

FIRSTwords

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



SALT AND LIGHT

by Brandon Hudson

Let me begin by saying what a joy these last few weeks have been as we have officially become a part of the

FBC Abilene family. The way you

have welcomed us has been extravagant and joy filled. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and the many ways you have blessed us as we have transitioned from Alabama into life in Abilene. We have felt your prayers and the movement of the Spirit as we have “come home” to this new place and people.

I also want to thank you for the way you have prayed for our church. I know that the time of transition at FBC was one which was covered in prayer and I urge us all to continue to pray for God’s guidance as we seek to represent the Kingdom here in Abilene and around the world. I believe God is answering our prayers and have felt the energy and Spirit moving in the rooms where we have gathered and worshipped and fellowshiped.

Even as we move into the season of Lent, this intentional time of reflection and focus on our

spiritual walk, I want us to continue to pray that God would pour the Spirit out upon us. Over the last several weeks, we have talked about the ways we are called to be salt and light in the world, and even as we turn with reflection during Lent, I pray we are able to continue to find new ways to be salt and light in the world, just as you have been salt and light to me and my family in the past months and to this community throughout FBC’s time here.

One of the best ways to be salt and light is to show up for one another. Often, this takes place organically in informal settings. The world can be so isolating at times and the gift of companionship and friendship is one we can all offer (even the curmudgeons among us!).

As I said, these are not the only ways to be salt and light. I am thankful for the ways so many of you are already being salt and light in so many ways. I know God is doing great things here at FBC, and I can’t wait for us to explore together how we can each play a part in this glorious endeavor!

Love,

Brandon



SALT & LIGHT

One of the ways I want to encourage us to continue to be salt and light is by letting you know of the opportunities that are available through FBC to be salt and light. I've asked the staff to let me know of needs in their areas of ministry where salt and light is needed. While this list is in no way exhaustive, here are some ways you can be salt and light in the days and weeks to come:

CITY LIGHT

- Front Desk Volunteers
- Monday & Friday morning shift (9 a.m. to noon)
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday afternoon shift (1:15 to 3:00 p.m.)
- Sunday Morning Van Driver team
 - Pick up people wanting to come to City Light Church
- Sunday Morning Breakfast Cook
 - We need rotating teams to cook our Sunday Breakfast
- Dining Room Volunteers
 - Meal Prep, Serving and Cleaning Up Meals (MWF 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
- Culinary Classroom Reset Volunteer
 - Working with Chef Kay to reset between culinary sessions
- Emergency Clothes Coordinator
 - organizing our small clothing closet

PRAYERWORKS

- Volunteer for one hour a week in the prayer room to pray or write notes of encouragement
- For more information, contact Trina Fink - 325-733-5147

MISSIONS

- CarePack for Kids (weekend food bag for students) packing and delivery for Martinez Elementary School
- Volunteer for Habitat Spring Project (leadership team, work volunteer)
- Houses for Healing leadership (when the project is completed)
- Volunteer at Friendship House Backyard Bible Club (June)
- Potluck Dinner Help
- North Macedonia Mission Trip team member
- Family Mission Trip to McAllen, Texas - (July)

HEALING HEARTS

- Knit, crochet, or make "no-sew" fleece blankets
- Scrapbooking
- Couriers to help distribute the gifts
- For more information, contact Cherry Curry - 325-864-1897 or dctlcurry4@yahoo.com

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

- Extended session volunteers - during the worship hour and requires no preparation. Volunteers just show up and we have them assigned to a classroom to help out. Typically, you only volunteer once every 2-3 months.
- Two-year-old Sunday school teacher is needed. All the lessons and crafts are planned for you so it's super easy!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Pray for our volunteers as they encourage and teach the children about Jesus.
- Write a note of encouragement to a child who has recently made a profession of faith.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

- Host a monthly dinner in your homes. It's typically on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Participate in our Wednesday night intergenerational groups. The intergenerational groups provide opportunities for salt and light as we get to know people on a deeper level and know the needs each person has.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Sunday school teachers
- Wednesday night volunteers

BEREAVEMENT FOOD MINISTRY

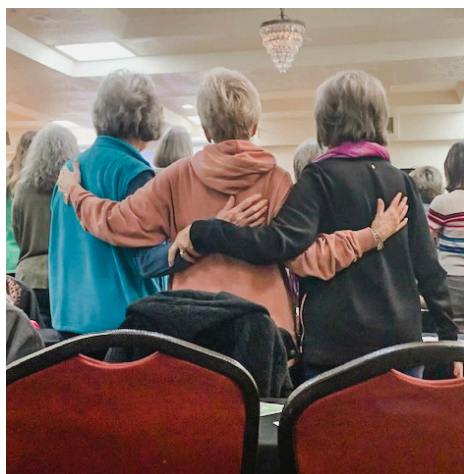
- Helping set up, providing a dish, serving, or helping clean up
- For more information, contact Sarah Matthews - 509-263-3313 or Connie Peacock - 325-232-3437

BROADCAST MINISTRY

- Volunteers needed each Sunday: directors, assistant directors, camera operators, audio engineers, and video editors.
- For more information, contact Doug Worthington or Gary Tucker.

MEDIA/LIBRARY

- Volunteers who will step in when Gail is absent to check in/out books Sunday morning 10:00-10:30 a.m. or Wednesdays 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- Help Gail with inventory. Contact Gail - 325-665-7036 or 7PtLord@gmail.com.



LADIES RETREAT

1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to “encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” In the banquet hall of the MCM Elegante this weekend, this verse held true! As wives, moms, and friends, it often feels as if there is never time to sit back and enjoy the company of other women. I am so thankful for the opportunity this past weekend to do just that, to rest in the presence of like-minded women who seek to encourage one another as we do Kingdom work.

The theme of our time together for this year was JOY, and joy was surely present. There was JOY as 103 women were brought to tears in laughter as Tammy Whitehurst used her gift of humor to create common ground, remind us we are not alone, and to not become so caught up in the aches of this world that we forget to experience the joy. There was JOY as we listened to powerful women of our church tell their stories, ones of God’s goodness and faithfulness. There was JOY as Amy McAdams (and our honorary attendee, Greg Young) led us in worship, reminding us of the beauty found in lifting our praises to Jesus in song. There was JOY as Jennifer Woodard guided us through intentional time amongst women who we might not find ourselves living daily life alongside, but who are a part of our FBC Abilene family, willing and ready to walk through life with us. There was JOY (and maybe a little competition) found in door prizes and games. There was JOY as we shared meals around the table together. In a world that often feels full of hurt and sorrow, I am so thankful for a few hours of unspeakable JOY.

I am thankful for a church who believes in the importance of intergenerational community and for women ages 23 to 90 who chose JOY this weekend. I am thankful for a church who values Women’s Ministry, and for church members who dedicate their time to creating such a wonderful weekend together. How sweet it was to begin our Lenten journey together being reminded of, the beautiful community Christ calls us to and the friendships He gives us because we were never meant to do this life alone.

Kristian Spencer



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!

February 2023



4,416 MEALS SERVED

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



541 VOLUNTEER HOURS



36 ROCKIN MOMS

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE:



47 HOUSEHOLDS

helped with rent and utilities



149 WALK-INS

bus passes, clothing and other



152 MAIL

Delivered and checked



67 SHOWERS

WHEN PEOPLE CAN RECEIVE HELP

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-Noon, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Showers: 9:00-11:20 a.m. | **Lunch:** 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

In addition:

Sunday Breakfast: 8:15-9:00 a.m. **Worship:** 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Second Tuesday of Each Month: Rockin' Moms: Noon-1:30 p.m.

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

NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Coming Soon!

FBC HABITAT BUILD – SPRING 2023

(Leadership Meeting - Wednesday, March 22 - 6:00 p.m.)

NORTH MACEDONIA - JUNE 9-18, 2023

(Info Meeting - Sunday, March 19 - Noon)

FBC FRIENDSHIP HOUSE CHILDREN'S BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB:

June 19-22, 2023 – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

FAMILY MISSION TRIP – JULY 9-14, 2023

Please begin to pray how you can be involved in any or all of these opportunities and be on the watch for more details.

If you have questions or would like to be put on the list for any of these opportunities, you may contact the Missions' office anytime at 325-675-8112.
We would love to talk to you about these opportunities to serve!

BLESSED FAMILIES FUN NIGHT!

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

4:30-6:30 PM

FBC FAMILY LIFE CENTER

1442 N. 2nd Abilene, Texas



Adaptive activities to include: bowling, skating, games in the gym, and therapy dogs

Children and adults with special needs, and their families, are invited to a **FREE** special night of fun!

Parent, guardian, or caregiver must accompany child or adult to the event.



Dear Church Family,

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to the Lord for allowing us to serve Him with you these past 20 years. The love, support, and patience you have extended to us has been the very presence of Christ throughout our days at First Baptist Church, Abilene. We were humbled by your recognition of our time together and want to thank you for the many words of encouragement and the generous love offering.

It is our honor to serve the Lord here with you and we continue to look forward with great anticipation for all the Lord has for us in the days, weeks, and years the Lord has set before us.

To God, alone, be the glory.
Todd & Michele Wilson

Thank you!

STAFF UPDATE

I hope by now you know that Brandon Hudson is our new Senior Pastor, but what you probably do not know is that Susie Vandever has joined the staff as his new ministry assistant. Susie and her husband, Richard, started attending the church in 1988 and then joined in 1995. They have two grown children, Grant and Morgan. Susie was an elementary school teacher until she retired last year. She brings a love of people and strong organizational skills, all of which will be utilized in the office. So, next time you are in the offices, drop by and welcome



STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

March 19, 5 years
Matthew Broyles
Pastor for College & Young Adults

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

February 2023

Budget	February	Year-to-Date
Required	\$ 260,060	\$ 552,120
Given	\$ 231,316	\$ 499,333

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

March

- 2-5 Men's Ski Retreat/Glorieta
- 5 Personnel Committee
- 8 Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 15 No Wednesday Meal/Activities (Spring Break)
- 19 Macedonia Mission Trip Information Meeting Mission Committee
- 21 City Light Board Finance Committee Deacons' Meeting
- 22 Habitat Leadership Meeting
- 26 Lord's Supper
- 30 Blessed Family Fun Night @ FLC



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

1333 North 3rd, Abilene, TX 79601
fbc@fbcabilene.org | www.fbcabilene.org
325-673-5031