From the Pastor Search Committee

Introducing Our Prospective Pastor

It is with great excitement and a sense of anticipation that we announce Vince Smith has accepted our invitation to preach in view of a call to be our pastor. Please plan to attend Sunday, March 3, 2019, in the morning worship service to hear Vince and his message. Most of you know that Vince has been our Minister to Families since September 2016. He and Mary Helen have been working with our children, youth, and families during this time. Most recently Vince has fulfilled many additional responsibilities during our time without a pastor. If you have had the pleasure of working with Vince for any amount of time you know that he has a servant’s heart for the Lord and a true desire to serve and shepherd His people.

As our search committee read resumes and watched and studied sermons, God’s guidance became clear to us. During our listening sessions with Sunday School departments, the common thread was that our church desired a person with a passion for people and we know Vince is that type of person. Vince and Mary Helen’s mission mindedness also aligns perfectly with the focus and heritage of First Baptist Church San Angelo.

Your Pastor Search Committee hopes that you share in our excitement. We want to thank you for your prayers, notes, words of encouragement, but most of all to thank you for the opportunity to serve on this committee and witness God working in our process. I think these verses from Proverbs 3:5 – 6 describe our process: 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

Comments from the Search Committee

- Vince has an incredible ability to relate and minister to people of all ages. He and Mary Helen both have hearts for ministry and have shown that in the ministries they are already involved in here at FBC. I look forward to supporting and working with Vince as he continues to lead us to be the church God has called us to be.

- Vince has shown a real heart for serving the Lord at FBC. He brings his beautiful wife, Mary Helen, as a partner in service. Together with their family, they have shown love from the youngest to the oldest in our church family.

- It’s been a revealing journey of God’s love for His church. I think I heard Vince say” that he wasn’t seeking a pastorate but he felt God guiding and leading him to pastor this church and he is following God’s guidance.”

- It has been an amazing and wonderful journey watching God work in all our lives bringing us into a unified conviction that Vince is the one we were looking for all along. It took the process being played out to the end but it gives me joy to have served as a part of this group.

- Vince has already shown a love for our church and its people…..”warts and all.” He has demonstrated his commitment through his work as our Minister to Families. I feel confident that with our support, Vince will be the leader we have prayed for.

- Vince has shown us that he has a heart for God and a heart for serving God’s people of all ages.

Meet the Prospective Pastor

Saturday, March 2
1:00 - 3:00 P.M. in the CLC
Members are encouraged to take part in this opportunity to visit with Vince and his family.

Sunday, March 3
10:30 A.M., FBC Sanctuary
Vince will preach in view of a call in the morning worship service. At the end of the service, a special business meeting will be held and all church members present will vote by For/Against ballot whether to extend the call to him as Pastor of First Baptist Church.

For ALL Deacons
(active, inactive & emeritus)
Plan to attend this breakfast and an opportunity to visit with Vince about his vision for FBC. RSVP to Becky at 655-4101 or powers@fbsanangelotx.org

First Baptist Church is a community of believers with a vision for making and equipping disciples of Jesus Christ for effective ministry in their neighborhoods, in San Angelo, and around the world.
Words of Encouragement

Growth up in a coach’s home and playing sports most of my life, my ministry philosophy naturally parallels with lessons learned on the field or court. Success in sport stems from both teamwork and hard work. I have found ministry to be very much the same. Just as teamwork is vital on the field or court, relationships are equally as vital in ministry. Thus, I focus heavily on relationships as the foundation for all ministry. Jesus lays this out for us in Matthew 22 in how he answered the question “What is the greatest commandment?”. He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.” I believe the local church to be at the center of this command through its demonstration of loving God through loving the community it is in. Because of the brokenness of our world it takes hard work to be the hands and feet of Jesus showing love often in hard places and times.

I believe my role as a minister to be based off the biblical description found in Ephesians 4. That is to train and equip the saints for the work of the Kingdom. I believe in coming along side church people and helping them to find their calling and how it works within the mission of the church; “make disciples of all nations.” I rely on the power of the Holy Spirit heavily for my life and ministry.

First Baptist San Angelo has a long history of ministering locally, state wide, nationally, and around the world. I am excited for the opportunity to roll up our sleeves together and to lead in leveraging First Baptist in its rich heritage of fulfilling the Great Commission. We have enjoyed these last two and half years and look forward to what God has for First Baptist and our family!

Vince

A Note from Bill

The following letter was received by the Personnel Committee:

This is my notice of intent to retire from First Baptist Church of San Angelo. I am willing to stay on through April or sometime in between. With all my surgeries over the last 2 years, my body has not fully healed to where I can do my job as it needs to be done. So, after 31 years of faithful service, I feel I must do what is right by the church and myself.

I have enjoyed my time here and will always remember it fondly. I have made a lot of friends here and will keep it in my heart always. The church is the people here, not a building,

I will be staying in San Angelo and will help in any way I can in the future.

Sincerely,
Rocky Stone

The Personnel Committee will plan a reception once Rocky’s actual retirement date is set, so that we can thank him for his many years of dedicated service to FBC.

Bill

Eare

The Personnel Committee would like to announce a Farewell Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall for Chuck following the morning service on March 17. This gives us the opportunity to express our appreciation for his exceptional service as interim pastor for FBC these last few months. The meal is at no cost and no reservations are required. Please join us by attending and offering your thanks in person and/or by bringing a card. A signup sheet will be passed in Sunday School for those who would like to volunteer to bring a dessert. We have been blessed by Chuck and Connie’s presence and want to bless them in return!

Vince

Spring Break Schedule

Students will be out of school the week of March 11-15 so we also take a break from some activities that week.

Tuesday, March 12 ~ No Free 8th

Wednesday, March 13 ~ No Wednesday Evening Activities

The church office will be open regular hours.

Protect My Ministry

Child Safety Training for Abuse Prevention

It is that time again. As per our Child Protection Policy, our volunteers/workers are required to retrain every 2 years. Since we have gone to a digital format for this training, be on the lookout for a link which should go out early this month.

If you have an interest in working with any minors (from nursery to youth) you MUST go through a background check and Child Protection training. If you have not done so, please contact Melodie or Vince in the church office.
What a fun weekend! I believe that all 24 men and young men who participated enjoyed themselves.

I want to thank all of the men that came out to spend time with some of our youth! I want to specifically thank Craig Terrell for opening up their ranch, Carson Cummings for being our range director, and Brian Meeks for making some awesome cobbler! Be on the lookout for the next “Man Day.” We have already had many requests from both youth and adults!

Vince

Mary Helen

FBC Spotlight

Cindy Byrd

Cindy Byrd and her husband, Scott, are long time members of FBC. They are the parents of twin daughters, Shelby and Skylar, and the proud grandparents of Rhylan, Autumn, Jaxson, and Blakely.

In addition to teaching at Central High School, Cindy has served as a teacher in the Preschool and Children’s Ministry at FBC for thirteen years. Cindy shares the love of Christ each week in a fun and creative way with our Pre-K class (3-5 year-olds). She is loved by her kids and their parents, and it is obvious that she has a gift for working with our children.

We are thankful for Cindy and her heart for teaching in the Preschool and Children’s Ministry at FBC.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 10...
Change your clocks before going to bed on Saturday, March 9!

WITH SYMPATHY
We express our deepest sympathy to those who lost loved ones last month:

CT & Wilma Aly in the death of their niece, Lynda Lehman
Family and friends of Frances Beck.
Melvin & Sandra Crotwell in the death of his sister-in-law, Mary Crotwell.
Robert & Ferrell Dillard in the death of Lola DeVaney.
Family & friends of Bud Evans
Mary Gatlin in the death of her husband, Tommy.
William and Belinda Gatlin in the death of his father; Joanna and Mitchell in the death of their grandfather, Tommy Gatlin.
Bill Spraggins in the death of his brother-in-law, Tommy Gatlin.
Billy & Sharon Hollis in the death of her brother-in-law, Wendell Blalack.
June Hopper in the death of her brother-in-law.
Melissa Gill in the death of her aunt and Brandy and Aaron in the death of their great-aunt, Laura Jennings.
Ray Perkins in the death of his wife, Lesalea.
Mel & Martha Register in the death of his uncle, Darwin Patty.
Larry & Marcelle Skillingberg in the death of her sister.
Christine Strange in the death of her brother.
Gary & Joanna Sturgill in the death of her brother, Tommy Adcock.
Family & friends of Ruth Wiman.

The There{4} Conference that a group of 10 of us recently attended was a much needed spiritual “pick me up”. All weekend we were engrossed in Biblical truths pointing to our WORTH through Jesus. One speaker quoted “Where the world sees waste, the Father sees Worth”. We experienced worship along with 1,500 other high school girls and leaders. Our group of girls and adult leaders all walked away with a fresh perspective on our value in Christ and the responsibility we have to live out that value confidently knowing we are loved and chosen by the Creator God. What an important message for all people, but especially young maturing women.

Thank you, FBC for making this trip possible! I am confident that this conference will be a spiritual marker in the lives of these young ladies.

The There{4} Conference
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

March 1
No FBC Birthdays

March 2
Maribel Delgado
Landon Gray
Maggie Kershner

March 3
June Hopper
Emilee Ponder

March 4
Blaine Palmer

March 5
Lois Droegemeier
Joyce Elder
Melvin Jennings
Bryan Ponder

March 6
No FBC Birthdays

March 7
Camrion Ferguson
Alma Valdez

March 8
Lance Templin

March 9
Jericho Arellano

March 10
No FBC Birthdays

March 11
Tennis Fillip

March 12
Annabelle Valdez
Kenny Wright

March 13
Karen Baucum
Bob Halbert
Ava Marburger

March 14
Ron Powers
Donna Stone
Belinda Wright

March 15
Brad Haralson

March 16
Chance Barnett
Donald Dunn
Gretta Hill
Roy Holland
Sharon Matthews

March 17
Barbara Boinott
Vanessa Chappa
April Deardorff
Brett Nikolauk

March 18
Maggie Pepper

March 19
No FBC Birthdays

March 20
J.C. Fox
Jill Lovett
Chapo Valdez

March 21
Carol Atkins
Jaxson Jenkins
Glenda Willis

March 22
Linda Byrd

March 23
No FBC Birthdays

March 24
Brandy West

March 25
Jessica Currie
Margaret Davis
Zachary Knappe
Doyle Riddle

March 26
Daughty Dunlap

March 27
Cristina Martinez
John Sullivan
Rick Williams

March 28
Michael Bitner
Marcella Moore
Bob Parry
Ray Perkins

March 29
No FBC Birthdays

March 30
Lynn Morrison
Bob Williams

March 31
Linda Bratcher
Billie Halbert

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of February 25, 2019
February Budget Needs $110,623.32
February Budget Gifts $89,802.42
YTD Budget Needs $221,246.64
YTD Tithes & Offerings $165,351.55
2019 Budget $1,438,103.00

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

February 3
FBC Sunday School
Enrollment
Attendance

Baptist Retirement Center
High Rise Class

GRAND TOTAL

February 10
FBC Sunday School
Enrollment
Attendance

Baptist Retirement Center
High Rise Class

GRAND TOTAL

February 17
FBC Sunday School
Enrollment
Attendance

Baptist Retirement Center
High Rise Class

GRAND TOTAL

February 24
FBC Sunday School
Enrollment
Attendance

Baptist Retirement Center
High Rise Class

GRAND TOTAL

Thank you for your continued generous support of House of Faith through the Shook Funds, monthly donations, leadership at Ft. Concho Backyard Bible Club, your prayers and friendships.

Because of you and other donors, we are able to take Jesus to 1,300 families every year through House of Faith and always at no cost to the families. Praise God!

Darlene Bratton

CONGRATULATIONS
We share our joy with...

Ann Alexander, who won and placed in several quilting categories in the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo Creative Arts competition.

Arlen & Dolores White on the birth of their great-grandson, Axel White, on February 14 and as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 21.
## MARCH 2019

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<td>Deacon Breakfast, 8AM, CLC Meet &amp; Greet with Pastor Candidate 1-3PM, CLC</td>
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<td>New &amp; Interested Members Class, 9AM, HR Church Vote for Pastor Candidate Nominating Committee, 5:30PM, FP Women on Mission, 10AM, BRC Threads of Blessing, 9AM, FP Ladies’ Trip to Odessa, depart 9AM from FP lot REACH Youth Lock-In, 6PM, CLC</td>
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<td>Properties Committee, 5:30PM, FP Threads of Blessing, 9AM, FP No Wednesday activities No Wednesday activities</td>
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<td>Gartman Farewell Lunch, 11:45AM, FH No evening service at BRC Fun Fellowship Finance Committee 5:15PM, FP Threads of Blessing, 9AM, FP</td>
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<td>Missions/Evangelism Committee, 6:00PM, BRC Personnel Committee Meeting, 5:15PM, CLC Homebound Lunch 11:45AM, FP Deacon Council, 5:15PM, W203</td>
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### Building/Room Abbreviations

- BRC - Baptist Retirement Community
- CLC - Christian Life Center
- FH - Fellowship Hall
- FP - First Place
- HR - Hospitality Room
- Sanc - Sanctuary

### Wednesday Night

#### Mid-Week Meal

- **March 6**: Chicken Pot Pie Redskin Potatoes Pasta Salad Tossed Salad
- **March 13**: Spring Break No Mid-Week Meal or evening activities
- **March 20**: Hamburger Steak Redskin Potatoes Pinto Beans Tossed Salad
- **March 27**: Youth Fundraiser Dinner Menu TBA

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I have an exciting resource to share with you! As of January 2019, FBC San Angelo became a partnering church with the Concho Valley Biblical Counseling Center (CVBCC). Let me explain what this means and why it’s exciting for our church.

What is the CVBCC? The Concho Valley Biblical Counseling Center is a non-profit counseling facility made up of 6 certified counselors with extensive training. Our services include counseling for children, teens, and adults in the following areas: marriage, depression, grief, anxiety, care giving, divorce, suicide, cutting, and more. We exist to help our clients find biblical solutions to everyday problems.

What does our church being a partner mean for FBC members? Typically, one-hour counseling sessions are $60. However, because FBC has chosen to partner with the CVBCC, our church members can receive counseling services for half the price. That’s $30 per session.

Pain expressed is pain relieved! The hurting and broken-hearted need someone to share their deepest pains with. If someone at FBC shares with you that they are struggling and you feel they may need support outside of what you’re able to provide, please point them towards the CVBCC. Our goal is to be an extension of the local church and a resource for ministers and lay leaders as they serve their church families.

To initiate counseling services clients simply complete an intake form through our online website. My business cards and brochures with the center’s contact information and web address are available in your Sunday School Departments and in the church office. This is a resource we want our members to know is available. Individuals may also contact me for more information.

Thank you so much for helping me spread the word. It’s been such a privilege to watch the Lord use the CVBCC this past year and I’m thrilled that our church is now a part of this growing ministry in the Concho Valley.

Mary Helen Smith, MA: CVBCC Biblical Counselor
850.703.0059 | Maryhelen.cvbcc@gmail.com

CLARION CALL 4 JESUS CHRIST
Saturday, May 4, 6:00-10:00pm
San Angelo Stadium

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!
Psalm 133

Calling all local believers to fill San Angelo Stadium for a time of fellowship through the ministry of songs, prayers (corporate and small groups), sharing the Word of Christ about God’s love, and revealing the reality of having a Christ-like journey. More details will be coming soon from our Missions/Evangelism Committee.

Salvation Army Closing
Presents Ministry Opportunities

As many of you may know the Salvation Army is closing for an extended period of time due to several different factors. With its closing, there is uncertainty for all of those that utilize that resource as well as uncertainty of how this will affect ministry and our church as a whole.

We want to be aware of the possibility of more foot traffic around our church and want to take precautions for safety of those attending worship services and Bible study. But just as important, we want to be discerning of ministry opportunities!

There are meetings in the near future of how different churches and organizations can stand in the gap. We hope each of you will be on the lookout for different opportunities as they present themselves individually, as well as collectively.
In early 2015, a group of ladies from First Baptist who enjoy sewing began meeting together once a week to sew quilts for the homeless through Rust Street Ministries. They became known as the Mission Sewing Group. A couple of years ago, they changed their name to Threads of Blessing as they wanted each of their projects to be a blessing to the recipient. The group has worked on various projects over the last 4 years including quilts for the homeless, quilts for the student bed program at Rust Street Ministries, pillowcase dresses for mission trips, slipcovers for nap pads, and Quilts of Valor for FBC members who are veterans. They have also taught sewing classes to a group of Venezuelans learning to be self-sufficient and to a group of FBC youth girls. Several members of Threads of Blessing are also involved in teaching sewing to students involved in the Free 8th After School Program. Current projects include Quilts of Valor for wounded warriors who attend a retreat at Great House Retreat Center in Junction, quilts for the student bed program at Rust Street, and baby quilts for the Pregnancy Help Center. Some quilts are ‘tied’ quilts and some are quilted on the long arm quilting machine at the Stephens Library downtown.

If you would like to be a part of this group, please talk to Carolee Campbell or Sandra Nichols. You may call the church office for their contact information.

**A New Mission Opportunity**

We are no longer handing out sack lunches at the bus station due to bus arrival inconsistencies. Since October we have been giving these sacks to those who come to Neighbors Café on Fridays. This provides food for the weekend to those who come to the café.

This project came about too late for the 2019 budget, but Robert Dillard is accepting donations. Needed items are bottled water, peanut butter crackers, Vienna sausage, and pudding cups. You may also make a donation of money to purchase the items.

Thank you to those who have already helped with this ministry to the community.

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Members of Threads of Blessing are (from left to right) Diane Peacocks, Denise Wamer, Carolee Campbell, Helen Hewell, Sandra Nichols, Linda Hale, and Murf Dufresne. Members not pictured are Ferrell Dillard, Lynda Parry and Judy Smith.
“Hired to Be Fired!” That’s what I said last Sunday. The more I think about it, that’s exactly where I am today. I was called to be the Interim Pastor here at First Baptist in September, and now my time of service is coming to a close as a potential Pastor comes this week in view of a call to lead this great church into the future. I know you, as a congregation, are really excited about that, as am I.

I believe the process you have followed in this search is a great testimony to how a Baptist Church operates healthily in the search for a new Pastor. The Holy Spirit has definitely been at work in the committee, in the church, in the staff, and in the heart and mind of this potential pastor of FBC. We can praise God for how smoothly the process has gone, because not all churches have this experience.

For Connie and me, this has been a wonderful time of building relationships, celebrating some victories, and mourning some losses. The Lord has allowed us to build some long-term friendships and relationships. He also allowed the building of a rapport with this great staff. Bill and Vince have done an outstanding job of “keeping the fires burning” in the absence of a day-by-day pastor. We could not have done all we have done without the support staff, our deacons, committees, and various speakers on Wednesday evenings. All have played a part.

Many of you may not know that this was my first Interim Pastorate. I have been in several churches as the Interim Youth Minister, and my ministry is full of times where a pastor left and I served the church during the interim time as a Staff Coordinator, a Minister of Education as well as being the Student Minister. This, though, has been a different experience altogether.

We have experienced genuine worship in our services and I am so pleased with how the church has ministered on Sunday evenings at the Baptist Memorial Center. I am glad about all the mission activities that have continued, as you have sought to minister people in this community.

Thank you for caring for us, for welcoming us into the family, and for supporting the church in the absence of a full time pastor. It is a great tribute to all of you. I wish FBC God’s best in the coming days. I will look forward to reports of progress as you reach people for Christ and this church, teach people the Bible, minister to people who need help, and move forward into the future God has planned for you.

We love you and appreciate you.

Chuck & Connie Gartman