



### Ritchie's Ramblings

This season has brought change both at Paisano and in the Ritchie family as Tannin continues to thrive at Texas Tech, John and Ty stay busy raising animals and playing multiple school sports, and Micaela has joined the official Paisano staff taking on many of Sandra's responsibilities. As we move forward through a learning curve, God reminds us to "trust and adjust."

Our crew has been busy steadily working hard to keep camp running smoothly. We are thankful for Larmer Leftco, Brian Bourbon, and Dib Hampton for their dedication and many hours of work. A special shout out to Brian Gibson for stepping in to help fill Coach's role, and to Pam Hampton for always being willing to assist where needed. Micaela and Angela Becker have developed a pretty good system for tackling the mound of tasks Sandra passed along. Trust and adjust...

Several projects have been underway as we prepare for camp season. A new sprinkler system has been installed in the day camp area for the kids, and construction has begun on two new preacher cabins. We are also making upgrades to Millican Dorm, including plumbing improvements and a new AC and heating system. Trust and adjust...

Along with these projects, regular maintenance continues around the grounds with tree trimming, mistletoe removal, and the constant need for water and sewer line repairs. Thankfully, we've had a mild winter that has helped us stay ahead. Trust and adjust...

We appreciate your continued prayers and support and look forward to another great season at camp as we all trust and adjust.

Bryan Ritchie, Superintendent  
432-837-3074 (office)



Micaela, Bryan, Ty, John, and Tannin Ritchie



Bill and Phyllis Collins

### President's Passage

George Strait sings the line, "One thing's for certain, nothing's for sure" in his 2001 hit "The Road Less Traveled." Although the words may reflect a Paisano cabin owner's basic expectation after months away when opening their cottage—as President W.R. White's wife called it, the lyrics clearly express the way many of us feel about current life.

As years seem to grow shorter, there appears to be no shortage of life events that generate uncertainty. And as I contemplate Murphy's Law, I'm considering the possibility that Murphy may actually have been an optimist!

Enter faith. The kind of faith that knows the character of God and therefore can live with uncertainty. The kind of faith that can embrace Psalms 115:3, "Our God is in the Heavens and He does as He pleases." Although not always what pleases me.

Enter Paisano. That time and place where people gather to share life for a brief week. This week that sustains us. This week of certainty that the Lord has something special for each one of us.

Let's not miss whatever that something may be!

Bill and Phyllis Collins

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



Velia Edwards, Chaplain

## Mission Moments

Take a trip across the globe during missionary hour 2026 as Paisano folks hear about work in three vastly different areas of the world.

On Monday and Thursday, Pam and Dib Hampton will draw from their rich experiences of 35+ years in Papua New Guinea as they challenge Christians to get involved personally in missions, adopt a missionary, and communicate and pray specifically for them. Dib says, “Missions is about the saved reaching the unsaved and is not limited to a select few.”

On Tuesday and Friday, Cobi and Judd Porter will share about their experiences with, and the wonderful work of, Orphan Outreach, as they provide insight into how ordinary women and men can bring the gospel to, and meet the greatest needs of the neediest.

On Wednesday, Velia Edwards, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Chaplain at the Ft. Stockton and Lynaugh Units, will give a glimpse into the mission field in her own back yard. Named the 2023 TDCJ Chaplain of the Year, Velia will discuss pressing needs in Texas’ prisons and opportunities for gospel-centered reconciliation and redemption inside the barbed-wire.

You won’t want to miss a day of Missions Hour this summer!



Cobi and Judd Porter, Orphan Outreach

## Family Time

Welcome to Family hour at Paisano. This year, we dive into the life of Jacob (Israel). His story is not one of perfect people, but of a perfect God working through a highly dysfunctional family. Through these sessions, we will explore how God’s sovereign will prevails over human failure and how we can apply these truths to our own modern family structures and individual lives. Topics include, rivalry, deception, unfinished business, favoritism, God’s will, family expectations and much more.

Kelly Barnett has served the Paisano family since 1991. He is a retired pastor, Army Chaplain, and Licensed Family Therapist. He and his wife Karen are members of First Baptist Church, Jasper where they teach Bible and lead Grief Share. Kelly is the chaplain for Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail. Kelly and Karen lost their spouses to cancer and have been married almost two years. They enjoy bass fishing, scuba diving, and grandchildren.



Karen and Kelly Barnett

## 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 the annual earnings to the encampment to address specific needs while reinvesting the rest. HighGround Advisors holds the funds. The Foundation Board consists of Brandee Lacy, BJ Baldrige, Elaine Elliott, Jene Tebeaux, Pat Davidson, and Rick Gray. The Foundation uses its funds to 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 so that the Paisano’s needs can be met for the indefinite future. Contributions are tax deductible. Contact any board member for additional information or for how to contribute.

**For donations give online at**

[Give to Paisano](#)

Or by mail to:  
Palmetto Ventures LLC  
C/O Angela Becker  
6 Desta Drive Suite 2670  
Midland, TX 79705

## Money Matters

Paisano had a strong year financially, ending with an excellent cash balance. Although contributions were about \$20,000 below budget, general encampment expenses were about \$14,000 under budget largely due to lower meal costs by using Ben E. Keith as a food provider. Total personnel expenses were also higher than budgeted. Discussion will continue about recovering the labor cost for construction of “spec” cabins. Overall expenses were about \$30,000 greater than budgeted. We are grateful to Paisano folks who give and to staff who manage expenses and maintain beautiful grounds.

	2023	2024	2025
Expenses	\$469,000	\$455,000	\$509,000
Cash Balance	\$265,000	\$294,000	\$235,000

## PAISANO PASTORS



Lisa and Howie Batson

Howie Batson looks forward to returning to Paisano this summer and reuniting with friends. He has served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo since 1995 and prior to that was at Meadowbrook in Waco. Although a proud native of Greenville, South Carolina, he often says, “At least all of my children and grandchildren are Texans!” Having earned an MDiv from Southwestern and a PhD in Biblical Studies from Baylor, he enjoys preaching, teaching and writing to bring God’s Word to life. Howie and his wife Lisa, whom he met in the 10th grade, are the proud parents of adult daughters Ryan, Jordan, and Chandler. When not doting on grandchildren (six and counting!), the Amarillo pastor enjoys architecture, fitness training, nutrition, and—if not thinking about nutrition—cake decorating.

Matt and Meredith Snowden are excited about Paisano. Matt continues as First Baptist Waco’s pastor. The congregation turns 175 years old this year and has big celebration plans! Matt also enjoys his role as adjunct professor at Truett Seminary. Meredith finds great joy teaching first graders at Saint Paul’s Episcopal School. The two have adjusted to empty nest but are grateful Molly and Wes are nearby and happy.

Molly completed her sophomore year at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor where she studies education and Christian ministry. She will return to FBC Waco’s Children’s Ministry this summer and can’t wait to work with the kids. In May, Wes finished his freshman year at Baylor with double majors in finance and management and a minor in church music. The talented musician will spend the summer as worship leader for Camp Eagle in Rocksprings—Texas, not Wyoming. He’s excited about the job but sad he’ll miss Paisano.



Meredith, Molly, Wes, and Matt Snowden

### 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 1male/1female)

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 direct Children’s Church. Boys and girls should arrive at the Edwards Building no earlier than 7:15pm. The children’s choir will rehearse during that time with Rachel Lane Sunday –Tuesday. PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/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 snow cones. Staff will include those who have worked with John at Paisano over the last 15 years. PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/GUARDIANS must accompany children the first day for registration.

Brady Lock and a fantastic team from Sul Ross University Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) will lead youth.

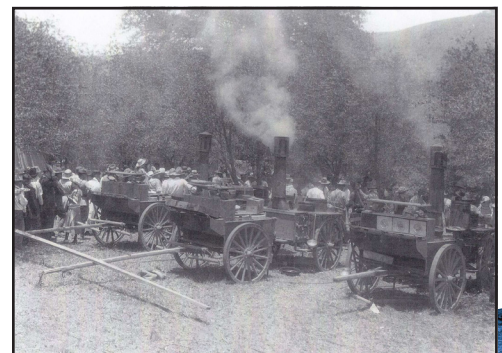
College students and other young adults under age 30 are invited to gather Monday-Thursday mornings at 9:45 am in the Frost House of Prayer for Bible study and fellowship with Sydney Gill and Evan Shannon.

### 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.



Dib Hampton, Pam Hampton, Brian Bourbon, Brian Gibson, Larmer Leftco, Micaela and Bryan Ritchie





Kathy and Brad Creed

## TEACHING GOD’S WORD

Brad and Kathy Creed eagerly anticipate coming to the Davis Mountains this summer and a week of leading Bible study, experiencing worship and enjoying fellowship with the good folks at Paisano. We have no new grandchildren to report, but we relish more time with those we have since Brad retired. We have spent the past year visiting friends and family from the places we’ve lived and traveling to new locations. Brad has stayed busy with speaking engagements and several higher education projects. We enjoy our new home in North Carolina’s Blue Ridge Mountains, but since we experienced a cold winter with ice and snow, we eagerly anticipate the sunny days and smiling faces of Paisano.

## Making Beautiful Music

Paisano welcomes first-year worship leader Dan Baker, minister of music at Amarillo’s First Baptist Church where Howie Batson pastors. Dan earned a BME from TCU and an MA from B.H. Carroll. Prior to his call to full-time ministry, he spent ten years in public schools and enjoyed a career as a soloist and choral singer.

For 18 years, Dan has overseen all aspects of FBC’s music program, including large Christmas and Easter productions. He’s passionate about missions, taking annual U.S. trips with the youth choir and international trips with adults. He, along with his youth choir, travelled to Carnegie Hall last June where he conducted the True North Presents choir and orchestra with singer Matthew West. Dan additionally directs the Panhandle’s Singing Men of Texas, taking trips to Central and South America, Europe, and Ukraine.

With three grown children, Dan and his wife Jodi adore their six beautiful grandchildren with another on the way.



Jodi and Dan Baker

## 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.



You keep coming back . . .  
to Paisano!

Future General Encampments

July 19-24, 2026

July 18-23, 2027

July 16-21, 2028

July 22-27, 2029

## Updated Tabernacle Technology

Services held in the Mitchell Tabernacle will be broadcast live to cell phones using the AudioFetch app. Be sure to download and install the app prior to coming due to lack of cell coverage at Paisano. Questions? See Danny Reeves in the sound booth at the back of the tabernacle.

