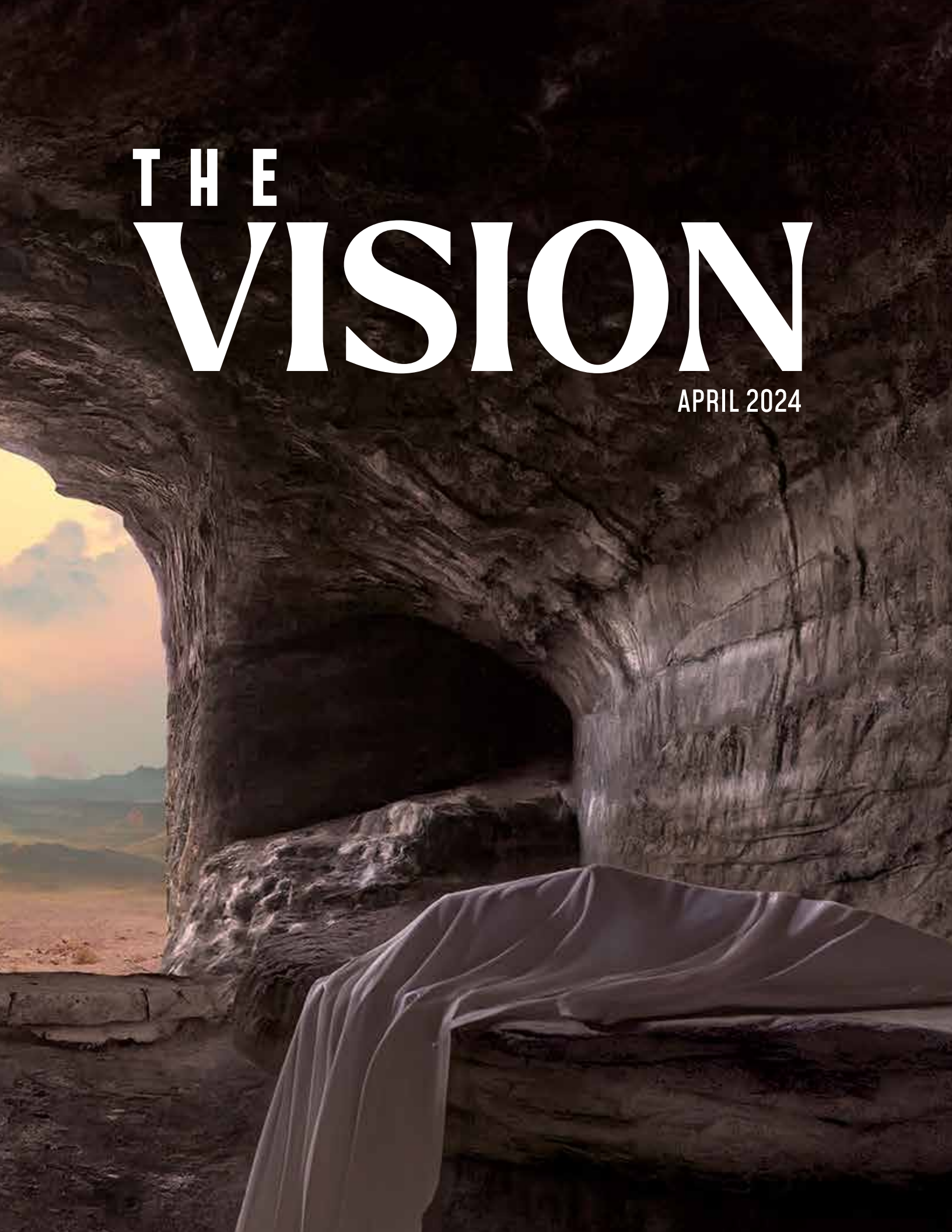


# THE VISION

APRIL 2024



# GOD'S TIME

It may be the best of times, it may be the worst of times, but it's God's time for us.

With all the chaos and craziness of the times, it's easy to question our purpose and wonder where God is in the midst of it all.

In the book of Acts, Paul finds himself in Athens at the Areopagus. This is a place where all different kinds of ideas, philosophies, and beliefs were exchanged. Paul finds some common ground before sharing the gospel with them. As he aims to find common ground, he says:

"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands." Acts 17:26

In the midst of chaos, confusion, and uncertainty, God's divine timing is at work. We are not products of chance or circumstances, but timely intentional creations of a sovereign God.

In the book of Esther, we witness a remarkable example of God's timing at play. Esther, a young Jewish woman, finds her self-thrown into a

position of influence at a critical moment in history. With the Jewish people on the brink of annihilation, Mordecai shared with her:

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14

Esther, at the right time, was courageous and obedient to save her people from destruction.

In our own lives, God wills and works events and opportunities to His timing. In times of abundance, we are called to steward those blessings faithfully. In times of trial, we find strength in knowing that God's purposes prevail, even when we can't see the bigger picture. Whatever circumstances we find ourselves in, whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's about God's time for us.



*Dr. John Whitten*  
Dr. John Whitten  
Senior Pastor



# AFTER EASTER

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Next Sermon Series: After Easter

Embark on a transformative journey through the book of Acts in our upcoming sermon series as we discover the Holy Spirit's transformational work. From Acts 1, where the Spirit baptizes us into the Kingdom, to Acts 20, where he shields us from evil, each chapter reveals the Spirit's dynamic work. Just as the Spirit empowered the early church, he continues to guide, comfort, and protect us today. Join us as we explore how the Spirit empowers, surprises, speaks, serves, surrenders, multiplies, silences, and protects us.



## Sunday Nights

Apr. 7: Daniel McKay, 6PM Conference Center

Apr. 14: Night of Worship, 6PM Conference Center

Apr. 21: Monthly Meetings, No Evening Worship

Apr. 28: John Whitten, 6PM Conference Center

# APRIL

## CHURCHWIDE

### APR. 12: PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

High School Choir and Parent's Night Out team up for a night full of fun for your children, birth-5th grade from 6-9PM. All proceeds go towards our High School Choir students for their annual High School Choir Tour! Cost is \$15 per child or \$40 max per family (donations gladly appreciated). Deadline to register is April 10, 2024. Eat before you come or bring your dinner. Due to this event being a fundraiser, registration fee is non-refundable.

### APR. 14: NIGHT OF WORSHIP & PRAYER

Join us from 6-7PM for a special evening service in the Conference Center led by our gathering worship team!

### MAY 8: PIONEER PICNIC

Join us for Pioneer Picnic at 6PM at Festival Gardens (across from the zoo). Bring your own picnic supper and come enjoy fellowship and fun activities for all ages. There will be games, inflatables, kickball, volleyball, a cornhole tournament, snow cones, and more. You won't want to miss this evening of fun with your Pioneer Drive family. Invite a friend to join us!

## COLLEGE MINISTRY

### MAY 26: SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the Fall Semester 2024 are available in the upstairs offices or in the College Bible Study room (Rm 2254) for students attending a Texas Baptist University or ACU. All applications must be sent to [Gayla@pioneerdrive.org](mailto:Gayla@pioneerdrive.org), mailed, or delivered to the upstairs office. Priority will be given to students pursuing full-time ministry. Remaining scholarships awarded on a need basis.

## CHILDRENS MINISTRY

### APR. 7: GA MUFFIN SALE

Support our GA's (Girls In Action) as they raise money for our ministry partners directly connected to Pioneer Drive. We will have homemade muffins for sale around the church. What a great breakfast treat for you, your family, and your Sunday School class!

### APR. 24: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SHIRTS

Vacation Bible School 2024 is coming soon! Buy your t-shirt today and start getting ready for the best week of the summer! Stop by the office of the Children's Ministry or order online through Realm.

## MEN'S MINISTRY

### APR. 12-14: MEN'S RETREAT

Enjoy an entire weekend or drop in for a few moments of rediscovering our faith in a beautiful West Texas setting far enough away to feel removed but close enough to feel accessible. Led by Rev. John Hunt & our Pioneer Men's Ministry Team, you'll eat good food and make great friends, all while growing your faith. Cost is \$50 per night to stay. Those who don't stay overnight and come just for sessions or activities don't pay up front, but need to register so we have enough food and materials.

## MISSIONS MINISTRY

### BIG COUNTRY NEEDS: BOXES OF CEREAL

We are collecting boxes of cereal for the All For One Missions Pantry in the Alameda Neighborhood. Bring your donations to the grocery carts or any church office.

### JUN. 16: BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDERS

Help build a new church in one week! For many years, several members of our church have participated in an annual Church Builders mission trip with other Baptists from various churches. You are invited to join in on the work and ministry on this year's trip from June 16-21. To learn more, you can visit [www.baptistchurchbuilders.com](http://www.baptistchurchbuilders.com) or contact Taylor in our Mission's Office.

### JUL. 1: GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

We are heading back to Guatemala this summer from July 1-6! This is a great mission trip opportunity for individuals and families as we go to learn, grow, and serve alongside our partners at Servants Hearts Ministries. If you missed the initial interest meeting, please contact [Taylor@pioneerdrive.org](mailto:Taylor@pioneerdrive.org) with questions and inquiries about this opportunity. The deadline to sign up is May 1.

### HOUSE OF FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Our ministry partners at House of Faith are seeking volunteers to help with their after-school programs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. You can lead local students in games, verse memorization, storytelling and much more. Have fun, meet new friends, and make an impact. Go to <https://www.hofabilene.org/volunteer> and sign up today.

## PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

### APR. 5: FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS

Our April Fridays with Friends will be at the Milliorns house from 10AM-12PM on April 5. Bring 12 stuffed eggs for each child and we will enjoy an egg hunt! Lunch will be provided. Register by Monday, April 1.

## CHILDREN'S DAY OUT REGISTRATIONS

Pioneer Drive Children's Day Out is now enrolling for Fall 2024-2025! We are looking forward to a great year! We have excellent curriculum that addresses all areas of your child's development: spiritual, physical, mental, social, and emotional. For more information and questions, contact Pamela McElhaney, [Pamela@pioneerdrive.org](mailto:Pamela@pioneerdrive.org).

## PRIMETIMER MINISTRY

### APR. 4: PRIMETIME LIVE

Are you ready for a Primetimer-tastic day? The award-winning Revolution Strings will fill the air with energetic jazz, country fiddle, electric Celtic, and Texas Swing. Coffee, games, and fellowship begins at 10AM, Revolution Strings at 11AM, and a Chick-fil-A lunch (\$8) at noon. Sign up in the church office or online.

### APR. 16: BASEBALL GAME

The nationally ranked Texas Christian University Horned Frogs will "hop" over to Abilene for their battle with the Abilene Christian University Wildcats. This purple and white rivalry started in 1966. Join us at 5PM for Rosa's (North side) and the first pitch at 6PM. Tickets are \$10 and sign-up begins April 7.

## STUDENT MINISTRY

### APR 5: YOUTH CAMP IN GLORIETA, NM

Come with us to Student Life Camp at Glorieta, New Mexico from May 28-June 1. It is going to be a week that you do not want to miss! This week will be packed with fun and opportunities to grow in our faith and as a Student Ministry Family. The cost is \$400 per student. Register and make all camp payments by April 5 to secure your student's spot. Current medical release forms are required for each student. Please check with Allison in the Youth Ministry office to make sure your student's is up to date! (Camp is for students who will complete 7th-12th grades in the current school year.)

### MAY 5: STUDENT CAMP PARENT MEETING

Parents of students registered for Youth Camp, we'd love to invite you and your student to join us in the 130s immediately following the services for a brief informational meeting. You will hear all details for camp and fill out any required release forms and waivers.

### SPONSOR A STUDENT!

We strive for every student to have the opportunity to attend youth trips such as DNOW, camp, and choir tour regardless of financial situation. If you would like to help send a student in need to any of these upcoming events, please email [students@pioneerdrive.org](mailto:students@pioneerdrive.org) for more information about financial sponsorships.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### APR. 10: WOMEN ON MISSION

Come enjoy lunch at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall and hear from Pregnancy Resources Spiritual Coordinator, Cathy Roberson.

### APR. 18: CAFE CONNECTIONS

Ladies of all ages and stages are invited to come hang out and share life on the third Thursday of each month at 9AM in the Cafe.

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### MAY 3: MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR TRIP

Pray for our students as they serve in Lubbock May 3 and 4. On Sunday, May 5, Middle School Choir students will lead in the 9AM and 11:15AM Celebration Worship Services in the Sanctuary, sharing testimonies and songs from Choir Trip 2024.

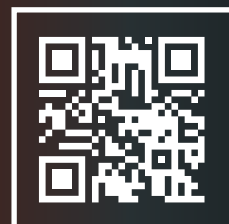
### MAY 5: CHILDREN'S CHOIR MUSICAL

All Children's Choirs, ages 3-5th grade, will present "Livin' Inside Out" at 6PM in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to worship with our preschoolers and children as they lead us through drama and music. You will be blessed by this story showing how Jesus changes us from the inside out!

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**SCAN THIS QR  
CODE WITH YOUR  
PHONE'S CAMERA  
TO SIGN UP FOR  
ANY OF OUR  
UPCOMING EVENTS:**

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# SET APART

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 2-3

Save the date for our Family Discipleship Weekend, August 2-3. During this local 2-day event, your family will enjoy meaningful worship and teaching, breakout sessions on relevant topics, fun-filled recreation, and an intentional time together as we recognize God's call to disciple our families in the way of Jesus.

Our theme for the weekend is Set Apart. All throughout Scripture, we see a call for God's people to be holy, to be different, to be a city on a hill. The highest priority of parenting is to help our children live as light in this world, to help our children know and follow King Jesus. We want to raise young people who do more than follow rules and obey. We want to raise young people who are holy and set apart out of an overflow of their deep love for God and His world.

But to do this, it will take more than simply adding a new thing into your family routine. It will take operating out of a new lens, a lens rooted in the values of God's kingdom rather than the values of this earthly one. It will take honest conversation, accountability, and encouragement from families striving after the same goal, families who desire their home to be missional lights in a dark world.

Parenting is hard. Period. Parenting your children to be set apart in this world for Jesus? That's even harder. But we can do this. We can do this together, because in the words of the Apostle John, "the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world."

So, won't you join us August 2-3? Let's commit together that we want something more for our families, something far better than this world has to offer. We want Jesus.



# MOUNTAINS & MOTORCYCLES



I just returned from spending a few weeks with our team in Southeast Asia. When my family moved back to the US two years ago, I planned to make trips back every year to help with technical things, like coffee processing and running government documents. As it turns out, the team does a great job of that without me. What my trips have turned into is member care and making sure our team of pastors is valued and loved. As I planned this latest trip, the team said that more than anything they were feeling tired and wanted a retreat.

I spoke with a pastor friend who wanted to go on a trip with me. Essentially, he would be coming along to ride motorcycles in the mountains with local pastors. We'd have adventures during the day, and, in the evenings, we'd spend time together getting to know each other's stories. It wasn't a hard sell to get him to come along! It was a bit harder to convince some people in his church (and my wife) that having fun on motorcycles in the mountains is one of the best ways

to serve the local pastors. These pastors are planting churches among unreached peoples, and it is draining work. Being able to encourage them to keep going is one of the best things we can do.

The trip was great (how could it not be?). The group of us spent our days at waterfalls and exploring thousand-year-old temples. In the evenings we talked about life and shared our joys and struggles in ministry.

One evening our village pastor confessed about how hard December was for him. During that month was Christmas, trying to finish a new building, leading a church plant a couple hours away, and having seventeen people in the village come to faith. He was having trouble sleeping. He was stressed. He didn't have time for his family and these new believers always calling him with their problems. He was afraid to turn off his phone because he had so many people relying on him. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

We encouraged him that rest is an essential command from God, even if our work is ministry. As we talked, I was convicted because I also struggle with this. I often feel that if I'm not busy, I'm being lazy. I don't like to disconnect and let go. As my friend put it, "We would all agree that lying is wrong. We would all agree that stealing is a sin. But would we also all agree that not resting is a sin? Because it's in there." Resting reminds us that God is the one at work, and it doesn't hinge on us. Rest puts our work and ministry back in the right perspective.

As I type this, our village pastor is out with his family for an overnight getaway to rest. I came home from the trip reminded of how much I love ministering with these guys and how thankful I am for Pioneer Drive and the World Missions Offering for making this a possibility.

Brian Brewer  
Underground Coffee  
Global Ministry Partner



The Vision is Pioneer Drive's monthly newsletter. Learn about our latest news and upcoming events.

For more information, call us at (325) 692-6776 or email us at [info@pioneerdrive.org](mailto:info@pioneerdrive.org).



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*Pioneer Drive*  
BAPTIST CHURCH

701 S. Pioneer Drive  
Abilene, TX 79605

