

## The Story of the Johnson Street Church Family (1988-2021)

This is a continuation of *The Story of the Johnson Street Church Family (1900-1988)*, written and compiled by Jack W. Bates in September of 1988. The following portion was written and compiled by Bryan M. Elliott in May of 2021.



In May of 1988, our own Ken Harrington was elected as Chief of Police. Frauke told me, “that whole campaign was run out of this church. Dot Harrod was his campaign manager and many other members helped out.” Frauke recalled on election day, Bill Harris leaning up against his Volkswagen outside one of the polling sites, holding up a “VOTE for HARRINGTON” sign. Ken served as Chief of Police for four years. He died in March of 2012, but Frauke remains very connected and involved.

In September of 1988 the staff at the church was comprised of Stanley Lockhart, Preaching Minister, Keith Mask, Education and Involvement (hired in February of 1988), Kevin Huddleston, Youth (hired in March of 1988), and Miguel Zuñiga, who worked with our Hispanic Ministry. Support staff was Dot Harrod, Josie Broene, and Gina Ponder, secretaries, and Joe and Catherine Velasquez, custodians.

Marion Glasscock was the administrator of Christian Village and John Stamps was the Director of the Christian Campus Center and Bunny Parker was the secretary (really, she was mom and counselor to hundreds of students’ day in and day out).

The eldership consisted of: Cass Archer, Ryan Bankhead, Wayne Bramhall, Mitch Caffey, J.D. Davis, Ed Huston, Kennard Moos, George Pliler, Garland Slaughter, Chuck Smith, Royce Smith, Frank Upp, and G.B. Wadzeck.

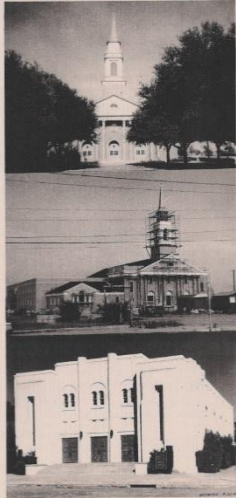


## Christian Reflections

*'And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'*  
2 Corinthians 3:18

Street Church of Christ, San Angelo, Texas September 25, 1988

## 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND



On Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, 1988, the church celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Johnson Street location. Saturday evening there was a catered meal followed by the Embers Quartet in concert. On Sunday morning, there were 1242 in attendance for worship. Another catered meal took place following the service.

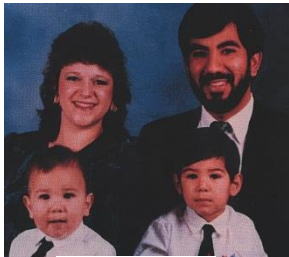
## 25th ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE

### Saturday Evening, September 24

4:30-4:45	Welcome/Greetings
4:45-6:30	Catered Cookout: "Fiesta Fellowship" (Meal provided free of charge)
7:00-9:00	Embers "CELEBRATION" Concert City Auditorium
7:00-9:00	Reunion Gathering Fellowship & Desserts Fellowship Hall

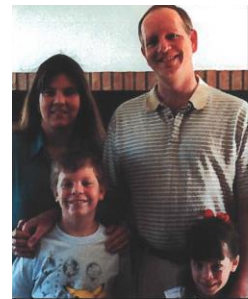
### Sunday, September 25

7:30-8:30	Anniversary Breakfast Donuts, Rolls, Coffee and Juice (No Charge)
9:00-10:00	Regular Bible School Classes (Cradle Roll-Grade 6) "OUR STORY" A Multi-Media Presentation (Youth and Adults meet in Auditorium)
10:15-11:15	Anniversary Worship Service Speakers: Stanley Lockhart William E. Young
11:30-12:45	Catered Anniversary Lunch Bar-B-Q Adults: \$4.75 per plate Children: \$3.75 per plate (12 & under)
12:45-1:00	Honoring of past church leaders
1:00-2:00	Old-Time Singing EMBERS Performance
	No 6:00 p.m. service



Placencias

In 1989, there was a push to grow our missions' program and we added two new works: Tim (who grew up here at JSCC) and Carolina Archer to Cordoba, Argentina (1989-2002) and Joe and Susan Placencia to Quito, Ecuador (1989-1996). Existing works we were also involved in at the time were: Gottfried Reichel, German Radio Ministry and Bruce Wadzeck in Princeton, New Jersey.



Archers



John

John Stamps resigned as director of the CCC in 1989 and Terry Cagle took his place. The title of the position was changed to Campus Minister



Terry

In the summer of 1989, Kevin Huddleston took a small group of students on a mission trip to Mexico City. While there, the mission team worked with missionaries and students from the AIM program at Sunset. The week was filled with evangelistic efforts in the streets and ministry with the local churches. Later that year, Kevin approached Rick Owens about the possibility of taking a group of students on one of his construction campaigns to help build church buildings. In June of 1990, a team from Johnson Street traveled to General Zaragosa in the state of Nuevo Leon and became the first youth group to participate in what would become the largest mission effort of churches of Christ in Mexico.



In the years that followed, the Johnson Street Youth Ministry invited numerous other groups from Alabama, Georgia, Delaware, New Mexico, and across Texas to join in this effort. What began with one group of 36 during one week of 1990, grew to over 300 students each week of the summer by the time the effort was shut down by cartel violence in 2010.

In the fall of 1989, Kevin Huddleston launched the Huddle program. Teens were grouped according to grade level and met in homes on Wednesday evenings with Huddle Leaders. This program continues to this day.

The first annual Blessed to Be a Blessing (BBB) occurred in December of 1989. Members were given a shopping list and asked to buy a number of food items, bring them to church on the specified date, and later distribute sacks of groceries to the poor and needy families in our community. On this Sunday families brought their groceries up to the front of the auditorium. After worship service, we pulled out tables and stretched them along the front of the auditorium from north to south. Volunteers began unbagging what was collected and re-bagging to ensure everyone got pretty much the same thing. Once the bags were ready, we spread out across town delivering to the folks on our list. This past year (December 2020) we had our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual BBB. It doesn't look the same as it did in 1989, but it still accomplishes the same purpose.





Every summer (not sure when it started or ended) on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Hustons would set up their volleyball net and invite any and all to come out and play. Hot dogs, watermelon, and fellowship made for a great day. There was also a group that gathered on Monday evenings during the summer at Bonham Elementary to play volleyball.



Keith

Keith Mask left in January 1990 and was replaced by Kerbe Lee in June of the same year as Education Minister. He was on staff through May of 1992. Kerbe put together the little pink Hallelujah Praise Book in 1991. People complained about having to switch back and forth between it and the hymnal, but eventually it caught on.



Kerbe

In February of 1990, JSCC hired H.R. Little and began offering counseling services to the public. He was in this position through September of 1991.

In March of 1990, the church was bequeathed the property at 1505-1507 MacKenzie street. The Smith sisters, Leatrice and Virginia, left it to us in their will. It was named the Harvest House and was to be used primarily for out of towners who had family in a local hospital and could not afford an extended stay in a motel. This ministry is still operational today and also lodges our missionaries when home on furlough.



Terry Cagle resigned as Campus Minister in December of 1990. He and Becky and the kids moved to South Carolina.

On May 19, 1991 elders were reaffirmed and appointed to the office. These men were: Wayne Bramhall, J.D. Davis, Ed Huston, Gene Lusk, Kennard Moos, George Pliler, Jim Randolph, Royce Smith, and Jim Strother.

In the early 90's, Kevin Huddleston began utilizing summer interns in the youth ministry program. Well over 50 interns have spent their summer working with our students and gaining valuable experience, a win-win for both parties. Many of these interns have gone on to full-time ministry.



In June of 1991, Scot Yarbrough was hired as our new Campus Minister for outreach at ASU. Possibly before Scot arrived, but definitely afterward, he and Kevin became notorious for playing pranks on people. One their favorite things to do was lock people in the bathroom. On one occasion, they locked Dot in the women's restroom near the Fellowship Hall entrance. Dot turned the light out and waited patiently. The "boys" got a little worried and went to check on her. Kevin unlocked the door and gently opened it, "Dot, are you okay?" "BOO," yelled Dot. She got him back. I think they left her alone after that. Miguel on the other hand, was a different story.

1992 was themed, "Year of the Family" with a special focus on nurturing families within the church and the community. A special offering with a goal of \$25,000 to invest in this project was taken up on February 9<sup>th</sup>, and netted \$25,910.

In January of 1992, the missions' committee fulfilled its commitment with Bruce Wadzeck and his work in Princeton, NJ and in February they entered into a partnership with Bryan and Larisa Elliott who served as missionaries in Montevideo, Uruguay, from June of 1993 to June of 1996.



Elliotts

In 1992, Carolyn Gilbert and Dorothy Gay developed a series of curriculum entitled "Footprints of the Faithful." It was designed to take children through the Bible over four years. Children began the program as they entered 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and graduated from it as they finished 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It was very "hands on" and interactive. They featured the curriculum at the ACU Bible Teachers' Workshop for a number of years beginning in the summer of 1994 and many churches adopted it. It was officially "decommissioned" in the spring of 2018 and later in the year we held a very nice program and reception honoring Dorothy and Carolyn and so many other volunteers that helped over the years.



Dorothy Gay  
Director



Carolyn Gilbert  
Director



Stanley Lockhart retired in December of 1992. He and Carolyn served JSCC a total of 22 years over the course of two stints. They remained here in San Angelo and attended JSCC. Stanley was affirmed as an elder in 1997, but stepped down shortly after when Carolyn suffered a debilitating stroke. He took excellent care of her until she passed in November of 2011. Stanley died in November of 2018

On April 17-19 (Easter weekend), 1992, we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Family Retreat at the HEB Foundation Camp. Randy Hall, former CCC director, directed the very first Family Retreat in 1987. The second one took place in 1988 and then there was a three-year hiatus before Kevin Huddleston brought it back as an annual event. We held our 30<sup>th</sup> Family Retreat on Easter Weekend (Thursday-Saturday) of March 2021. There was no retreat in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic



In May of 1993, Calvin Warpula was hired as our pulpit minister. He and Judy came to us from Sugar Land, TX.

In March of 1994, Kevin and Shelly Huddleston traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for a youth ministry conference sponsored by Lipscomb University. While there, they got snowed in at the hotel and spent a great deal of time with Vann Conwell. Vann was the youth minister for the Decatur church and the leader of a summer mission effort called Impact Atlanta. As the blizzard raged outside, Vann, Kevin, and Shelly prayed and dreamed about a possible partnership for the coming year. Soon the plans were made, the Johnson Street Youth Ministry would come to Atlanta to join in an inner-city mission and then the Decatur group would travel to San Angelo to join our efforts in Mexico. So, in June of 1995, a team of students and adults from Johnson Street (TEAM JSY) drove a bus to Atlanta....



Huddlestons

...The trip made a huge impact on the teens and adults. While driving across Alabama in the middle of the night, the students and adults dreamed and prayed about what they had experienced. The next morning, Kevin called several adults at Johnson Street and asked

them to meet with the youth group the next morning during Sunday morning Bible class. Their task was to simply pray about what God might want to do with what had been experienced in Atlanta. (Keep reading to see what came of this meeting)



Perry Green joined the staff in May of 1994 as the Education Minister and served through July of 1997.

In September of 1994, Joe and Catherine Velasquez retired as church custodians after 30 years of dedicated service. Rodney Dunlap was hired to take their place the same month.



In October of 1994, Wayne and Sue Bramhall, Jim and Estelle Strother, and Mark Williams, on behalf of the missions committee, made a trip to South America to visit our three missionary families. They flew into Montevideo, Uruguay, to see the Elliotts; then on to Córdoba, Argentina, to see the Archers; from there took a side trip to Cuzco, Peru, to see the Incan ruins; and then onto Quito, Ecuador, to see the Placencias. It was so good to spend time with them.

In November of 1994, by way of Scot Yarbrough and the CCC, we began adopting a House of Faith Backyard Bible Club for Christmas. An Angel Tree was set up in the foyer and members were given



the opportunity to take a card and buy a gift or donate money toward the project. They always planned to set up for two Sundays, but seldom make it to the second one because our people jump at the chance to help others. The clubs meet on Wednesdays at various elementary schools in town. The group we currently sponsor is the Bradford Elementary club. Thanks to Loann Baker and Jessica Boling for keeping this opportunity before us every year.

In 1995, Sunshine School celebrated its ten-year anniversary. It started as a two day per week



mothers' day out program. It serves children ages 2-4 and is still operational today and has added a third week day, Wednesday, to its program. Melanie Garnett is the current director. Others who served in this position are: Judy Clemmer, Laura Smith, Patty Stone, Diane Branch, Anne Hargrove, Michelle Valentine, Susan Williams, Rita Frantz, and Debbie Freeman

In the Spring of 1995, Mark Davis and Mark Webster got the Tuesday Morning Men's Bible study group meeting again. The previous group disbanded in the fall of 1991. Royce Smith, Mark Williams, and Bryan Elliott were the lone holdouts and when it pretty much became a "gripe session" (Mark and Bryan complaining to Royce about all the things we wanted the church to change), we decided it best to discontinue. Today, the group (upwards of 20 sometimes) meets in the conference room at 6 am for coffee, Bible study, and prayer.

In July of 1995 a group of eighteen people (adults and youth) went on a mission trip to Atlanta, GA. They spent a week working in the inner city of Atlanta with the Decatur Church of Christ. There were two ministries that caught their attention: The Rolling Closet (an old school bus they had taken the seats out of and equipped with racks to hang clothes) and Café 458 (a soup kitchen that fed homeless people). On the way home from the trip, they began dreaming about possibilities in San Angelo for similar type ministries. The Rolling Closet or C.O.W. (Closet on Wheels) as we called it became a reality a few months later.



An old "JOY Bus" the church owned had been setting out at James Russell's junk yard. Harold Brothers asked for it back. They got it running again and removed all the seats and put in racks. Before you knew it, the foyer was filling up with clothes and COW runs were being made pretty regularly.

In December of 1995 a new opportunity was created by our Elderly Ministry. Every year as Christmas nears, our members are given the opportunity to buy a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. For two Sundays in a row, leading up to Christmas Eve, 150 poinsettia plants grace our stage area. With the Christmas trees and the poinsettia tree (thank you Buddy Horne for designing and building it for us) it is a beautiful sight. Families line up for photo opportunities. Early on, most of the plants were delivered to our shut-ins and nursing home residents, but the



nursing homes stopped allowing us to do that. Now we invite our members to take one or more and give them to friends and neighbors.

By the summer of 1996, the C.O.W. had outgrown itself (or I should say, there was no more room



at the lake house for storage). Karen Scott was a part of the benevolence committee and heavily involved in the C.O.W. ministry. She talked to her husband Brent about donating a small warehouse they owned to the church. The property was located at 803 Rust Street (behind Fort Concho). After conversations with their accountant, they offered it to us for \$35,000. At the time, the Sprite Corporation (already owned by Coca-Cola, but not absorbed into the company) was using the back

half of the building as its local distribution center. The payment on the note was \$500/month and Sprite's rent for their share of the warehouse was \$500/month. After one year, Brent and Karen forgave the note. JSCC owned the property and never paid a dime for it. Sprite moved out at the end of their lease.



In July of 1996, the West Texas Christian Foundation, hired Mark Davis (born at Harris and Irving/raised at JSCC) to be the Director of the newly planned Village East. The village was to be a three-phase project, with upscale town homes; promoting "maintenance free" living to couples or singles, 55+. The final phase was completed in 2014. There are 106 units, all occupied, and a fairly long waiting list as of this writing. Bill and Betty Harris bought the very first home (Betty is still there). The Curry Center (a recreational and meeting facility) was opened in 2000. It is named after

Ora Mae Curry, a longtime member, whose estate helped pay for it.

In September of 1996, Bryan Elliott, who had just returned from mission work in Uruguay, agreed (after many conversations with Harold Brothers) to take the director position of the newly created Christian Service Center, a benevolence center used to distribute food and clothing and other household items to the poor and needy in our community. Bryan would go on to complete his supervision in counseling and obtain his license and re-open the counseling ministry that H.R. Little had begun. Gina Ponder would join as administrative assistant in November of that same year.



On September 21, 1997, elders were reaffirmed and appointed to the office. These men were: Jim Ashlock, Ron Blann, Harold Brothers, J.D. Davis, Jamie Fox, Stanley Lockhart, Gene Lusk, Bryan Mahon, John Owens, Allen Price, Jim Randolph, and Royce Smith.

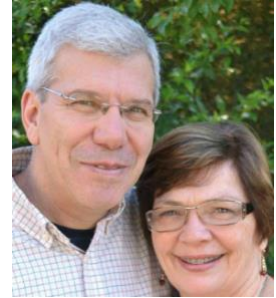


Sometime in the late 90's, we began partnering with the Bible Institute of Central America (BICA) after Wayne Bramhall and Kirby Hartman became aware of this new work. BICA is a two-year training program designed to teach local church members how to evangelize and disciple others to Christ. \$250/month would fully support a student through the training. BICA has campuses in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Several times per year, the students will engage in week long campaigns in various cities, either to plant a new church or help an existing one grow. Over the years, Kirby encouraged several JSCC folks to join him on these campaigns. Kevin Huddleston, Talisha Johnson, Tyler Bethea, and Bryan Elliott accompanied Kirby in April of 2006 to Esquipulas, Guatemala.



Also, in the late 90's we began projecting words to songs on the screen in the auditorium and singing songs that were NOT "in the book." At first, we had an overhead projector sitting next to the podium and only words were shot up on the screen, which frustrated some. Later, Monte Mahon installed an actual projector at the back of the auditorium on the balcony railing. For a while it was still only words, but members could also use the hymnals. Once "The Paperless Hymnal" began making slides with notes, the books gradually became obsolete. During this time we also began using a praise team (singers on mic but not on stage). "Camp songs" (as many referred to songs not in the book), clapping, and praise team became points of contention, but, in true JSCC fashion, we managed to slowly work through our disagreements and differences.

In March of 1998, we began a partnership with Antenor and Phyllis Gonçalves in Brazil. Phyllis (Shepherd) grew up at JSCC. She and Antenor met while at Abilene Christian University. Since 1976, they have worked in several Brazilian churches, but for the last 24 years they have worked with the church in Itu. Antenor is also involved with a national radio/television program. They also have a marriage mentor program they lead all over the country.



On August 23, 1998, Dot Harrod was honored with a retirement party after having served 29 years as one of the church secretaries. Early on, she was the church secretary.

In November of 1998, the elders selected Dorothy Gay and Carolyn Gilbert as Children's Education Directors. They served in this role faithfully and tirelessly through November of 2001.

In March of 1999, the elders introduced Vision 2000. Several committees were formed to *"explore the need and feasibility of adding to our facilities in order to gives us more and better opportunities to reach out to our community and to our own members."* (Christian Reflections, March 21, 1999) This was not the first time we explored this need; there was also a push during the Bill Young era back in the 80's but it never came to fruition.



Dorothy

On April 17, 1999, Beatrice (Bea) White celebrated her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. At the time, she was the oldest continuous member here at JSCC. She was baptized in the fall of 1924. *"Because it was so cold, and the church's baptistry had no water in it, Bea and the preacher decided to use the baptistry of another church here in town. Bea remembers some church women criticizing her because they thought it might not be scriptural to immersed in a different religious group's church building."* (Christian Reflections, April 11, 1999). The current oldest continuous member is Dorothy Gay. She started attending Harris and Irving with her parents at age 6, making her a member for the last 86 years. The current oldest member is Willie B Slaughter. She is 102 and appears to be well on her way to 103 in July of this year, 2021.



Willie B

In September of 1999 plans begin brewing for the creation of the Christian Life Center (CLC). The ministry would be located in the small office building adjacent the Christian Service Center on Rust Street. The dream was to offer Bible studies, life classes, parenting classes and other kinds of equipping classes to the Fort Concho neighborhood and the rest of the community.

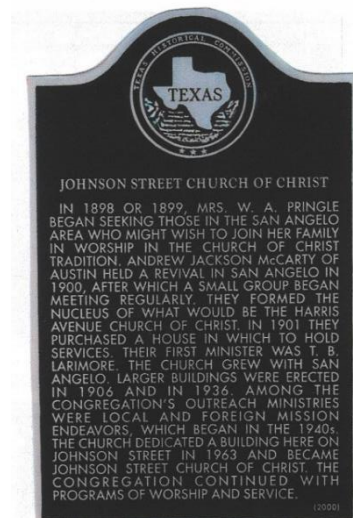


An open house was held on October 23, 1999 and the ministry offered its first class. By October of 2000, there was a weekly CASA (Christians Against Substance Abuse) 12-step group, a weekly "New Life Behavior" class, a weekly conversational Spanish class, and monthly CPR classes. Eventually they added a monthly parolees' orientation group, used to help those coming out of prison and make them aware of what all was available to them in the community as they sought to get back on their feet. In January of 2001, The CLC changed its name to "Turning Point," and had added a Home Budget Management class, an Anger Management class, a Family and Parenting class, and a Sexuality and AIDS class.

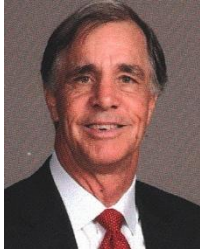
In the spring of 2000, Paul and Tamara Kinyon got our children (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders) involved in Bible Bowl competition again. Every first Saturday in April, for a number of years thereafter, the Tiger Cats would compete against other area wide children at the Southgate church campus. Thanks Paul and Tamara for helping our children learn Scripture.

In May of 2000, Calvin Warpula resigned his position as Pulpit Minister for a similar position in Jacksonville, FL.

On October 21-22, 2000, the church celebrated 100 years of existence in the community. From a small group that met in the home of the Pringle family in 1900, it was now a large congregation on the southwest side of the city. On Saturday, October 21, a Historical Marker (thank you Mary Nell Mahon and Sue Bramhall for doing all of the paperwork and Monte Mahon for the installation) was dedicated on the front lawn commemorating 100 of years of presence in and service to the community. Sunday service was followed by a catered lunch on the Crockett Elementary playground. Attendance for this Sunday was 1,254.







In May of 2001, our own Lanny Layman was elected to the SAISD school board as Member-at-Large. In 2004, he became school board president and held that office until May of 2021 when he stepped down. He still remains on the board but does not plan to run for another term in 2023. Thank you for your service to our community, Lanny.

In the summer of 2001, Camp Victory (summer youth camp) entered a new era with a move to Camp Eagle, near Rocksprings. The very first Camp Victory was held in Buffalo Gap in the summer of 1973 and had stints in Kingsland, TX, Bandina, TX (1978 was the year of the big flood), and Iron Springs, near Lake Whitney. To this day, Camp Victory still takes place at Camp Eagle.

In December of 2001, the elders announced that Tommy King would be our new Preaching Minister. Tommy and Pat came to us from the Glenwood church in Tyler, where he served 17 years, the last 13 as Preaching Minister. Prior to moving to Glenwood, Tommy had served here at JSCC as both Youth Minister and later Education Minister.



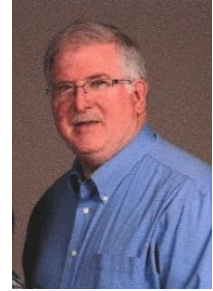
Interesting tidbit: Tommy and Pat and their son Tanner planned to join us in the summer of 2001, however, Tanner was selected as Drum Major for the Tyler Lee HS marching band for that coming fall. No way, were they going to take that away from their son. Tommy offered to rescind his acceptance, but the elders chose to wait it out. Bill Young filled in for the next several months and Tommy joined the staff in March of 2002.



In January of 2002, Marion Glasscock retired as the director of Christian Village. He served in this capacity for 22 years.

Laura Smith took over as Children's Education director in February of 2002 and served through October of 2003. Following Laura's departure, a committee was formed to explore the needs of the ministry and the feasibility of hiring a Children's Minister.

In May of 2002, our own Monte Mahon lost his bid for a sixth term as city councilman for Single Member District 6. He served capably in that position for nine years, beginning in 1995. Thanks for your service to our community, Monte.

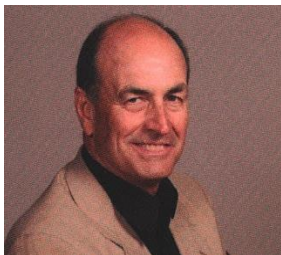


In the summer of 2002 Tommy King introduced the Chocolate Festival. Anyone interested was encouraged to make and bring some kind of chocolate dish. Entries were judged based on: Best Presentation, Most Napkins Used, Most Original, Most Chocolatey, Grand Prize-Youth, Grand Prize, and Honorable Mention. This was a fun night every summer, although, I think many went home feeling sick. Kenneth Webb, (manager at Bed, Bath, and Beyond) donated prizes for this event for several years. The final Chocolate Festival took place in August of 2015.

In the summer of 2002, we began construction on the elevator in the old building for easier 2<sup>nd</sup> floor access. It was completed in February of 2003.

On March 23, 2003, elders were again reaffirmed and appointed to the office. These men were: Jim Ashlock, Ron Blann, Harold Brothers, Don Foster, David Gay, Ed Huston, Bryan Mahon, John Owens, Allen Price, Royce Smith, and Trey Smith.

TRIVIA: On April 5, 2003, our area code changed from 915 to 325 (Christian Reflections, 3/23/03)



In the summer of 2010, our own Daniel Baker resigned his single member district 1 seat for SAISD school board of trustees after 9 years of service, because of nepotism laws so his daughter, Jessica, could go to work for the district. Thank you, Dan, for your service to our community.

In May of 2003, Scot Yarbrough resigned as the Campus Minister after 12 years of service to take a job locally with a parachurch organization known as "House of Faith." Scot and Ann continued worshipping with us here at JSCC until they eventually relocated to Abilene

On July 1, 2003, Miguel Zuñiga resigned after 19 years working with our Hispanic population and serving as minister for La Iglesia de Cristo en la calle Johnson. Fiesta Fellowship (Mexican food cooked by the Hispanic congregation) each year was always something to look forward to. The Fellowship Hall was so small, we had chairs and tables lined up down the Children's Wing hallway. Miguel and Esperanza, or as we all affectionately knew them, Mike and Hope, moved to Laredo, TX, to begin a new bi-lingual work in that city. The Spanish-speaking group meeting in the chapel was disbanded. Members of the group were asked to either integrate into the English-speaking group or move their membership to one of two other Spanish-speaking groups meeting in town.



Roughly one year later, Bruno Aguilar, approached the elders and asked if he could re-assemble the group and only asked for a small annual stipend to purchase books or commentaries. The elders were more than agreeable. The group did well for a time, but internal strife gradually ate away at their numbers and the group once again disbanded in the summer of 2020



In September of 2003, Lonnie Milligan was hired as the Campus Minister at the CCC, a position he maintained through May of 2006. He and Suzanne came to us from a campus ministry work at The Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO. They moved to Georgia.

In October of 2003 our "Vision 2000" campaign was reintroduced as "Fulfilling the Vision." We hired Arnold Watson (consultant) and put together a capital campaign. Our elders and Fulfilling the Vision committee met with each individual member of the church to share the vision and ask for a financial commitment. Our new Family Center was going to cost us about \$3.6M and we wanted half of that upfront. The JSCC family came through and in September of 2005, we broke ground on the Family Center.



A full-size gym for play and fellowship, a commercial kitchen, a youth room and café, new offices, a conference and missions' room, bathrooms, and storage. We moved in in January of 2007.

The staff in 2007 consisted of Tommy King, Preaching Minister, Bryan Elliott, Associate Minister, Kevin Huddleston, Youth and Family Minister, and Lois Power, Children's Minister. Support staff was Josie Broene and Brinda Fulton, secretaries, and Rodney Dunlap, custodian.



In January of 2004, David Giddings was hired as the new director of the Christian Service Center (Bryan Elliott moved over to JSCC to become the Associate Minister). Under David's leadership, the Christian Service Center and the Christian Life Center became a sole entity and was renamed Rust Street Ministries (RSM).



In February 2004, Paul & Dale Richardson, Stacey Sauer, Geral & Sue Sorrells and Bill & Patti Wyatt (as best as I can remember, says Sue Sorrells), formed The Believers Relay for Life team. For the past 17 years they have held events and fundraisers allowing JSCC members to give thousands of dollars every year to the American Cancer Society. The team, along with many other members and cancer survivors or caregivers represent JSCC at the annual Relay for Life Weekend every year in May. Their specialty for that weekend walk (which is also a fundraiser) is fresh squeezed lemonade.



Brinda

Brinda Fulton was hired in September of 2004 to take Stacey Sauer's place (Stacey took Gina's place back in 1989) as one of the administrative assistants. Stacey stepped down to take a position with Angelo State University. She and Ron continued worshipping with us here at JSCC.



Stacey



In July of 2004 the elders hired Lois Power as our Children's Minister. Jeff and Lois had recently relocated back to San Angelo from the Metroplex and had been worshipping with us for a while. Lois named the ministry, Kingdom Kids. She also brought back Kidstime (formerly children's hour). The nursery officially became known as "Little Blessings" and David and Sherri Elkins have been leading that ministry ever since. They and their crew of volunteers are a blessing to our toddlers. Lois also began a women's ministry which is called Walk in His Ways.



In January of 2005, we broke ground on the parking lot south of the worship center and completed the project in April. We struck a deal with ASU for a long-term lease. We pay \$500/year, they use it for athletic events and they maintain it. I only recall one time in the last 16 years that we both used it on the same day: they were hosting a softball tournament and were celebrating and remembering the life of Anne Bahlman Gouak (daughter of Danny and Kande Bahlman). Len Boling put up some horse saws with signs showing where to park for each event and there was enough room for everyone.



Marlars

In 2006, there was once again a push to expand our foreign missions' program. The Troy and Bonnie Robertson family (2006-2008) along with the Scott and Rissa Marlar family (2007-2010) served in Auckland, New Zealand, under the sponsorship of the JSCC elders and missions' committee. At the time we were still involved with the Gonçalves family in Brazil and the Bible Institute of Central America.

On September 10, 2006, we began offering two morning worship service times (8:30 and 10:45) with Bible classes in between at 9:45. We had 337 in 1<sup>st</sup> service and 508 in 2<sup>nd</sup> service for a total of 845, and we had 514 in Bible classes (from Christian Reflections, September 17, 2006). This schedule went on for just over ten years.



Gina

In February of 2007, Gina Ponder moved from her position as Administrative Assistant at Rust Street Ministries to the church office to take Brinda Fulton's place. Gina is currently the office manager and bookkeeper as of this writing. Kelly Timms took her place as administrative assistant and volunteer coordinator at RSM.



Kelly

In the summer of 2007 (after we were fully moved into the Family Center) we began doing some updating in the “old” building. In July, we made the foyer more welcoming and warmer by putting doors on the old “coat racks” and adding the faux fire places. We also remodeled the old office area and converted it into what is now the nursery.

After many years of dreaming about joining the efforts of Antenor and Phyllis Gonçalves in Brazil, in the summer of 2007, Kevin Huddleston and a team of students and adults traveled to Itu, Brazil to conduct Camp Victory Brazil. This exciting and challenging trip placed adults and teens in the roles of teachers and cell group leaders for a bilingual camp experience. It also helped nurture deep relationships between the Johnson Street family and the Itu church of Christ.

These relationships fueled a long-term effort of missions to Brazil over the next 10 years. While on that first trip to Brazil in 2007, Greg Dunham and Antenor Goncalves talked, prayed and dreamed about what else might be possible in the way of missions and outreach. (It was on the mission to Brazil in 2009 that “God Wins” was born with the baptism of Bruno Mendes. You still see folks wearing the t-shirts today)



In July of 2007, Doug Johnson was hired as Campus Minister at the Christian Campus Center. He and Talisha and their children came to us from Clyde, TX, where Doug had been serving as youth minister. He continued many of the current practices, i.e., fall and spring retreat, midnight breakfast, adopt a student program, Campus Encounter, Sunday night meals, to name a few, but also added an annual trip to Campus for Christ, an association of Church of Christ campus ministries nationwide. Doug is credited for renaming the ministry to Rams for Christ.

In September of 2007, we updated the Fellowship Hall and in October we laid new carpet in the Children’s Wing hallways.

In the fall of 2007, we entered into a partnership with Jennifer Ashlock who would be moving to Mbale, Uganda, to teach the children of the mission team located there. Jennifer grew up here at JSCC and was very active in the youth group and later the CCC. In 2011, she moved to Kitale, Kenya and took a position as Director of Spiritual Formation and Activities, with the Kitale Church of Christ Children’s Home in Kitale, Kenya.

In July of 2015, she assumed more administrative responsibility when she became the director of the home. In the summer of 2019, while home on furlough, she adopted her daughter Emma. Because of COVID-19, they have been here on an extended furlough, hoping to return to Kenya soon.



In February of 2008, we added ACA compliant women's restrooms and a family restroom next to the north stairwell in the foyer and "restored" the Parlor, which had been part of the nursery for a while.

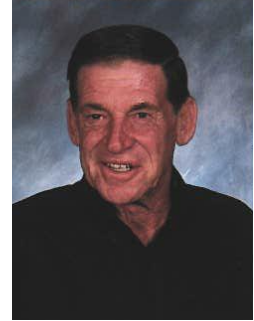


The steeple got a much-needed face lift in the summer of 2008 (Thank you Monte Mahon and photo with date stamp on it. The previous time it had any work done on it was in 1996 (There's a picture of it the August 1996 edition of Christian Reflections). A group of four steeplejacks came down from Rockford, IL, and spent about five to six weeks dangling from ropes, shimmying up and down, scraping, caulking, repairing, and painting. The Standard Times came out and took pictures and we made the front page.

Unbeknownst to anyone, there was a huge bee hive inside some of the trim work. One of the steeplejacks "discovered" it when he went to cut out a piece of rotten board. He did spend the night in the hospital, but fortunately nothing worse. Once the bees were taken care of the job was a piece of cake, "in their eyes." It's obvious that it again needs some TLC. We're currently working on that. This west Texas weather is hard on her, requiring maintenance about every 13 years or so.

David Giddings resigned from his position as Director of Rust Street Ministries in August of 2008 and went into private practice counseling until his retirement. He and Sue remained faithful members here at the church until they retired, then they moved to Fort Worth to be near their children and grandchildren.

Our beloved Rodney Dunlap, retired from his position as custodian in January of 2009 and passed away on October 13, 2009, after a short battle with cancer. He was famous for his “signage in the submarine” (storage area underneath the baptistry) and the occasional bulletin article titled, “The ‘Mess’adonian Call.” Rodney was never hard to find: just listen for Willie Nelson and walk toward the music. Donovan Valdibieso was hired to take Rodney’s place.

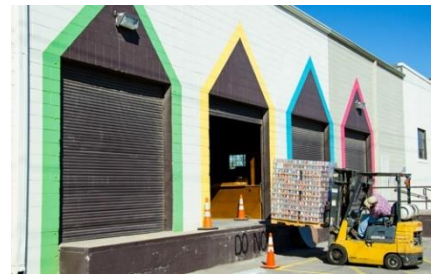


Rodney was the first person to shake my hand the first time we visited here at JSCC in January of 1989. It was a Sunday evening and Larisa and I pulled into the rear parking lot about the same time he and Nancy did. He spotted us and walked straight toward us and introduced himself, “y’all new in town?” or something to that nature. An impression I have never forgotten and most definitely one of the reasons we placed our membership here.

In March of 2009 we repaired and repainted all of the windows and outside trim on the building.



The RSM director search committee recommended Bob Knox to the elders and RSM Board and Bob began his tenure as director in April of 2009. Bob was an excellent networker and during his tenure, RSM blossomed. A large warehouse next door to the existing property was purchased in 2011 and a total remodel of the building at 803 Rust took place in 2014.



RSM became even more integrated into the network of social services here in the community under Bob’s leadership.

On May 3, 2009, elders were reaffirmed and appointed to the office. These men were: Dan Baker, Ron Blann, Mitch Freeman, Don Foster, David Gay, Kirk Hawkins, Don Horner, Ed Huston, Steve Justice, Bryan Mahon, John Owens, Allen Price, Royce Smith, and Trey Smith.





Shortly after, six Shepherding Groups were created. The congregation was divided up among the groups, allowing the elder teams to focus on a smaller number of members vs. the entire congregation. Quarterly meetings and events were held for the next year or so, so that members could get to know “their” elders and other members of the flock.

In August of 2009, Cyndy Ashlock took over the reins from Geno Wood as our liaison with Meals for the Elderly. Every August, since 1974 JSCC members have helped deliver meals all over town. Flo Miller, Vesta Toney, Lori Warren, and Kim Davis also served as coordinators for this ministry.

Sometime in the fall of 2009 (I could not pinpoint the exact month), The Christian Life Center, which by then consisted only of a parolee orientation class, changed its name to Concho Valley

Turning Point with Tony Tharp taking on the leadership role. Tony, along with other volunteers, began offering 12-step recovery meetings and anger



management classes. CVTP became an independent organization from RSM. Eventually they purchased an 8-unit apartment building (just around the corner for RSM on Highland) to be used as a sober/transitional living place for men coming out of prison or treatment centers. Not long after, a house next door came up for sale and CVTP bought the property and relocated their offices and programs there. CVTP is still in operation assisting folks in their recovery. Travis Mathes is the current director and Maria Mejia is the administrative assistant.



On October 25, 2009, (It was scheduled for 7:52 AM) many of us arrived early and sat out on the northside of the building to watch ASU implode the University high rise. It shook the ground somewhat but otherwise did not affect our property. We did cancel the 8:30 service that morning.

In November of 2009, the auditorium got a much needed “make-over.” We painted it and laid new carpet down. That’s when we added the break in the middle of auditorium and slanted the two front sections toward the pulpit. We met in the gym for three Sundays while that was being done. If you’re feeling nostalgic about the old look or want to see what it used to look like, just walk down the hall to the chapel.

In January of 2010, Dan and Loann Baker began offering Financial Peace University classes again. Mike and Elisa Griffith first offered this course from 2002-2004 and Jeff and Lois Power offered it once in 2007. Originally a 13-week course designed to help people get a handle on their finances, it was later pared down to nine weeks by the company. *“On average, families using this instruction will reduce their debt by \$5,300 and save \$2,700 in just 91 days. That’s and \$8,000 turnaround!”* (Christian Reflections, November 20, 2011) Over the last 10 years this class has helped hundreds become better financial planners and managers.



Remember the mission trip to Brazil in 2007? In June of 2010, Greg Dunham led the first annual CURA Brazil medical campaign. Since then, every year, with the exception of 2020 (COVID-19) a group of local doctors, dentists and other volunteers have spent one week in lower socio-economic neighborhoods of Itu, Brazil, taking care of the physical needs (medical, dental, ophthalmology, chiropractic, etc.) of the people. CURA has gained an esteemed presence with the city government who furnish a school gymnasium each year for the crew to set up shop.



In July of 2010 RSM partnered with The Texas Hunger Initiative’s Kids Eat program. This was an eight-week lunch program, Monday-Friday, to feed kids who no longer had access to free school lunches because school was not in session. Maria Gonzalez was the project coordinator and Frank Shouse served as the cook for a few years and later David and Maria Gonzalez took on the cooking as well. Meals were served out of Officer’s Quarter’s #8 at Fort Concho. Although the program is still in effect, RSM dropped after the summer of 2015, mainly due to a low volunteer pool.

In December of 2010, the COW (the old joy bus we used to take clothes to our poorer neighborhoods) was decommissioned and replaced by a 30ft toy box trailer, specially equipped for this ministry. It also has a restroom/shower and an A/C unit. In the summer of 2011, the new COW was used as a respite for firefighters and volunteers fighting several large grass fires in Coke County.



Josie

In January of 2011, Josie Broene retired from her position as church secretary. She served faithfully in this position since January of 1985. Jean Hayes was hired to replace her.



Jean

Josie was one of the most efficient and organized people I have ever known. She ran a pretty tight ship around here for a long time. I'm grateful for the time we spent together on staff, but I'm even more grateful to her posthumously (Josie died in November of 2017) for her meticulous record keeping I was able to use to bring our church history up to date. Sometime in the late 80s, Josie created a bi-monthly church communication she named, "Our Family Matters." It was similar to an internal message board where members could advertise services, promote activities, make requests. Everyone always looked forward to reading OFM.

In February of 2011, Debbie Freeman resurrected the monthly 39ers potluck dinner. I'm not sure how long it sat idle, but it did pick back up and ran for several years. If I'm remembering correctly, Ed Huston took on a leadership/coordinator role at some point in this ministry.

In the summer of 2011, a team of students and adults traveled to the Medina Children's Home for a week of hard physical labor. The first task was to disassemble the roof of the campus chapel. Just a week earlier, while under construction, the roof was torn off by a storm. So, our team helped tear down so something new could be built. And in that, a new relationship was formed – one that endures today as students and adults continue to travel to Medina to assist with the vibrant ministry of Arms of Hope.

In November of 2011, Lois Power held an organizational meeting for a new women's ministry: Walk in His Ways. What followed were annual retreats, a young mom's Tuesday morning Bible class, the annual Women's Holiday gathering, Ladies' Nights Out, Craft nights, just to name a few. Debbie Freeman, Jennifer Timm, and Kathy Schneider, currently work with this ministry.

In the spring of 2012 Bob Knox and Harold Brothers (RSM board chairman) visited Paul Ann Church to tell them about RSM and invite them to partner with RSM. Paul Ann not only partnered financially, but many of their folks became committed volunteers. Paul Ann was the first church in town, other than JSCC, to partner with RSM. To date, over 20 churches in the city along with many individuals and local businesses partner financially with RSM and the number of volunteers has grown exponentially. This mission hasn't changed. It's still neighbors helping neighbors. In June, Harold stepped down as chairman and Don Foster took his place. Don is still serving as chairman as of this writing.

In the summer of 2012, the Johnson Street Youth Ministry traveled to Portland, Oregon to work with the Pump Church of Christ. While in Portland, the team conducted a VBS for an inner-city ministry, assisted in a number of ongoing projects with the local church, and partnered with the Bridgetown Church and Night Strike, their intensive ministry with the homeless population.

In July of 2012 we held a block party at Rust Street Ministries. Invitations had been going out for a month. When the time came, around 400 people attended, fairly equally divided between JSCC folks and neighbors. We had sausage on a stick and other snacks and drinks. Gus Constancio was our DJ and we had line dances in the street. We gave out door prizes and had a fabulous time.



The block party went on for several years, but was later moved to October (it's HOT in July) and merged with the annual trunk-of-treats that Lois Power hosted for our kiddos. The block party became known as the Fall Festival. Frito Pie, snacks and drinks became the new menu. Game stations were set up on the back parking lot of RSM and cars formed a big horseshoe on the south end with folks in costume and trunks open full of treats. COVID-19 did put a damper on it as well, but I won't be surprised if it's back this fall.

The Family Center was paid off in 2012, several years ahead of schedule, thanks to the ongoing generosity and commitment of our members. Our payment was \$11,500/month, but we, pretty consistently, added an additional \$4,000 each month that went directly to the principle. A "Note Burning" party was held on September 9, 2012, with a catered meal in the gym and special program.



Bunny

Bunny Parker retired from her position as assistant campus minister in August of 2012, with a catered meal and special program in the Family Center. She spent 26 years in this position helping coordinate events and ministering to students. Jerrica Osbourn was hired to take over for Bunny and still holds the position today, although her title was changed to Associate Campus Minister in March of 2019.



Jerrica



In April of 2013, we reconnected with Helping Hands (formerly Christmas in April). We hadn't participated in a while and Chris Woodrow (serving as an intern for us) formed a team to help repair/repaint the home of an elderly citizen in the community. Since then, every year, we have continued to form teams to assist in the program. Chad Goen is now acting as "Project Manager" for this yearly event.

In June of 2013, Concho Valley Turning Point hosted "An evening with the Robertson's of A&E's Duck Dynasty. It was a huge success. All proceeds went toward the debt on their property.



On October 9, 2013, Royce Smith, long time church member and elder was laid to rest. Royce and Karla and their children became members of this congregation in 1966. He served faithfully as an elder for almost 30 years, 10 of which were on the church staff.

Mitch Freeman became our new staff elder in May of 2014. It's been a blessing having an elder on the staff. Mitch does a great job as a liaison between the staff and the elders, ministering the staff, and ministering to our church family.



On April 13, 2014, elders were reaffirmed and appointed to the office. These men were: Dan Baker, Ron Blann, Mark Davis, Mitch Freeman, David Gay, Kirk Hawkins, David Hettick, Don Horner, Lanny Layman, Bryan Mahon, Michael O'Briant, Allen Price, Trey Smith, David Timm, and Mark Webster.



Donovan Valdibieso resigned as custodian in June of 2014 and Hector Torres took his place. Hector's wife Abby, had already been working in a part-time position for us. Hector and Abby are still taking care of our building today.

By 2015, Bryan Elliott had been leading worship for about ten years. He had also assumed duties in administration, finances, and facilities management (January of 2007). In an effort to “lighten” his load, the elders decided to create a new staff position. The primary role would be that of worship leader, but there were other duties in the job description. In June of 2015, Jake Keefer was hired for this newly created position. He and Anna were fresh out of college. They came to us from West Virginia, having both just graduated from Ohio Valley University. He was the “baby” on our staff. Good kid!



Over the weekend of September, 5-7, 2015, the Christian Campus Center celebrated 50 years in existence. Many former students and directors made it in for this milestone. A catered meal and special program were held on Saturday night in the C.J. Davidson Conference Center in the UC.



Jarvis

Bob Knox retired as the director of Rust Street Ministries in October of 2015. A search committee was formed and Bryan Jarvis, was hired in June of 2016 as the fourth director of the agency. Serving along with him, were Janet Branham, volunteer coordinator, Mark Bell, warehouse manager, Kathy Hearn as bookkeeper, and Jerry Talamantes as receiving clerk.

Tommy King retired from his position as Preaching Minister in January of 2016 after 14 years of wonderful sermons and classes. Tommy was very pastoral and, when he wasn’t preparing for a sermon, was either at the hospital, a nursing home, or a member’s home making visits.

Tommy was a great mentor and friend. We became a great team doing funerals, he doing the “talkin’” and me doing the “singin’.” Tommy and Pat continued to worship with us after his retirement. In April of 2021, Pat retired from her position as Activities Director at Christian Village and they are making plans to move to their ranch near Junction, TX.

In March of 2016 the West Texas Christian Foundation sold Christian Village (apartments for the elderly built back in 1980). To make it affordable and available to anyone, it was a part of the HUD program. Over the years, HUD would require updates to keep the building up to code and each time, WTCF would have to refinance and add to the loan to make this happen. WTCF was changed to West Texas Christian Ministries and proceeds from the sale went into this account for future project to benefit the elderly.



In October of 2016, the Angelo State University Athletics Association inducted our own Paul “Buddy” Horne into its Hall of Fame. Buddy began his career as a student at ASU in 1953 and ended it in 1997 as Dean of Students. Buddy served as project manager for the construction of the Family Center (assisted by Arthur Howard and Ken Lucas). He was an excellent wood worker. Some of you will remember the wooden podium we used on Sunday and Wednesday nights at the break in the pews. I asked Buddy to make that for us. The stem is part of the stairwell railings rescued from the old Rosemont Apartments on the ASU campus. Buddy died in February of 2020.

In March of 2017, Nancy Dunlap took over for Johnny Keating as coordinator for our “communion to shut-ins” program. Under her leadership this ministry grew and thrived. There were enough volunteers that you only had to serve two months out of the year. Like everything else, COVID-19 shut this program down in 2020 and no one is sure if/when it will start back up again.

Scott Allen accepted the position of Senior Minister and joined the staff in November of 2017. He and Shelly and their two children, Liv and Liam came to us from the Grapevine Church of Christ in Grapevine, TX.



In January of 2018, because of a couple of mass shootings at churches here in the state, we assembled a security team and engaged the services of the ASU police department. An officer has been on duty every Sunday morning since and the security team, very discretely, roams the facilities. The job of opening and closing the building became much easier as only 4 doors are unlocked instead of every single one, and two of those are locked at 9:15 am, leaving the front foyer the only point of access.



In January of 2018 Kevin Huddleston, resigned as Youth Minister after 30 years of service to take a position as Director of Spiritual Formation with Arms of Hope, an organization that oversees the Medina Children’s Home and the Boles Children’s Home. In September of 2018, Paxton Smith, who had served as a summer youth intern that summer and the previous one, was hired as an interim youth minister. At the time, He was a senior Math-Education major at ASU.

Jake Keefer resigned in April of 2018 to take a similar position at the University Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, AL. They loved San Angelo and JSCC, but, Anna especially, missed home and this move would get them much closer to WV.

In June of 2018, we took on another capital project: a complete remodel and expansion of the Christian Campus Center. \$1.8M was borrowed from West Texas Christian Ministries for this project (which we are still paying back). The work was supervised by our own Cody Guins (who was already supervising major construction projects for ASU) and completed in November of 2019. The spring semester of 2020 had barely



begun, when COVID-19 hit and shut everything down. By March of 2021, the campus began opening back up some and selective activities were once again able to take place in the building.

In September of 2018, Lois Power retired from the position of Women's and Children's Minister after 14 of service. She and Jeff remain actively involved in the work here at JSCC.

In October of 2019, following a year or better of discussion, we sold our lake property located at 2010 Willow Drive. Willow Camp, as it was known to all, was once a popular place for many church activities, but after completion of the Family Center, it was used less and less for church activities and more for parties and family reunions, by many not even members here at JSCC. Honestly, I don't really think it's been missed.

Phil Gold joined the staff in January of 2019. He was hired to fill the newly created position of Associate Minister of Families and Connection. Phil and Jamie were members here at JSCC at the time. Phil was formerly in ministry in St. Louis, MO. After their daughter Brumley was born, they decided to move back to Texas so she could be near her grandparents. The first one to find employment was where they'd land. Jamie, an optometrist, took a job with Advanced Eye Care here in town and that is how they came to be here. Until joining the staff, Phil worked as a hospice chaplain and managed the lab for Advanced Eye Care.





Since joining the staff, Phil has added a marriage enrichment and mentoring program. He also oversees our small groups ministry and has assisted with the formation of two new ones, so far.



In February of 2019, we began contracting with Greg Jaynes. Greg is in charge of all of our digital platforms. He keeps our website and church app up to date as well as our presence on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram. Greg is married to Codi. She is an instructor in the math department at ASU.

In June of 2019, Jason Creed was hired as our new Youth Minister. He and Alyse and their daughter Callie came to us from the Cross Point church in Grand Prairie, TX. Juliette was born shortly after their arrival and on Sunday, April 25, 2021, they welcomed their third daughter, Madison, into the world. Jason has continued most of the youth programs that were already in effect, but added QUEST (a teen discipleship program) and Camp Barnabas, a summer camp in Missouri for special needs kids (our teens will serve as counselors/buddies to the campers).



In July of 2019, Elizabeth O'Briant came on board as Children's Minister. A long-time member, she retired from teaching (27 years) and applied for the opening. She is married to Michael, one of our elders. She is energetic and constantly coming up with ideas and project to bless our kids. She renamed the ministry to JSK (Johnson Street Kids). Kidstime is now One Way, and at Christmas time, she puts on a Children's Musical. During the COVID-19 crisis, she came up with the JSK Moment, a 2-minute video clip each Sunday designed to engage and educate our children. The adults have learned a lot as well, but not sure all of us would admit to it.



Brantly

In the fall of 2019, we entered into a partnership with two new mission efforts: the Kent Brantly family in Zambia (medical clinic) and the Roy Rhodes family with the Impact Church in Temple, TX (inner city work). Roy served part-time on our staff a few years earlier while completing his Masters at ACU.



Rhodes

Jeff Shelton joined the staff in January of 2020 as Worship Minister. He and Kara and their three children (Hayden, Brylee, and Merit) came to us from the Dalton Gardens church in northern Idaho. Not only is he a great worship leader, he's very adept at making videos and has done a wonderful job with our JSK moment each Sunday.



Bryan Jarvis resigned in January of 2020 as Director of Rust Street Ministries to take a preaching position with the Fernandina Beach church near Jacksonville, FL. Although we hated to see him go, we knew Bryan's passion had always been to preach. He and I had an inside joke between us: when it was my turn to preach, I would say, "I have to preach on Sunday." When it was his turn to preach, he would say, "I get to preach on Sunday." Bryan left a wonderful mark on RSM. He became a "pastor" not only to the neighbors, but volunteers as well. He still maintains regular contact with several folks here.

In late 2019 a novel coronavirus (COVID-19 as it is known scientifically) broke out in China. By late February of 2020, a world-wide pandemic was declared. Larisa and I had been to Bahrain (March 5-12) to see our son, Ethan, who was stationed there with the US Navy. We barely made it back! On Monday, March 16, the country was pretty much shut down, with state governors calling for everyone to "shelter in place." Almost everything closed except those businesses deemed "essential" by the governor. Essential businesses, such as a grocery store, had limited occupancy—up to 100 people at a time. Lines were long and many items were hard to find as "panic buying" overtook.

In a conversation with Mary Allen, she shared a memory of her mother going to the store during the polio outbreak back in the 40's. "Mom could only go to the store on Wednesday. She would hand her grocery list through the door to a store employee. The employee would gather the items on the list and let her know the cost. Once the transaction was final, they would set her groceries outside the door for her to pick up and take home."

We suspended "in person" services on March 22. Thankfully we already had an online streaming service and we were able to easily broadcast our worship services to our members. On Sunday, May 31, 2020, we began meeting in person again, with about half of our members attending in person and the other half online. We held two services (no Bible class) and sectioned off all of the pews in an effort to maintain "social distance," until Labor Day. On Sunday, September 13, we went back to one service, children's classes, and one adult class. The leadership team debated several times about making face masks mandatory, but only ever "strongly" recommended it.

David Ingram Jr, joined us in April of 2020. He and Babí moved here from San Antonio, TX after having served over 30 years with the Northside church (25 of those years in Fortaleza, Brazil). He was hired as the Director at Rust Street Ministries, filling the vacancy left by Bryan Jarvis.



Doug Johnson resigned as Campus Minister in October of 2020. A search committee was formed in early 2021 to find a replacement. As of this writing, they are in the process of interviewing candidates.

Jean Hayes retired from her position as Communications Administrative Assistant on January 31, 2021 after 10 years of service. She was a bright and shiny face and a warm welcome to all who came into the office. She was replaced by her daughter Beth Hayes (purely coincidental).



Bryan stepped down from his position as Executive Minister on May 30, 2021, after 25 years of service, to pursue other interests. He and Larisa remain active members here at JSCC.