

FIRST *words*

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

VOTE ON FIRST CHRISTIAN FEASIBILITY TEAM PROPOSAL

Following the morning worship service, the church was called back into conference for the purpose of voting on the proposal presented by the feasibility team. By way of reminder, the proposal was:

- **First Baptist Church, Abilene would enter into a 3-year capital campaign to purchase the First Christian Church property for \$1,055,000 and to complete renovations to that property to house the City Light Ministry in lieu of remodeling the present City Light facility, to enable expansion of the GLO daycare, and to move a portion of the Ministry of Counseling. This primary project of the campaign has a total estimated cost of \$7,000,000.00.**
- **After these projects are funded, we would recommend a second campaign to fund the renovation of the vacated GLO facilities on the FBC campus to house our nursery and preschool programs and relocation of adult education facilities into the current nursery and preschool areas adjacent to the Welcome Center at an estimated cost of \$2,500,000.00.**

Before the vote, we were all reminded of the generous gift by an anonymous person in our church who has pledged the \$1,000,000 for the purchase of the property. The vote, by written ballot, was counted after the services ended and the results were:

411 FOR the motion and
19 AGAINST the motion,
reflecting **95.58%** in favor.

So, now the next step in the process is for First Christian to take the final offer and contract to their members on May 5 for their final approval. Assuming that all goes as we desire, then we would close on the contract sometime over the next 30 days.

As a part of the contract, we have offered use of part of the facilities to First Christian as they work on a transition strategy. Because we will need ample time for the design and develop phase of our projects, this would be of benefit for both parties. Then in the fall of this year, we will present to the church a capital campaign to raise the necessary funds needed for the construction and remodeling phases.

Your prayers for the First Christian congregation over the next few weeks would be greatly appreciated. Also, begin now to pray about your involvement in the project. We will need numerous people to help with the campaign and of course volunteers for the exciting new programs we can offer with the expanded facilities.



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

MAY 2019

FBCABILENE.ORG

words

FOR THE JOURNEY

I received emails and texts by members who are encouraged and excited about the vote to purchase First Christian Church, the plan for expanding our ministry to the community and even the challenge of the \$7 million Capital Campaign. The vote of almost 96% in favor gives hope about the campaign, which is now \$6 million with the anonymous gift of \$1 million we received. The campaign will certainly be a challenge, but we don't know how God will provide other transformational gifts which will make our goal reachable.

I received another email that was concerned about our giving to the ministry budget. This person's perception was that people are not tithing. He believes if we followed the Biblical teaching of giving 10%, we would never have a shortfall. Everything we have belongs to God. The Bible says in no uncertain words that giving the 10% reminds us what we have comes from God. Tithing is giving our first fruits to God in recognition...it all belongs to Him. We give to God before we see if we are going to have enough or balance the checkbook. This act of faith, of honoring God first, can change our lives. The person who emailed me was concerned people are missing out on the blessing of putting God first in their giving and living. Tithing is not a law, but a blessed way of life that leads to financial freedom.

It is interesting the way we use the Bible to support certain behaviors to live a moral life, but exclude the Bible's teaching on giving. We want our children to be honest, but then we cheat God when it comes to our giving. What are they learning? We might have everything we want, but we miss out on what we desperately need - a blessed life of generous giving - the best lesson we can teach our children.

If you look closely, the book of Malachi mentions more than the tithe and the offering. It is tithes and offerings that bring the blessing of giving. Above the tithe, are the offerings which will support our Capital Campaign. There are two Biblical principles: 1) We give to the Lord first each month to know the blessing of our finances. 2) We give over and above the tithe, our offerings, because only that abundance which is shared can be multiplied. We tithe to the church as it is commanded, *God's Storehouse*, to return the 10% that already belongs to God. We give offerings above and beyond so our gifts and finances can be multiplied like the loaves and fishes of the young boy.

Mary and I have seen the ways these two principles of blessing work - the tithe and offering. They do not mean we received some windfall. We have found when we give both tithes and offerings, God has provided abundantly - more than we can imagine. We have given out of our savings only to find the abundance and multiplication of how God provides. I hope more than expecting some return as you tithe to the budget, and in considering the offering of multiplication to the Capital Campaign, you will know the blessed life which comes in giving.

The power of giving - it comes from the heart - not a paycheck,

Phil



We give offerings
above and beyond
so our gifts and
finances can be
multiplied
like the loaves
and fishes of the
young boy.

God is good...all the time!

A special thank you to all of the people who gave up their time of worship on Easter Sunday to be with our preschool kids during extended session. I'm always amazed at how you come through in times of need and I know I never have to worry about having enough volunteers...and that's because of YOU! I had church members coming in out of nowhere asking if I needed help and when you have 18 two-year-olds in one class you say "YES"! We had close to 75 kids in extended session and we are very thankful for the time we were able to spend with these sweet kids on a beautiful Easter morning. I'm beyond thankful for all of you who give of your time to serve in extended session. You truly make a difference in the lives of these little ones and their families...but especially in mine.

God is so good and we are blessed to serve a risen Savior who loves us and shows us abundant grace.



Family MISSION TRIP

JULY 14-20 & JULY 21-27

We would love to have you join us in McAllen this summer on the Family Mission Trip in collaboration with Buckner Border Ministries
July 14-20 (family team) or
July 21-27 (home build team).

There is still time to sign up!
Contact the church office at 325-675-8112
or John Moore (john.moore@fbcabilene.org).

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

End of the Year Children's Choir Program

Sunday, May 19, 6:00 pm

FBC Sanctuary

Reception to follow in the Dining Room

LOVE JOY
PATIENCE
PEACE KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF CONTROL
GALATIANS 5:22-25



VOCI D'AMICI in Concert

Saturday Evening, June 22, 7:00 pm

FBC Sanctuary

Come hear this unique choral ensemble under the direction of Dr. Loyd Hawthorne

CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM

Sunday Evening, June 30, 6:00 pm

FBC Sanctuary

Enjoy ice cold watermelon following this annual celebration featuring your favorite patriotic music by the Sanctuary Choir and Celebration Orchestra



THE CENTURYMEN in Concert

Tuesday, July 23, 7:00 pm

FBC Sanctuary

Come hear this Grammy nominated group of outstanding men from across the country as they tour the great state of Texas celebrating their 50th anniversary and the release of their newest CD!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It is so hard to believe summer is almost here! During the summer, one of the most exciting things we do in the Preschool and Children's Ministries is Vacation Bible School. Maybe you can remember some of the songs you sang at VBS and the special meaning they had, or maybe you made your decision to follow Christ during that special week (or two weeks)! Whatever your memories are, we hope you will take some time and reflect. We are fortunate to hear about so many of those great and special memories and these are reminders to us of the importance this week is in the lives and spiritual growth of our children.

This year, VBS will be Monday, June 3 through Thursday, June 6. We will start each morning at 9 a.m. and end at noon on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Thursday we will extend our day for half an hour and conclude the week with our final Worship Rally and program. The Worship Rally will begin at 11:45 a.m. and will be finished by 12:30 p.m.

This year's theme is "In the Wild" where we will experience many "Amazing Encounters with Jesus". We will start each day with a Worship Rally at Panoramic Point and then break into age groups where we will go to Bible study at the Watering Hole, Missions on the Pachyderm Path, Recreation in the Buluga Bay, Music in Bullfrog Bog, Crafts at the Cockatoo Canopy, and of course Snacks in the Grizzly Gulch!

We know summer gets busy and packed with many fun activities, but we hope you will make this week a priority. Whether you are able to volunteer or have children or grandchildren who can attend, we hope you will mark off June 3 - 6 and join us "In the Wild"!



FBC Abilene partners with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to be Christ's presence around the world. Currently our FBC presence is in Macedonia, Thailand, Cambodia, and South Africa. Our Unified Missions Offering extends that presence to another 30 countries and 105 missionaries. The guiding principles of global missions, developed by CBF, help guide our FBC efforts as well. Listed below are those guiding principles which give witness in renewing God's world. God calls and equips us to spread the hope of Jesus.... It's a movement which takes faithful believers and active participants—participants who don't just “talk the talk,” but truly act as God's presence in the world. FBC Abilene does just that... “talk the talk” and joins in to “walk the walk” with fellow believers all around the world.

CBF and First Baptist Global Missions' Mission Distinctives

The Fellowship's mission is to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission. At the vanguard of the modern missionary movement, Baptists have been forming together for more than two centuries to make disciples of all nations. The Fellowship supports 105 long-term field personnel serving in 30 countries, 50 Student.Go interns, and hundreds of short-term mission teams annually.

Our Mission Distinctives offer Cooperative Baptists common language for our common witness to the Triune God. The commitments reflect the mission engagement of CBF field personnel, congregations, and partners while the contexts focus more intentionally on our formal Global Missions enterprise. The examples provided span the Fellowship, but do not exhaust our witness in the world. CBF field personnel live out the following commitments alongside CBF congregations within the contexts of global poverty, global migration, and the global church.

MISSION COMMITMENTS:

1. Cultivating Beloved Community

We cultivate communities of reconciliation and hospitality which serve as signs, instruments, and foretastes of the kingdom of God.

The gospel compels us...

- To offer radical hospitality to strangers and aliens, because we were once strangers and aliens
- To reconcile all peoples, because Christ has broken down the wall of hostility between us
- To demonstrate the kingdom we proclaim through the character of our life together in the local church.

2. Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ

We bear witness to the gospel through words which invite faith in Jesus and actions that embody the way of Jesus.

The gospel compels us...

- To practice the Great Commission and the Great Commandment
- To confess Jesus Christ as Lord to the glory of the Triune God
- To follow the example of Jesus who healed the sick, fed the hungry, and befriended sinners.

3. Seeking Transformational Development

We seek to transform systems which suppress the capacity of individuals and communities in order to recognize, claim, and celebrate the God-given gifts of all people and places.

The gospel compels us...

- To celebrate the image of God in every human life and the gifts of every community
- To develop sustainable local assets with community stakeholders through advocacy, education, and solidarity
- To make long-term commitments to transform cultures which systematically oppress people and degrade God's creation.

Thank you First Baptist Church for answering the call to be God's presence around the world. Your global mission efforts make a difference.



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

On May 19, we will celebrate the high school senior class of 2019 in our morning worship service. As we have done the past couple of years, and continued thanks to Cody Favor for the idea, we will have the graduates presented before the church and then ask their families to join them at the front where we will have a time of prayer and commissioning for these graduates. We believe it is important to celebrate this milestone in their journey and to bless them as they prepare to journey forward to where God leads. You, as a church family, have served as mentors and friends. You have taught them in Bible school, VBS, camps, and mission trips. And now, you will have an opportunity to bless them as they continue on.

We also will continue to give each senior a journal which will be filled with memories, encouragements, and words from the people at FBC. Please write a prayer, blessing, encouragement, or recount a shared experience. Your message does not have to be lengthy to be meaningful.

The journals are available across from the church office for you to come write a few words to these students. Whether you know them well or not does not change the impact of what a word of encouragement can mean to them as they graduate.



Class of 2019

This year's graduates are:

Emma Carter
Cole Edwards
Jeb Elliott
Emma Griffin
Abigail Griffith
Skylar Joyce
Kathlyn Messer
Nathan Moore
Allison Pierce
Bryan Taylor
Mike Thomlinson
Hunter Yearian

MACEDONIA MISSIONS

Please join us in praying for our mission team going to Macedonia, June 7-16.

Kathy Shackelford, Susan Pigeon,
Marcus Driggers,
Ruth Anna Driggers, Ken Brown,
Martha Brown, Betty Coffey,
Emma Griffin, and John Moore.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

May 1, 14 years
Daphne Garcia,
GLO Teacher

May 5, 5 years
Tina Hoffman,
Counseling Receptionist

May 26, 19 years
Teresa Garcia,
GLO Cook

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

April 2019

Budget	April	Year-to-Date
Required	\$234,058	\$1,145,947
Given	\$194,441	\$1,221,001

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

EVENT CALENDAR: MAY

- 5 Emerging Adults VBS Paint & Pizza
- 8 Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 10 GLO Staff Appreciation Dinner
- 14 First Friends Program/Open House
Rockin' Moms
- 15 Last Wednesday Night Meal
until Summer
GLO Board Meeting
Grant-in-Aid Ministry Team
- 16 Healing Hearts Meeting
- 19 AHS Baccalaureate
Missions Committee
Preschool-5th Grade Choirs Program
- 21 Finance Committee
Deacons' Meeting
- 27 Church Offices Closed
- 28-6/1 Decorating church for VBS



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