As I write these words, I am really excited about today. Of the weather cooperated, we are set to install the Tornado Memorial at the West Campus. It was almost one year ago when Rusty asked me if I would head up the memorial project. The challenge given to me was to create a memorial that would remember the 23 victims and honor those who gave during the tornado that ripped through the Beauregard community on March 3, 2019. In a capsule, this meant creating a design that could be given to the granite company and the cross fabricating company; getting all the information correct that would go on the monument; contacting the families of all the victims to be sure their requests were honored; securing companies to build the memorial; securing folks to head up the site preparation; and make sure that there were enough donated funds to make it happen. This was not a one-man project. I may leave out some folks, but I want to mention some names that were very helpful to me. These include Rusty Sowell for his vision to create a memorial; Jennifer Hughes for her assistance in all the details of names and photos; Prissy Goodson for her work in contacting all the families (she had developed such a close relationship with them all); Brad Ennis for assisting with the site preparation; and Will Blocksome for drawing the design that came out of my creative thinking. So I hope by the end of today, this project of love will come to completion. May God continue to bless the families of the victims that we remember and bless the lives of all who gave as we honor them with this visible sign.