



THE VISION

LOVING OTHERS • REACHING OTHERS • HELPING OTHERS

PIONEER DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

701 S. Pioneer Drive Abilene, TX 79605

MARCH, 2018



MEN

a hill by four cables the width of a thumb, I knew he was not going to want to do it. The platform could probably withstand a moderate earthquake, but it looked like it might blow over in a strong wind. We sat down with the other sons and dads and we listened as our camp host described the process and went over the safety procedures. I noticed that, other than glancing from the host to the zip line and back to the host again, my son had gotten completely still, more still than he had been throughout the weekend. He was listening and he was also processing. I could already tell that I had been right, that he did not want to do this. So a discussion began in my own mind. Should I turn coach-dad and pump him up? Tell him he had to do it? Should I encourage him to give it a try? Or should I let him off the hook? He really hates heights.

By the time our host finished and everyone around us began to slide into their gear, we were both pretty lost in our thoughts. I turned to him and asked, "Do you want me to go grab a harness for you?" He replied, quietly, "Dad, I don't really want to do this." It was time to make a decision. So much of my life as a parent I feel like I am trying to make decisions just like this one, where to push, where to back off, where to let him choose his own path. He's growing up so fast sometimes these moments slip by before I even have time to think. I asked if he was sure, told him we could stay a while and watch a few runs to see if it looked fun. He thought for a moment and said, "I guess...



My son really hates heights. As soon as I saw the zip line tower, a two story wooden structure on stilts, secured to the side of

**He replied, quietly,
"Dad, I don't really
want to do this."**

if you want to." So I made up my mind. "Let's walk down to the river, grab a canoe, and skip this." "Are you sure?" he asked. "Yeah buddy," I replied, "I'm sure," trying to will my voice to sound confident.

We walked back to our cabin, grabbed our fishing gear and got into a two man canoe and pushed off into the gentle current. The Nueces River flows through the heart of Camp Eagle slowed briefly by a series of spillways that create deep pools so you can swim, or in our case, fish. It was quiet down on the water and for the moment we were totally alone. My son had never been in a canoe, and as much as he loves fishing, he loved paddling around the river almost as much. We spent an hour and a half floating down to the next spillway and then paddling back upstream to float back down once more. We did not catch a thing, but I think it turned out to be the favorite part of the weekend for both of us.



So often as a parent I feel like there is not enough time to do something like paddle aimlessly around a river for an hour and a half, time to process the best path forward as a father, time to hear my son and what he needs, or time to respond to his becoming.

I was not sure if I had made the right call by not making him try the zip line, but as we floated down the river in our canoe, I watched my son, who looked so much like a child and so grown up all at once. I saw the water slipping underneath us then sliding silently over the spillway in the distance, rolling down the valley it had created, then disappearing from sight around a bend. I decided it didn't much matter, we were here, and we were having a great time.

Thanks to Jeff Scott and to the Pioneer Men's Ministry for hosting this retreat and creating space for us to slow down and have a great time. - Luke 1:17

- John Hunt

John is married to Molly and has 3 children (Miles, Lucy, and Sunny) and is employed by Hardin Simmons University.



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART



Our son, Bill, and his family have a wonderful dog named Gwynnie. Gwynnie is a fine pet. She loves my two grandchildren unconditionally – which means even when they interrupt her naps with loud shrieks or when they are guilty of petting her much too hard. She is also very forgiving. In fact, Gwynnie is one of

the finest Christians in our family.

Gwynnie has one oddity about her. She is deathly afraid of storms, whenever it thunders, or the wind blows louder than usual, sweet Gwynnie heads for the nearest desk or table and hides under it until the weather passes. She is a rescue dog and evidently, she has, somewhere is her history, a bad memory of storms.

I heard about a man and his wife who were facing a storm. The wind was howling and the house was shaking. The man's wife lamented, "The storm is going to blow this house down!" The husband replied, "Oh, don't worry Sweetheart. We're only renting." I'm not sure such a comment would bring much comfort.

Bailey White wrote about a hurricane that bore down on the house where she and her mother lived. Her mother paid little

attention to the wind and the rain, she slept the whole night through and there was no damage to her house. She had a cousin who was more alarmed by the weather. She stayed up all night praying for safety, and shortly before dawn a tree limb crashed through her roof. Bailey White wrote, "For some people, sleep is more effective than prayer."

My friend Lynn Jones observes that the Bible tells us about two men who slept through storms – Jonah and Jesus. Their reasons for doing so were decidedly different. Jonah's sleep was the sleep of denial and evasion. He had run away from God's assignment and was trying to hide out in the hold of a ship. (His efforts, you may recall, were unsuccessful.)

The sleep of Jesus was the sleep of faith. Jesus was also in a boat when a great, sudden squall arose and threatened to capsize the small vessel. Jesus didn't even wake up. He felt secure in the hand of God.

Jesus spoke these words just hours before His death, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you." Jesus never promised that we would be off-limits to all storms, He did promise that we could know peace in the midst of the storms.

The saying may seem trite-but it's true. "No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace."

Grace to you, and peace,

Pastor Stan



**Sunday Evening, March 4th
6 p.m. - Sanctuary**

Howdy Pardners! Guys and Gals of all ages are invited to worship with the 4th and 5th grade choir (KidzPraiz) as they present a musical about the prophet Jonah and the city of Nineveh, told with a western twang. It's a true tale from the Good Book like you've never heard it before!



2nd Annual Easter Eggstravanza

This event is nearing and you can help make it a success by providing one or more dozen filled plastic eggs for our hunt. (Individually wrapped candies, stickers, small toys, etc. that are taped or securely snapped together are appreciated. Please no chocolate as it tends to melt.) We need between 2 - 3 thousand eggs! Every dozen will help. You may drop off your bundles of eggs in the collection bins placed all around the church anytime before March 28th.

Are you preparing your heart for Easter?

Don't wait until Easter Sunday to get reacquainted with the good news of Jesus Christ! Read the Easter story in each of the four gospels below:

[Matthew 26-28](#)
[Mark 14-16](#)

[Luke 22-24](#)
[John 18-20](#)

MISSIONS

When you hear the words “mission field” it’s easy for your mind to wander to distant countries. It’s easy to picture a country that lacks a strong sense of government, or religion to be in need of those willing to put their lives at risk in order to share the gospel. What’s harder to picture, are individuals in your own country being in need of the same thing, especially in an area such as New York. NYC often brings to mind images of celebrities, wealth, and the American dream. However, under the surface, NYC is just as desperate for those willing to share the gospel as any distant country. This is a truth that I would’ve never learned, had I not experienced firsthand working alongside Graffiti Ministries in New York. The first time I went with Pioneer to NYC, I didn’t know what to expect. What I found was a city overflowing with opportunities to help meet both physical and spiritual needs. While working with Graffiti Ministries, we worked in Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan. We mentored students in after school programs, served food to the homeless, participated in prayer walks and were able to share the gospel with several individuals along the way. The neighborhoods we worked in were faced with various challenges ranging from poverty to unstable family structures. The people are in need of those willing

to come in and share the love of Christ with them, because for most of these individuals, they will never learn of a world outside of the three blocks surrounding their neighborhoods. Luke 10:2 mentions “the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” and these words are so very true in regards to NYC. The people there were so welcoming and ready to hear the gospel, but were just in need of those willing to share. I never thought the Lord would lead me to this kind of ministry, but I am so very glad He did. I ask that you remember NYC and Graffiti the next time you think of the “mission field” and know that all it takes to make an impact, is a willingness to serve where called.



Victor Rocha
Pioneer member and past NYC Trip Participant
If you want to visit and work alongside our partners in Guatemala or New York, contact Taylor@pioneerdrive.org for more information.

PRIMETIMERS

March 1st - Primetime Live

For twenty-nine years, Pioneer Drive Church member Brian Hawkins has made his living traveling the backroads of Texas with a television camera and a healthy appetite. Over so many miles and so many years, he has compiled two personal lists: “The 10 Places Every Texan Should Visit,” and “The 10 Places Every Texan Should Dine.” These are far from the typical places found in most travel publications. Hawkins will share these discoveries with a few surprises on Thursday, March 1st, at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a pen and paper, a road map, and a sense of adventure, for these two lists have taken almost three decades to assemble.



March 27th - Abilene Dreams

Jay Moore presents “Little Known Tales of Our Hometown” at the Paramount Theater at 7:30 p.m. Join us at 5:45 p.m. at Abuelo’s for a tasty treat. The cost is \$10 per Primetimer and sign-up begins March 11th.

June 7th-10th

Let’s go to Nashville, Tennessee! Music City!
Cost and details coming soon.





High School Choir Garage Sale Drop Off Times

Garage Sale has moved! We are now at 2554 Barrow Street in the old "Bealls' building next to Drug Emporium. Due to space constraints we are no longer accepting clothes. Please drop off your donations during any of these times or leave a message on the Garage Sale Hotline at 325-695-8336 to schedule a pick up.

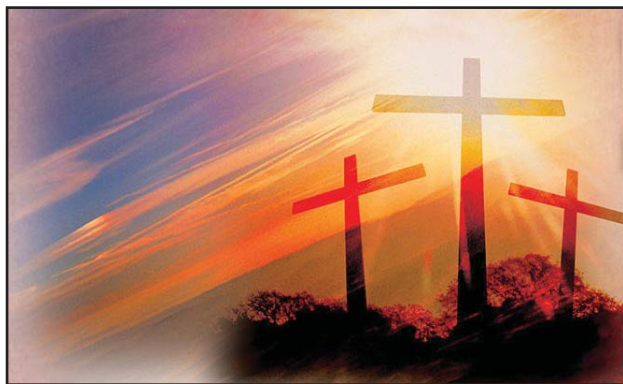
- Thursday, March 1st, 6-8 p.m.
- Monday, March 5th, 6-8 p.m.
- Thursday, March 8th, 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, March 10th, Noon - 4 p.m.
- Monday - Thursday, March 12th-15th, Noon to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, March 17th, Noon-4 p.m.
- Monday, March 19th, 6-8 p.m.
- Thursday, March 22nd, 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, March 24th, Noon-4 p.m.
- Monday, March 26th, 6-8 p.m.
- Thursday, March 29th, 6-8 p.m.
- LAST DAY, Monday, April 2nd, 6-8 p.m.

Preview Sale

Come to the Preview Sale and get the best we have to offer for Garage Sale! Thursday, April 5th, from 7-9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the Office Foyer after the 9 and 10:30 services on March 25th.

Friday and Saturday Hours

- Friday, April 6th, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 7th, 8 a.m.-Noon



"Arise, My Love"

March 25, 2018 - 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Pioneer Drive Sanctuary

Come worship on Palm Sunday and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with the Celebration Choir and Orchestra.

GA Muffin Bake Sale



Sunday Morning
March 25th
Help raise funds
for missions!

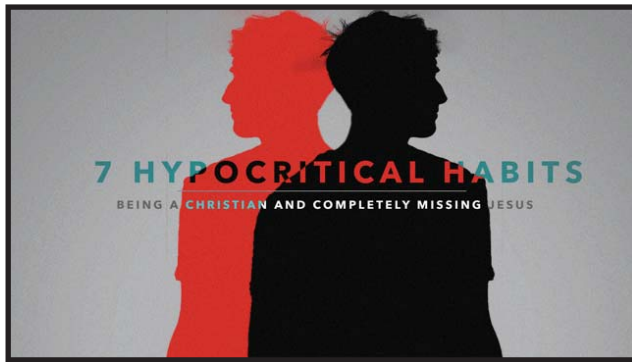


Women On Mission

We are preparing for our 2nd Annual Prayer Drive. Last April we loaded into church vans and drove in all directions to pray for the people of Abilene. We prayed for schools and universities, city and county government leaders, law enforcement personnel, agencies that serve our community, and neighborhoods. We will do this again on April 9th and we need your help. If you are affiliated with a group, agency, or organization and would like to be included in this event, please email your information to Patricia Ditmore at pditmore72@gmail.com by March 16th.

Let's Get Craftin'

Join us Monday, March 19th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Allen Room for an evening of fellowship and craftin'. The cost is \$10 and all supplies will be provided to create a Texas wood pallet wall hanging. Just bring your favorite finger food or snack to share and come enjoy an evening with friends. Register online at pioneerdrive.org.



New Sermon Series in the gathering

The word hypocrite came into the English language from a Greek word that referenced “an actor” or “stage player.” Greek actors wore large masks to mark which character they were playing in order to appear as someone they weren’t. We all can be tempted to wear masks and pretend to be someone that we aren’t. We invite you to join us in February and March as we discover how to shed our hypocritical masks and follow Jesus faithfully.



6th Graders and their Parents

Join us Wednesday, March 7th, for an interactive class where you will learn the benefits of spending time together and participating in structured and unstructured family activities. This class is limited to the first 20 families and is free of charge! Sixth graders will meet in Room 271 from 6-6:30 p.m. Families will meet together in the Allen Room (tile side) from 6:45-8 p.m. Email Ben James at aggie99_03@yahoo.com to sign up by March 5th.

Save The Dates

Kid's Camp - 4th & 5th Graders
July 23-26, Royse City, TX

Lad & Lassie Camp - 1st-3rd Graders
July 13-14, Big Country Baptist Assembly, Lueders
For more information or to register for either of these camps, go to pioneerdrive.org.

Parent's Night Out

Our next PNO will be March 2nd from 6-10 p.m. This event is for children of Pioneer Drive members and prospects to enjoy a night of fun with friends. This is for ages 6 weeks to 5th grade. Reservations are required. Register online at pioneerdrive.org. The deadline to register is February 28th. For more information, contact Althea at abarry@pioneerdrive.org.



PJs and Pancakes!

We had a surfing good time eating pancakes, sausage, bacon and eggs. We also had beach balls, surf boards, Saturday morning cartoons, as well as sticker sheets to add to the fun filled morning.

A big thank you to *Michael Jones* and *Althea Barry* for cooking and making this event a big success!



Silent Auction

It is almost Silent Auction time! If you or your business would like to donate an item or service to support the High School Choir Tour 2018, please call or text Lanie Westman at 325-721-4884.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Tammy Awalt - 7 years
 Eddy Curry - 12 years
 Jeff Reid - 25 years
 Craig Stotts - 1 year

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church
 701 S. Pioneer Dr.
 Abilene, TX 79605
 (325) 692-6776
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NEW MEMBERS

Isabella Archuleta
 Linda Baker
 Allie Dunn
 Charles & Carolyn Johns
 Levi McKnight
 DeAnn Smith
 Jacob Smith
 Kaley Turner
 Courtney Wheeler

Easter Sunday Schedule
April 1, 2018
the gathering - 8:30 a.m.
Conference Center
Celebration Service - 10 a.m.
Abilene Convention Center

**Who will you invite to
 Easter Services this year?**

MARCH 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Check the High School Choir Article for all garage sale drop off times!				1 Primetime Live, Team Night	2 Parent's Night Out, DNOW, Women's Spring Retreat	3 DNOW, Women's Spring Retreat
4 DNOW, Women's Spring Retreat, KidzPraiz Musical	5 Women On Mission	6 Nehemiah Monthly Meeting,	7 Wednesday Activities, Prayer Meeting	8	9	10
11 Nursing Home Ministry 2:30	12	13 Nursing Home Ministry 3 p.m.	14 No Youth or Children's Activities,	15	16	17
-----Spring Break-----						
18 Nursing Home Ministry 2:30, Church Bible Drill	19	20	21 Wednesday Activities, Prayer Meeting	22	23	24
25 Deacon's Meeting, Associational Bible Drill	26	27	28 Wednesday Activities, Prayer Meeting, VBS Director meeting	29	30	31

Go to pioneerdrive.org/resources/calendar for a complete listing of activities!