask God to be a part of your lives; He would love to hear from you.
What is a servant?

This is what the dictionary says a servant is...

**servant/noun**

1. a person who performs duties for others, especially a person employed in a house on domestic duties or as a personal attendant.

   synonyms: attendant, retainer; More
   - a person employed in the service of a government.
   - a devoted and helpful follower or supporter.

   "a tireless servant of God"

What does it mean to me? It means doing what I am called to do and using my God given talent; being able to engage anyone I meet in a conversation about whatever comes up; the weather, sports, where the church is, if the coffee has caffeine. (YES ALWAYS....it is leaded!) I have never met a stranger and my mom says it has been something I have done since I was a young lad.

   "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”  Mark 10:45

So how do we show this to others? Do what YOU do best. Be it visiting with a stranger or giving a quick hug to those who need one. Don’t like to stretch out of your comfort zone? Volunteer where you can give out some food or clothing; make a backpack for a local school age kid; hold a baby in the nursery; or write a heartfelt note to those whom you know could use some encouragement or just a kind word.

One thing I have found, is that people watch us for what we say and do. Many times I have talked to people, especially those who used to go to church and were totally burned by “church people,” they see Christians come to church and talk about the love of Christ and then go out and bad-mouth someone or something. People also will notice when you do good for others. Treat everyone the way you want to be treated, which to me is the servanthood GOD is looking for.

   “For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servant for Jesus’ sake”. 2 Corinthians 4:5

Let’s serve others by serving Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

As I begin my time on the Lubbock Cooper school Board, I have had people jokingly ask me what to call me now, or if they need to treat me differently. I just want people to call me Kevin and see the Christ-like example I hope to set as a Christian man, striving to do what I feel compelled to do: helping kids, parents, and the people in the Cooper district. I want to be a servant.

To fully know me is to know I am not a sidelines kind of guy. I know I strive, and sometimes fail, to be that person who people can look at and tell themselves “I bet he is a Christian”.

To be a servant is to follow God, and to serve others before yourself.
Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he
had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal,
took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After
that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet,
drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:3-5

In John 13 we find a beautiful lesson taught by Jesus to His disciples. Before beginning an
intimate meal with them, Jesus teaches them about serving others humbly. Normally, a slave
would perform this act of washing the feet of dinner guests, but Jesus- the guest of honor-
dressed himself like a slave, with a towel around his waist, and INSISTED on washing the feet
of His disciples. When he was finished, he wanted to teach a lesson:

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned
to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them.
“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now
that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash
one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have
done for you. John 13:12-

Jesus set a clear example of what it means to serve: he humbled himself and put others ahead of
himself. Jesus was willing to be the servant to all of them so they would see that serving others
is important. Jesus wanted his disciples to do more than just believe in him. He wanted their
actions of service.

Paul also touches on this topic. In Ephesians 2 Paul writes:

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God didn’t create you so that you could sit in church but do nothing else for the Kingdom! God
designed you, created you to USE your life to have a positive influence on people’s lives in this
broken and lost world.
I know as a young man I had a mistaken belief that “good works” was something adults did.
Not just any adults mind you, only those who were already good enough to be close to God. I
guess I thought that good works were only to be done by the godly, almost perfect elite few. I
was wrong in that thinking! God calls all of us to service, and many times it is through serving
that we grow closer to God. EVERYONE who follows Christ is a “good works” worker.
We have been created by God and are being called by God to do humble acts of service in the name of Christ. This year our teens are focusing on this call to serve others. We are providing many great opportunities to serve. We are working with the Children’s Home of Lubbock, the South Plains Food Bank, Special Olympics and helping people from our faith community!

One special opportunity we have this summer is our Mission Trip. We will be going to the Houston area to participate in a camp called Camp Blessing. Camp Blessing is a camp for individuals with special needs. Our teens will be helping those with disabilities have a great summer camp experience! Our older teens will be working one on one with special needs kids, and our younger teens will be helping through daily service with food and cleanup. We are excited about this opportunity!
Sometimes you have to serve yourself first.

On an airplane, the flight attendant tells everyone that in the event of the loss of cabin pressure, the adult or the parent must place the oxygen mask on himself or herself first. This is so the adults will be able to breathe and then in turn be able to take care of the people that are around them. Sometimes it's we adults who are struggling to breathe on our own without support. We need a little assistance, a little boost of oxygen to help us get through the struggles so that we can be healthy enough to take care of our families and ourselves. This is what Celebrate Recovery is all about. It gives each person who shows up an opportunity to serve herself/himself first. We all struggle with life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups. People hear the word "recovery" and automatically check out and stop reading. What everyone needs to understand is that Celebrate Recovery is not just about recovery from the "typical" issues of alcohol or drugs. It is about any and all of life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups. It's about anything that hinders our walk with God: depression, anger, abuse, over-eating, co-dependency, gambling, etc... The list goes on and on. We all struggle, some with alcohol and/or drugs, some with other things; but don't count yourself out until you give it a chance. Celebrate Recovery has changed my life in so many ways. At Celebrate Recovery a safe, anonymous atmosphere is provided where people can come and worship God and be a part of something where there are people who meet you at the door, just as you are, in the same way that Jesus meets us wherever we are in this life.

We work the 12 steps together. The difference in Celebrate Recovery and secular recovery is that our steps are biblical. We encourage people who have in the past or do currently attend a secular program to come be a part. Your encouragement and experience are greatly appreciated and needed. We think highly of secular groups but choose to focus our recovery work, knowing that God is and has to be in control of our lives. We also work with the 8 principles that are based on the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount.
We all need people to walk through life with, people who help hold us accountable. The group of people that I have met at Celebrate Recovery help walk with me in all my struggles and victories. We hold each other accountable.

We meet weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Broadway Church of Christ building in room 138. We spend time in worship and then either hear a wonderful lesson or a heart felt testimony depending on the week. Then we break into small gender based groups where the healing really begins. If you are reading this and are scared to give it a try, please know that everyone who decides to take this leap of faith is most likely feeling the exact same way that you are. I would encourage you to come give Celebrate Recovery a try. It just might be one of the best decisions you make in your life. I know it was for me. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (806) 763-0464 (work) or (806) 789-2478 (cell). You can also email me at c.allen4291@gmail.com.

Camille Allen

Ledership Team:
Dyke Whitney, Camille Allen, Lynda Taylor, and Doug Sims
Broadway Serving...

YPG class celebrating Mrs. Maye Payne’s 95th Birthday

Graduating Seniors, Travis Mack receiving the John Bridges Award, and Heath Gossett receiving the Anabel Reid Award for 2016

Christ in Action summer mission trip to Ecuador, and the Hacienda of Hope
Broadway Youth during Spring Mend, repairing a home in the community

Children Singing for their church family

Youth Group supporting the Special Olympics

Baby Blessing Day