

FIRSTwords

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

MAY UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastor Search Committee is now taking the last step in our church's self-study process. As a committee, we recognize that before we can call someone to be an effective leader for our congregation, we have to ask, "What kind of church are we, and where is God leading us?" Rather than coming up with the answer to that question on our own, we have been listening to what you, the church, said about our identity and calling through three church-wide conversations and two surveys of the congregation.

We have been analyzing the information you provided in the conversations and surveys and summarizing the data into a Congregational Profile. It will be a significant document which provides a snapshot of who we are at this point in time and where we as a church hope to go in the future. We have completed the text of the profile, and it's now in the hands of a layout designer. The final document should be ready in a few weeks. The purpose of the Congregational Profile is to provide prospective candidates for our senior pastor position a clear picture of who we are as a church. The profile will also be available to the whole congregation through our church website.

Now the Pastor Search Committee is turning our attention to developing a second profile, one which describes the sort of senior pastor our church needs, based upon what we've said about ourselves in the Congregational Profile. We are asking, "Given the kind of church we are, and who we think we need to be in the future, what sort of person can best lead us to fulfill God's calling?" The Senior Pastor Profile will be an internal document we use as a committee in

the process of seeking and interviewing pastoral candidates.

As your Pastor Search Committee, we are grateful for your participation in the self-study process, for your patience and encouragement, and for your prayers. We see the signs that God is at work in our church in unique ways, helping us to remain faithful in this transition time and to prepare wisely for our future as the faithful servants of Christ.

Praying for God's wisdom,

The Pastor Search Committee



Front row: Debby Brown, Jecilly Varghese, Libby Gibson, Tiffany Hammer

Back row: Bob Ellis (Chair), Paul Irby (Vice-chair), Evan Harris, Marcus Spencer, Jim Jones





Our first Easter Egg Hunt for the Friendship House was a success! We were able to hang out and connect with our neighbors in the College Heights neighborhood and First Baptist friends. Thank you to all who helped: office staff stuffing almost 1,400 eggs with candy, food donations from the Journey class and others, cooking burgers and dogs, and all the things you do to support this community!

MISSION BITE: DAVID AND LAUREN BASS



Good afternoon!

We wanted to pop in and thank you for your prayers for a safe and healthy delivery and to share a few photos. Our second daughter, Lily Buck Bass, was born on March 30th (8lb 10oz, 21.25 inches). There have been some ups and downs in the weeks since her birth, but we are thrilled to share that mom and baby are both doing great now. We are all in love with our family's newest edition—especially big sister Chloe. Thank you for your prayers!

David and Lauren



David and Lauren Bass are CBF missionaries serving in Cambodia and are making plans to return to Cambodia in June. As a church, we support all CBF missionaries through our global missions offering, and we specifically support the Basses through the Faces and Places Missions Endowment.

MAURA DELA CRUZ RETIREMENT RECEPTION



On May 15, 2022, following the morning worship service, a reception will be held in honor of Maura dela Cruz who is retiring as the Associate Director of City Light Community Ministries. Maura began serving at City Light in January 2001 and has been a stabilizing force in the midst of the hectic day to day workings of City Light. Her compassionate, yet firm approach has served well as she oversees the benevolence arm of First Baptist Church through City Light. In addition to the reception, a love offering for her retirement will be collected and if you would like to participate, simply bring your gift to the church offices or on Sunday morning, and mark it for the Maura dela Cruz Love Offering.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNDATION

Last month in First Words, we looked at several giving options which included tithing, the mainstay of support for the church. We do not shy away from talking about this very basic command found in scripture where we are to return to God one-tenth of what He has entrusted into our care. Tithing was and is expected to be a natural part of our life. It was and is the starting point for all of God's people. In addition to tithing, scripture talks about offerings which were above and beyond the tithe. They are special ways we can support specific ministries and people and further Kingdom work.

We also mentioned the First Baptist Church Foundation. The foundation began in 1993 as a means for folks to make long-term, deferred, or special gifts for the future ministries of the church. The FBC Foundation is managed by HighGround Advisors (formerly the Baptist Foundation of Texas) and locally administered by an eleven-member board comprised of the five church trustees (Nancy Brock, Linda Carleton, J.L. Cole, Roy Longacre, and Harold Preston) and six lay members nominated by the Committee on Committees and elected by the church on a three-year rotating basis.

How does the foundation work?

When gifts are made to the foundation, they are received with the donor's intent being fulfilled. Gifts come from a variety of sources and for a variety of reasons. Some gifts come as a part of an estate and the foundation is listed in the Will.

So, where did the gifts to the foundation come from?

One of the early gifts to the foundation came from the estate of Hilda Musselwhite. The initial gift given in 1994 was \$466,792.27 with additional amounts given over the next two years of \$98,000. This gift really started the idea of being able to offer grants by having an amount permanently set aside while being able to use the earnings for ministry purposes. There are currently 58 named accounts in the church's foundation portfolio. There are actually more gifts than that because the foundation set a criterion that any gift to the foundation which was less than \$5,000 would go into a fund called "Memorials and Small Gifts"

and the earnings would be a part of the grant cycle. As mentioned already, many of the gifts come from the estates of our church members. However, there are gifts which have been made in honor or memory of family members, some for specific purposes and others for the general benefit of the church.

Gifts fall into two over-all categories: designated and non-designated. If someone gives a gift to the foundation for a specific purpose (i.e. GLO Day Care, City Light, etc.) then the earnings from that gift go directly to the designated purpose and that designated purpose only. However, if the gift is simply given to the foundation (non-designated), then the earnings are directed by the foundation board and are awarded twice a year during the normal grant cycle.

Since the inception of the foundation, the board has been able to provide almost \$1.8 million in grants from the earnings of the non-designated gifts. Each spring and fall, the foundation reviews the various grant requests and determines if the request meets the purpose of the foundation and if funds are available to meet all of the requests. Some of the grant requests which have been funded are:

- Equipment for the church: AC, kitchen appliances, technology items (Wi-Fi system), television components
- Ministry needs: nursery toys and beds, office equipment, counseling furniture, library materials, Healing Hearts supplies
- Outside of the church needs: ABA Social Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Hospitality House

Next month, you will hear some of the stories of the people behind the gifts, as well as some specific ways the foundation grants have been able to benefit the church. Until then, take just a moment to consider what your legacy will be in regards to your giving to Kingdom work.

HOPE CENTER AND 3RD FLOOR UPDATE

One of the first tasks which has to be done before any of the other work can be started is for the asbestos to be removed in the areas where it is both present and will be disrupted. The 3rd floor at the main church has been released and the removal crew has started work at the Hope Center. Once that work has been completed, then the contractor can begin actual demolition and prep work for the project. By doing both City Light and GLO at the same time, there are significant cost savings having the general contractor on site overseeing both aspects of the project. So, lots of work in different areas will begin very soon and we are excited to start seeing some of the changes.

The 3rd floor renovation, due to the water damage, is also moving along quite well. Sheetrock has been hung and the tape and mud crew is ready to get to work. The carpet on the 2nd floor has just about been replaced and we are happy to not have to walk on the paper trail anymore.

Once we have some updates which can be seen in picture form, we will start showing those before worship and then in the upcoming editions of First Words.



HOUSES FOR HEALING UPDATE

The Houses for Healing tiny home build is coming together! The office staff caulked and another crew worked on sheetrock last week.

Next..., the deacons will be painting the outside this month! Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project! There will be more opportunities to work on completing the house and then after completion as well. If you would like to know more about Houses for Healing, please visit their website www.housesforhealing.com or contact the missions' office at 325-675-8112.

FBC MISSIONS: **ACTING IN** love



Charlie Love, age 94, preaching the Easter message at City Light!

Thank you to all of those who help in our services at City Light on Sundays preaching the Word and serving breakfast!

PREACHERS: Trevor Allen, Barbara Bacon, Ron Ballard, Matthew Broyles, Brett Dobbs, Charlie Love, Doug Mendenhall, Janet Mendenhall, John Moore, Stephanie Stewart, Keith Waddle

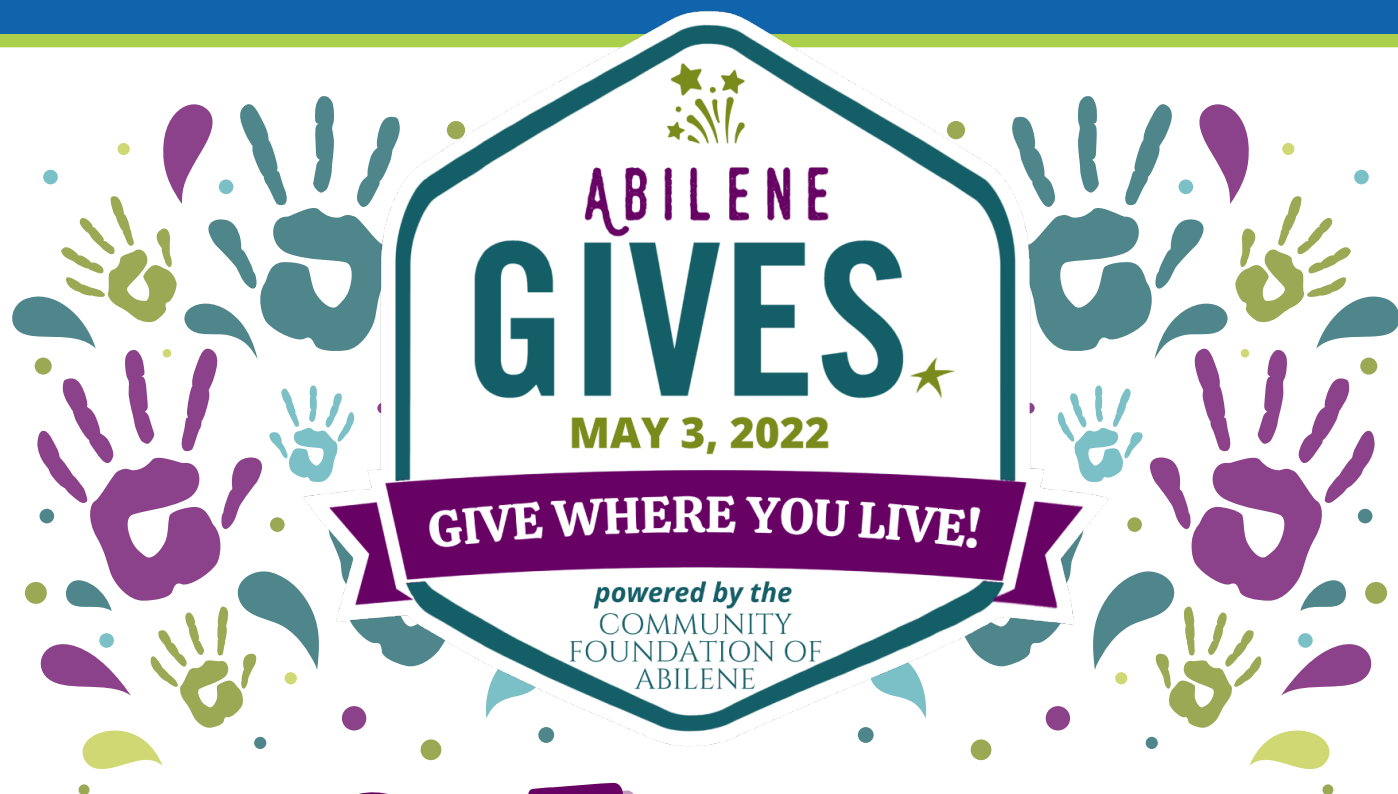
BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS:
Beverley Cunningham, Maura dela Cruz, Charles "Jersey" Diramondi, Jaden Hubbard, Lynn Martin, Marcelino "Max" Moreno, O'Connell Family, Robert Yearian

Family MISSION TRIP MCALLEN

We would love to have you join us for the 2022 McAllen Family Mission Trip!

We will be helping with the finishing touches on houses and other activities. If you are interested, please come to an information meeting about this trip on Sunday, May 22 right after the church service in room 220.

If you have any questions, contact the missions' office at 325-675-8112.



GLO

GOD'S LITTLE ONES DAYCARE

MAY 3, 2022

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING A WONDERFUL MISSION ACTION OF FIRST BAPTIST ABILENE

This year, both City Light Community Ministries and GLO Day Care will be participating in Abilene Gives on Tuesday, May 3. Give where you live! You can make an early gift starting now!

Go to abilenegives.org and search for either or both:
City Light Community Ministries or GLO for more information.

STAY connected



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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,
ABILENE, TX**

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May

- 1 College Senior Recognition
Pastor Search Committee
Personnel Committee
- 4 Grant-in-Aid Ministry Team
- 10 Women's Bunco Night
- 11 Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 15 High School Senior Recognition
Retirement Reception for
Maura dela Cruz
Missions' Committee
- 17 Finance Committee
Deacons' Meeting
- 18 Last Wednesday Night Meal
GLO Board
- 19 GLO Graduation
- 21 Deacon Paint Day
@ Houses for Healing
- 22 Lord's Supper
- 30 Church Offices Closed
for Memorial Day
- 31-6/3 Vacation Bible School

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

May 1, 17 years

Daphne Garcia

GLO Teacher

May 5, 8 years

Tina Hoffman

Counseling Receptionist

May 19, 1 year

Jennifer Caron

First Friends Director

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

April 2022

Budget	April	Year-to-Date
Required	\$258,020	\$1,077,080
Given	\$228,370	\$990,639

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



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

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