



FIRSTWORDS

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. There are several events already on the calendar, all of which revolve around the new school year. Just as the kids are excited about starting the new school year and being in the next grade, we are just as excited about starting fresh and getting back into the rhythm of church life.

Here are a few things to be looking forward to:

ROUND-UP SUNDAY

It will all kick-off with Round-Up Sunday, August 18 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 and will

focus on just having a meal together and not any other activities. 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 21, our normal Wednesday night programming will kick off. The meal in the dining room will begin at 4:45 p.m. and then all children, youth, and adult activities will take place from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The adult Intergenerational Bible studies and the class taught by Dr. Larry McGraw will begin on August 28. However, on August 21, we will have a time of prayer in the Sanctuary. "Just Focus on Jesus," a concentrated prayer time will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. (come and go) in the sanctuary. Members are invited to pray silently for our church during this crucial time of transition. Soft music will

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be the only sound. The rest will be between you and Jesus. You may pray at the altar or in a pew -- just pray!

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 night at the Zoo event to be shared later. A great fall is in the plans, so start planning now how you will be a part!

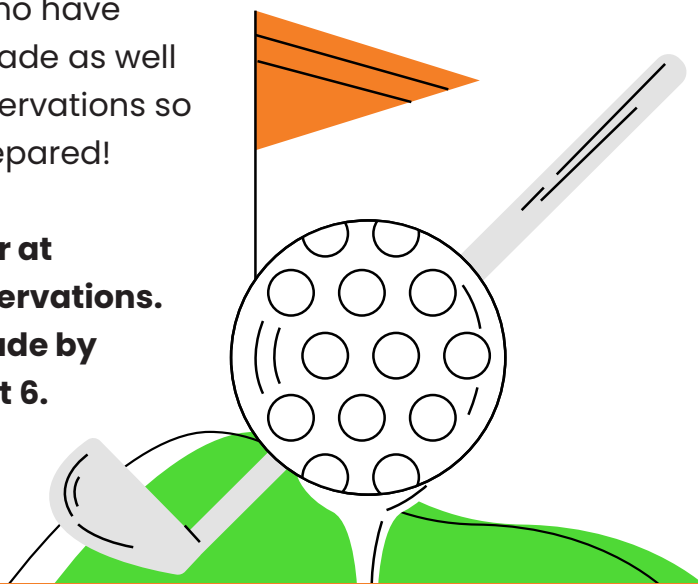
KIDS (& FAMILIES) FUN NIGHT @ PLAY FAIRE PARK

Thursday, August 8 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

It is hard to believe that we are winding down our summer activities and getting ready for a new school year! One of our favorite “end of the summer” activities for the children’s ministry is a family night at Play Faire Park. This event will be held on Thursday, August 8, from 6 – 8 p.m. The temperature on this night always seems to be extra hot, but that does not keep our families from enjoying hamburgers, miniature golf, and great fellowship.

This event is for all children who have completed Kindergarten – 5th grade as well as their families. We do ask for reservations so we will have enough food prepared!

**Please call Jennifer Miller at
325-675-8105 to make your reservations.
Reservations need to be made by
5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6.**



PRESCHOOL NEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL AND EXTENDED SESSION VOLUNTEERS!

Sunday school teachers needed for Infants 2 (crawlers), 2-year-old class & 3-year-old class:

- All lessons/crafts are prepared for you.
- Schedule is flexible for travel, etc.
- I'm willing to have volunteers share the responsibilities with another volunteer. For example, one volunteer will teach for 3 months and then switch for the next 3 months.
- A paid worker is typically with you to assist.
- The kids are so sweet and easy!

Extended Session volunteers needed during worship hour:

- Ages infant through Pre-K
- There is no preparation on your part...just playing with the kids and basic childcare for infants.
- One Sunday every 3-4 months.
- This is perfect for husbands & wives to do together...this also gives us an extra person 😊.
- Maybe you were once on our list and went off for various reasons, well we would love to have you back!
- So...So...EASY!!

**Contact Candy Rains, candy.rains@fbcabilene.org,
or Jennifer Miller, jennifer.miller@fbcabilene.org
or 325-675-8105.**

CANDY RAINS
Pastor for Preschool



MCALLEN MISSION TRIP

Matthew 25:34-40

Through the generosity of First Baptist Church People, I, along with John Moore, Charlie Jowers, Steve Steed, Dante Steed, Shaun McCleese, Greg Young, Beth Young, Jorge Flores, and Tim Griffin were given the privilege of meeting a deserving family in Mission, TX and starting a new home for them.



Just for the record, it was brutally hot, and our very long days started before the sun's. Did I complain? You bet I did! I whined as I ate my breakfast while it was dark outside, as we loaded the van in 100% humidity, as we drove to the home site, and as we unloaded our tools and ice chests from the van and trailer - but that's where the whining ended (with the possible exception for the recurring torture of having to walk around a burnt orange t.u. decorated motor home every day!). Meeting and working alongside the Ordaz family changed my attitude completely.

It was truly an ecumenical endeavor that included FBC, Abilene, an old partnership with Buckner Family Ministries, and new friends who worship at a Methodist church in Portland, TX and have been building houses in the Valley for many years. I have been part of other projects where there were clearly too many "chiefs" and not enough "Indians," but the balance was just right this time. There were a few like me who know which end of a hammer to use on the nail and there were a few with many years of experience and a wealth of knowledge they were willing and eager to share, and a few in the middle. The pictures you have seen show the amazing transformation that happened in just 4 days: from a foundation to a completely framed and roofed house. The spirit of cooperation which led to that transformation could have come from no place other than the Holy Spirit.



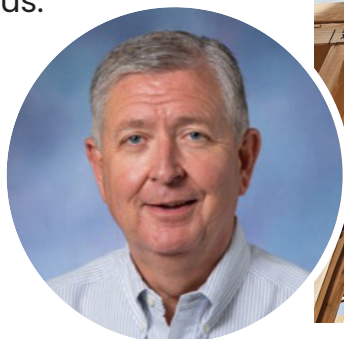
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All this took place along the southern U.S. border which is in the news and in political discussions every day. Each night we met together to review the day, pray, and prepare for the next. In one of those meetings, we all agreed we had not felt unsafe or insecure at any time and we were there to serve the Lord by serving those who had come to our country and state simply hoping for a better life for themselves and their children.

We were not there to preach, to hand out tracts, or even to invite the Ordaz family to church - we were there to meet a need. We encountered a family of 3, one a recent high school graduate with a dream of college and a psychology degree, living in a one-bedroom house with their washing machine in the yard. We were there to build a three-bedroom house, all of 960 square feet, with washer connections indoors, in the name of Christ. Some call it the "social gospel," I call it obedience.

Thanks for sending us. What a tremendous blessing it was for the Ordaz family and for each one of us.

BARRY MOAK
McAllen Mission Trip
Team Member



YOUTH SIX FLAGS TRIP

By Hunter Brown

Our students had an amazing day at Six Flags on July 24! We had slightly cooler weather for the summer, 30 students in attendance, and vans full of tired sponsors on the way back home. I hope this trip was a highlight of the summer and a much-needed break as our students begin to prepare for the upcoming school year. The youth celebrated the shorter lines during the weekday and were able to ride several rollercoasters and attractions. Many fears were conquered as well as some students saying, "I'm never doing that ride again!" What a blessing it is to have the gifts of fun, joy, and fellowship from God!

A big thank you to each of our sponsors for all your hard work and your dedication to serve our church and students:

Kathryn Clark
Jennie Dawes
Dina Griffin
Kelley Messer
Kristen Patterson
Britney Tucker
Timothy Varghese
Chris Vaughan
Kathryn Vaughan

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







WELCOME TO

First Friends

PRESCHOOL

Katie Palmer, FFP Director

First Friends Preschool is so excited to announce Katie Palmer as our new director. Katie and her husband, Luke, have four sweet kiddos: Liam, Kohen, Jude, and Jones. She has been a member of FBC for 28 years and has been a part of so many ministries within FBC.

Katie was the summer director of First Friends and did a fantastic job! She has so much knowledge, creative ideas, and a love for the program that has been so refreshing. We look forward to the next school year and all God has planned for FFP and the work He is going to do through Katie.

First Friends Preschool is currently needing 8-10 new teachers. This job is Tuesday/Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. It is perfect for stay-at-home moms, retired school teachers, or someone just wanting to make a little extra income.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in this wonderful opportunity please contact katie.palmer@fbcabilene.org or call 325-675-8129.



BROADCAST MEDIA VIEWERSHIP REPORT APRIL – JUNE 2024

Each Sunday, the worship service of FBC is broadcast on television and streamed on social media. A delayed and edited version of the previous week's service is broadcast on KTXS from 10:00-10:30 a.m. and a live broadcast of the current service is on the CW channel 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Additionally, the entire service is live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube, Boxcast, and our website. Viewership is measured by the Nielsen Rating System, Google Analytics, Boxcast Analytics, and Facebook views. The broadcast requires 11 to 12 volunteers each Sunday. If you are interested, this ministry needs volunteers.



*Matt Worthington, Assistant Director,
Rick Hammer, Director and Joyce
Munday*



*Sunday morning Control Room
busy with live broadcast.*



*Mike Taylor, running the broadcast
audio board as our audio engineer.*

TV viewership covers the 19 counties surrounding Abilene. Streaming reports show viewership in 15 states and 2 countries each week. We get demographic information such as age, location, and average viewing times. The 35-64-year-old age group are those who watch most often. These statistics are reported by source, viewership, households, and individual viewers and averaged for the second quarter of 2024.

Average number of Television Viewers reached each Sunday: 3,172*

Streaming Viewers reached each Sunday: 1,181**

Total viewers reached each Sunday: 4,353***

*Viewership is down from the previous quarter

** Viewership is up from the previous quarter

*** Total viewership is down slightly from the previous quarter

CITY LIGHT

Community Ministries

5,671

MEALS SERVED

Includes: Sunday Breakfast, Community Breakfast, Community Lunch (both dine-in and take out), and Produce from the City Light Market

835

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Personal Assistance:

632

WALK-INS

for assistance

406

MAIL

Delivered and checked

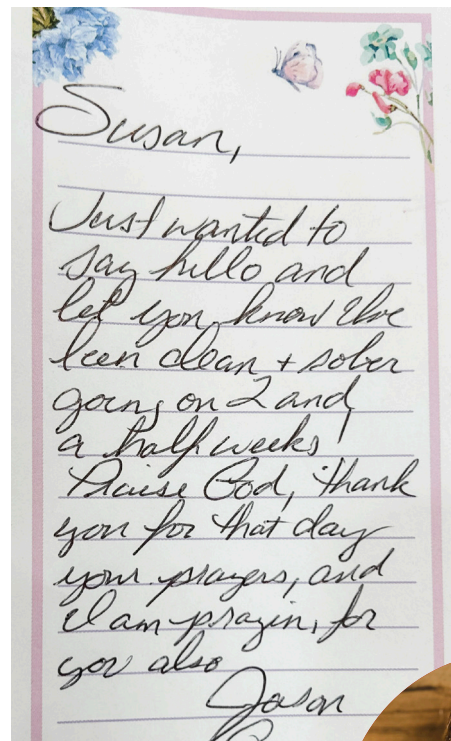
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SHOWERS



Answered Prayers

Two and a half weeks ago, our neighbor Jason made the decision to start his journey towards sobriety. Our volunteer, Bobby D., navigated him to the sober living program at the Salvation Army. As Jason waited for the bus to the Salvation Army, our other volunteer, Susan, prayed with Jason. She encouraged him to stay strong as he pursued his path towards sobriety, letting him know that there are people in his life who care deeply about him and want him to succeed as well. Today, Jason came in for lunch and left this note for Susan. It reads "Susan, Just wanted to say hello and let you know I've been clean and sober for 2 and a half weeks! Praise God, thank you for that day, your prayers, and I am praying for you also." Jason We treasure moments like this as we seek to support our neighbors in their journey towards the abundant life God desires for each of us.



STEPHANIE STEWART
City Light



FLC

Family Life Center

31 PARTY PACKAGES

FITNESS CENTER USE

283 Individuals

13 New Members

19 FITNESS CLASSES

SERENITY HOUSE

308 Individuals

FULL BUILDING RENTAL

19 GROUPS

895 INDIVIDUALS

971 WALK-INS

GLO DAYCARE

2-3 times a week

1 FAMILY REUNION

First Baptist Church

Men's Prayer Breakfast:

The Family Life Center is the regular gathering place for the weekly meeting of the FBC Men's Prayer Breakfast. Each Tuesday morning this group meets to offer prayers for those needs made known to our fellowship. This is a faithful group of volunteers that participate in this ministry. In addition to personal attendance of this group, a Zoom service coincides with the Tuesday morning meeting. Zoom participation includes individuals from Tennessee, Idaho, Texas, and shut-ins not able to attend the meeting in person. Normally 6-8 Zoom members participate in the weekly meeting. Thanks to the media availabilities of the FLC, Zoom has direct service for participating members.

During the month of July 2024 (5 weeks) the following prayer involvement has been estimated:

PRAYER PARTICIPANTS: 120

PRAYER CARDS AND NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT: 404 (estimate)

On behalf of the Men's Prayer Breakfast, gratitude is extended to the Family Life Center for the accommodation it extends to this prayer ministry.

AUGUST

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

August 8, 13 years

JENNIFER MILLER

M. A. to Pastors for Preschool & Children

August 21, 1 year

LESLIE SMITH

GLO Teacher

August 29, 18 years

SUZANNE SHAW

Receptionist/Church Clerk

August 29, 13 years

BECKY TUCKER

Pastor for Children

August 31, 25 years

ERIC COUVION

Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds

- 4** Personnel Committee Meeting
Recreation Board Meeting
- 8** Kids Fun Night @ Play Faire Park
- 11** Welcome to Kindergarten Pool Party
- 14** Buildings & Grounds
Committee Meeting
- 15** Healing Hearts Meeting
Prayer Walk at Martinez Elementary
- 17** Prayer Walk at FBC
- 18** Round-Up Sunday
Round-Up Lunch @ FLC
Missions Committee Meeting
- 20** CLCM Board Meeting
Finance Committee Meeting
Deacons' Meeting
- 21** Wednesday Night Activities Begin
GLO Board Meeting
- 25** Lord's Supper
McMurry Football Team Lunch
- 28** Church Conference

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

July 2024

Budget	July	Year-to-Date
Required	\$ 277,010	\$ 2,063,170
Given	\$ 228,283	\$ 1,783,079

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



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH ♦ ABILENE

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