



FIRSTWORDS

BACK TO SCHOOL

We often think of school as a place where children learn academic skills, but in reality, it's much more than that. School becomes a home away from home, where children spend more waking hours than they do at home. Here, they not only learn how to be a friend and navigate various personalities, but they also learn social skills, empathy, self-control, and time-management. For some, they experience their first moments of elementary school and for some it's their last.

We deeply appreciate your support for our friends at Martinez Elementary. Your love, support, and prayers have made a significant difference by helping children who were unable to purchase necessary school supplies. It's truly a privilege to be part of a church with such loving and generous friends. Thank you for touching the lives of these children.
Beth Young

Thank you so much for the school supplies! My kids love having all the different ways to be creative and to get work done. These school supplies mean that parents, who may be struggling, will have one less thing to worry about. Thank you!

Kathy Booth, PALS Teacher
Martinez Elementary



Continued from cover.

Thank you so much for our back-to-school goodies! Second Grade is so excited to use them for the upcoming school year! Have a great year!

Kyersten Parks
Second Grade
Martinez Elementary School

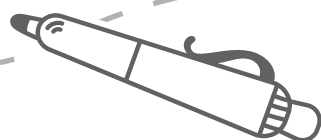
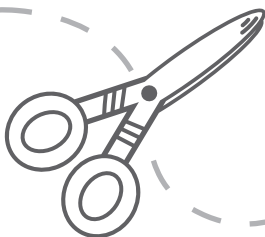
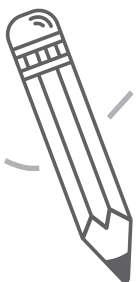
Thank you so much for our gift baskets, the first-grade team highly appreciates this! Here is our picture, we are missing one teacher here, but we have delivered her basket to her classroom.

Thank you so much.

Alicia Castro
1st Grade
Martinez Elementary School

Fourth grade teachers would like to thank you for our school supply baskets! We appreciate all you do for us and our students. Thank you for coming to pray for our classes every year! You don't know how much you impact us and our students, but it is immense. THANK YOU!

Lori Jaggars
3rd Grade Teacher
Martinez Elementary School





1ST GRADE BIBLES

By Becky Tucker

Saturday, August 24, might have been a very hot day, but that did not keep us from having a wonderful evening as our First Graders received their new Bibles. These Bibles are gifts from the First Baptist Family. Along with their Bible, each child received a scripture bookmark referencing God's Word. The following morning, the children were recognized during the Worship Service which allowed our church family to see these children with their new Bibles and show the children how much they are loved and supported by our congregation. We are so grateful we belong to such a caring and giving church family! Thank you for being such a wonderful church to our children!



PRAYERWORKS MINISTRY

Have you ever wondered what happens to the prayer requests after they are dropped into one of the wooden prayer request boxes at our church, FLC, City Light, Ministry of Counseling, Hope Center, or GLO? Also, what happens to those put into the offering plate during church service? The cards are taken from the plates and boxes, which are checked once a week, to the prayer room across from the library. There, they are prayed over for at least a month, some much longer, depending on the request and need. If requested by the sender, a prayergram postcard of hope and encouragement with scripture may be sent to the person in need.

Prayer requests that come from the church website and the Prayerworks phone line (325-672-PRAY or 672-7729) are part of this intercession process, also. The church roster, our staff, programs, missionaries, outreach, prayer walks, and many other items are included.

If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, either by coming to the prayer room for one hour a week or as an At-Home-Intercessor, please call the church office to find out more information.

Prayer Request Cards received:

August to date: **73**

Jan. 1 to date: **411**

Phoneline and Website:

April 6 to date: **21**

Prayergrams sent:

August to date: **92**



A CALL TO PRAYER

The Pastor Search Team is inviting our church to 30 days of concentrated prayer during the month of September. We will pray each day that we might be properly formed and ready for the work we desire for God to do in us as a people and a church. Daily prayer prompts will be available through email and on social media.

HABITAT HOUSE

Blessing

A home isn't built in a day! Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Habitat for Humanity, First Baptist Church, its faithful members, and generous financial support. The Daniels family now has a home which offers a place to sleep, cook, and rest—a space that truly nurtures the soul and provides safety and comfort. It has been a pleasure to witness this journey from start to finish and see the culmination of everyone's hard work and commitment.

We celebrated a house blessing for the Daniel family on August 17. It was a joyful occasion marking the completion of their new home. Habitat for Humanity generously gifted the Daniel family with a candle, salt, and bread. Trevor Allen gifted them with a peace lily, and cordially invited them into the neighborhood. Additionally, John Moore presented them with a beautiful handmade throw from our Healing Hearts Ministry at First Baptist Church letting them know they have been covered in prayer.



BETH YOUNG
Missions Ministry
Assistant

CITY LIGHT UPDATES

On August 7, students from FBC Stamford served lunch to our neighbors alongside our veteran volunteers. The students served with cheerful hearts and giant smiles as our neighbors filled the dining room. This service project was extra special for Stephanie Stewart, as her FBC Stamford folks got to meet her City Light folks. A simple reminder that we are one body in Christ with one mission, no matter our geographic location.



City Light received a \$5,000 grant from the United Way to help alleviate the financial strains our neighbors experience with the rising costs of utility bills. We will be using this funding in the months of August and September. A special thanks to Karen Dansby and Bob Ellis for helping Stephanie distribute this money and complete the extra paperwork this funding requires.



On August 8, we celebrated Kevin and Angela for their graduation from the City Light Culinary Academy with a special lunch at the Beehive. We are so proud of these students for their commitment and dedication to finish the program strong!



STEPHANIE STEWART
City Light

STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION by Mike Greenfield

Talking about giving is a very natural part of our spiritual walk, or maybe it should be. We, as a church, believe the Bible to be the word of God and the Bible is very clear about what our relationship to our financial resources should be. We are to tithe (one tenth of our resources) to God through the local church. According to the Bible, that is the starting point. The Bible also talks about offerings which are also given to specific causes at specific times for specific reasons. Those are separate and above the tithe. Then there is support given to other worthy causes God brings into our paths. These are worthwhile and many of them are Christ-centered and do great Kingdom work. So, as you think about your tithe, offerings, and support, here are some thoughts that might help.

Giving Options to Consider

In the fast paced, high technological world we live in, writing a check and putting it in an envelope seems totally foreign to many of us now. But here at the church, we have used the same tried and true system of offering envelopes for folks to have an easy way to give their tithes and offerings for the support of the ministry budget. So as technology changes, so should the church change to keep up with what people are doing in other areas of their lives.

Online giving is not entirely new to what we have been offering as a way to give. On the church website, www.fbcabilene.org, there is a link on the top row of options that takes you to the giving page for the church. The link is in a green box and says "Give Online." Simply click on this link and it will

walk you through the process. Of course, by using this method it requires a credit or debit card, both of which have a 2.2% fee associated with it and are hoping that folks will include that in their thinking as they use this method.

Another option is to set up a bank draft that would take a set amount out of your account and put in the church account on a set time frame. This option does not have any associated fees and takes out the "remember to do it" factor. Jeannie Jowers in the finance office can help you set this up or answer questions you might have. This is really convenient when you are travelling or want to simplify your life.

Gifts That Keep On Giving

Regular gifts of tithes and offerings to the church are the most important forms of giving. These gifts make it possible for the church to continue to carry out the ministries of Jesus Christ at home and around the world.

However, you may have a desire to do something special and make a gift which bears fruit year after year. If so, the First Baptist Church Foundation can help you accomplish that desire. As a result of the interest expressed by some church members to make possible long-term, deferred, or special gifts for the future ministries of the church, the Foundation was established by the church in 1993. The foundation board distributes grants from the earnings twice a year for requests which meet the purpose of the foundation.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

By Mike Greenfield

Round Up marks the start of a new church year here at First Baptist. We promote the children from one grade level class up to the next, Pre-K moves up to the 4th Floor and join the children's ministry, 5th graders into the youth ministry, High School seniors head off to college, but for the most part, adults stay right where they have been for the past year. We do not operate on an age-graded Sunday school model where every class is based on the age of the members and when your age passes the age for that class, you are promoted to the next older class. That model has some advantages, but it also creates some displeasure for many, thus we have not used it in at least 40 years. However, sometimes folks simply need a change, and we never want anyone to become dissatisfied with studying God's word together, so if you need a change, then by all means, change! Once again, having people here and studying God's word is the utmost priority and it far outweighs any possible hurt feelings if someone leaves a class.

Round Up also is a time when I am reminded of just how blessed I am to work with people who make my life better. Those folks tend to fall into two categories, employees of the church and lay people who serve on the various boards, committees, ministry teams, and as deacons. I am privileged to serve

alongside of some of the best people in the world. Every pastor, director, ministry assistant, custodian, teacher, whether full-time or part-time does their job with excellence and grace. They are a joy to be around and make the work environment an enjoyable place to be. The tenure of many of our employees gives testimony to the type of work environment we have. On September 5, Lee Curiel is marking his 45th year of employment here at FBC. Jeanne Jowers has passed the 30-year mark, and we have 11 others who are over the 20-year mark. So, either they have no where else to go (don't think that is the reason!) or they have found a place to work which feels like home! So, to all of the employees of FBC, I salute you and say a very heart-felt thanks.



The other group of folks who I have really come to appreciate this past year are all the members of the various committees and ministry teams which I have the privilege of serving with. Round Up would not happen if there weren't a group of guys willing to cook 332 lbs. of beef and another group cook 100 lbs. of

PRAYER PARTNER SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

chicken! Add the other volunteers who prepare all the other fixin's and make the meal happen, and I simply get much of the credit for their hard work. On the committee side of things, a few of those really had their workload increase because circumstances within the church. The personnel committee, under chair Jane Todd, has been such a support and given wonderful guidance as we have navigated these "difficult days." The finance committee has kept the church in a solid fiscal position in spite of some decrease in giving. They have ensured that all the bills have been paid and ministries are able to continue, though on a scaled back basis due to the shortfall in funds.

So, as we start a new church year and prepare for our next Senior Pastor, my prayer would be that we all take hold of the rope which moves our church and make sure we are all pulling together and in the same direction. We need to pull together financially as we all commit to tithing and supporting the church as instructed in God's word. We need to pull together in our prayers for the church, the staff, the search committee, and for each other. We need to pull together in our attendance and participation in the life and ministry of the church. We simply need to pull together!

A continued priority for our church is to deepen relationships between generations. At FBC, we believe that strengthening intergenerational relationships helps the faith of all ages and gives witness to God's continued work in the world. We are planning to celebrate God's work in each generation on the morning of Sunday, September 8. On that Sunday, we are asking the partnering classes to meet together for at least 15 minutes getting to know each other and spending time in prayer with each other.

We realize this effort might feel a little awkward for some, but we believe it is healthy for our church. This is an important moment for different generations, from the oldest to the youngest, to interact, engage, and ultimately know each other.

As we prepare for September 8, please pray for each generation and join us as we encourage each other through fellowship and prayer.

"The Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5

CITY LIGHT

Community Ministries

6,174

MEALS SERVED

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

655

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Personal Assistance:

706

WALK-INS

for assistance

358

MAIL

Delivered and checked

279

SHOWERS



UPDATE ON



We're excited to share that our first guest has arrived at the Scurry County house, generously sponsored by First Baptist Church. He will be staying with us for the next month.

We are now looking for volunteers to form a team and support our guest in the following ways:

- Creating a relationship with guest and families
- Delivering meals as needed
- Assisting with special needs of guest
- Offering prayers for the guest and families
- Assist with special cleaning needs

If you're interested in helping, please contact Beth Young in the missions' office (325-675-8112 or beth.young@fbcabilene.org).

Thank you for your support!



FLC

Family Life Center

39 PARTY PACKAGES

FITNESS CENTER USE

315 Individuals

7 New Members

17 FITNESS CLASSES

SERENITY HOUSE

315 Individuals

FULL BUILDING RENTAL

19 Groups

859 WALK-INS

1 SCHOOL GROUP

100 Students

2 SCHOOL STAFF MEETINGS

200 Teachers

The Family Life Center opened in 1981. Our mission is to provide family-oriented activities for the church membership & surrounding communities in a Christian atmosphere at an affordable price. Our facility accommodates a variety of groups such as businesses, churches, day care/day camps, private home schools, public schools, individuals with special needs, universities, military, family reunions, residential treatment centers, exercise groups and Fellowship of Christian Athletes to list a few. We host birthday parties, bridal showers, wedding receptions and Family Fun Nights. In addition, we have a full fitness center with lockers, showers and sauna amenities. For those who simply want a place to walk, out of the weather, our track or gym is free to the public.



SEPTEMBER

FBC FOUNDATION GRANT REQUEST FORMS ARE AVAILABLE

Forms are available in the office. Deadline to return the form is noon, Friday, September 13.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

September 5, 45 years

LEE CUIEL

Custodian

September 30, 5 years

MATTHEW FAHRENDER

Custodian

- 2** Church Offices Closed
- 8-12** Pastoral Staff Retreat/Glorieta
- 8** Senior Pastor Search Committee Meeting
- 11** Buildings/Grounds Committee Meeting
- 14** Tailgate @ McMurry
- 15** Senior Pastor Search Committee
Hendrick Medical Centennial Celebration
Missions Committee Meeting
Personnel Committee Meeting
- 17** Finance Committee Meeting
Deacons' Meeting
- 18** GLO Board Meeting
- 22** Lord's Supper
- 23** Ministry of Counseling Board Meeting
- 26** City Light Fund Raiser
- 29** Men's Ministry Bring Your Own Steak Night

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

August 2024

<u>Budget</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Required	\$276,010	\$2,339,180
Given	\$396,308	\$2,188,758

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



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

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