

FIRST words

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

TWISTS & TURNS

By Becky Tucker & Candy Rains

What a fantastic and busy week we had at Vacation Bible School! Our week was filled with twists & turns. We came to realize that our God never changes, but He changes everything for us. He is a true Game Changer! We started off each morning in the sanctuary for our Worship Rally where we enjoyed a bright and colorful game station, from there, we had Bible study, music, missions, crafts, snacks, and recreation.

Our more than 60 wonderful volunteers did a fabulous job teaching our 130 children that their creativity is a gift from the infinitely creative Creator who designed them for His glory. We cannot thank each volunteer enough for all of their help, whether it was: leading one of our rotations, leading a group of children, getting snacks to the children, bringing snacks for the volunteers, or helping us decorate. This wonderful VBS would not happen without these special people!

A special thanks to Jennifer Miller who works with us every day. She helps make the preparation for VBS go so smoothly. We are very blessed to have Jennifer and appreciate all she does for us each week. We are also very grateful and thankful for Katie Palmer for her vision and creative skills that helped us turn our church into such an exciting game area!

We are very blessed to work with such a wonderful Pastoral Staff, each and every one stepped in where and whenever needed. We also want to thank all of you who prayed for this wonderful event. We are so blessed to have such a loving and giving church who allows us to provide such a wonderful week.



FAMILY FUN NIGHTS AND THE GIFT OF PRESENCE

by Brandon Hudson

One of my favorite things about FBC Abilene is our commitment to intergenerational connections. We work to value all of the people who God brings to FBC, and we want to become family to one another. One of the most important ways we do that is by fostering relationships between age groups. This past spring, we've done this with our intergenerational Bible studies. Now, we get to do it during the summer with an even larger diversity of ages!

On Wednesdays this summer, instead of eating together in the Dining Room, we gather for a time of fellowship and fun in the Family Life Center (FLC). We serve food starting at 5:30 p.m. and then spend time fellowshiping and playing games across age groups. I think this is a beautiful way for us to get to know one another better!

I know personally that the relationships I had in church with adults of all ages definitely helped me feel loved by my community and helped me grow in my faith. Plus, if you are a parent, what better way is there to widen the village who cares for your children than bringing them to a place where they will be safe and loved?

I hope that no matter what age you are, you will take part in these summer activities. Let's play together and be present with one another, knowing that by spending time together we are developing fertile soil for the seeds of love to grow among us!

See you at the FLC.



June 7 – July 26 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Meal served 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Come have supper then bowl, skate, play in gym, or just sit and visit!

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, June 21, when we will gather at the Family Life Center to enjoy our Second Annual Church-Wide Racer & Bake Sale.

With this being a church-wide event, we will have 3 different race divisions:
children (through 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 of the races (weights can be put on at that time if desired).

Cars for children (through 5th grade) will be provided at no cost. 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. Cars will also be available to purchase at the Summer Fun Night at the FLC beginning June 7.

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 given to help offset costs for the McAllen Mission trip (July 9 - 14). 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 June 21.

Following the races, 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, June 21, for this fun night with the FBC family and help us as we support such a wonderful mission project.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CITY LIGHT

In an effort to be the presence of Christ in our community, City Light engages with neighbors to help with their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual growth. We do so through community meals, case management, showers, Rockin' Moms, Sunday morning worship, and a culinary academy.



8,130 MEALS SERVED

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



633 VOLUNTEER HOURS



35 ROCKIN MOMS

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE:



52 HOUSEHOLDS

helped with rent and utilities



351 WALK-INS

bus passes, clothing and other



285 MAIL

Delivered and checked



101 SHOWERS

May 2023



The work of City Light Community Ministries is made possible by our wonderful volunteers who assist our staff on a daily/weekly/monthly basis. There are various levels of involvement based on your availability. We are currently in need of more volunteers for our Front Desk. Our offices are open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m.-Noon, and 1:30-3:00 p.m. Our morning shifts are covered, but we need people to fill the afternoon slots.

Who: Anyone over the age of 18

What: Answering phone calls, greeting neighbors, sorting mail, assisting Stephanie

When: 1:15-3:15 p.m. Monday or Wednesday

Where: City Light Community Ministries (336 Hickory St)

Are you available to help every Monday and Wednesday? Or just one afternoon a week? Please reach out to Stephanie Stewart and let her know! (stephanie.stewart@fbcabilene.org or 325-673-6686 ext. 102)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



FAMILY LIFE CENTER

The Family Life Center opened in 1981. Our mission is to provide family-oriented activities for the church membership & surrounding communities in a Christian atmosphere at an affordable price. Our facility accommodates a variety of groups such as businesses, churches, day care/day camps, private home schools, public schools, individuals with special needs, universities, military, family reunions, residential treatment centers, exercise groups, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes to list a few. We host birthday parties, bridal showers, wedding receptions, and Family Fun Nights. In addition, we have a full fitness center with lockers, showers, and sauna amenities. For those who simply want a place to walk, out of the weather, our track or gym is free to the public.

HOSTED GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS IN MAY

SCHOOL GROUPS - 32

HOME SCHOOL - 3

DYESS FAMILIES - 2

FITNESS CLASSES - 16

PARTIES - 39

SPECIAL NEEDS - 2

FITNESS USE - 583 INDIVIDUALS

SERENITY HOUSE - 313 INDIVIDUALS

FBC GROUPS - 5

PROJECT GRADUATIONS - 2 SCHOOLS

Voci D' Amici

IN CONCERT AND WORSHIP

Seven years ago, a group of talented, committed singers assembled to form a choir. This group of like-minded musicians met under the direction of Dr. Loyd Hawthorne and sang a program of sacred and secular choral music in Dallas, hosted by Wilshire Road Baptist Church. The members of Voci have sung under Dr. Hawthorne's conducting with the Texas Baptist All-State Choir, HSU Concert Choir, and Master Singers. Dr. Jeremy Mimms, HSU alum and Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Winthrop University, serves the group as accompanist and assistant conductor.

This year, First Baptist Church has the privilege of hosting this 41-member choral ensemble for two events. First, the group will present a full concert Saturday night, June 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and then, the group will serve as the service choir in the June 25 morning worship service. The public is invited and admission to the concert is free.

fbcabilene
women's ministry

BUNCO NIGHT

Tuesday, June 6 | 7 pm

If you are needing a little laughter, if you're needing a little fun, or a break from the hum-drum of life, come and join us for a night of BUNCO on Tuesday, June 6. We will gather at University Place at 7 p.m. and enjoy some snacks and fellowship before we begin our game night!

Hope to see you on June 6!

PRE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

2-year-old

Sunday School
co-teacher needed

(Halle Smith is the
other teacher)

Lessons and crafts
are planned for you

Flexible schedule
if you need to be
gone

INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY REPORT

by Matthew Broyles

Our first semester of implementing an intergenerational Bible study went extremely well! For those of you who participated, thank you for giving it a shot. As we planned and expected, it was a great way to get to know people in our church, as well as study scripture together. Reading scripture in community is one of the best, if not the best, way to read scripture. To help guide the conversation, we asked 6 questions:

- 1. What did you appreciate about the story?**
- 2. What did you struggle with in the story?**
- 3. What did the story teach you about God?**
- 4. What did the story teach you about people?**
- 5. Now that you've heard this story, how will you live your life differently?**
- 6. Who else do you know who needs to hear this story?**

This joint approach and these questions led us to hear new perspectives, gain insights, and learn how to dialogue with people who may disagree with our interpretation of scripture. From what I've heard from the people who participated, it may not always be the easiest way, but it's one of the most meaningful ways they've studied the Bible. We believe intergenerational groups are a great way to continue doing adult Bible study on Wednesday nights because it helps us grow closer to each other while studying God's word. So, we encourage you to become a part of a group in the fall! If you aren't sure, find someone who did participate and ask them about it. Or, just show up and try it out. It's like trying food. If you don't like it, you don't have to come back. However, I'm certain we'll see you again.



SERVICE PROJECT

Saturday, May 20, FBC was asked by Abilene-Callahan Baptist Association to help a gentleman get his yard cleaned out. Seven men gave up 1½ hours of their day to represent our church in service. They cleared out trash and larger unneeded items from his yard, then raked, mowed, and ran the weed-eater. The ACBA director, Larry Tarver, was very appreciative and said, "FBC certainly has a culture of helping and loving our neighbors."

MACEDONIA MISSION TEAM

Our FBC Abilene team looks forward to working with the Lee's in June! Please pray for our team: Martha Brown, Ken Brown, Beverly Warren, Johnny Warren, Jaxon Craig, Todd Wilson, and John Moore.



PRAY FOR:

Day 1 - Sunday Worship with the Lee's and sharing the Lord's Supper/Ministry Preparation

Day 2 - Work at Poraka - Support center of persons with intellectual disabilities

Day 3 - Music/Games day at Poraka and bowling outing with new Poraka friends

Day 4 - North Macedonia Food Bank project and delivery

Day 5 - Aya Farms ministry development

Day 6 - Food Bank partner visit in Kavadarci

Day 7 - Cultural Immersion - Orthodox Church/ Painted Mosque

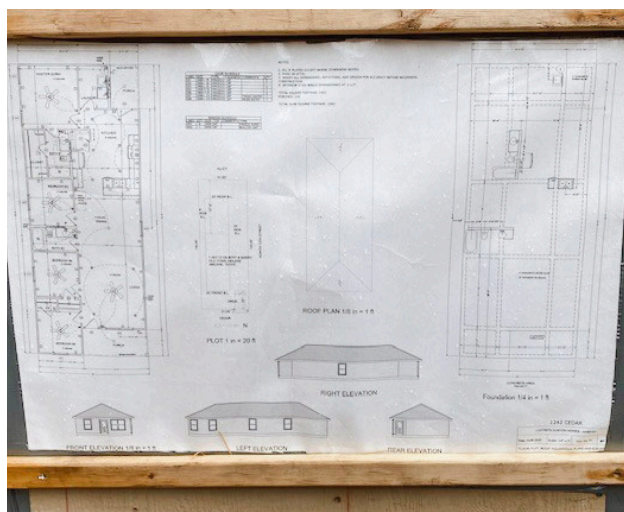
Day 8 - 4:30 a.m. flight to start back home



HABITAT UPDATE

The walls are in place! Continue praying for the Daniels family as their house moves toward completion. Sign up your small group, Sunday school class, or friend groups to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

Contact Beth Young (beth.young@fbcabilene.org or 325-675-8112) to help make the connection with Habitat for Humanity.



FBC MISSIONS: **ACTING IN** *love*

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE UPDATE

We at the FBC friendship house are enjoying serving all the different people in the neighborhood from their various walks of life. Some with urgent needs and others who needs are not as urgent, but still deal with various life circumstances. The Maria family are some who we've built friendships with and recently had a death in the family.

Food is always a need and blessing during difficult times like these and it was awesome to see ladies come together from the young adult Sunday school class to meet that need. Special shout out to Amanda Neal, Adrienne Morgan, Carrie Allen, Lauren Parker, and all the others who were willing to bring food! The family was blessed.

This month at the friendship house, we will be hosting our second annual Backyard Bible Club! We've so appreciated all the folks who've been willing to volunteer from the Journey Class, as well as Dina Griffin, Sue Edwards, Jennifer Williams, Callie Harris, and more. Whether bringing items or being there to love on kiddos, we're thankful for the partnership and excited to share the gospel with little ones and show the love of Jesus. Y'all are welcome to pray for this time and for the kids' hearts to be open.



FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO MCALLEN

Now is the time to sign up for the Family Mission Trip to McAllen, Texas. We will work with the Buckner Family Hope Center in Penitas, Texas. A little about this ministry:

"The Family Hope Center is a child-centered, family-focused place where families go to find hope, support, and empowerment in their community to reach their fullest God-given potential. The key to the Family Hope Center's success is found in combining effective programs and passionate people to help families that are experiencing poverty, family issues, and a lack of services." The Family Hope Center engages families through assistance and community events. They equip families through education, financial empowerment, child and youth development, and spiritual development. And, elevate families through family coaching, counseling, and spiritual enrichment." For many years, FBC Abilene has partnered with this great group to help further their mission. You can help by going with us July 9-13. The cost is \$25 plus the cost of your lodging and transportation.

Pick up your information packet from Beth Young in the church office or call her at 325-675-8112.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOST HOME

The ACU International Student Services Office is currently seeking families from congregations who would be willing to serve as host families for the incoming international students this fall.

To provide you with more details about the program, we have included a link Home Away From Home (HAFH) that offers comprehensive information. However, someone from ACU will be more than happy to meet with you in person at a time of your convenience to further discuss a possible partnership in this effort.

We appreciate your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Fitia Razafimanjato
Graduate Intern International
Student Services and Programs
Office of International Students
and Visiting Scholars
ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

YOUTH UPDATE

Even though the Pastor for Youth position is vacant due to Austen Winfrey leaving and heading to San Antonio, the youth ministry is still going strong and we are looking forward to having a great summer! The leadership of the ministry will be a shared experience among several of our pastoral staff; our new summer intern, Dylan Fink; as well as many of our faithful youth workers. C.V. Blake, with Dillon's help, will be overseeing all of the Sunday morning Bible study time and had a meeting with the workers this past Wednesday evening. Matthew Broyles will be taking the lead on Middle School Camp and along with several sponsors will be at camp in Brownwood June 14-18. High School Camp is June 25-July 1 and Mike Greenfield, also accompanied by several wonderful sponsors, will be in Colorado with the high school students. There will be some individual events spread out over the summer and each will be led by a staff member and feel sure there will be some youth workers involved as well. Of course, the Wednesday Fun Nights at the FLC will be an opportunity for our youth to gather and would be a great time for you to get to know some of these wonderful students. Dodge ball may not be your thing, but there will be numerous opportunities for you to simply learn a name and connect it with a smiling face!



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNDATION

There are many ways to give to the First Baptist Church Foundation. As you consider what your legacy will be, keep in mind these giving strategies.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

An endowment fund is a gift set aside as a permanent fund invested to generate income for the church or specific ministries of the church. By designating gifts as endowment, donors specify that the principal of the gift will never be spent, but the income earned by that principal will be paid out to the ministry on a regular basis. This provides a steady source of income for the ministry to count on in the future. As the principal of the fund grows over the years, the income flowing to the ministry will increase.

Donors can create endowment funds by making outright gifts or by establishing trusts that will pass assets to the church or specific ministries of the church in the future. Donors can also set up endowment funds through their wills.

GIFTS BY WILL

For most people, a will is an economical and effective way to pass assets to loved ones. A will also allows donors to direct some of their assets to support charitable causes. Donors may choose to make charitable gifts of specific pieces of property or amounts of money, or donors may give a percentage of their total estate to the church or specific ministries of the church. Furthermore, donors may indicate that their gifts are to be used for the organization's immediate needs, or they may designate the gifts to be held as endowments to provide sources of income for the ministries into the future.

GIFTS OF NON-CASH ASSETS

Donors may increase their giving potential while maximizing tax benefits through gifts of non-cash assets, such as retirement plans, tangible property, life insurance or virtual currency. When non-cash assets are contributed to a charitable organization, often the full fair market value of the asset is tax-deductible and capital gains tax are not incurred upon its sale.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

One of the fastest-growing and most flexible giving vehicles, a donor-advised fund (DAF) is a charitable giving account that is sponsored by a public charity, like HighGround Advisors, and funded by a donor's tax-deductible contributions of cash, stock, mutual funds or other assets. Contributions to a DAF have the potential to

grow tax-free over time, and donors retain the right to recommend grants from the DAF to eligible charities of their choice.

A DAF is an excellent vehicle for donors who wish to maximize their charitable impact, give in a tax-advantageous way, and streamline the administration of their donations.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

With a qualified charitable gift annuity, a donor contributes assets to the church or specific ministries of the church in exchange for fixed annuity payments for life. The amount of the annuity is based upon the age of the income beneficiary or beneficiaries. The donor also receives a current charitable income tax deduction.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

Charitable remainder trusts provide an excellent opportunity for individuals to give to the church or specific ministries of the church while retaining an income stream. A donor contributes assets to the trust, and the trust makes annual distributions to the donor for life or a fixed term. At the end of the trust term, remaining assets pass to the named ministry beneficiary. Remainder trusts can be funded with almost any asset and provide donors with an income tax-deductible donation in the year the gift is made.

CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS

With a charitable lead trust, the donation provides an immediate income stream to the church or specific ministries of the church. The donor contributes assets to a trust which makes annual distributions to a named ministry beneficiary for the donor's life or a fixed term of years. After the trust's term, the remaining trust assets are returned to the donor or passed to the donor's family members. Lead trusts can be funded with almost any asset. Depending on the remainder beneficiary, donors receive either a gift or charitable income tax deduction.

If you have questions about the foundation, please contact Jeanne Jowers or Mike Greenfield in the church offices.



FBC IN ACTION

Offering a helping hand to Senior Adults, widows/widowers, single moms, and the vulnerable in our church. Please complete the form from the QR Code or get a printed form from the church.

June

- 6 Women's Bunco Night
- 7 Summer Fun Nights @ FLC
M. S. Camp Meeting
- 9-19 Macedonia Mission Trip
- 11 Personnel Committee
- 12 Children's Trip to Splash Kingdom
- 14-18 M. S. Camp/Brownwood
Summer Fun Nights @ FLC
Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 19-22 Backyard Bible School @
Friendship House
- 20 Finance Committee
Deacons' Meeting
- 21 Summer Fun Nights @ FLC
& Racer/Bake Sale
H. S. Camp Meeting
- 24 Voce de Amici Concert
- 25 Lord's Supper
Voce de Amici to sing
in morning worship
- 26-30 H. S. Camp/Colorado
- 28 Summer Fun Nights @ FLC

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

June 1, 22 years
Judy Santibanez
GLO Teacher

June 1, 1 year
Stephanie Stewart
City Light Director of Community Ministries

June 7, 2 years
Francesa Manry
GLO Teacher

June 24, 31 years
Jeanne Jowers
Church Accountant

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

May 2023

Budget	May	Year-to-Date
Required	\$ 257,000	\$ 1,367,300
Given	\$ 199,082	\$ 1,179,300

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



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

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