

# FIRSTwords

TO REACH PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST & TOGETHER BECOME MORE LIKE HIM

## UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastor Search Committee, with the guidance of Dr. Matt Cook, has embraced a unique transitional path that involves two distinct stages. First, we are engaging a congregational self-study which will result in a Congregational Profile and a Senior Pastor Profile. With these profiles we will then embark on the second stage of searching for the senior pastor we think best fits our church's needs.

We are well into the self-study phase, whereby our congregation has been considering our church's values, focus, and trajectory, by means of three congregational conversations and two surveys. The Pastor Search Committee is grateful for the overwhelmingly generous and fruitful participation of the congregation in each of our data-gathering exercises, resulting in a rich store of insights and

aspirations about our church that we are carefully considering in these days.

In the March edition of *First Words*, we provided a summary of the central findings from our first two Congregational Conversations and the Convictional Survey. Our third Congregational Conversation at the end of February and the Next Pastor Survey involved some questions about our next senior pastor, and we will be sifting through that data for some time. The conversation and survey also asked some questions about where we see our church, which provided some information we can report on now. The questions involved a series of polarities, asking where we as a church fall on a five-point scale at *present* and where we think we need to be *in the future*.

With regard to our current positioning between the polarities, the third Congregational Conversation showed we are close to the middle on each one. The results show:

- 1. Between our church's internal focus [1 on scale] and external focus [5 on scale], we were just right of the middle [at 3.3], leaning toward an external focus.**
- 2. Between focus on stability [1] or change [5], we leaned a bit from the middle toward stability [2.4 on scale].**
- 3. Between strong lay leadership [1] and strong staff leadership [5], we were just right of the middle, leaning toward more staff leadership [3.3 on scale].**
- 4. Between a focus on nurture [1] or on transformation [5] as a church, we were slightly right in the middle [3.1 on scale].**
- 5. Between being a church that is attractional [1] and being missional [5], we were just right of middle, leaning toward missional [3.3 on scale].**



In the survey following the third conversation, we asked again about the same polarities, but this time in terms of where we think the church needs to go in the future. The responses were again close to the middle, with small shifts on the five-point scale:

1. On the first polarity, a slight movement toward having more of an internal focus rather than external [0.4 point shift toward internal focus].
2. On the second polarity, a somewhat larger (but still not dramatic) shift toward change rather than stability in the future [1 point shift toward change].
3. On the third polarity, a small shift toward more lay leadership compared to staff leadership [0.4 point toward laity].

With all of the good data from our congregational self-study in hand, the Pastor Search Committee now moves to a “quieter phase” where we will be writing the Congregational Profile, which we will share with the church in a few weeks. Then, we will turn to writing the Senior Pastor Profile. Up to this point, we have been able to share freely the results of our conversations together; however, as we move to more personal information relating to our future pastor, we will need to hold more data in confidence. That said, we continue to encourage the congregation to communicate with us through your questions, suggestions, ideas, and encouragements. We are eager to listen and share what we can, while realizing that some information will need to be held

confidentially.

The committee asks that you continue to pray for us as we enter the next phase of our work, praying particularly that we will discern where the Spirit of God is leading as we compile the profiles for our congregation and our next senior pastor.

Grateful for your encouragement,

***The Pastor Search Committee***

fbcabilene  
women's ministry

BUNCO NIGHT

Monday, April 4, 2022  
University Place | 7:00–9:00 pm



# Holy Week LUNCHES

*Sponsored by the Downtown Churches*

## MONDAY, APRIL 11

First Baptist Church (FLC)

*Speaker - Cliff Stewart*

## TUESDAY, APRIL 12

St. Paul United Methodist

*Speaker - Shane Hughes*

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

First Central Presbyterian

*Speaker - Steve Patterson*

## THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Highland Church of Christ

*Speaker - Matt Cook*

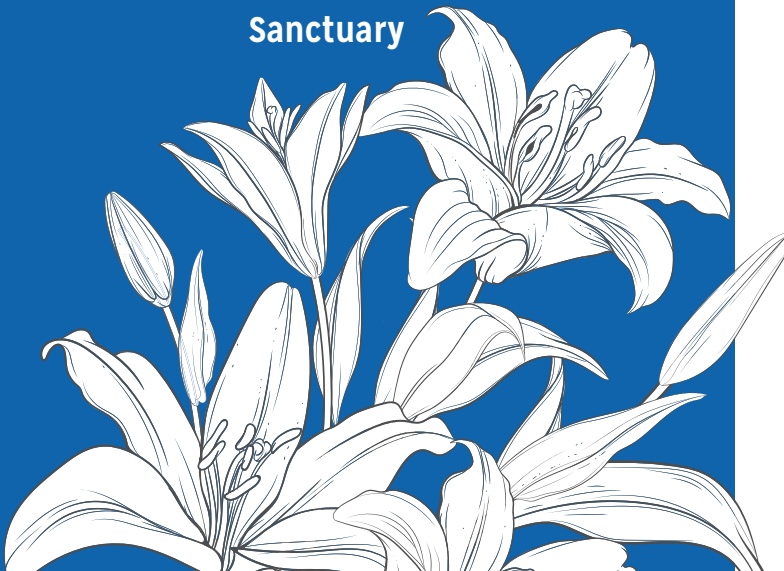
### BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

*Drinks & Dessert Provided*

**Maundy Thursday Service/  
Lord's Supper**

**APRIL 14 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**Sanctuary**



## GIVING OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

In the fast-paced, highly-technological world we live in, writing a check and putting it in an envelope seems totally foreign to many of us now. But here at the church, we have used the same tried and true system of offering envelopes for folks to have an easy way to give their tithes and offerings for the support of the ministry budget. So as technology changes, so should the church change to keep up with what folks are doing in other areas of their lives.

Online giving is not entirely new to what we have been offering as a way to give. On the church website, [www.fbcabilene.org](http://www.fbcabilene.org), there is a link on the top row of options that takes you to the giving page for the church. The link is in a green box and says "Give Online." Simply click on this link and it will walk you through the process. Of course by using this method it requires a credit or debit card, both of which have a 2.2% fee associated with it and we are hoping folks will include that in their thinking as they use this method. We also see this as a convenient way for people to give, but do not ever encourage anyone to accumulate debt on a credit card in the process. As with the traditional giving methods of the church, only you and the finance office will have access to your giving records.

Another option is to set up a bank draft that would take a set amount out of your account and put in the church account on a set time frame. This option does not have any associated fees with it and also takes out the "remember to do it" factor. Some have set this up like a payroll deduction and really like not having to do anything else, but know they are supporting the work of the church consistently. Jeannie Jowers in the finance office can help you set this up or answer questions you might have. This is really convenient when you are travelling or want to simplify your life.

### Gifts That Keep On Giving

Regular gifts of tithes and offerings to the church are the most important forms of giving. These gifts make it possible for the church to continue to carry out the ministries of Jesus Christ at home and around the world.

However, you may have a desire to do something special and make a gift which bears fruit year after year. If so, the First Baptist Church Foundation can help you accomplish that desire. As a result of the interest expressed by some church members for a means to make possible long-term, deferred, or special gifts for the future ministries of the church, the Foundation was established by the church in 1993.

The Foundation is an entity through which you may make a special or deferred gift for the church or specific ministries of the church. The Foundation is administered by an eleven member board comprised of the five church trustees and six lay members nominated by the Committee on Committees and elected by the church on a three-year rotating basis. The investment and management of the funds of the Foundation is performed by HighGround Advisors (formally the Baptist Foundation of Texas). The corpus or principal of any gift is used for whatever purpose the donor designates. The interest earned by the total amount in the Foundation can be used for various church ministries as agreed upon by the Foundation Board and the Finance Committee, or it can be rolled back into the total assets.

The Foundation has two main areas of focus, the ministries of the church and the missional direction through Give Hope and Faces and Places. As well, there are several gifts which were given and designated for specific purposes like GLO, Counseling, City Light, FLC and a few others. The foundation board distributes

grants twice a year for requests that meet the purpose of the foundation. The Missions Committee of the church is responsible for the distribution of all funds in the Faces and Places Endowment. The designated gifts obviously go to the specific designated group. Gifts can be made to any of these funds or a new fund could be established for a specific purpose.

### Life-long Stewardship

Just as we are to be good stewards of what God has entrusted us with while we are alive, we should also be just as involved in being a good steward of our estate as well. If each of us were to tithe of our estate as we have tithed of our weekly income, the foundation would be able to support many new and exciting missional opportunities and ministries for decades to come.

However, statistics show that 70% of us will die without a well-designed Will or Trust. Inadequately designed estate plans leaves the state in charge of the distribution of your assets and will diminish the effect of your stewardship and limit the eternal impact you could have.

For more information about the FBC Foundation, please contact Mike Greenfield (325-675-8117) or [mike.greenfield@fbcabilene.org](mailto:mike.greenfield@fbcabilene.org). Next month, you will read about some of the many ways the foundation has been able to help the church through the grants given.

A large white Easter bunny head with orange inner ears is positioned on the left side of the bottom section. Several green flowers with five petals are scattered around the bunny and the text.

## COOKOUT & Easter Egg Hunt

April  
10<sup>th</sup>

The Friendship House  
1518 Orange Street

Hunt begins at 2pm  
Bring your own Basket  
Burgers & Hotdogs Provided.



# Important

## SUMMER DATES IN THE YOUTH MINISTRY



### MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

*Heart of Texas*

Baptist Encampment  
Brownwood, Texas

**JUNE 15 - 19**



### HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

*Ester Park, Colorado*

**JUNE 26 - JULY 1**



Camp is coming soon and we are getting excited!  
Mark down these important dates.

*Sign-up coming soon.*

**Don't miss this great week!**

FBC MISSIONS: **ACTING IN** *love*

# BLESSED FAMILIES FUN NIGHT!

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022**

**4:30-6:30 PM**

**FBC FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

1442 N. 2nd Abilene, Texas



Adaptive activities to include: bowling, skating, art, games in the gym, and therapy dogs.

Children and adults with special needs, and their families, are invited to a **FREE** special night of fun!

Parent, guardian, or caretaker must accompany each child or adult to the event.

*Family*  
**MISSION TRIP**  
**MCALLEN**

We would love to have you join us in McAllen this summer on the Family Mission Trip! As in years past, we will work in collaboration with Buckner Border Ministries and work on a variety of projects they have going. The dates for this year's trip are, **Sunday, July 10, 2022 to Friday, July 15, 2022.**

The sign-up deadline is May 1, 2022 and there are limited spots available. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Melinda at 325-675-8112 or John at 325-675-8114 in the Missions' Office





First Baptist has been a part of building a tiny house for the Houses for Healing Ministry. These houses provide short-term medical housing for people in the Big Country who receive medical care or who have family members staying in the hospital.

Thank you to all of those who have helped and are still helping us complete this house! These and others worked hard in the windy cool weather and made great progress!

**Robert Yearian**

**Kyle Berry**

**Becky Tucker**

**Britney Tucker**

**Trevor Allen**

**Steve Steed**

**Charlie Jowers**

**Bart Craig**

**Barry Moak**

**Rodie Yearian**

**Louise Lockhart**

**Eric Couvion**

**Matt Robinson and crew**

**Gary Neal and crew**

**Dillion Fink**

**Tyson Moore**

**Reid Messer**

**Allen Broxson**

Thank you to those of you who have and will continue to pray for this ministry.

There are many more opportunities to volunteer for the Houses for Healing Ministry, such as: house parents, part of a gift Bible team, meals team, home church community team, transportation team, prayer, visiting, and maintenance. If you would like more information on these opportunities, please contact the Missions' Office at 325-675-8112 or visit the website

[housesforhealing.com](http://housesforhealing.com)





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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,

ABILENE, TX

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchAbileneTx/)

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April

## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

April 1, 26 years

**Mike Greenfield**

Pastor for Administration  
& Spiritual Development

April 5, 16 years

**Jeannie Wesley**

Ministry Assistant to the Pastor for Adults/  
Senior Adults & Director of Pastoral Care

April 9, 15 years

**Paul Irby**

Counselor

April 17, 5 years

**Mike Brady**

Director of FLC

April 22, 12 years

**Candy Rains**

Pastor for Preschool

- 3 Personnel Committee Meeting
- 4 Women's Bunco Night
- 7 Blessed Family Event @ FLC
- 10 Friendship House Easter Egg Hunt
- 11-14 Holy Week Lunches
- 13 No Wednesday meal/activities
- 14 Maundy Thursday Service/Lord's Supper
- 15 Church Offices Closed for Good Friday
- 17 Easter Sunday
- 19 Finance Committee  
Deacons' Meeting
- 22 Culinary Graduation
- 24 Lord's Supper
- 27 Hospital Visitation Team  
Church Conference

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

March 2022

Budget	March	Year-to-Date
Required	\$263,020	\$817,060
Given	\$224,727	\$758,165

*God continues to bless our faithfulness through  
the tithes and offerings given to His Kingdom work.*



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH • ABILENE

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