

## **A Return to Normal**

Our Trustees met on May 25 and voted to re-establish normal worship practices for the church. Masks will only be optional beginning this Sunday, and social distancing will now be again back to personal preference. The only vestiges of the pandemic practices will be that ushers will continue to take names upon entry (out of abundant caution), and we will keep some of our sanitary practices associated with Holy Communion.

I understand that this process has taken far too long for some of you, and not long enough for others. At each stage of our decision making, we gave thorough consideration of balancing protection with your own worship needs. Nevertheless, I am proud that we can look back on a record of not having been a transmission site of the virus, and we have protected our members to the best of our ability. I will continue to provide video worship for both adults and children, and we will still broadcast live on 103.5 FM into our parking areas for those who remain cautious.

We are hopeful that you will feel safe to return to church soon. Many who have already received vaccinations are back with us and we hope that we will see you too. Sunday schools and nursery are all back in their normal places of meeting. I know that what many of you have missed is the fellowship on Sunday mornings and at other meetings. Fortunately, as things return to normal, we will ease back into the practice that we have all grown fond of. But, if you are still a little hesitant, we understand. Give us a call and let us know how you are doing.

## **Crazy Quilters Dedicate Quilt**



During the May 9<sup>th</sup> service in Dardanelle, the Crazy Quilters group presented a quilt put together by the group as a fundraiser for the Mexico mission. The quilt was dedicated in memory of Vicki Hensley who worked with the group on making the quilt. The ladies in the group pictured above are: (Left to Right) Barbara Goins, Georgianna Tatum, Shirley Nickle, Willie Sides, Ann Wooten and Genice Applegate.

### **Mexico Mission Invitation**

Dardanelle First is partnering again leading a mission team to Rio Bravo, Mexico. This will be a wonderful opportunity to be hands-on in helping alleviate poverty and share the gospel of Jesus. Our trip is planned for September 19-25.

Our work will include teaching VBS, construction, sewing, evangelism and book distribution. We will also have the opportunity to work with some of the teen-age orphans from Casa de Esperanza (House of Hope) that is a part of the continuing mission in Rio Bravo and neighboring Nuevo Progreso. The cost excluding air fare is \$475 per team member. This will pay for insurance, lodging, meals, interpreters, and the rental of vans while in Mexico. We are asking our church to help sponsor some of our team members to go with us.

Bro. Jim Benfer will be leading the team. This is his 19th trip to Rio Bravo. We encourage retirement age participation as well as parents and senior high age youth to make the trip. For more information or to sign up and help us plan our mission call Brother Jim at 479-699-4683.

### **Rummage Sale & Bake Sale Coming**

In keeping with our tradition of raising our mission funds through fundraisers, we have planned a **BIG RUMMAGE SALE** for June 4-5 at the Life Center of the church. We are looking for volunteers again to help us move a large quantity of items in our storage building to be set up for sale in the gymnasium. To this end we still need your help if you can assist us during the preparations or during the sale. This is one great way you can be in mission with us, even if you aren't able to be with us in Mexico. **If you have items to donate to the sale you may drop them by the church, or call us if you have a large item that needs picking up.** This has become our main fundraising effort for the mission, and we will also need a number of people that week to help us set items out on tables and organize them for the sale. Please give us a call if you want to volunteer. Thank you in advance for the tremendous job you do in helping us serve others in Jesus' name!

### **Invite Someone to Church**

During these long months of social distancing, it seemed difficult enough just to keep yourself and your family safe. Inviting others to church seemed like a real stretch because we weren't even sure we were being safe. However, now I hope that you will take time to invite others with you to grow the fellowship and ministry of the church. Making disciples isn't the work of some "evangelism team," it is the common work we do day-to-day to share the grace and salvation that has come to us through our Lord Jesus. Let's be proud of what God is doing among us!