



Mr. Bradford spoke in elementary chapel on Tuesday to introduce himself to the students and to give them some practical instruction on how much God cares for them.

FBTA passes the torch

Students enthusiastically welcome the Bradfords

by Victoria, sophomore

Monday, Jan. 6, was a chilling first day for our new administrator, Mr. Bradford, with the weather dipping into the single digits. Moving to the D.C. area from South Bend, IN, has been a new and exciting experience for the Bradford family.

After twenty-four years as a teacher and administrator at Community Baptist Church and Christian School, Mr. Bradford relocated his family to the east coast to help us serve the Lord here at FBTA.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradford have three children: one is a freshman this year at Pensacola Christian College, and the other two are in our academy.

Mr. Bradford spoke in chapel on his first day to introduce himself to the student body and speak about how glad he is to be here. He said one of his first priorities was to get to know the students.

During his first week, he joined the junior and senior high several days during lunch, he stopped by elementary classrooms to observe and to meet the children, and made a marked effort to learn each and every student's name . . . even those difficult identical twin names.

"He came into our classroom and asked us to introduce ourselves. Then he repeated our names back to us and got them all right," said Caleb, 7th grade twin.

"And he can still tell us apart weeks later," said Connor, 7th grade twin counterpart.

The student body in general is excited about the new leadership. They are impressed and happy with the changes they have seen so far, and some were surprised that he took the time to come and sit with them at lunch to ask how they are doing. He often asks students, "How was your day at school today?"

"My first impression was that he was calm," said Caitlyn, senior.

"He would definitely make a good teacher," said Corynne, senior.

Mr. Bradford's relaxed and calm demeanor has already begun filtering down through the teachers, students, and even the parents.

Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy students are looking forward to what God will do through our new leadership over the next few months. We are happy to pass the torch on to our new administrator and pray that God will use him to guide us through the next phase of our education.

New baby

Boyd arrives

FBTA welcomes Titus Gary Boyd to the world

by Jenneth, junior

It was a normal Wednesday chapel on Jan. 8 with Pastor Calvert preaching from Joshua, when, all of a sudden, Bro. Gary bolted out of the room in a frantic flurry. A united and excited thought passed through the minds of the FBTA students: the baby.

"I got a call on my phone, and I looked down and saw that it was Miss Alicia, and as soon as I saw it was her, I knew what the call was because she knew I was in chapel and she wouldn't be calling me if it wasn't serious," said Bro. Gary, new father. "Miss Alicia called me at 10:25, and I pulled into my driveway at 10:29."

Bro. Gary admits to being stressed out as he ran around the house getting things together before heading to Inova Fairfax Hospital with Miss Alicia. He also grabbed his favorite snack, which he said was *not* Bugles, but Pop-Tarts, in allusion to Pastor's message on a recent Sunday night.

"At 5:45 the doctor said it was time. Fifteen minutes later [the baby] was born," Bro. Gary continued.

Their baby was born with blond hair and greyish-bluish eyes at 8 lbs. and 6 oz.



Miss Alicia is thrilled with the new job description of being a mother and plans to do serious reading up on parenting.

"Bro. Gary and I love to read, so I'm sure reading up on this area of our lives will be no exception (I've already read a few)," said Miss Alicia, new mother. "It's so fun being a mom! I love it."

"Miss Alicia can't stop looking at him. She just thinks he's so cute. [She] always said we were going to have ugly babies, but then we had Titus, and she was wrong," said Bro. Gary.

"We are praying that he will grow up to serve the Lord. A few dreams we have for him are that he will play the cello, love baseball like his dad, and, of course, love LEGOS and Star Wars too!" said Miss Alicia.

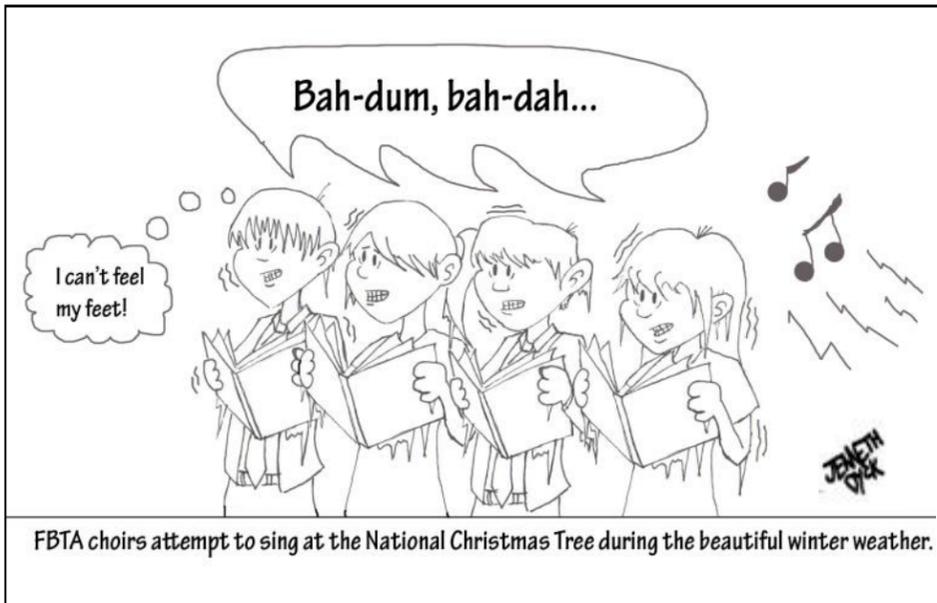
However, Bro. Gary says even though he and his wife will be having new responsibilities parenting a baby boy, they still want to keep the FBTeens in their focus.

"We're going to try really hard because I know sometimes youth pastors start a family, and they can't devote as much time to the youth group as they once did. Things are different, but we're really going to try to make sure our priorities are right. I mean, obviously family comes first, but then after that comes the church—and that's you guys."

The FBTeens and the students of FBTA rejoice with the Boyds and their new addition to their family. We hope he comes to know the Lord at an early age and grows up to be just like his parents . . . and maybe possibly CEO of Apple.



Bro. Gary's favorite picture (at least so far)



FBTA choirs attempt to sing at the National Christmas Tree during the beautiful winter weather.

FBTA Open House and Bring a Friend to School Day

January 28

It is always an exciting day when we get an opportunity to show off our school to the community and to our friends, and FBTA is encouraging all students to get involved.

Every student who brings a friend on Tuesday will receive a \$5 gift card to sweet-Frog. So, join in that Patriot spirit, and help spread the word around!



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Christmas Wrap-Up

Realizing the holiday season has been over for a while, the *Patriot Press* considered moving on to other January news; however, we just could not pass up the opportunity to report on the Christmas parties at the end of 2013. Several successful new items were added to the junior and senior high line-up, including a talent show and photo booth, in addition to the standard class-theme decorating contests. Elementary students enjoyed parties in their classrooms, making gingerbread houses and decorating other classmates as snowmen. It was a fun-filled way to wrap up the Christmas season.



The sophomores and Mr. Niggl won first place for the best-dressed teacher, using items left over from their theme decorations.

New additions to FBTA Christmas parties

A talent show, a dress-your-teacher contest, and a photo booth join the gym

by Rebecca, junior

Colorful, multi-themed classes and tables form a thick border around the walls of the gym. Toward the front and center of the gym was a stage set up for the talent show.

The talent show was filled with handbells, cowbells, guitars, and many Christmas-themed performances.

“Silent Night” was played on guitars by Reagan, senior, and Isaac, junior.

“We both had our guitars at the Academy of Arts, and the talent show presented itself as a great opportunity,” said Reagan.

“It was fun. I don’t normally perform in front of other people, but it’s easier playing in front of people I know,” said Isaac.

Along with the guitars, a hilarious “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch” duet was performed by Kyle, senior, and Hart, 7th grade; a cowbell solo was performed by Katelyn, senior; a “Twas the Night Before Christmas”

reading was done by Mr. Cornell; Bro. Boyd and Mr. Gleb sang a Christmas duet; a recorder performance was done by the senior girls; and a “12 Days of Christmas” was performed by the sophomores.

Hannah, senior class representative, first introduced these ideas to student council for consideration.

In addition to the talent show, a photo booth and a dress-your-teacher contest was added through the recommendation of student council.

“I thought it would be a great way to get different students from different grades involved through comedic performances,” said Hannah, senior.

In all, the 2013 Christmas party received much positive feedback from the student body.

“I loved it, and it was a great team effort,” said Mrs. Darby, Project Manager.



The senior class won the class party theme contest with their kindergarten theme. The juniors came in second with the crime scene party theme, and the 7th grade class was third with its Paris theme. Congratulations!



Photo Booth

The journalism staff sponsored a photo booth during the junior and senior high Christmas party. With all the props donated from the staff members, students were able to take funny photos with their class and friends.



Above: The Spanish II class won the talent show contest with their rendition of “12 days of Christmas” in Spanish, but Bro. Gary and Mr. Gleb were a close second with their performance of “25 Carols in Two Minutes” (right).

Below: Ricky, freshman, dresses up as Santa to help his class with its party theme.



Elementary classes celebrate the Christmas spirit with crafts and party food in their classrooms