

FIRST *words*

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

FALL *at* FIRST

With summer rapidly coming to a close and the start of school now just weeks away, we are eager about what the fall will bring for us here at First Baptist. As of right now, we are anticipating having a somewhat normal schedule here at the church. That would include both Sunday and Wednesday schedules.

ROUND-UP SUNDAY

It will all kick-off with Round-Up Sunday, August 21 when we will have our traditional western themed worship service followed by a complete BBQ meal served in the Family Life Center. The meal will be the same as in year's past, but this year, like last year, we will not have the inflatable games. This will enable us to spread out serving and eating the meal in both the skating rink and the gym.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Starting on August 24, we also anticipate being able to have the normal schedule on Wednesday nights as well. The meal in the dining room will begin at 5:00 p.m. and then all children, youth, and adult activities will take place from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Of course, there will be several special events throughout the fall. 1st Grade Bible presentation, Senior Adult Emphasis highlighting our members for 50+ years, and a church-wide event to be shared later.





AUGUST UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

In these days, the Pastor Search Committee is diligently working behind the scenes as we seek our next Senior Pastor. We are led in the task by a Congregational Profile, which compiles information we received from you about the nature and future of our church, and a Senior Pastor Profile, which describes the sort of leader we need to achieve the expectations outlined in the Congregational Profile. These two resources provide a clear guide about where we need to go in the search. (You can find information about our process and the Congregational Profile by clicking on the Pastor Search link on the homepage of our church website, or by [clicking HERE](#).)

Since early June, the search committee has been actively seeking good candidates to consider as our church's Senior Pastor. The process involves several steps. First, we are advertising the open position in several state and national outlets, such as the Baptist Standard, Baptist News Global, ChurchStaffing.com, Nurturing Faith, etc., as well as contacting the placement offices of a number of seminaries. In this effort, we are collecting resumes that prospective pastors are sending to us for consideration.

The second step involves more direct inquiry of specific candidates. We are contacting all individuals who have been recommended to us from church members and other interested parties. We ask each recommended person to consult our Congregational Profile to see if their skills and interests fit our context, and then to submit a resume if they are open to consideration. We are also working through "gate keepers," or individuals who are well acquainted with pastors across the country who may be a good fit for FBC. Fortunately, in this effort we are relying not only on contacts that we have as a committee, but also on the broad network of people with which Matt Cook and the Center for Healthy Churches are connected. As a result of our inquiries and Matt's assistance, we will soon have an initial list of prime candidates for our consideration.

Besides examining resumes that have already been submitted, our committee is carefully preparing for the interview phase of our work. We are refining the sort of information about our church that we want to convey to candidates and developing the specific questions we want to ask of prospective pastors. We anticipate beginning interviews later in August.

We hope that in reading this update you sense what a significant time this is in the work of our committee. Months of effort are coming to fruition as we prepare to consider specific prospects for the role of our next Senior Pastor. At this important and exciting juncture, we ask that you intently pray for the search committee, for our church, and for the candidates with whom we will have conversations.

From the beginning of our work together as your Pastor Search Committee, we have desired one thing above all else: sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit and faithful discernment of God's will for our church – "nothing more, nothing less, nothing else." Thank you for your ongoing encouragement and prayers in these important days.

In the grace of God,

The Pastor Search Committee

PRAYER WALK

The new school year and Round-Up Sunday are nearly here as well as the PrayerWorks annual prayer walks. Every year right before Round Up Sunday and the start of school, PrayerWorks conducts prayer walks at First Baptist, City Light, Ministry of Counseling, Family Life Center, and Martinez Elementary, our church's Adopt-a-School.

On Thursday afternoon, August 18, from 4-5 p.m., we will divide into small groups and prayer walk at Martinez Elementary. The teachers, administrators, and staff cherish these prayers. Then on Saturday, August 20, from 10-11 a.m., we will divide into smaller groups to cover specific areas and prayer walk around our church and our other downtown ministries.

We would like to invite you to join us at either or both of these times.

Thursday, August 18, 4-5 p.m. Martinez Elementary, assemble at the office

Saturday, August 20, 10-11 a.m. First Baptist Church, assemble in the Welcome Center.

LIFE WEB 360

The last few years have been challenging for our entire community, from isolation to members of our church passing away to not being able to attend funerals in person. We are pleased to announce that we've come together with a wonderful organization called LifeWeb 360 to create a special place to honor the members of our congregation who have passed.

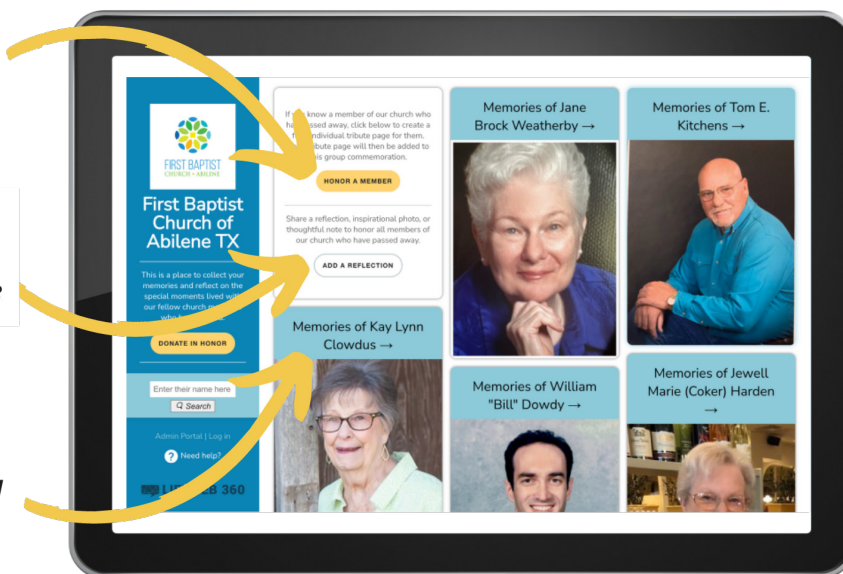
LifeWeb 360 helps communities, like ours, to celebrate the lives and impact of our loved ones. Think of it like social media for the soul, where you can share stories, photos, or reflections.

Check it out and share a story today by going to the church website: fbcabilene.org, then to the Media tab and then the Life Web 360 link, or by [clicking here](#) or using this QR code

Add a loved one to our FBC Abilene Commemoration

Share a reflection or prayer to honor all members of our congregation who have passed

Click to view an honoree's obituary, memories of them, and to share your own stories and photos celebrating them



Joe Frush, C.V. Blake, and Jeannie Wesley are able to answer any questions you might have and how you can be involved in this new ministry.

YOUTH CAMP REFLECTIONS

Summertime in the youth ministry can be a very formational, rewarding, and joyful time for our students and leaders. I had the great opportunity to lead and guide our students at both Middle School Camp at the Heart of Texas Encampment in Brownwood and High School Camp at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. I thoroughly enjoy spending time with our students and I am very proud of them. We had a great group of adult leaders who served our group well. These students took learning seriously, deepened their friendships with one another, and grew in their relationship with God. I am a witness of how God can form our lives to be full of hope and love. We just need to be vulnerable enough and let Jesus change the way we live. I hope and pray these students and adults continue to be open to Jesus with their lives so that through them, the world can be filled with God's love.

Church family, I wanted you to hear our students' perspective of the Youth Camp experience. I fully believe it is more important to hear these stories straight from our students instead of hearing from just me. I pray you can feel more a part of these students' camp formational experiences by reading what they have written about their experiences at camp. I hope you can rejoice with our God as you read their stories.

Your friend,

Austen Winfrey
Pastor to Youth

My camp experience was great. There was a lot to do such as swimming, bungee jumping, and the Blob in the lake. I felt more comfortable this year than the year before because I knew the people I was going with. God helped me and worked in me as I made new friendships and strengthened those friendships.

Preston Maruffo - 7th Grade



My camp experience was invigorating! It was truly a blessing to be able to go to a place where the stress and bustle of our daily lives was just an afterthought. Instead of all that, I was really just able to appreciate God's creation. Where I saw God truly move was within the people we traveled with. To have learned, laughed, and loved together truly showed me how God can bring together a group of people to not just study the Word, but to show love to ourselves as well as others around us. I've had many struggles in my life (and I am sure everyone else has as well), but these students and leaders help me remember what is truly important in my life: forming a relationship with God and helping others do the same.

Tim Varghese - 11th Grade

High school camp was a great experience that not only allowed me to grow closer to my friends in our youth group, but also closer to Jesus. It was fascinating to visit the beautiful Rocky Mountains and realize that the same God who made those mountains, also made us. We discussed David from the Old Testament during Bible studies and how the great David also made some really big mistakes. God still used David to further His kingdom even as a sinful person. This reminds me that God can use each of us with our less than perfect lives if we allow Him to do so.

Laura Preston - 10th Grade

Camp has always been an amazing experience, but this year was more than I could have imagined. I love these people more than words can express and it was a great way to end the year. God moved so much this week, through late night conversations, hiking the mountains, and laughing together at recreation. I will always remember these memories and these people. I can't imagine not getting to grow up in this church with these people and spend every year growing in my faith at camp.

Holly Irwin - 12th Grade

I am fairly new to Abilene. So, around the beginning of the year, my family started attending Wednesday night activities at First Baptist. When I heard about Middle School Camp from the Youth group, I knew it was the perfect opportunity for me to get to know other middle schoolers. When I arrived at camp, all of the students were inclusive, open-minded and made me feel like a long-time friend. During the sermons and Bible studies, I saw God working in our lives by the way everyone was engaged, interested, and attentive in the lessons. I am convinced that summer camp changed many lives and I can't wait to go again next summer.

Lylah Dawes - 7th Grade

Camp this year was probably the best of all the years I've gone. Throughout my many times at church camp, this year I found God in many places. Sometimes it was in the nature and mountains around us. Other times it was with the people I was around. Praising God and worshiping with the group we had this year was a big part of what made camp amazing.

Nathan Hammer - 12th Grade

My senior year of youth camp is just what I needed in my life. Seeing, spending time, and bonding with some of my oldest friends made me realize they'll be my lifelong friends. I saw God through fellowship and the environment around me; a loving environment of counselors and friends, but also of beautiful mountains, rivers, and fields.

All these things helped me to stop and think: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Halle Smith - 12th Grade

Camp this year was definitely the ride of a lifetime. The Bible studies were very wholesome, Rec was, well...sweaty. Let's just say the people who made the food did their best. But, most importantly, the people I shared these memories with are the greatest part of the trip. I was able to see God working through the amazing (and a little bit crazy) FBC Abilene girls with their unyielding kindness. Because of camp, we became best friends. By the end of camp, we were sisters. To me at least, that had "God's work" written all over it.

Lauren Kate McGrew - 7th Grade

Camp helped me get closer with the people in our church group, grow a better relationship with friends, and make new friends from different churches. At Bible study, I learned more about myself and how my peers see me as well. Finally, during worship times, I learned that God made me as an "original" along with everyone else.

Seaver Griffin - 7th Grade

Going to camp for the first time was the highlight of my summer. The bonds formed, mountains climbed, and deep conversations we had created an experience which was unattainable anywhere else except for at youth camp. I truly felt the work of God in action while we praised the Lord through worship and communion. I now know that I can count on my friends for anything and everything. Whether that be a silly spike ball game or scaling up the side of a mountain. Thank you FBC for providing me with a memory that will last a lifetime.

Tyson Moore - 12th Grade



FBC MISSIONS: *ACTING IN love*

MCALLEN MISSION TRIP

The McAllen Mission Trip was a success! FBC, thank you for supporting this group to assist Buckner in painting houses for two families and helping with the Agri-Hope program and graduation by building planter boxes for the graduates! It was HOT and not much shade in this part of the world! They worked hard and sweated a lot to change these lives! When you see these folks around, thank them for their time and love for helping others!

*Those on the trip were:
Becky Tucker, Britney Tucker,
Paul Irby, Laurie Irby, Austen
Winfrey, Holly Winfrey,
Tim Griffin, and Jerry Clark.*



*A huge THANK YOU
to our Children's Ministry at First Baptist!*

At the church-wide Racer and Bake Sale held on Wednesday, July 20, the children's ministry was able to raise **\$673!**

The money was donated to the McAllen/Buckner Mission Trip to off-set the cost of the planter boxes which were built for the residents in McAllen who have been a part of Agri-Hope. The boxes are given to encourage the residents to learn how to grow their own vegetables!

Thank you to all of the children, youth, young adults, moms, dads, grandparents, and friends who brought the baked items and to everyone who purchased the wonderful goods!

Children are a gift from God, they are His reward. -Psalm 127:3

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CITY LIGHT

We are, as always, focused on meeting crisis needs, feeding the hungry, building biblical community, teaching children, and helping people move out of poverty!

July 2022



7,134 MEALS SERVED

Includes MWF meals, Sunday Breakfast, Continental Breakfast, Sack Lunches, and City Light Market*



575 VOLUNTEER HOURS



ROCKIN' MOMS

will meet again in September.



PERSONAL ASSISTANCE:

52 HOUSEHOLDS

helped with rent and utilities



165 WALK-INS

bus passes, clothing and other



189 MAIL

Delivered and checked



363 PHONE CALLS



105 SHOWERS

NUMBERS INCREASING/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our meal numbers have increased over the past few months. As food prices increase, there is a larger need for food. We have sit-down meals and to-go meals on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The first two weeks in August, we will be serving meals 5 days a week. AISD does not serve lunch those weeks and we are one of 11 sites which will assist during this time.

We would love to have you join us to serve meals, tea, hand out to-go meals, help with the market, and assist in any way. Also, if you are interested in volunteering with personal assistance (answering the phone, assisting neighbors who come in to check mail, use the shower, bus passes, or assistance with bills and other services) we would love to talk to you about it.

FBC FOUNDATION

Grant Request Forms Are Available

Forms are available in the office.
Deadline to return the form is noon,
Friday, September 9.

August

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

August 2, 21 years

Steve Queen

Counseling & Family
Enrichment Director

August 8, 11 years

Jennifer Miller

Ministry Assistant to Pastors
for Children & Preschool

August 29, 16 years

Suzanne Shaw

Receptionist/Church Clerk

August 29, 11 years

Becky Tucker

Pastor for Children

August 31, 23 years

Eric Couvion

Superintendent of
Buildings & Grounds

- 7-11 Pastoral Staff Retreat/Glorieta
- 10 Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 14 Welcome to Kindergarten Pool Party
- Youth Worship Night
- 16 Finance Committee
- Deacons' Meeting
- 17 GLO Board
- 18 Prayerwalk @ Martinez Elementary
- 20 Prayerwalk of Church
- 21 Round-Up Sunday
- 24 Wednesday Night Meal/Activities begin
- Church Conference
- 28 First Grade Bibles @ Tucker Home
- 31 College Kick-Off @ FLC

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

July 2022

Budget	July	Year-to-Date
Required	\$309,020	\$1,941,140
Given	\$266,265	\$1,725,579

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



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

1333 North 3rd, Abilene, TX 79601
fbc@fbcabilene.org | www.fbcabilene.org
325-673-5031