



Day Camp

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

Children and children-at-heart joined in an All-Paisano Day Camp as a memorial to long-time Day Camp Director Charlie Elliott on Tuesday afternoon during the 2018 general encampment.

Three-legged races, water relays, and ropin’ created a festive atmosphere as preschoolers, children, youth and adults licked sno-cones and showed off bright blue tongues. Day Camp and Paisano musicians led in singing old favorites and Charlie fun songs from “Do Lord” to “Little Cabin in the Woods.”

When asked if they had ever been part of Day Camp under Charlie Elliott, the majority of those between 6 and 60 nodded or rose to their feet. Paisano president Bill Collins shared all Charlie and his wife Becky had meant to him personally, to his family, and to the whole camp.

Charlie took over Paisano’s recreation activities in 1971, the same year that Texas Baptist Men Executive Director Bob Dixon began Paisano’s Day Camp program. Shortly thereafter, Charlie stepped in to lead Day Camp, eventually turning the leadership over to his son John. For nearly 50 years, Charlie made

a tremendous contribution to Paisano, successfully ministering to children, youth and families.

Dale Pond, former Midland Day Camp counselor and current Minister of Missions at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, spoke about Charlie’s ministry and influence and the role his wife Becky played. Dale announced the Charlie and Becky Elliott Day Camp Pavilion would be built at the Day Camp site. John Elliott, current Day Camp Director and Charlie and Becky’s son, responded on behalf of the family. Another former First Baptist Midland Day Camp counselor, Betsy Brown, led the dedicatory prayer. The event closed Charlie Elliott style as Barry Moak, another former day camp counselor, presided over the ever-popular critter races.

All who knew Charlie will miss his excitement, energy, care, concern, compassion and commitment to pouring himself into the lives of others. His “This Little Light of Mine” shone brightly at Paisano and continues to illuminate the grounds through those he influenced. With fingers and hearts pointed toward heaven, may the children of all ages he touched continue to let “This Little Light of Mine” shine at Paisano and across the world.



President’s Passage

Then the Lord said to him, “Go back to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.” Genesis 31:3

Each time I drive to Paisano, my eyes scan the horizon for that first glimpse of the Davis Mountains and Paisano Peak. One of the greatest things about coming back is that they don’t change. While everything else in life seems to be constantly changing, the mountains still look like they did when I was a child. Something about them and this place is reassuring. The reflection of God’s consistency in this part of His creation reminds us of His very nature, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8).

But change is a natural. God working in our lives through decisions we make creates variables. No two days are exactly alike. We never really know what the immediate, much less the distant, future holds. But we place our faith in the One who already is in the future and who promises to guide us onward.

We have experienced great change at Paisano this Spring with John Frost and his family’s transition to a new and exciting ministry in Oklahoma. God blessed us with their leadership for a season, and their stewardship will continue to “pay dividends” far into the future. We know that God will continue to guide and bless the Frost family just as He will continue to guide and bless our Paisano Family.

Looking forward to seeing the Family!
Bill and Phyllis Collins

Future Encampment Dates

July 21-26, 2019

July 26-31, 2020

July 25-30, 2021

July 24-29, 2022



Thank You, Baptist Memorials

Baptist Memorials Ministries will once again provide a nurse during the encampment.

This summer, Raquel Rappé will staff the infirmary. Not only is Raquel an RN, she instructs CPR, First Aid, and Certified Nursing Assistant classes. Prior to becoming a nurse, she taught in public elementary schools for almost 20 years. The nine-year Baptist Memorials nurse earned undergraduate degrees from Wayland Baptist University and Angelo State. Raquel's husband Brian has practiced general/family and emergency medicine for nearly 30 years.

The couple has "four wonderful children and five fabulous granddaughters" and serve in music ministry at Glen Meadows Baptist Church. They have also been part of a medical missions team to Peru and enjoy traveling together and meeting many wonderful people wherever they go.

Welcome to Paisano!



Raquel and Brian Rappé'

The Paisano Foundation

The sole purpose of the Paisano Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the IRS Code, is to provide financial support for Paisano Baptist Encampment so the camp can operate until the Savior returns. Contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation has no operational involvement in the Encampment, but Board policy is to donate ½ of annual earnings to the camp while reinvesting the other ½ in endowment. HighGround, formerly the Baptist Foundation, holds the funds.

Please consider leaving the Foundation a bequest in your will or making a current gift, but do not contribute to the Foundation what would otherwise be given to Paisano. Donations to the Encampment finance the annual operating budget. The Foundation funds additional resources such as infrastructure improvement, special needs and extraordinary incidents such as ice storm damage.

For further information about the Foundation, contact Rick Gray at (512) 482-0061.

Money Matters

Paisano is in good financial condition. During the first six months of the fiscal year, total income was 25.45% of budget, while total expenses were 31.62%. A condensed Income Statement is included in this newsletter.

In addition to several miles of roads, electrical connections, and water and sewer lines, the grounds contain 267 privately owned cabins, 15 dorms, 14 staff cabins, the superintendent's house, multiple classrooms, and infirmary, office, House of Prayer, tabernacle, gym, dining shed and kitchen,

campgrounds, etc. No wonder maintenance and personnel costs are high, and these are incurred throughout the year with an increase just prior to and during camp. Expenses for kitchen and program are budgeted at \$83,100. Paisano operates solely on contributions. Most income is received during or just after General Encampment in July. We must all do our part to support and sustain the ministry of this place we love so much.

If you have questions about Paisano finances, email bb.baldridge@gmail.com.

Recreation

Recreational Activities, under the direction of John Elliott, will be from 2:00-6:00p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Volleyball will be on Monday with sign-ups on Sunday. Basketball and 3K Run (foot or bicycle) on Wednesday and Dodgeball on Thursday. The REC Team will organize outside games for younger children from 3:00-4:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday.

Youth Notes

A new team will work with youth this summer. Veteran Day Camp counselor Eli Williams will lead worship. Eli, who hails from May, Texas, currently studies at Howard Payne University. He recently proposed to Brienna Sprinkle, who has grown up attending Paisano, and she said "yes." Allen Christopherson, Pastor of First Baptist Alpine, will share the Bible study. Allen has served churches in Kansas and Texas. He and his wife Becky have one son William who is on active duty in the Air Force.

International Representatives

Mark and Marina Sprinkle, along with their boys Matthew and Micah, live in Moscow. Mark teaches at an international American school with about 120 students. Although he only



teaches three courses at a time, these include 8th and 9th grade math, pre-algebra and algebra 1, and AP calculus. This past year he also taught a 7th grade class on John. In addition to Mark teaching and Marina being a full-time Mom, they support families with special-needs children and are helping start a new gathering. At Paisano, they will share about their family, life in Russia, and current conditions there.

Children's Church

Children's Church will be held in the Edwards Building Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. Girls and boys should be going into the 1st through 6th grades. Those who attend youth OR preschool activities in the morning are not eligible for children's activities in the evening. Sunday through Tuesday, the boys and girls will rehearse to sing during the family service in the tabernacle on Wednesday evening. Kat Mills will again direct the Children's Choir, and Holly Hillman Smith will be responsible for Children's Church activities. Encampment preachers, the Bible teacher and Paisano president will bring Bible lessons. Individuals or families are needed to assist from 7:30 p.m. until after worship Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. Six persons are needed each evening, and volunteers may serve more than once. A family or several families could take a night. For details or to volunteer, contact Holly Hillman Smith at hillmansmith@gmail.com.

	Budget	Year to Date	Percent
	9/1/18 -	9/1/18 -	
	8/31/19	2/28/19	
Income:			
Contributions	387,240	106,095	27%
Other Income	<u>38,750</u>	<u>2,323</u>	6%
Total Income	\$425,990	\$108,418	25%
Expenses:			
Administration	38,350	14,218	37%
Camps	1,000		0%
Kitchen	66,000		0%
Program	17,100		0%
Maintenance	59,000	13,159	22%
Personnel	<u>244,540</u>	<u>107,327</u>	44%
Total Expenses	\$425,990	\$134,704	32%

PAISANO PASTORS



From left to right:
Phil and Mary Christopher; Andrew, Mary Catherine, and Natalie Abrameit; Caroline and Jeremy Christopher

Phil Christopher, pastor of First Baptist Abilene for 24 years, grew up in San Antonio and holds a BA from Baylor, an MDiv from Southern Seminary, and a DMin from Brite Divinity School at TCU. He has taught at Hardin-Simmons and been extensively involved in the Abilene community. In 2014, he received the lifetime United Way Volunteer Service Award. His book, *Parables of the Diamond*, offers devotions from baseball.

Phil writes, "I am so excited about being a part of the Paisano experience. I have known about this miracle near Marfa for years through church members and Katy Stokes' history. If a preacher can have a bucket list Paisano is on mine.

"I am humbled by the pastors who have gone before me. One of my heroes, George Truett, preached 21 times and said 'Cowboys

were unspoiled... they are as sincere as sunlight.' First Abilene pastors Millard Jenkins and James Flamming also preached at the encampment.

"My other connection comes unexpectedly. When a sophomore at Baylor, I lived in Kokernot dormitory. I'm grateful for this sacred place his family helped establish. Mr. Kokernot was a man of few words but his generosity and vision live on."

Phil's wife Mary holds a PhD from Texas Tech and serves as an education professor at Hardin-Simmons. The couple has two children. Jeremy and his wife Caroline live in Nashville while Natalie and her husband Andrew Abrameit live in Victoria. Phil says, "Our grandchild Mary Catherine Abrameit reminds us of why we were parents in the first place."



Todd Still, Dean of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary, writes from a sabbatical as Barclay Fellow at the University of Glasgow where he earned his doctorate.

"Having been privileged and blessed to have led adult Bible studies at Paisano on six different occasions, I am looking very much forward this year to preaching during morning and evening worship services and am most grateful to President Collins for the invitation to do so. The five sermons that I will share will be drawn from letters that Paul wrote. My hope is

that the LORD will use these messages in our lives to encourage and challenge us to be more like the One who loved us and gave Himself for us."

The Waco Midway High School and Baylor graduate was born in Wichita Falls and has extensive ministry and pastoral experience. His wife Carolyn continues as a founding administrator/teacher at Live Oak Classical School. The couple has two sons. Samuel graduated from Baylor in 2018 and currently studies at Truett Seminary while Andrew is a Baylor sophomore.



From left to right:
Samuel, Andrew, Carolyn and Todd Still



During family ministry time, Kelly Barnett will examine the life of the apostle Peter as an example of spiritual growth and emotional health.

A licensed marriage and family therapist/supervisor, Dr. Barnett holds five degrees, has taught on the college level and is a retired

Family Hour

United States Army chaplain (Colonel). While pastoring First Baptist Fort Davis in 1990, the Mississippi native attended his first encampment. Since 2011, he has served as pastor of The Worship Place in Sun City. Kelly and his wife Coletti have two children and four grandchildren.

Properties: Keep on Keeping on

We all appreciate the improvements and hard work that John Frost and the staff have accomplished over the past several years. We will miss John and his family, but Bryan Ritchie and Sandra and David "Coach" Whiting will ably carry on the work. Retired missionaries Dib and Pam Hampton have joined us within the last year. We are thrilled and blessed to have Bryan to step into the role of Interim Superintendent of Grounds and look forward to preparing for the 2019 Encampment.



No cabins are available for General Encampment, but RV sites are \$95 for the week. Oak Grove and Cottonwood have new electrical work and plumbing. Anyone who wishes to rent the same RV spot as in 2018 must commit and PAY by May 15. For reservations, contact Sandra Whiting 214-769-6426 or gdwhiting@bigbend.net

Museum Musings

“... Each generation tells of your faithfulness to the next.” Isaiah 38:19 (NLT) Reflect this summer on God’s faithfulness in our lives and in the life of Paisano. How many generations of your family have shared a love for the encampment and walked these holy grounds? Stop by the museum with your parents, grandparents, great grandparents, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives to share the story of when your family first came to Paisano.



Paisano Family Night Children’s Choir Led by Kat Mills

Program Highlights

Detailed program available in the camp office

Sunday, July 21

10:30 a.m. Informal Worship Led by Kelly Barnett (Tabernacle)

6:00 p.m. First Meal Served

7:00 p.m. Adult/Youth Choir Rehearsal (nightly)

7:45 p.m. Children’s Activities (nightly except Wednesday)

8:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service

Tuesday Afternoon, July 25, 2-4 p.m.

All-Camp Day Camp 2-3 p.m.

(Day Camp Area)

Museum Open 3-4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 26

8:00 p.m. All-Paisano Family Worship with Children’s Choir (nursery provided)

Thursday, July 27

8:00 p.m. Communion Service

Friday, July 28

11:00 a.m. Memorial Service and Morning Worship

Lunch Last Meal Served



TEACHING GOD’S WORD

The Paisano family looks forward to Duane Brooks’ return, this summer to teach Bible study after preaching from 2009 -2011. Dr. Brooks celebrated 21 years of ministry as pastor of Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston in May 2018.

Born in Amarillo into an Air Force family, Duane spent his early years across the world, including Alaska during the great Anchorage earthquake.

At age seven, his family moved to Germany for a four-year tour and returned again for four more after a short time in Washington. He graduated from high school in Great Falls, Montana, where Highland Baptist Church licensed him to preach at age 16 and ordained him at age 18. He twice graduated from Baylor (BA 1985; PhD 1991) and once from Southwestern Seminary (MDiv 1987).

Duane and Melanie Jo Freeman married in 1984. Their oldest son Graham and his wife Abigail reside in Houston. Their son Chase and his wife Brooke live in Little Rock. Daughter Casey just completed her freshman year at Baylor.



From left to right: Casey, Duane, Chase, Brooke (yes, that’s her name!), Melanie, Graham, and Abigail Brooks

Music and Family Worship Shout for Joy

“Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord comforts His people...” Isaiah 49:13

This verse makes me think of that special place in the Davis Mountains called Paisano. Worship is always thrilling and wonderful, and I’m excited to join you again for an awesome week of praise!

We have a great team of instrumentalists—Nancy Russell at the piano and Jonathan Pinto on the organ. Solos, ensembles, and other special music always bless us. If you’re interested in sharing your gifts, contact me at (702) 748-1789 or jrcleaveland@yahoo.com.

YOU are invited! Paisano Choir is an informal gathering of youth and adults who join to sing praise. Even if you’ve never participated, meet in the Tabernacle at 7 p.m. to prepare great choral music for the evening service. BTW—choir members can go to the head of the supper line so you have time to enjoy the meal before rehearsal. Let’s fill the loft!

Lots of special things are planned for worship, including Communion celebration on Thursday night, and a meaningful memorial remembrance on Friday morning.

I look forward to worshipping with you again this July!

Jim Cleaveland

Gifts Galore

As we assemble the gift shop inventory, we have exciting designs and other great additions planned. If you have items to contribute, bring them and we will put them in the store. Remember, 100% of all proceeds go back to Paisano. Contact us at Krista and Chris Powell, kpowellfnp@gmail.com to share your questions or ideas. See you soon!

Fuzzy Friends

With the exception of necessary service animals, Paisano discourages individuals from bringing pets to the encampment. Under the Paisano Policies adopted in 2014, pets must be under physical control while on the grounds and should only be in personally owned cabins. They should not be brought into Paisano-owned facilities such as the dining shed, tabernacle, nursery, museum, gymnasium, etc. Thank you for helping us by adhering to our Board-adopted policies.



RA Outdoor Retreat*

Boys Completing Grades 1-6, Dads & Leaders
July 11-13, \$60

Program: Camping, survival skills, and fun
Worship: Dale Pond, Green Acres Baptist, Tyler

*Bring your own tent

Contact: John Elliott jelliott@fbc-midland.org

Paisano Girls Retreat 2019

June 11-13, \$85

Contact: Karen McGuire
432-386-3071