

# FIRSTwords

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

## JUNE UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

In the journey of searching for a new senior pastor, some days have felt like we were taking baby steps, and other days like giant steps. Though the Pastor Search committee is now working behind the scenes, these are giant step days for us.

Over the past six months, we have engaged a very intentional process of listening to our congregation and discerning where we as a church are now and where we sense God leading us in the future. Our three Congregational Conversations and two church-wide surveys have led to the development of a Congregational Profile, a significant document outlining FBC's character and mission. The profile has now been completed and is available on our church website ([www.fbcabilene.org](http://www.fbcabilene.org)). You'll find a link on the homepage to Pastor Search that will take you to the profile, or you can access it here: [PASTOR SEARCH UPDATES](#).

The primary purpose of the Congregational Profile is to provide prospective senior pastors a clear sense of who we are, but it also offers a picture for our church community of the nature of FBC at this point in time. We hope you'll read the Congregational Profile. It is a celebration of what God has been doing in our midst and how we have been using our spiritual gifts. The profile also shows the challenges for our church and the opportunities that lie ahead for us.

The Search Committee has also completed our Senior Pastor Profile. This document, which is designed for internal use by the committee, turns the key features of the Congregational Profile into broad statements

which depict the sort of pastor we will need in the future in order to fulfill God's calling for our church. To say it another way, we encapsulate in the Senior Pastor Profile the most important things we heard our church saying about the kind of person we need to lead us in the future.

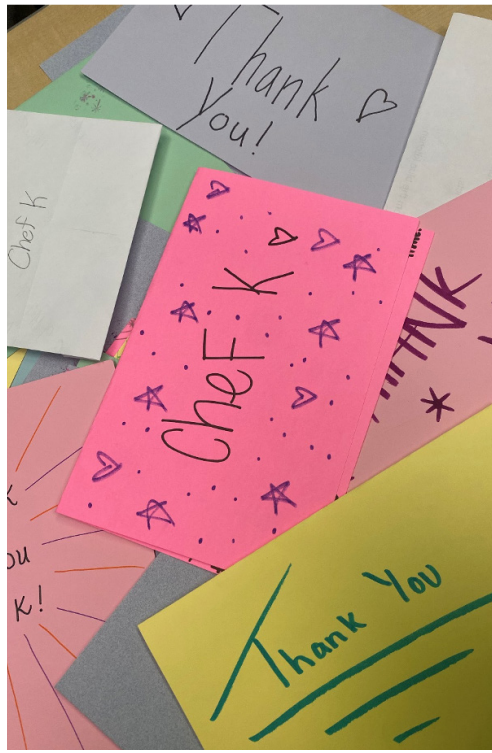
Completing these two profiles feel like big steps forward for our committee. We are now ready to move into the final stage of the journey as we begin examining candidates. We have sent out advertisements for our senior pastor position to regional and national outlets and to key "gatekeepers" who can help facilitate our search for the best candidate to lead our congregation. If you would like to communicate with the Pastor Search Committee or offer recommendations, feel free to send information to us at [pastorsearch@fbcabilene.org](mailto:pastorsearch@fbcabilene.org), or talk with a committee member.

Thank you, First Baptist Church, for your patience and encouragement. It has been a long journey – and continues to be a good and rewarding journey. At each point, we have sensed God's leadership and we continue to seek and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To return to the principle where we started: We desire "nothing more, nothing less, nothing else" than God's will for our church. We ask that you continue to pray for us, for our church's ministry staff, for Matt Cook, and for the whole congregation in these important days of transition.

*Trusting in God's grace,*

**The Pastor Search Committee**





## CULINARY ACADEMY UPDATE

We are now recruiting students for our City Light Culinary Academy! The academy is a 13-week job training program. We have classes throughout the year. The curriculum includes: training and testing for a Food Handlers Certificate, introduction to knife skills, food prep, line work training, and other kitchen skills.

Along with the food industry training, they will also be learning healthy communications, teamwork, goal setting and how to choose and create a new future, dealing with setbacks, assertiveness, and job readiness.

Recently, Chef Kay went to Wylie ISD to train some students who would possibly be interested in a food service career. She made an impression on them and has helped shape their future.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in this program or would like more information, please contact Chef Kayleen Mills at 325-673-6686 x103 or Melinda at 325-675-8112.



# **FBC ABILENE AT** **Adventure** **COVE**

**2742 S. 9TH STREET**  
**JUNE 12 | 7:30-9:30**

On Sunday night, June 12 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. FBC will have use of Adventure Cove. Adventure Cove is the City of Abilene water park located on the south side of Rose park. At Adventure Cove, families will get to enjoy a leisure pool with a zero-depth beach entry, a lazy river, a pair of water slides, a covered patio, and a new bathhouse.

***So, get bring your family and friends for a night of water fun at Adventure Cove!***



# SPARK STUDIOS

by Becky Tucker & Candy Rains

What a fantastic week we had at Vacation Bible School. It was great to be able to return to what many of us deem a traditional VBS! Some of our children had never had the opportunity to participate in one at our church!

Our week was very busy as we got our creative juices flowing and learned that just as people of the Bible used their talents to serve God, we can also use our talents to bring glory to God. We started off each morning in the sanctuary for our Worship Rally where we enjoyed a bright and colorful art studio, 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 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!

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.

A very special thanks goes to Jennifer Miller who works with us every day. She helped make the preparation for VBS go so smoothly. We are very blessed to have Jennifer and appreciate all she does for us each week.





# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNDATION

Last month, we continued our conversation about the FBC Foundation. So far, we have looked at the different ways you can give your tithes and offerings to the church which includes envelopes, online, and electronic drafts. Once again, not apologizing for talking about giving to the church or making a soft sell about what the Bible says we are supposed to do as a part of our discipleship in Jesus Christ. Jesus assumes we will give, it is the kind of attitude that He spent much of His time talking about. We also discussed how estate planning is very important and how through a will or trust, people can continue to have Kingdom impact at the end of their journey here on earth. We also have talked about the foundation and how it came into existence and some of the ways it has benefited the church.

So, let me tell you a story. Back in the early part of 2009, the church was contacted by a local law firm at which gave copies of a Last Will and Testament naming FBC Abilene as one of the beneficiaries of the estate. The estate belonged to Genelle Jennings. Miss Jennings had celebrated her 100th birthday just about a month prior to her death. She was a life-long resident of Abilene having been born here, attended Abilene High School and Hardin-Simmons University, and then a career in education. She was baptized and became a member of First Baptist Church in 1921 and was very active in all aspects of the church. Genelle was employed by Abilene Independent School District for 42 years, teaching at Travis Elementary School and then was the Librarian for 32 years at North Junior High School, which later became Franklin Junior High School. Genelle never married, but was “Auntie” to numerous nieces and nephews. She was totally committed to Jesus as her Lord and Savior, and was just as committed to her church, FBC Abilene. Throughout her life, she consistently tithe of what God had entrusted in her care. She also wanted to continue to provide for Kingdom work, so in her Last Will and Testament, she left 15% of her estate to the church. Genelle lived a very simple, but rich, life all on the salary of a teacher who started to work in 1930. So, when the estate was completely settled, First Baptist Church, Abilene received just over \$65,000. The funds came to the church, so the finance committee was tasked with deciding what to do with those funds. Wanting to make a long-term impact with the funds, the finance committee voted to place the funds in the Church Foundation and designate the earnings to go to the Faces and Places Campaign which was in its early stages. That fund has grown over the past 13 years and has a fair market value of \$106,000 and has contributed thousands of dollars to the missional work of the church by providing for support to numerous of our missionaries and mission project for the past 12 years. One day, I hope that in heaven I have the opportunity to sit with Genelle and tell her all the good she did by her one very simple, yet self-less act of putting FBC in her will.

We have included some very helpful information provided by the organization which handles all of our foundation assets. HighGround has legal and financial experts on staff who are able to assist with any questions you might have.

*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.

*HighGround Advisors is proud to manage the endowment of First Baptist Church Foundation. Since 1930, HighGround has played a unique role in enabling churches and ministries to carry out their missions through endowment management and charitable gift planning services. For additional information regarding gift planning strategies, please visit [www.highgroundadvisors.org/gift-planning](http://www.highgroundadvisors.org/gift-planning).*

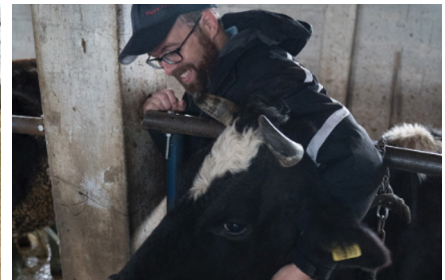
# FBC MISSIONS: **ACTING** IN *love*

## MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: Jeff and Alicia Lee

As you know, FBC is in partnership with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and supports several missionaries in the field. Jeff and Alicia Lee have lived and worked in Skopje, North Macedonia since 2011 and are just one of the missionaries who your generosity helps support!

Macedonia is a small land-locked country in the Balkan region of Europe and is a unique blend of religious and ethnic diversity. Many days, this diversity is lived out beautifully, but at times can be a tense and often exploited balance. Approximately 60 percent of the population is ethnic Macedonians who are generally Orthodox Christians or agnostic; 30 percent are ethnic Albanians and are Muslim; and 10 percent are varied minority groups like Roma, Serbs, and Turks. Skopje is the capital city of Macedonia, and home to 800,000 people.

Alicia's educational background allows her to provide counseling services for English speakers in Skopje while Jeff's educational background has opened up opportunities to consult for farmers and local governments to address the environmental issues within Macedonia. Agricultural work includes the development of a cow-bank project which provides livestock to local farmers through a small business development program.



You can follow the Lee's on Facebook and other social media platforms and watch them develop their greenhouses, build a barn, and follow life on the farm.

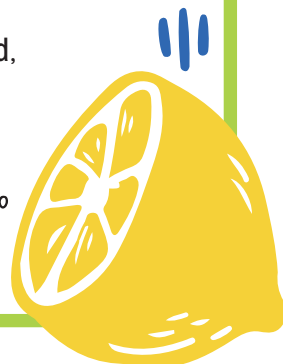
For more on the farm and its unique "cow bank," read "More Than a Cow" at [www.cbf.net/cowbank](http://www.cbf.net/cowbank).



What a great gift!

Cason McAdams set up a Lemonade Stand, earned money, and donated it to the City Light Ministry. WOW!

Cason, your gift will help those in need who come to City Light and will help share the love of Jesus!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CITY LIGHT

*We are, as always, focused on meeting crisis needs, feeding the hungry, building biblical community, teaching children, and helping people move out of poverty!*

January to April 2022:



## **28,578 MEALS SERVED**

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



## **1,842 VOLUNTEER HOURS**



## **55 ROCKIN' MOMS**

They meet every other month



## **PERSONAL ASSISTANCE:**

### **289 HOUSEHOLDS**

helped with rent and utilities



### **843 WALK-INS**

bus passes, clothing and other



### **649 MAIL**

Delivered and checked



### **1,631 PHONE CALLS**



### **295 SHOWERS**

## **DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A CITY LIGHT MARKET?**

It includes milk, eggs, cheese, apples, green and purple grapes, broccoli, potatoes, other fresh vegetables and fruits along with shelf stable items, bread, and commercially prepared foods. This allows families to come choose from what is available that week to cook and use at home. We are grateful for the partnership with the Food Bank of West Central Texas which has allowed City Light to provide more meals than ever before!

*If you would like more information about the services at City Light or would like to volunteer, please contact Melinda at 325-675-8112.*

# BUNCO NIGHT

Thursday, June 23 | 7-9 pm

Come join us for a night of fellowship,  
snacks, prizes, and lots of laughter!

## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

June 1, 21 years

**Judy Santibanez**  
GLO Teacher

June 7, 1 year

**Francesa Diaz**  
GLO Teacher

June 24, 30 years

**Jeanne Jowers**  
Church Accountant

June

- 1 Summer Fun Night @ the FLC
- 5 Personnel Committee
- 8 Buildings & Grounds Committee
- Summer Fun Night @ the FLC
- 12 Church-Wide Event  
at Adventure Cove
- 13 Kids Trip to Splash Kingdom
- 15 GLO Board Meeting
- Summer Fun Night @ the FLC
- 15-19 Middle School Camp
- 21 Finance Committee
- Deacons' Meeting
- 22 Summer Fun Night @ the FLC
- 21-24 Friendship House  
Backyard Bible Study
- 23 Women's Bunco Night
- 26 Lord's Supper
- FLC Board
- 26-7/1 High School Camp
- 29 Summer Fun Night @ the FLC

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

May 2022

Budget	May	Year-to-Date
Required	\$302,000	\$1,379,100
Given	\$288,240	\$1,278,569

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



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH • ABILENE

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