

God's hand of creation is always amazing! Our family has always enjoyed vacationing, not in "man-made" destinations like theme parks, but in places like mountains, valleys, and beaches featuring "God-made" peaks, formations, and sunsets.

We've just experienced another creation of God's hand with the birth of grandbaby #1 -- what a marvel! Of course, this item of God's creation is perfect in every way! And, of course, we are not a bit partial! Thanks for all your prayers for little Addison Joy and her family.

But the most wonderful part of God's creation is His re-creation! It's so amazing how God can take a sinner's heart & life and "recreate" it by His grace and Jesus' completed work on our behalf. He takes a rebellious life and heart of stone and totally recreates us with a yielded life, a soft heart, and ears to hear His voice and respond to Him. What a wonder!

Do you need God's re-creation? He can forgive your sin and change you -- only He can. Believer, don't stop letting God re-create you. Only He can change you into the person you were created to be. What is required is our cooperation. Make "Yes, Lord" your automatic response to Him.

One of our 2 search committees is bringing Kaitlyn Calhoon to FBCA to consider as our Director of Children & Adult Education. Kaitlyn is a New Mexico native, a graduate of Abilene Christian University, and begins her seminary work in a few weeks at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. She loves theology and ministry, especially ministry to children and their families. Kaitlyn will be presenting her testimony during the morning worship on July 9 and will be available to meet, greet, and visit with you that Sunday morning. Please continue in prayer for God's will and be present on July 9th!

Please continue in prayer for our Assoc. Pastor of Worship & Admin Search Committee as they diligently search for God's person for us.

Pastor Wade



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## **UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS**

| • July 5 | WOW—Wacky Watermelon   |
|----------|--|
| • July 9 | Deacon's Meeting<br>8:00am   |
| • July 9 | Presentation of Children's Director/<br>Adult Edu. Candidate Kaitlyn Calhoon |
| 1        | Vauth Came   |

- July 10-14 Youth Camp
  July 12 WOW—Parkway Park
  July 17-21 VBS! *Twists & Turns*July 19 No Evening Activities (VBS Week)
- July 26 WOW—Wacky Water War

## FINANCIAL UPDATE: (6/29/2023)

| Current Checkbook Bal         | \$118,871.91 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| -Designated Funds Bal.        | \$14,547.27  |
| -Designated Repair Funds Bal. | \$25,054.45  |
| =Total Available Funds        | \$79,270.19  |
| 2023 Total Giving Received    | \$156,290.93 |
| 2023 Total Giving Needed      | \$173,043.26 |



In Philippians 2:3-4

There is a very simple but hard message in these two verses. Be humble in serving others, and don't just look out for yourself.

The beauty of these verses is that, on one hand, it says to humble yourself and serve others, not for your glory but the glory of God. When we serve others, we say that they are more important than our own gratitude and status. It is like when a parent is willing to do something they don't like to do because the child enjoys it. This is a value that the world thinks is normal in a parent-child relationship but very strange in friendships and relationships with others.

In verse four, however, Paul writes, "do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but the interests of others." This is totally wild! People will be quick to point out that this is a contradiction. How can we look after ourselves and others and still be humble? Paul says here that we need to love others like we do ourselves, but also that if we are burned out, we cannot serve people effectively. That is why he says "merely," this is powerful, because in order to serve and be humble like Jesus, we must look after ourselves both physically and spiritually. We have to remember that Jesus himself became a man, humbling himself to the point of death. We must humble ourselves as we serve, but we cannot let ourselves become empty of the joy and love that comes when we serve as Christ serves us.

—TJ Arango, Associate Pastor of Students

