



Ritchie's Ramblings

Each new year means camp is on the horizon, and the Paisano staff couldn't be more ready. Despite being extremely dry, the grounds look better than ever. I can't wait for everyone to see the new Elliott Pavilion. What a blessing to work on the structure named for a man like Charlie Elliott.

You'll also notice a new barn/firehouse behind the superintendent's home. My family and I are grateful to house our livestock so close instead of traveling back and forth to our ranch.

After the fantastic interest in the two new cabins last year, we built two more that will be ready by camp. We're grateful to the Paisano Foundation for giving us the opportunity to help Paisano grow. Without their support, we couldn't offer these at such affordable prices.

With these new buildings and continuous maintenance, the staff has stayed busy. As usual, we have dealt with water leaks, upgrades, and sewer issues. Our more than occasional fallen trees and limbs remain a constant chore with little rain and lots of wind. We have also maintained more than 30 Paisano owned buildings. Those include P23 where Pam and Dib Hampton reside which was in desperate need of an update, so we completely renovated the kitchen.

These guys can really do just about anything. I couldn't be prouder of them and the work they have done. We look forward to seeing everyone in July and can't wait to show off what the staff has done again this year.

Bryan Ritchie, Superintendent

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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." Gen. 31:3

Although Paisano's beautiful landscape remains constant, each year the Paisano Family changes. New friends join us for the first time, and babies come into the world like the Creed's grandson during last summer's encampment. Sadly, others go before us into the presence of the Lord.

Each Friday morning during camp, we pause to remember those who have found eternal rest. This year, among others, the Lord has called home Levi Price, a great Texas Baptist statesman and our former president. Only God knows all that Levi did throughout his life to make Paisano a place we cherish. A number of Paisano faithful travelled to Waco for the memorial service. Prayers will continue for Lu and the family as we take time during the week to remember Levi and his work.

After nearly five years of dreaming, planning, and preparing, the Charlie and Becky Elliott Day Camp Pavilion is a reality. After the 2024 encampment, the project committee held weekly meetings online. By and through the providence of the Lord, they located and secured a contractor for the facility. While things don't usually happen that quickly, contracts were signed, site work and construction began, and the facility was completed before Christmas. We look forward to the dedication of the Charlie and Becky Elliott Pavilion on Monday afternoon with the goal of leading children in their life-long journeys with Jesus.

Looking forward to seeing the Family gather July 20-25!
Bill and Phyllis Collins





Missionary Moments

International speakers Scott and Nan are excited to meet the Paisano family this summer! Since 2013, the two have been on short-term trips to India, Indonesia, Haiti, and Jordan. Most were evangelistic in character, with some focusing on training local believers. While in a 25-year IT career, Scott was also a pastor, church leader, and church-planter. He now serves as a mission pastor, mobilizing and training his church and sister churches to help reach unreached peoples.

Scott and Nan work closely with in-country missionaries supported by their church and two different missions agencies and virtually disciple believers in China and India. They are passionate about inspiring lay Christians to work with unreached peoples through short-term missions and by engaging with those who have moved into their US communities.

In the morning sessions, Scott and Nan will seek to equip and encourage a missional approach to everyday life.

Money Matters

We are truly thankful for the faithful giving of the Paisano family, especially this past year. Your gifts allow us to continue doing Paisano the way we do.

Paisano remains in a strong financial position with a cash balance of over \$196,000. For the year ended August 31, 2024, revenue exceeded expenses, and giving was up by \$137,000 with expenses down \$50,000. As a result, the camp went from an operating loss of \$26,000 in FY 2023 to an operating gain of \$155,000 in FY 2024.

As some may know, Sandra and Coach Whiting will shortly wind down their Paisano duties. Angela Becker of Palmetto Ventures in Midland will step in as financial assistant. Having grown up in Valentine, Angela provides similar services to Bloys and is working with Sandra during the transition. Paisano has been blessed by Sandra and Coach and their many years of service. They have truly lived I Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

New Address for Donations

Palmetto Ventures LLC
C/O Angela Becker
6 Desta Drive Suite 2670
Midland, TX 79705

Paisano Foundation

The Paisano Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the IRS code, has only one purpose: to provide financial support for Paisano Baptist Assembly and ensure its long-term stability and viability. The Foundation has no operational involvement in the encampment, but the Foundation Board's policy is to donate half of the annual earnings to the encampment to address specific needs while reinvesting the other half. High Ground Advisors holds the funds which enable improvements to infrastructure such as roads and sewer and meets extraordinary needs like pre-funding Elliott Pavilion and new cabin construction or helping cover major shortfalls during COVID when the Foundation's gift allowed Paisano to make payroll and pay expenses.

Consider leaving the Foundation a bequest or making a current gift, but please don't contribute what you would otherwise give to the budget. The Foundation's goal is to significantly increase the endowment to meet infrastructure needs and provide for emergencies well into the future. Contributions are tax deductible. For further information, contact Rick Gray at 512-482-0061.

Family Time: Do You See Me?

Ryan Fitch, couples counselor for the Central Texas Veteran's Health Care System in Temple, will lead Family Time on the topic, "Do You See Me?"

Ryan notes that "we each have a need and desire for both physical and emotional safety which we were created to find through relationships." He adds that "during our time together, we will take a closer look at our desire and need for connection in our most important relationships." He hopes to address questions like "What does it mean to be seen, and how do we reach for others?"

Ryan, a licensed LMFT and LPC, graduated from UT Arlington in psychology before enlisting in the Navy. He earned his master's in counseling from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor with an emphasis in marriage and family. Married nine years to Erin, whom he met through a local church while stationed in South Texas, the couple has three children: Luke (6), Logan (4), and Lacie (1). They are members of Taylor's Valley Baptist Church in Temple.



Fuzzy Friends

With the exception of necessary service animals, Paisano discourages individuals from bringing pets to the encampment. Under 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.



PAISANO PASTORS...The return of the Matts

Matt Homeyer, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, is excited to preach at Paisano again this summer with his friend Matt Snowden!

A life-long Texan, Matt grew up in First Baptist, Kenedy. He earned three degrees from Baylor--a BA in 2003, an MDiv in 2007 and a DMin in 2016 from Truett Seminary. Following seminary, he pastored Fellowship Baptist Church in Marble Falls and later was Assistant Dean of External Affairs and Director of the Truett Seminary Church Network.

Matt met his wife Kelley Graf at Baylor where she earned both her BS and MS degrees in speech pathology. The two have been married 20 years and are the proud parents of 16-year-old Brooks and 13-year-old Addison. Matt claims hunting and fishing as his hobbies, but he mostly reads, attends Brooks' and Addison's various sports and school activities, and creates podcasts you'll want to be sure and view, especially "Tacos al Pastor."



Matt Snowden and the entire family can't wait to return to Paisano. Matt still enjoys teaching as an adjunct at Truett Seminary and pastoring First Baptist Church Waco. As Levi Price's pastor, he had the honor of conducting Levi's memorial service.

Meredith loves her job educating first graders at St. Paul's, working with youth Sunday School, and being involved in missions. Molly Katherine is finishing her freshman year at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and serves as children's ministry intern at FBC. Wes played three varsity sports his senior year at Live Oak (football, basketball, baseball) and is excited to become a Baylor Bear in August as a business major in the Business Scholars Program.

This year's Snowden Family photo celebrates Live Oak's State Runner-Up basketball finish and Wes' selection to the all-tournament team. Fly High, Falcons!



Afternoon Activities

Sign-Up Posters will be in the Gym on Monday afternoon.

Recreation will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00 – 6:00.

Tuesday...Volleyball Tournament (All Ages)
(At least one female per team)

Wednesday...3v3 Basketball Tournament
(All Ages), Foot and Bicycle Races (All Ages)

Thursday...Dodgeball Tournament
(*Multigenerational*), Disc Golf Tournament
(All Ages)

Stupendous Preschool, Children, and Youth

Elsie Morales and her staff will once again be responsible for all preschoolers.

Holly Hillman Smith will lead Children's Church. Boys and girls should arrive at the Edwards Building not earlier than 7:15 pm. The children's choir will rehearse during that time with Rachel Lane Sunday –Tuesday. PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, or GUARDIANS should accompany children the first night for registration.

John Elliott will manage recreation and direct day camp for children going into 1st through 6th grades complete with critter races, fun songs, Bible stories and sno cones. Staff will include those who have worked with John at Paisano over the last 15 years. PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, or GUARDIANS must accompany children the first day for registration.

A fantastic team from Northwestern State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BSU) will lead the youth.



Gifts Alive in '25

Scott and Monica Gill will operate the gift shop again in '25 in memory of Don and AnnaLee Bennett who are pictured in front of the previous "Bookstore." If you have items to contribute, bring them. Remember, 100% of all proceeds go to Paisano. Volunteers are also welcome, so plan to work a shift or two. It's fun. Questions? Contact Monica at maker.mon.g@gmail.com



TEACHING GOD'S WORD

Kathy and Brad Creed look forward to returning to Paisano for a week of fellowship and spiritual renewal. This year, Kathy plans to stay the entire week since there are no new grandbabies on the way. You'll recall that last year while looking at the Marfa lights, Kathy got the call that daughter Carrie Grace Stanley was headed to the hospital in Raleigh. Kathy caught the first flight out of Midland the next morning. Bobby Creed Stanley's birth will forever be a Paisano memory for the family.

The big news is that on July 1, Brad will retire after 10 years as Campbell University's fifth president. President Creed reports, "I can think of no better way to begin my retirement than spending a week at Paisano."

Dr. Creed's teaching sessions will be "Selections from the Psalms." He eagerly anticipates exploring key passages from this wonderful book of Scripture, and explains, "The Psalms have been the prayer book for the Jewish people and for the Church for centuries. The Psalms enable us to experience the presence and love of God through the joys and trials of our daily lives and give us fresh insight for living on our journey of faith."



Updated Tabernacle Technology

For those with a little trouble hearing, Paisano announces that all services held in the Mitchell Tabernacle will be broadcast live to cell phones using the AudioFetch app. The app allows you to use your cell phone+headphones or Bluetooth hearing aids to hear the service.

To use AudioFetch, download and install the app prior to coming to camp. You will NOT be able to download the app at Paisano due to lack of cell coverage. The AudioFetch App is available for both Apple and Google phone users. Just search in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store for AudioFetch.

Questions? While at camp see Danny Reeves in the sound booth at the back of the tabernacle or contact him beforehand at dannyreeves38@gmail.com or 281-450-5158.

Museum Musings

Each year's encampment brings us together in a special place where the joy of the Lord is powerfully felt and plainly displayed. God's gracious and unique gift of Paisano should be celebrated! So please join us in the museum as we reflect on the joy of the Lord in Paisano's praise and worship, fun and fellowship, and rest and renewal.



You keep coming back . . .
to Paisano!
Future General Encampments
July 20-25, 2025
July 19-24, 2026
July 18-23, 2027
July 16-21, 2028

Music and Family Worship

Back in the day, we sang a praise chorus with these words, "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before..." When we get to Paisano, every activity reinforces that feeling, and that includes worship as we gather each morning and evening. Filling the tabernacle with voices and instruments brings us closer to heaven. I can't wait for our time together in July!

As we have for 107 years, we welcome everyone to participate in the Camp Choir. We meet each afternoon at 5 pm to rehearse for evening services. We break for 6 pm supper—singers go to the front of the line. In worship at 7:30 pm, we offer leadership and share great choral songs with the Lord and the camp family.

Special emphases during the week will include Gospel Night on Tuesday, Family Night with the children's choir led by Rachel Lane on Wednesday, Communion on Thursday night, and Memorial remembrances on Friday morning. We will be blessed again with Russell Gunstream at the organ and Paul Bright at the piano.

If you wish to present a solo, duet, ensemble, etc. during the week, contact me before camp, if possible, at 702-748-1789 or jrcleaveland@yahoo.com.

I sure look forward to seeing you at Paisano. It will be sweeter than ever!

Jim Cleaveland