



FIRSTWORDS

DINNER & DISCUSSION AROUND THE TABLES

**August 16 | 5:00 p.m.
Family Life Center**

On Sunday, August 16, at 5:00 p.m., we will gather in the Family Life Center around tables for a fellowship meal of hamburgers and discussion about what we have heard from God this summer through our prayer time and writings in our prayer journals. As Pastor Ray has said, we must pray before we plan. We have been praying all summer, so now is the time to begin to plan. The first step in planning is to ask, "What are we planning for?"

We are asking God, where do you want FBC to go from here. God has brought us this far, and we trust Him to continue to lead us forward. So, where are we headed? What does God want us to be doing? Those are all great questions and ones which hopefully you have been wrestling with in your prayer time and are now ready to come and share what you have been hearing from God.

If you have not made your dinner reservation, please do so by contacting Debra (675-8116 or debra.clemmer@fbcabilene.org, or online by clicking here [Dinner Reservations](#).

AUGUST 2026 ■ FBCABILENE.ORG

YOUR KINGDOM COME

PRAYERS FOR THE NEXT 150 YEARS

FIRST BAPTIST  CHURCH ABILENE

Dear First Family,

I can hardly believe that our family has now lived in Abilene a year! You all have taken incredible care of our family through the move and through caring for us during my mother-in-law's battle with brain cancer. We could not ask any more from a church than what you gave to our family. We will forever be grateful for your prayers, acts of kindness, meals, and hugs through this season.

This summer, we have been praying together for the future of our church. I pray it has been a blessing for you. I pray the Spirit has moved during your intentional time of prayer for FBC Abilene. I pray that collectively the Spirit will blow in a direction which in 75 years the church will still be talking about the impact God made coming out of this season of prayer.

On August 16, we are going to talk about what the Lord has put on our hearts this summer. We will gather around tables in the Family Life Center, eat hamburgers, laugh, and ask intentional questions about your prayer experience this summer. We will be recording that data. Then at staff retreat on August 31–Sept 3, our staff will be analyzing the data to look for patterns where the Spirit might be moving. I am looking forward to that night, and I want to see you there.

Grace and Peace,

RAY P. MILLER, DMIN
Pastor, FBC Abilene, Tx





Meet Patti Blue

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MISSION ACTION

After several months of prayer, reading resumes, interviewing, and then coming to a consensus, the Executive Director for Mission Action Search Committee is pleased to introduce Patti Blue as their choice for this new position.

As the new Executive Director for Mission Action, Patti will give leadership to our three ministries which comprise Mission Action, Inc. – Family Life Center, God's Little Ones (GLO Daycare), and Ministry of Counseling and Enrichment. Each of these ministries are on solid footing and are being led by three incredible directors, Mike Brady (FLC), Allie Tobin (GLO), and Elya Whitten (MOCE), as well as guidance given by each of their boards.

Patti brings over 33 years of experience in education to FBC and most recently served as associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction with Abilene Independent School District. In that role, she led the development, implementation, and assessment of classroom instruction and educational programs in AISD. Prior to coming back to AISD, Patti served as the Superintendent of schools for Gustine ISD. Under her leadership, Gustine ISD experienced strong success in achieving positive outcomes for students. Patti began her professional career in Amarillo ISD before joining AISD as a teacher at Abilene High School in 1991. She also spent 10 years as a curriculum consultant for the Region 14 Education Service Center, which provides resources and support for school districts across the Big Country.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Baylor University, a master's degree from Tarleton State University, and a superintendent's certification from The University of Texas Permian Basin.

Patti and her husband, Doug, have been a part of FBC since 2015 and they have one grown son, Brayden, who is an accountant with a non-profit in Dallas. Patti will begin her new role on August 3, 2026.

The search committee was comprised of: Dick Dansby, Bobby Easterling, Paul Irby, Richard Vandever, Evan Harris, Cathy Ingram, and assisted by Pastor Ray Miller and Mike Greenfield.

Youth Summer 2026

Best Camp Ever! On June 16–20, our youth went to Lake Brownwood with Horizon Camps for our annual youth camp. Every year, camp is a wonderful experience for the students to grow closer to God and to one another. We had so much fun swimming, playing 9-square and Nuke 'em, and enjoying a day of rain. Most importantly, it was so amazing to see our youth spend time with God in Bible study and worship, and in fellowship during our church group time. We ended our week with 5 decisions to follow Christ in baptism! I believe camp offers an opportunity for students to develop lasting friendships and encounter life-changing experiences. Thank you to our sponsors: Laura Preston, Britney Tucker, Kristen Patterson, Halle Smith, Trayton Weeden, and Stephen Griffith. Thank you also to those who sponsored students to go to camp!

On July 2, we spent time at Lake Brownwood fishing, swimming, and tubing! The McAdams hosted and Rocky did a great job of driving the boat and helping the students safely fly off the tubes into the water. We ended the day with some Pickleball and pizza before heading home. Thank you to the McAdams and the Staffords for hosting and providing food.

We took 15 students to Six Flags on July 7! The brand-new ride was not quite open to the public yet, but it was fun watching the testers take a 95 degree drop into a giant loop-the-loop. While the morning started off hot, we finally got some nice shade clouds and a breeze in the afternoon. After at least 10 different rides a piece, everyone enjoyed the ride home for some rest. Thank you to Britney Tucker, Trayton Weeden, and Kristen Patterson for your willingness to ride some roller coasters and supervise our students.

Our high school students went to DFW for an overnight mission opportunity July 13–14. On Monday, we served with 6 Stones in Euless, Texas. 6 Stones provides food and groceries by offering a chance for those in need to “shop” their supermarket. All the food is free, but the act of shopping helps to add a sense of dignity to the individuals participating. The students helped stock the shelves for a few hours and learned about 6 Stones’ mission process.

On Tuesday, we spent time with Mission Arlington in downtown Arlington, Texas. For almost 40 years, Mission Arlington has provided assistance in benevolence, food, clothing, and all types of donations to many communities and people in DFW. Our students helped sort through the donations received by Mission Arlington and also worked to pick up donated items throughout the Arlington area. Our students presented 6 Stones and Mission Arlington each with a check of funds raised through your generous giving!



On July 15, we continued our summer emphasis on missions by serving with City Light. What a blessing it was to help our local community and to spend time with our neighbors in service and love!



Throughout the summer, our students have joined us for Monday lunches, a Flying Bison game, Putt-Putt, arcades, and a Friday afternoon where we tried 10 different restaurants worth of French fries (Rockin' Rollers got the trophy). The joy of our summer has been in our fellowship together. We are thankful for each opportunity we have to grow in faith, fun, and community. As we gear up for the fall semester, please be in prayer for our students and their families, our schools and educators, and for the fall ministries here at FBC Abilene.

***"A cheerful heart is good medicine,
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."
– Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)***



HUNTER BROWN
Pastor for Youth

CHURCH-WIDE RACER & BAKE SALE

We had a wonderful night of racing and eating homemade goodies on Wednesday, June 19, during Summer Fun Nights at the FLC. There were over 40 cars decorated and raced during the 4th Annual Church-Wide Racer event. Ribbons were given for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places in both the children's and youth/adult divisions. There were also ribbons given to the most creative car, most unique car, and best design. We had many delicious homemade treats brought for our annual bake sale. We collected over \$730, and that money will be given to our mission's department to help with the Youth Mission Trip, July 13 – July 18. This event doesn't happen without a lot of help. A huge thanks to our custodial staff and the FLC staff who help us so much with getting everything set up. Mike Greenfield for not only doing a fabulous job running the computer, but helping put weights and wheels on cars. John Moore for also helping weigh the cars in, as well as organizing the cars for each race, Clayton Tucker for being an outstanding announcer, and to Susie Vandever, Marci Cole, Denise Davis, & Jordan Tucker for taking care of the bake sale. Lastly, we want to thank everyone who participated by decorating cars, bringing homemade goodies, and donating money for the treats. We are so blessed with a supportive and generous church family!



Counselor Spotlight:

MADGE DUWE

Madge Duwe joined the Ministry of Counseling & Enrichment in October 2025 after spending two years providing online counseling. Eager to return to face-to-face therapy, she was drawn to MOCE's trusted reputation and the opportunity to serve alongside a team committed to providing compassionate, quality care.



Madge has always enjoyed building meaningful relationships and walking alongside people through life's challenges. She works with children (ages 10 and older), adolescents, and adults; helping clients develop practical coping skills while navigating difficult seasons of life. She is passionate about empowering clients to build confidence and create lasting, positive change.

One of the greatest joys of her work is seeing clients grow and apply what they've learned in counseling to improve their relationships, daily lives, and overall well-being. She believes therapy is a journey which takes time; reminding clients that meaningful change happens through patience, commitment, and consistent effort.

In addition to counseling at MOCE, Madge serves as a school counselor at Martinez Elementary and continues to provide a small amount of online counseling. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and their three boys as she cheers them on at tennis matches, golf tournaments, and music performances.

Madge's encouragement to clients is simple: Change is hard, but it is possible. With time, dedication, and a willingness to grow, counseling can help you become the best version of yourself.

Serve

AT FBC ABILENE

UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Two short-term mission teams are being formed this fall to encourage and serve alongside our missionary partners. Please begin praying about how God might be calling you to join one of these teams.

NORTH MACEDONIA **September 4–13, 2026**

A team of 8–9 people will travel to Skopje, North Macedonia, to serve alongside Alicia and Jeff Lee. They partner with a variety of ministries, including Poraka Adult Group Home, Skopje Food Bank, Macedonia Orphanage, local vineyard ministries, Immanuel Children's Home, Cultural Immersion International Church, and others. You can also follow Jeff Lee on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about their ministry and the work God is doing there.

CAMBODIA **October 22–31, 2026**

A team of 6–8 people will travel to Cambodia to serve alongside David and Lauren Bass. David serves at the Bible School, and Lauren ministers through the library, supporting students and the local community.



Trip costs, final dates, and additional details for both mission opportunities will be available soon. As you consider these opportunities, please pray about how God might be leading you to use your gifts to encourage our missionaries and serve alongside them in sharing Christ's love. For more information contact John Moore (325-675-8188 or john.moore@fbcabilene.org).

Ministry Spotlight:

CITY LIGHT

Community Ministries

SUNDAY BREAKFAST: **730**

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: **709**

COMMUNITY LUNCH: **2,463**

PRODUCE: **1,058**

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **678**

SHOWERS: **301**

CLOTHING ITEMS: **508**

CALLS AND VOICEMAILS: **469**

MAIL CHECKS: **255**

FRONT DESK WALK-INS: **3,578**

DINING ROOM WALK-INS: **2,775**



MARTINEZ ELEMENTARY

School Supply Drive
2026-2027

Items Needed:

#2 pencils

Scissors

Glue sticks

White glue

Highlighters

Colored pencils

Notebook paper

Crayola crayons

Pens (red, black)

Crayola markers 10 count

Please drop off donations to City Light or the church office. You may donate money directly and the church can purchase supplies tax-exempt. Please designate 'Martinez Elementary School Supplies' in the memo of your check or envelope.

For more information, contact Ashley Adams (325-675-8186 or ashley.adams@fbcabilene.org).



PASSPORT CAMP BLESSES CITY LIGHT

City Light had the privilege of partnering with Passport Camps for three days of service this summer. Passport's mission is to provide an ecumenical and inspiring camp experience that teaches the importance of serving in the name of Jesus Christ, caring for God's creation, and loving our neighbors.

A team of 24 students and leaders worked tirelessly on a variety of projects around City Light. They cleaned the front entrance, lobby, and break room; organized closets; washed walls and baseboards; and assembled treat bags for children. They also deep-cleaned the dining room by washing tables, chairs, hymnals, and other shared spaces. On their final day, they joined David Adams at the Friendship House, helping clean up storm debris by picking up fallen limbs throughout the neighborhood.

We are incredibly grateful for their servant hearts and willingness to give their time and energy. Their hard work was a tremendous blessing to City Light, and it was a joy to serve alongside them.

Cooking up Community

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) helps refugees in the Abilene community as they adjust to life in the United States. One way they do that is through their Youth Mentoring (serving refugee youth ages 15-24) and Summer Academy programs. These programs help refugee youth build the skills they need to be successful by providing academic support, leadership opportunities, career exploration, and chances to learn about and get involved in their new community. The IRC works with local schools, colleges, employers, and community organizations to give students hands-on experiences and connect them with resources and opportunities which help them reach their goals.



The City Light staff had the privilege of partnering with the leaders at the IRC for their youth program. We spent three hours together with their staff and students, teaching them how to prepare a meal and then enjoying the opportunity to share it together. It was a meaningful time of fellowship, learning, and building relationships and we are truly grateful for the opportunity.

FBC COOKBOOK

It has been over 20 years since we had a church cookbook, and well, that is just too long! So, as a way to both have some great recipes to use at home, and support future youth mission trips, we are going to produce a new FBC Cookbook. Hunter is wanting to help encourage the youth to have a heart for missions: local, state, national, and international. The sale of these cookbooks will help support these trips.

We are extending the deadline for recipes to be submitted for our new FBC cookbook to August 31. Everyone has favorite recipes and we would love for you to share them. We think this cookbook will make great Christmas gifts.

We will have all the regular categories of recipes, and additionally we would like to have a Gluten Free section, a Grilling section, and possibly a section with Abilene and FBC historical recipes.

The QR Code will give you a PDF with the instructions on how to input the recipes yourself on the typensave website. If you have trouble, you can email the recipes to susie.vandever@fbcabilene.org or bring them by the church office.

So, get those favorite recipes out and thank you for helping with this FBC legacy.



**Submit your
recipe with the
QR code.**

**FBC FOUNDATION
Grant Request Forms
are Available**

Forms are available in the office.
Deadline to return the form is
noon Friday, September 4.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

August 11, 1 year

RAY MILLER

Senior Pastor

August 29, 20 years

SUZANNE SHAW

Receptionist/Church Clerk

August 29, 15 years

BECKY TUCKER

*Pastor for Children &
Women's Ministry*

August 31, 27 years

ERIC COUVION

*Superintendent of Buildings
& Grounds*

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

July 2026

Budget	July	Year-to-Date
Required	\$245,100	\$1,909,700
Given	\$231,578	\$1,843,608

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



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

AUGUST

- 1** Youth at the movies
- 2** Retirement Dinner for C. V.
- 3** Children's Trip to Ft. Worth Zoo
- 5** Deacon Nominating Committee Meeting
- 6** Children's End of Summer Party
- 9** 5th & 6th Grade Swim Party
Personnel Committee Meeting
- 10** Youth Lunch Bunch
- 12** Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting
- 13** Youth Pool Party
- 16** Kindergarten Swim Party
Missions' Committee Meeting
Prayer Journal Discussion/Meal
- 17** Youth Lunch Bunch
- 18** CLCM Board Meeting
Finance Committee Meeting
Deacons' Meeting
- 20** Men's Ministry Brown Bag Lunch
- 23** Round-Up Lunch
- 24** MOCE Board Meeting
- 25** GLO Board Meeting
- 26** Church Conference
- 29** First Grade Bible Presentation
- 30** First Grade Bible Recognition Lunch for McMurry Teams