



# FIRSTWORDS

## SUMMER AT FIRST

It is hard to believe that school is out, VBS has already taken place, and June is on the calendar! With that said, then summer must be here and the church has some exciting events planned. Fun Night at the FLC continues to be a favorite among many in our church. Fun Night includes a simple meal (rotation of hamburgers, Frito pie, and hot dogs this year), open play in the gym (basketball, pickleball, preschool scooters, and balls of all kinds), skating, bowling, ping pong, and pool. And if that is not enough, there will be a prayer group meeting in the one of the small rooms for folks to pray for our church. June 19 will be a special night as we have our annual Racers and Bake sale for missions.

June will also see our children and youth go to camp where they will see God in a new and different way and come back ready to serve Him. Our High School students will be in Glorieta June 2-7, Middle School students head to Brownwood June 11-15, and our children will also go to Brownwood June 24-27. Please begin now praying for these students, sponsors, and parents as they prepare for the various camps.

June and July will focus on missions as the Backyard Bible Club and two McAllen trips take place. The Pre-trip, which will include some construction work, is set for July 11-14, and then the main Family Mission Trip will join up with those already there to work the 14-19. They will focus on: continuing the house build, Buckner projects, and community projects.

*Continued from Cover.*

This summer we will have several guest preachers including: Dr. Jacob West, Matt Cook, Mike Cope, and John Moore. The personnel committee is working on and will work with the new search committee to discuss an interim and will be sharing that information with the church in the next few weeks.

## FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO MCALLEN, TEXAS

*(This trip may not make if we cannot put a team together, so sign up by sending Beth Young [Beth.young@fbcabilene.org](mailto:Beth.young@fbcabilene.org) an email saying you're going. More information will follow.)*



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. The construction team (walls, trusses, and decking) is July 11-14, 2024. The Family Team July 14-19 (continuing the house build, Buckner projects, and community projects). The cost is \$25 per person or \$75 per family plus the cost of your lodging (we have rooms reserved), evening dinners and transportation.

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





What a fantastic and busy week we had at Vacation Bible School! Our week was filled with time spent exploring the ocean and discovering how God is a friend who is real, He is a friend who loves, He is a friend we can trust, and He is a friend for everyone. We started off each morning in the sanctuary for our Worship Rally where we enjoyed feeling like we were actually in the ocean, from there, we had Bible study, music, missions, crafts, snacks, and recreation. Our more than 60 wonderful volunteers did a fabulous job teaching our 120+ children that God is their friend. 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 which helped us turn our church into such an exciting ocean adventure! 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.**

**BECKY TUCKER**  
Pastor for Children



# 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 19, when we will gather at the Family Life Center to enjoy our 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 5.

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 14 – 19). 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 19.

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

**BECKY TUCKER**  
Pastor for Children





# 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.

# Thank you, Debbie!

Mornings might be one of the more chaotic times of day at City Light. Until we open the doors to the dining room for lunch, there is a busyness buzzing in the air. And while every morning can be busy, Monday mornings start the week and mark many people's first chance to shower, rest, and check their mail since before the weekend. In their desire for mail, showers, or clothes, our neighbors' requests can seem overwhelming; however, our volunteers have each uniquely honed their talents in dutifully serving our neighbors. One volunteer, Debbie McFarland, has faithfully weathered the reception desk on Monday mornings for nearly a decade, and has done so with grace, firmness, and joy.



One way to describe Debbie is "bright." Her laugh fills listeners with warmth and her smile welcomes everyone she greets. She extends joy, calmness, and consistency to our neighbors. Debbie's kind and firm dedication has been essential to our mission, as she has

shared her time, energy, and joy with us for years. She has been faithfully present on Monday mornings, and we are so grateful for her willingness to serve.

In addition to her general presence, Debbie offers her knack for personability, which has proven itself an asset to our ministry. She has created relationships with our neighbors, volunteers, staff, and even our mailperson, Amber. Her connection to Amber has eased our transition to our new address, and because of Debbie's relationship, we have been able to cooperate with the post office so our neighbors can continue to receive their mail.

When discussing her time with us, Debbie shared that her mother served at City Light when we first opened, and that it was her love for working here and helping people that encouraged her to volunteer with us. Debbie has even extended her mother's legacy of love and service to her grandchildren by bringing them to volunteer when they visited Abilene. We are grateful to have witnessed this legacy and to have benefited from it. Unfortunately (for us), we only have a few weeks left with Debbie, as she is moving to DFW to be closer to her grandchildren. We are grateful for the time she has so willingly and joyfully given, and we pray for her sustained joy in being close to her family.

**MAKENZIE MORRISON**  
City Light



# CITY LIGHT

Community Ministries

**5,663**

## MEALS SERVED

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

**513**

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Personal Assistance:

**611**

## WALK-INS

for assistance

**329**

## MAIL

Delivered and checked

**210**

## SHOWERS



## FBC loves Martinez Elementary Teachers a *Choco-Lot!*

First Baptist Church recently had the joy of showing support for Martinez Elementary School teachers during Teacher Appreciation.

Overflowing with gratitude, we provided a chocolate fountain with marshmallows, graham crackers, pretzels, Oreos, and fruit.



**THANK YOU, MARTINEZ TEACHERS, FOR  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF  
CHILDREN.**

# JUNE

## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

June 1, 23 years  
**JUDY SANTIBANEZ**  
*GLO Teacher*

June 1, 2 years  
**STEPHANIE STEWART**  
*Director of Community Ministries*

June 5, 1 year  
**BETH YOUNG**  
*Ministry Assistant to  
Pastor for Missions*

June 24, 32 years  
**JEANNE JOWERS**  
*Church Accountant*

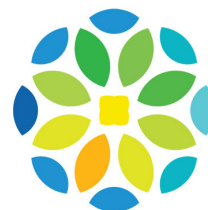
- 2-7** High School Camp/Glorieta
- 5** Summer Fun Nights @ FLC begins
- 11** First Friends Summer Program begins  
Rockin' Moms
- 11-15** Middle School Camp/Brownwood
- 12** Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 17-20** Backyard Bible Club/Friendship House
- 18** Finance Committee  
Deacons' Meeting
- 19** GLO Board Meeting  
Church-Wide Racer & Bake Sale/FLC
- 23** Lord's Supper
- 24-27** Kids Camp/Brownwood

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

May 2024

<u>Budget</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Required	\$ 276,394	\$ 1,446,150
Given	\$ 235,804	\$ 1,281,722

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



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
CHURCH • ABILENE

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