



# FIRST WORDS

## C.V. BLAKE RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



On Sunday, August 2, the church will celebrate C.V. Blake as he retires after serving 27½ years on the pastoral staff here at First Baptist Church. The celebration will include a special recognition in the morning worship service, followed that evening by a fajita dinner in the Family Life Center to honor C.V. and Shelly.

C.V. joined the pastoral staff in February 1999 as the Pastor for Youth. Then in 2004, he became the Pastor for Young and Median Adults and ultimately ending his career as the Pastor for Adults and Men's Ministry. As a part of the celebration, a love offering will be taken and given at the dinner on August 2. If you would like to contribute to this love offering, you may do so by sending a check marked "Blake Love Offering" or online by clicking [here Blake Love Offering](#).

**To make dinner reservations for the Fajita Dinner, please contact Debra Clemmer (325-675-8116 or [debra.clemmer@fbcabilene.org](mailto:debra.clemmer@fbcabilene.org)) on online by clicking [here Dinner Reservation](#).**

Dear FBC Family,

Pay attention to the fruit. Every movement of God begins in prayer. It is not that our prayers earn God's favor or make us more holy than the next church. Rather, when we turn our attention towards God and His will, we discover that God has gone before us and invites us to follow and join His Kingdom work. Along the way of that prayer journey, you might notice immediate, low-hanging fruit born out of those prayers.

For instance, we had five youth make decisions to be baptized at camp. We have had numerous people join our church in the past few weeks. We saw a young couple receive Christ and get baptized in early June. All this has happened in the four short weeks of intentional prayer for our church.

The fruit is not the reason we pray. It is the by-product of the reason we pray – to pursue God's will together. I do not know what the end result of this prayer journey will be. What I do know is that I am going to enjoy God's presence, the pursuit of His will, and the fruit that comes along with the journey.

So, keep taking 10 minutes out of your day to intentionally pray for our church. Some specific things to pray for – we have two major job searches happening – the Executive Director of Mission Action and the Pastor of Discipleship and Adults. Pray for those committees and for the individuals God has for us to work on our staff. Pray for our ministries and upcoming mission trips. Pray God would open our eyes to where He is moving and to give us the courage to join God there.

Grace and Peace,

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





# KIDS camp



Another fantastic year at Camp has been completed! There may have been a little bit of wackiness at times during the week, mainly because we did have a Wacky Tacky Theme Night; it may have been a little warm and some might have gotten a little sun burned, but we could not have asked for a better week than we had at Kids Camp. Our camp theme was "Let's Go!" and we were challenged to remember how much Jesus loves us, work on listening, trust God, and to share Jesus with others.

I cannot brag on our kids enough! I know you get to see many of these wonderful children each Sunday, but you would've been so proud of all 16 kids who went with us. Each child represented their families and this church so well, but most importantly they represented Jesus as they showed kindness and love to everyone. Watching each of them help each other, encourage each other, laugh with each other, and worship together was such a blessing!

We are blessed to have such wonderful children in our Children's Ministry, but we are also blessed to have such a wonderful church family who prays for and supports our children in so many ways.

Thank you,  
church family!

**BECKY TUCKER**  
Pastor for Children



**Each year, I ask the kids and sponsors what camp meant to them or what was special about camp, and here are their thoughts:**

"This week was so special. Full of fun and worship."  
(Clara)



"What camp meant to me was getting to hang out with friends and God."  
(Liam)

"Camp was fun, especially swimming, because for rotations that's mostly what we did."  
(Joseph)

What I love best about camp is that when I do sign language, people like to copy me. I love that gift from God."  
(Katherine)



"My favorite part of camp was the lake. I saw God mostly through nature."  
(Presley)

"Something that is important to me about camp is having fun and meeting new people."  
(Eliot)



"What camp meant to me was having fun and learning about God."  
(Mason)

"Camp has been extremely meaningful to me this year. I have been struggling personally with my faith, and God met me at camp. He spoke directly to me during every message, and I will always be grateful for the time I was able to spend learning from and with these kiddos."  
(Carrie Allen – sponsor)

"I am so glad I was at camp. I'm so glad I got closer to God and Jesus is the Lamb of God."  
(Emma Jo)



"I really love how much of God I saw in nature everywhere. I loved how beautiful the sunrise was."  
(Arthur)

"Church camp was fun when we played in the lake and when we sang in worship."  
(Collins)

"To me church camp meant growing my relationship with God and also having fun and making new friends."  
(Charlotte)



"Camp meant for me, a chance to let kids be relaxed and free. Not having to always be told no or do this/do that. Camp meant a chance for kids to start asking faith questions. Questions that are easier asked when they can be able to relax/have fun/& be their own person."  
(Luke Preston – sponsor)



"What camp meant to me is worshiping and growing in my relationship with God. My second goal was to make friends and have fun."  
(Hollis)

This week at camp I enjoyed laughing and worshipping with the kids. Seeing camp through their eyes and the excitement they had was refreshing."  
(Ali)

"I love the joy of seeing children connect deeply with God and each other."  
(Ray Miller – sponsor)

"Church camp meant to me getting closer and learning more about God. I also met some new friends." (Mary Liz)

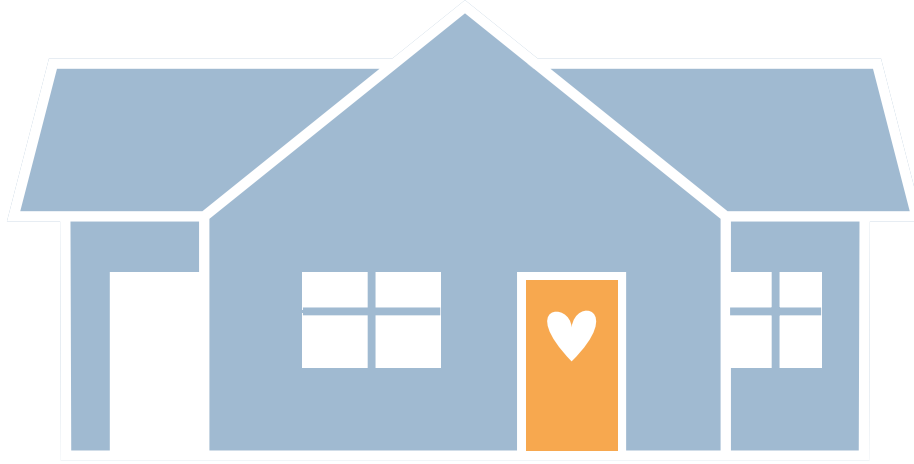
"Camp meant so much to me and I really don't think I can sum it up in a couple of sentences, but I absolutely loved everything! I loved the lake & I loved going to the cross, and I loved worship, and everything. But I especially loved getting closer to God and meeting new people. (Abi)

"Camp was really fun. I really liked the block parties and swimming."  
(Kade)

"I really enjoyed camp and especially liked Worship and Celebration. I really enjoyed meeting new friends and all the pastors were great. It was super fun and Let's Go!"  
(Madde)



"Camp meant a lot to me because I got to see God more mightily through our children. Hearing those little voices sing out to OUR God softens my heart and makes me feel even closer to Jesus."  
(Jay Patterson – sponsor)



## **Backyard Bible Club AT THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE**

For many of us growing up, Vacation Bible School was an event we looked forward to each summer. We spent a week learning about Jesus, playing games, making crafts, and enjoying snacks. I remember my grandmother taking me to VBS. My favorite time was recreation, where we played games like Sharks and Minnows and Line Tag. For many children in the neighborhood around the Friendship House, attending a traditional VBS at a church is not always possible. That is why the Friendship House hosted its Backyard Bible Club during the week of June 22–25.

About six elementary-aged children attended Backyard Bible Club. Throughout the week, they sang, danced, and learned about who Jesus is. Lessons included what Jesus said about Himself, the miracles He performed, His baptism, and other important teachings from His life. In addition to singing, dancing, and learning, the children enjoyed making crafts each day. Coloring and drawing were favorite activities for many. They also created coffee filter suncatchers and homemade kaleidoscopes. Other activities included enjoying snacks and playing with Frisbees, bubbles, jump ropes, and sidewalk chalk. The week concluded on Thursday with a special treat. Bahama Bucks generously donated sno-cones for the children and volunteers. It was a fun and rewarding week for everyone involved.

Backyard Bible Club would not have been possible without the generous donations of cookies, bottled water, and paper goods from many supporters. The children especially enjoyed the cookies, and after spending time playing in the hot sun, the cold water was refreshing.

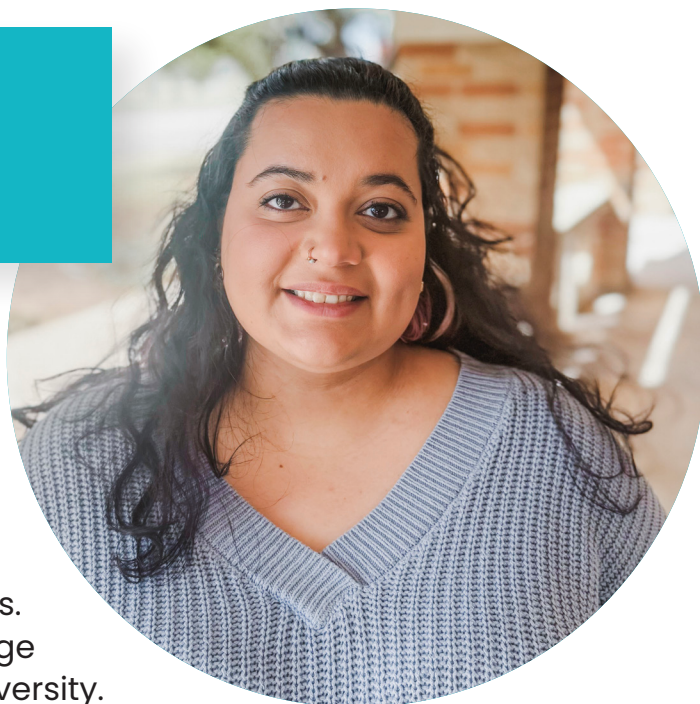
A special thank-you goes to Louise Gray and Lisa Curry for volunteering throughout the week. They were a tremendous help and blessing, and Backyard Bible Club would not have been as successful without their dedication and support.

**DAVID ADAMS**  
Friendship House



## Counselor Spotlight:

### REBECCA KEAHEY-TRUJILLO



Rebecca Keahey-Trujillo joined the Ministry of Counseling & Enrichment (MOCE) in December 2025 and quickly found a place she describes as home. As a Marriage and Family Therapist-Associate, Rebecca brings a passion for helping families heal, grow, and build healthier relationships across generations. Rebecca earned her Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Abilene Christian University.

Her professional journey began with Texas Family Initiative, where she worked with families navigating complex challenges and learned the importance of addressing intergenerational patterns to create safer, healthier family systems. When she and her husband decided to grow their family, Rebecca sought a position that would provide greater balance while allowing her to pursue her long-term goal of earning a PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy. She found that opportunity at MOCE and describes it as the greatest professional blessing of her career.

Rebecca's path to counseling was not her original plan. During her junior year of college, she was preparing for medical school when the COVID-19 pandemic prompted a season of reflection and prayer. During that time, she discovered ACU's Marriage and Family Therapy program and immediately connected with its focus on family relationships and generational influences. She knew she had found her calling and has dedicated herself to the field ever since.

Rebecca is especially passionate about family therapy and working through intergenerational trauma. She has a special interest in supporting adoptive families and helping parents navigate behavioral challenges related to prenatal or early childhood trauma.

One of the most rewarding parts of her work is witnessing the moment when clients recognize the positive changes they have made. "Seeing a client's face when they make a connection or realize their efforts are creating meaningful change in their life is incredibly rewarding," she shares.

Rebecca wishes more people understood that therapy is about creating change which aligns with a person's values and beliefs. Growth often requires examining what matters most and intentionally making choices that support those values.

Serving at MOCE is especially meaningful to Rebecca because she sees it as a unique blend of professional counseling and ministry. She appreciates the supportive environment which allows therapists to thrive so they can provide their best care to clients.

Outside the therapy room, Rebecca stays connected through professional collaboration with fellow therapists, membership in the Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and involvement at University Church of Christ. In her free time, she enjoys reading, crocheting, and playing games with friends. She is currently rereading The Inheritance Cycle series and practices self-care through breath prayers, mindful yoga, and regular personal check-ins.

Rebecca's message to others is simple, yet powerful: "We are all connected in very real ways through the communities we live in and the decisions we make. Every person has the ability to make a meaningful difference in their community."

We are grateful to have Rebecca as part of the MOCE team and look forward to the impact she will continue to make in the lives of individuals and families throughout the Big Country.

# MEXICO CITY MISSION TRIP report

I have had the privilege of serving on several mission trips through FBC. I am so thankful to be associated with a church who partners with people to co-labor with Jesus to spread His love and compassion in an undeniable way. I am so thankful FBC is a praying church and that we were covered in prayer before, during, and after our trip. Receiving an envelope of well-wishes, and beautiful pictures from VBS children set the tone for the trip. God was with us! We had safe travels and all of us remained healthy!

One of our first tasks was to judge a cooking competition. Cooks were challenged to use fortified rice, provided by Rice Against Hunger in their recipes. There were 5 dishes in the competition, and they were all so creative and tasty! There were cash prizes awarded to the winners. We later found out that the winner's husband had recently lost his job, and the family was wondering how they were going to get by. Not only did God show up, but he provided.

We then got to participate in a children's entrepreneurship market. The students learned the basic concepts of economics needs and wants, goods and services, and consumers and producers. With the help of their parents, they presented a market to the community which included advertisements, original songs, and marketable products. The project was a great success. As an educator, my heart smiled on several occasions. This precious little school is doing so many

things right. We saw new mothers getting to participate in groups which provided a safe place for them and their newborns. They played, danced, and talked with each other. What a great way to start building relationships and community. The children are learning important behavior expectations like respecting classmates and teachers and actively engaging in their academic learning. There is a routine that is well established and the children know what is expected of them. Not only does the school provide education for the children, but it is also a place where parents can come to receive help with everyday problems and issues. Another project we helped with was painting and readying a space to be used for counseling. We were reminded that this space will be like "holy ground." Lives will be changed and will have a ripple effect on the community as well as the children who attend.

*John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.*

**BETTY COFFEY**



# MEXICO CITY MISSION TRIP report

In the distant southern “suburbs” of Mexico City lies the village of Tipipilli, a poor community of mainly indigenous people who have been pushed out of other places. The residents of the village are hard working — having built their own roads and water system and successfully lobbied the government to install electricity. But Tipipilli has no school, or clinic, or even a grocery store. Each of those basic amenities require a 40-minute walk through mountainous terrain to the nearest larger town. For the most part, Tipipilli is a forgotten place. But not forgotten by everyone. Javier Perez, Director of Mission Strategies and Programs for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, along with his wife, Aura, are working to transform the lives of the children of Tipipilli. The non-profit they lead, EduK (pronounced ě-doo-kay), has established a Montessori school in the town that provides very high-quality free education for the children of Tipipilli. The kids also get three nutritious meals a day, the support of a full-time social worker, and therapy from a part-time psychologist. EduK is transforming the community as they equip its children to rise out of poverty.

Our church is one of the supporters of EduK. For three years now we’ve sent a team of FBC volunteers to minister at the school through teaching, medical care, simple construction work, and encouraging friendships. I was privileged to go on the mission to Tipipilli in June, along with other first-timers Betty Coffey

and Stella Balis, and veterans John Moore, Britney Tucker, Barry Moak, and Greg Young. We fell in love with the amazing children, employees, and local volunteers at the school. Javier and Aura Perez, along with their daughter Shiloh, led our group and inspired us with their vision, creativity, and implementation of a remarkable strategy for transforming the lives of children. Barry provided four full days of medical attention to kids at the school, with assistance from Becket Yates, a pre-med college student from Belmont University who joined our group. Stella gave free haircuts to the children and their families all week long. Betty and Britney taught lessons and led crafts, while Greg provided music and inspired joy. John led children’s recreation and took care of our team the whole week with his usual gentle grace. Most of us also picked up paint brushes to finish remodeling two new spaces for the school. One is a small room for therapy sessions with children and the other is a much-needed workspace for staff.

First Baptist also helps EduK financially. Our missional funds provide undergirding support for our annual mission trips and help to purchase supplies for teaching and light construction, like the two small rooms we finished out this year. We toured a well-equipped classroom at the school that our church funded last year. A plaque in the classroom expresses their appreciation for our gift.

One morning, I stepped aside from the work at EduK to go with Javier to visit with some leaders of the *Seminario Bautista de Mexico* (Baptist Seminary of Mexico). Our conversation gave me an opportunity to learn about their work and needs, opening a door for exploration in the future of ways in which we may be able to help with the ministry of this small seminary which serves such a vital role in Mexico City.

By the amazing moving of the Spirit of God, First Baptist Church Abilene is linked with the small, poor village of Tipipilli on the outskirts of Mexico City, where we are helping to make possible the work of a school that is transforming the lives of dozens of children and their families. We also have a new connection with a Mexico City seminary that is struggling to provide theological and vocational preparation for ministers. Thank you, First Baptist, for being a church who responds so tangibly and generously to the call of Jesus that we serve "the least of these." Perhaps you would like to learn more about this work. Talk with any one of us who have been on mission to Mexico City and consider the possibility that God is calling you to go next year.

**BOB ELLIS**



## Ministry Spotlight:

### CITY LIGHT

Community Ministries

SUNDAY BREAKFAST: **320**

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: **508**

COMMUNITY LUNCH: **1,731**

PRODUCE: **839**

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **425**

SHOWERS: **231**

CLOTHING ITEMS: **344**

CALLS AND VOICEMAILS: **361**

MAIL CHECKS: **326**

FRONT DESK WALK-INS: **2,562**

DINING ROOM WALK-INS: **2,973**



## JULY FLOUR & SUGAR DRIVE

It is time once again for the July Flour & Sugar Drive. The need is growing as the strain of meeting the needs of those less fortunate increases. Our goal is 7,800 lbs. of flour and 6,200 lbs. of sugar.

The funds donated to this drive should be designated for the ABA Social Ministries Flour and Sugar Drive. Donations can be made in Sunday School Departments, the church office, or in the boxes located at the church entrances. Funds are preferred as they can be used over the next six months to purchase additional amounts as needed.

save the date



howdy!

# ROUND UP SUNDAY

FBC ★ ABI

08.23.2026

Join us as we kick off a  
new school year!



# A Blessing Through Partnership

City Light is truly blessed to partner with Hendrick Health. We are especially grateful for Dyllon Daulton, Community Initiatives Coordinator, whose dedication and leadership have helped make this partnership so meaningful. Dyllon has done an exceptional job coordinating volunteer groups to serve at City Light on the last Friday of each month, creating opportunities for Hendrick team members to make a lasting impact on the lives of our neighbors.



What a blessing it is to see CEOs, nurses, chaplains, administrative staff, and other team members come together with willing hearts to serve our neighbors in need. Their generosity and compassion make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

During their most recent visit, the Hendrick team donated essential items such as shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, drawstring bags, tissues, brushes, and lip balm. These everyday necessities help meet practical needs and provide dignity and encouragement to our neighbors.

We are deeply thankful for Hendrick Health's continued support and partnership. Together, we are making a positive impact in our community, one act of kindness at a time. Thank you, Hendrick Health, and thank you Dyllon, for your leadership, generosity, and heart for serving others. Your partnership is a true blessing to City Light and the neighbors we serve.



# CHURCH-WIDE RACER & BAKE SALE

*"Drivers, Start Your Engines!"*

I hope you are getting excited and thinking about the design of your car or thinking about what you might bake at our 5th Annual Church-Wide Racer & Bake Sale. Not only will there be a lot of fun and excitement during the races, but we will have many delicious desserts to choose from! We do not charge for the desserts, but we welcome donations.

All money collected will go towards missions!

**This fun-filled event will happen Wednesday, July 8, during our Summer Fun Nights at the Family Life Center. Looking forward to seeing you!**

## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

July 11, 4 years

**DOMINIQUE LEE**

*GLO Assistant Director*

July 17, 3 years

**AMANDA PEREZ**

*GLO Teacher*

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

June 2026

| <b>Budget</b> | <b>June</b> | <b>Year-to-Date</b> |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Required      | \$258,100   | \$1,664,600         |
| Given         | \$244,719   | \$1,587,786         |

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



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
CHURCH • ABILENE

## JULY

|              |                                                                        |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3</b>     | Church Offices Closed                                                  |
| <b>6</b>     | Youth Lunch Bunch/TBD                                                  |
| <b>7</b>     | Youth Six Flags Trip                                                   |
| <b>8</b>     | Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting<br>Racer/Bake Sale               |
| <b>11</b>    | Voci d'Amici Concert                                                   |
| <b>12</b>    | Voci d'Amici to sing in Morning Worship<br>Personnel Committee Meeting |
| <b>13-18</b> | H. S. Mission Trip                                                     |
| <b>13</b>    | Children's Splash Kingdom Trip                                         |
| <b>16</b>    | Women's Ministry – Mahjong                                             |
| <b>20</b>    | Youth Lunch Bunch/Fazoli's                                             |
| <b>21</b>    | Finance Committee Meeting<br>Deacons' Meeting                          |
| <b>22</b>    | Hospital Visitation Team Meeting                                       |
| <b>23</b>    | Women's Ministry – Mahjong                                             |
| <b>25</b>    | FBC Night @ Adventure Cove                                             |
| <b>26</b>    | Lord's Supper<br>Summer SNASH (Youth)                                  |
| <b>27</b>    | MOCE Board Meeting<br>Youth Dinner/Fuzzy's North                       |
| <b>28</b>    | GLO Board Meeting                                                      |
| <b>29</b>    | Last Summer Fun Night @ FLC                                            |
| <b>30</b>    | Youth Putt-Putt<br>Women's Ministry – Mahjong                          |