

# FIRSTwords

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

## MID-YEAR UPDATE

*by Mike Greenfield*

It is hard to believe that we are half-way through 2022 and it is only 7 weeks until school starts back! I hope by now, you have had a chance to take some time to catch your breath and slow down for a short bit. Summer usually allows more time for vacations and time to relax, but it also allows for church trips like camps and mission trips. Such is the case again this year with our church calendar. Both the middle school and high school students have been to camp and the McAllen Mission Trip is just a few weeks away. Becky will be taking children to camp the end of the month, plus a day trip to the Ft. Worth Zoo. So, the summer may be half-way over, but there are still lots of fun things left to do.

Speaking of fun, Summer Fun Nights on Wednesdays at the FLC continue to be a great time of food and fellowship. The light meal is served from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. and then the entire facility is open for play. So, if you have not had a chance to come and participate, I would encourage you to come this week and check it out. Who knows, you might even find time to bowl a game or two.

The Senior Pastor Search Committee has completed the Congregational Profile and have started receiving resumes. You can read the report by going to the church website and clicking on the News and Events tab and then the Senior Pastor Search Update link, or you can view it by [clicking here](#). So, they are somewhat in a holding pattern as they await more resumes to come in, but please continue to pray for each one on the committee.

The Hope Center Project is well underway and the demolition work has begun. So, if you drive around that block, you will see construction fencing and heavy equipment making some of the initial changes on the project. We are working on a video report to give to the church in the near future.

Summer finances are not terrible, but we are not fully collected against the budgeted figures at this time. As you can see on the back page, we are running about \$190,000 below what we anticipated to receive through June. However, the finance has restricted spending of non-preferred lines in the budget to 85%, so we are managing the shortfall. Summer budgeting is always a bit heavier than the rest of the year, and traditionally giving is always slightly down over the fall and spring months. It has been often said, people go on vacation, the church does not!

So once again, I hope you are able to beat the heat and find some time to relax, but even more I hope you are able to "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



# SHAPED BY GRIEF

I hear mumblings of dissatisfaction, someone grumbling about a Food Handler certification “just to flip burgers.” He stands there in frustration and questions the certification. This is something we can help with! He seems like a perfect fit for our job training program, albeit rough around the edges and distant. Although a week into classes, if he can self-study and pass the exam, he can come in the program without missing anything. I talk him into it and our relationship begins.

It did not take long to get to know him, as it never takes long with students. That is the nature of the program. I started to see that he wasn't at all the person I saw the day I met him. On the exterior, he seemed unapproachable and off-putting. On the interior, he was quite the opposite. After spending time with him, I began to see how he ended up where he is. I could see how his outer shell had been formed from living in isolation on the streets, as a result of great sorrow. You see, he was really no different than you and I. He loved and had a village. He had a degree, a career, a home, a “normal” life. He lost his village to long and painful illnesses in a short span of time. He watched them wither away until their passing, leaving him alone to deal with his anguish.

Dan was present physically and mentally every day, regardless of what he was going through. He listened to lectures and gave input. He utilized mentoring and tutoring outside of class hours. Culinary questions turned into dynamic conversations about food. Discussions on God's love and faith became a foundation for his future.

*He was a remarkable student.*

With three weeks left to graduation, classes were canceled due to COVID. It was a devastating blow, as Dan was in the process of starting a job that he had been waiting for. That restaurant, too, shutting down operations. Dan maneuvered through the pandemic for eight months until it was time to open things back up. He was officially hired on at that point and remains working there to date. He now has a home, a workshop where he builds bikes as his passion, and is surrounded by loved ones. He spreads his love and faith to those around him and helps those in need.

It's impossible to go through something like this with someone and not get close to them. Dan's friendship is something I will cherish forever.

*- Kayleen Mills, Chef /Instructor for City Light Culinary Academy*

**If you would like to know more about our culinary job training program, please call Kayleen Mills at 325-673-6686 #103 or the Missions' office at 325-675-8112.**



## FRIENDSHIP HOUSE UPDATE:

The first Friendship House Backyard Bible Club is in the books! Thank you to all those who helped with food, crafts, and teaching the kids and neighbors about Jesus!



# Church-Wide RACER & BAKE SALE

"Drivers, Start Your Engines!" Ok, well we may not actually have engines on our newly sanded & decorated cars that we will race for our Church-Wide Racer & Bake Sale, but for those of us who worked on the racers for this event, it is just as exciting as those car races we see on TV. If that is not exciting to you, maybe the aroma of the baked goods which will be in the bake sale will help peak your interest. Whatever it is, I know I am looking forward to Wednesday, July 20, when we will gather at the Family Life Center to enjoy, what we hope is, our First Annual Church-Wide Racer & Bake Sale.

With this being a church-wide event, we will have 3 different divisions of races: children (completed Kindergarten - completed 5th grade), youth, & adult.

We are asking everyone to build a new car from one of the kits we have at church, so this will put everyone on an equal playing (or racing) field! Everyone will need to use the wheels which are provided and all cars must weigh 5 ounces or less. We will weigh each car the night before the races (weights can be put on at that time if desired).

Children's cars will be provided at no cost and we will have three afternoons (Tuesday, July 5; Thursday, July 7; & Monday, July 18) where they can come to church and sand, decorate, and prepare their cars. Each of those afternoons we will be working on the cars from 2-4 p.m. in room 409. Youth and adults will be able to purchase a car kit for \$10. You may come to the church office to choose your car style and pay for your car.

This night will not merely have races going on, as we will also have a bake sale with all homemade items. Money collected will be used to help offset costs for 21 planter boxes built during the McAllen Mission Trip (July 10 - 15). If you would like to bring a homemade item for the bake sale, please bring it to the FLC at 5:30 p.m. on the July 20.

There will be awards for the fastest cars, as well as best decorated, most creative, and most unique cars.

**We hope you will join us on Wednesday evening, July 20, for this fun night with the FBC family and help us as we support such a wonderful mission project.**



We are now serving over 350 meals (several days close to 400 meals) each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at lunch. We continue to share food out of the Market Place with our neighbors. The Food Bank of Abilene is a big part of keeping us in fresh vegetables and market items.

We are happy to welcome our new Director of Community Ministries, Stephanie Stewart, MDiv, LMSW. She is a Baylor Graduate and was our intern at City Light during the past year. She and Maura have been working this past month together to make a smooth transition before Maura's official day of retirement, June 30. She is stepping into some big shoes and she will fill them well!

**If you would like to volunteer or interested in any of the programs City Light offers, call Stephanie at 325-673-6686.**





# July

## JANUARY FLOUR AND 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 allow purchases to be spread out over the next six months.



3 Patriotic Music Service – watermelon served after service

4 Church Offices Closed

5 Car Prep for Racers

7 Car Prep for Racers

13 Buildings & Grounds Committee

18 Car Prep for Racers

19 Finance Committee

20 Racers & Bake Sale @ FLC

GLO Board Meeting

24 Lord's Supper

25-28 Children's Camp/Lake Brownwood

27 Hospital Visitation Team

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

June 2022

Budget	June	Year-to-Date
Required	\$255,020	\$1,634,120
Given	\$158,851	\$1,444,267

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



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