

## What's Happening on the Grounds

By John Frost, Superintendent

2014 was a fantastic year. Your financial gifts to Paisano have enabled many improvements around the property. New Tabernacle doors have been installed; road work is underway; a walking bridge has been built in the area of Staff Row; 30 trees have been planted; other trees have been trimmed; and plumbing work has been completed in the kitchen.

Projects you won't be able to see are the 400 feet of water mains and 700 feet of sewer mains that have been rerouted, replaced, or repaired. The men's side of Millican Hall is being rebuilt with new ceiling joists and drywall. LED lighting is being installed throughout the property. All of these tasks are accomplished by a great team that God has put together for His Glory.

Evidence of God's work in people's lives at Paisano spurs us to providing a safe, well maintained, rustic yet attractive property where people can interact with their Creator in a personal way. The staff at Paisano anticipates a great 2015 summer. In addition to myself, your year around Paisano team includes Robert Fields (maintenance), Sandra Whiting (office), David Whiting (grounds), Bryan Ritchie (new construction), and my wifeCarolynn Frost (guest house/cleaning).

Each of these folks works very hard all year to prepare this sacred place for your use. Take some time and get to know all of us. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve the Lord and you in this work. We look forward to you coming back to Paisano. See you in a few months.



New Tabernacle doors



Kirby and Miles Warnock in front of the tabernacle in 1965 (Photo courtesy of Kirby Warnock)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Bookkeeping has moved to the Paisano office. Please send contributions to:

Paisano Baptist Assembly  
P.O. Box 973  
Alpine, TX 79831

## HOPES AND DREAMS

By Bill Collins, President Elect

Summer 1965 was my initial experience at Paisano on our family's first vacation. We bunked with my grandparents in their cabin. Our Houston pastor, Herman Westmoreland, preached that week. I had a birthday and turned five. Within just a week, this new and different place that included family and friends was hard to leave and remains that way.

As with any newcomer, processing the experience is unique. Our old motto "you keep coming back" holds true. And the reasons one moves from newcomer to one who keeps coming back range from detailed to inexplicable. Sometimes newcomers marry into a Paisano family like Phyllis did and those "for better or worse" wedding vows get tested! Whatever keeps you coming back, we are blessed by each member of the Paisano Family.

My hopes and dreams for the camp are: For our preschoolers – a place of safety and fun. For our children—a place of excitement and adventure and a place to find Christ. For our youth—a place of fellowship and developing healthy, lifelong friendships. For our adults—a place of spiritual renewal and centering and reconnecting with family and friends

We look forward to seeing every one of you who make the pilgrimage back to the mountains this summer.



Bill and Phyllis Collins on Fat Man's Misery

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (LAST ONE!)

By Levi Price, President

Paisano has always been important in my life. I was in fifth grade when my father became pastor in Monahans. Every year we attended general encampment staying in the Monahans pastor's cabin. Mom always sprinkled Epsom Salt around our bunks to discourage mice. There were no refrigerators, and we used communal bathrooms and showers.

On Sundays, area pastors taught Sunday school in different pavilions. Of course, they really preached. I remember outstanding preachers and Bible teachers. If the sermons were boring, I gazed at the incredible tabernacle ceiling in wonder that no poles held up the roof.

I first noticed girls at Paisano and experienced my first "love." People said it was puppy love, but she was the daughter of a pastor from El Paso. I had many friends

from the area because of Paisano.

I was always in awe of Mr. Kokernot—the one older folks called "Herbert"—many of the other ranchers and the platform preachers and teachers. I feared Kay Mitchell and Mrs. W. R. White (Catherine).

I attended RA and music camps and later worked for Mrs. Johnson on the cooking team. One of us got up at 4:00 a.m. to start fires in the wood stoves. Those were some of the best days of my life.

In college, I kept coming back to Paisano, and in 1961 or 1962 was general encampment's first "Youth Minister." Of course, youth ministry wasn't like today. I will never forget the thrill when Glenn Edwards asked me to be a Paisano preacher.

Like many of you, Paisano is in my blood. The encampment has left an indelible mark on my life. For that, I am eternally grateful.

I am also thankful for the joy of being President.

But I believe Paisano's best years are yet to come. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." That is my prayer for Paisano and for each of you.



Levi and Lou Price

## MISSIONS TIME

Ruth Anna and Marcus Driggers will share their experiences as missionaries in Chile for 30 years. In retirement, they have taken missions trips with First Baptist, Abilene to Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Macedonia.

The couple met in elementary school in Trent. Her father worked in the oil fields while his dad ranched south of town. Marcus earned a BBA from Hardin Simmons University, and Ruth Anna obtained her degree from Temple College. Both attended Southwestern Seminary before entering language school in Costa Rica.

Marcus managed the Baptist Spanish Publishing House warehouse before moving into the position of business manager/treasurer for the mission. Ruth Anna served as a church/home worker as well as mission hostess. Both were

involved with local churches in Santiago before relocating to Talca, capitol of the VII Region, where they functioned as Central Valley Association churches support leaders.

Their three daughters Sherma, Charla and Marci have blessed them with seven grandchildren who live in Tennessee, Maryland and Texas. The Driggers also dote on their great grandson in the Austin area.



Ruth Anna and Marcus Driggers

## PROPERTIES REPORT

By J.L. Davis, Chair

Over the last three years, we have accomplished much on the Paisano property. John Frost and his crew work diligently to handle daily tasks and ever changing infrastructure demands.

As a result of age and settling, the men's side of Millican Hall has required

significant ceiling repair. This major project was totally unplanned but will be completed by General Encampment.

As we move forward, we will continue addressing sewer and water challenges in addition to electrical upgrades.

## RECREATION

Organized recreational activities will be in the Edwards Activities Building. Basketball, volleyball and dodge ball games for youth and adults will be held from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with a different sport each day. The 3K Run (foot or bicycle) will be on Wednesday. Day camp counselors will organize games for children outside at the same times.

## CABIN/RV RENTAL

Reservations for General Camp RV site reservations can be made through email or by calling Sandra Whiting at [gdwhiting@bigbend.net](mailto:gdwhiting@bigbend.net) 432-837-1027 (home) or 214-769-6426 (cell) There is a waiting list for cabins.

## GIFT SHOP

We look forward to another great year in Paisano's gift shop. We appreciate everyone who volunteered in 2014 and invite you to join us again this year. If you have handcrafts you think would sell, we will gladly take the articles on consignment. Or if you operate a business and could bring items on consignment, that would help, too. We always look for new merchandise, but since we're only open 6 days a year, we have difficulty keeping the gift shop fresh and fully stocked, so we're especially grateful for your assistance. Please call Jean Gist at 817-304-6059 or e-mail [gistjean@yahoo.com](mailto:gistjean@yahoo.com) if you can help.

## General Encampment: July 26-31, 2015

Program details available in the encampment office.

### Sunday, July 26

- 10:30 a.m. Informal Worship led by Young Family (Tabernacle)
- 6:00 p.m. First meal served
- 7:00 Adult/Youth Choir Rehearsal (nightly)
- 7:45 Children's Activities (nightly)
- 8:00 Evening Worship Service

### Tuesday, July 28 2-4 p.m.

Museum Open House, Museum Porch: Music and All-Paisano Reception honoring program personnel, their families and musicians past and present.

### Friday, July 31

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service and Morning Worship
- Lunch (Last meal served)

### Paisano Girls Mission Retreat

For dates and information  
Contact: Karen McGuire  
432-386-3071

### June 25-27, Cost \$65

Big Bend Youth Retreat  
Join Facebook group: Bbba youth retreat  
Contact: Kent Barlow, Pastor  
graceshaker@gmail.com  
214-477-4936  
Marathon Baptist Church  
432-386-4396

### July 9-11, Cost \$60

Paisano RA/West Texas Men & Boys Retreat  
Outdoor camping experience  
Contact: John Elliott  
jelliott@fbc-midland.org  
432-683-0649  
Charlie Elliott  
ceministries2@yahoo.com  
432-597-0066

## CAMP PASTORS

David Lowrie is pastor of First Baptist Church El Paso. When not preaching, teaching an adjunct class for Howard Payne University's El Paso campus, or involved in community activities, he and his wife Robyn enjoy time with their first grandchild George Walker Scott. George celebrated his first birthday in March, and his "Gramper" was proud to be there for his first bite of cake.

This spring, David spent time with his father D.L. Lowrie as they enjoyed supporting their favorite baseball team, the Texas Rangers, at training camp in Arizona. The Lowrie family is also looking forward to the upcoming wedding this summer of their third daughter, Jamie, to Jordan Villanueva, a youth ministry intern at FBC El Paso.

David and Robyn have served in the ministry for more than 30 years, taking them from Roanoke, Lewisville, Mabank, Milwaukee, and Canyon, before moving to El Paso in 2010.

First Baptist Waco's pastor Matt Snowden will preach at Paisano for the first time. Matt and his wife Meredith have two children, Molly Katherine (9) and Wes (8). The Snowdens moved to Waco in 2010 and fell in love with Texas. The whole family is excited about Paisano.

A native of Mississippi, Matt has served congregations in Meridian, Monticello and Jackson. He earned a BA from William Carey University in Hattiesburg, an MDiv from New Orleans Seminary and a DMin from Baylor's Truett Seminary. Matt met Meredith at William Carey, where she studied English literature and religion. Meredith teaches youth Sunday School and leads Mission Friends. Molly Katherine likes art and sewing while Wes loves sports and hunting. The family spends free time hiking and going to the beach.

Matt heard legendary Paisano stories from Levi Price at Truett. First Baptist member Mary Ann Lacy later added to the

David earned a BA from Baylor, an MDiv from Southwestern Seminary, and a DMin from Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The couple's children include Kalie, Lorin, Jamie, and Madison. Kalie serves in Texas Baptists Communications Department. Lorin is married to Dr. Phil Scott of Fort Worth. Jamie is pursuing a master's degree at Dallas Baptist University, where she rooms with her sister Madison who will graduate from DBU in December.



George and "Gramper" Lowrie

collection of tales. Matt assisted Levi in officiating Koko's Waco memorial service.

Matt has a passion for God's mission and the local church. He serves on the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, chairing the Missions Mobilization Team. Paisano will be followed by a week on the Miskito Coast in Central America where FBC Waco is helping plant a church. Pray for Matt and the Snowden family as they prepare for a meaningful summer.



Matt, Meredith, Wes and Molly Katherine Snowden

## BIBLE TEACHER

Larry McGraw serves as the Associate Dean of the Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University. As Professor of Bible, he has taught at HSU for 33 years. He stays busy as the University's public address announcer for football games, volleyball matches, and basketball games.

As an adult Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Abilene, Larry has written for the *Biblical Illustrator* and teacher guides for the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Baptist Way Press. He earned degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, including the PhD in New Testament with minors in Old Testament and biblical backgrounds.

In July, Sandy and Larry will celebrate their 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary as he serves as Paisano's Bible teacher for the tenth time. The couple has two sons and daughters-in-law: Matthew and Elizabeth who will have their first child in May and Jonathan and Julie who are parents of two-year-old Braylen.

Larry says, "We know that God's word is as powerful and as fresh as it was when it was first written. The message from the scripture speaks to make life worth living. We can learn how the Lord wants us to grow spiritually as God's truth is brought into today's situations."



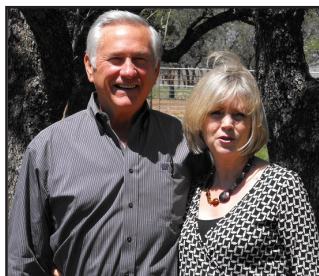
Larry and Sandy McGraw

## FAMILY HOUR

Dave Gentry will lead Family Hour using the theme "Making 'Family' Work in a Toxic World!" Teaching will address the biblical design for communication, biblical priorities, honor and respect in family relationships, and the power of generational wounds. Sessions are not just for traditional situations but are appropriate for single parent and multi-generational

families.

Dave grew up attending Paisano and brought Norma after they married in 1972. The couple founded Westwood Ministries in 1989, and Dave has 40 years of experience as a minister and Christian counselor. He earned his doctorate in biblical counseling from Trinity Seminary. The Gentrys have two children and five grandchildren.



Dave and Norma Gentry



Jim Cleaveland poses with the bell

## WORSHIP

Jim Cleaveland, Worship Pastor at First Baptist El Paso, will lead music. Born in Hobbs, Jim grew up in Carlsbad, Albuquerque, and El Paso. He completed degrees at the University of Texas at El Paso and Southwestern Seminary. Jim and Leanne have been married 43 years and have two adult children. Paul Bright and Nancy Russell, who both received undergraduate degrees from Baylor, will again play the piano and organ. Nancy earned her masters from Sul Ross while Paul's came from Baylor.

## MUSEUM

"Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious." Psalm 66:2

Worship and music have always been at the heart of Paisano. This year the museum celebrates the music directors, instrumentalists, vocalists and choirs that have led the encampment. If you have a photo or story, please share with the museum by contacting Brandee Lacy at brandee@gvtc.com.

## PROGRAM PERSONNEL

**Brady First Baptist Youth**, Day Camp Staff  
**Paul Bright**, Pianist  
**Jim Cleaveland**, Music  
**Bill Collins**, President-Elect  
**Marcus Driggers**, Missions Speaker  
**Ruth Anna Driggers**, Missions Speaker  
**Charlie Elliott**, Recreation  
**John Elliott**, Day Camp Coordinator  
**John Frost**, Superintendent of Grounds  
**Dave Gentry**, Family Ministry Speaker  
**Bruce Lampert**, Executive Vice President

## FINANCES

By Buddy Baldrige

God moves through the generous gifts from our Paisano Family. This year, contributions exceeded budget by \$58,000 while expenses were \$18,000 over budget. Additionally, we received a memorial gift designated for roads.

The current year is also going well. At the half-way point Sources of Funds are 28% of budget while Uses of Funds are 58% of budget. These percentages are normal since most of our receipts come during the encampment. Thank you for your continued support of Paisano.

2014-2015 Budget

Sources of Funds:	
Contributions	\$362,620
Other Income	\$2,000
Rentals	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total Sources of Funds	\$369,620
Uses of Funds:	
Administration	\$59,530
Personnel	\$146,900
General Encampment	\$67,750
Maintenance	<u>\$95,440</u>
Total Uses of Funds	\$369,620

### Future encampment dates

July 24-29, 2016  
 July 23-28, 2017  
 July 22-27, 2018  
 July 21-26, 2019

**Brady Lock**, Youth Activities  
**David Lowrie**, Preacher  
**Larry McGraw**, Adult Bible Study Teacher  
**Sandy McGraw**, Children's Church  
**Midland First Baptist Youth**, Day Camp Staff  
**Elsie Morales**, Preschool  
**Nurse**, Baptist Memorials/Buckner  
**Levi Price**, President  
**Nancy Russell**, Organist  
**Matt Snowden**, Preacher

"I will lift my eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth." Psalm 121: 1-2

Paisano Foundation  
 P.O. Box 973  
 Alpine, TX 79831

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