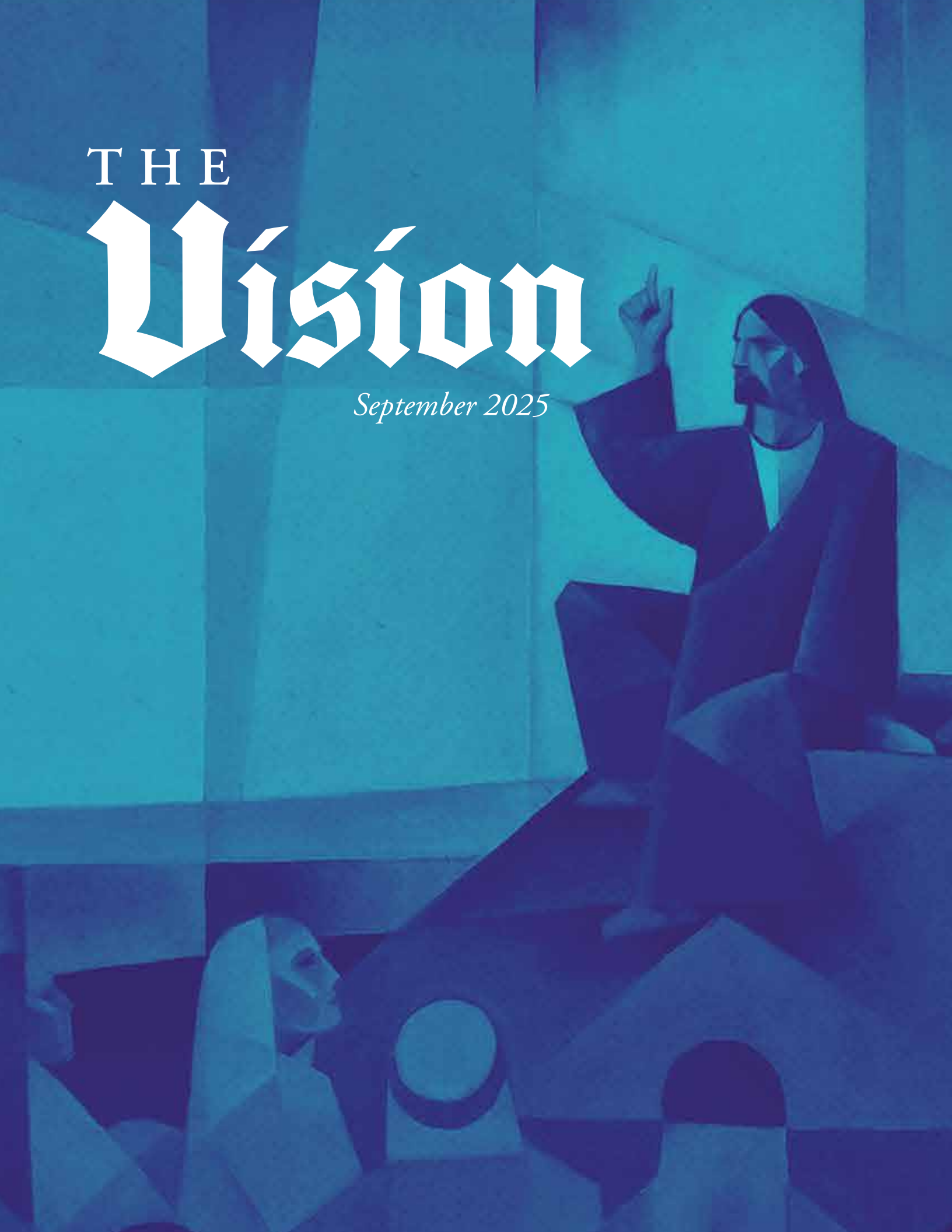


THE

Visión

September 2025

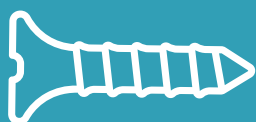




THE



Wrong Tool



FOR THE

Job

I heard a story about a man who once tried to fix a wobbly kitchen chair. Instead of finding the right screwdriver, he grabbed a butter knife.

Now, butter knives can pretend to be screwdrivers—for about 15 seconds—before they start bending, slipping, and making a mess.

After 10 minutes of grunting and scratching the wood, he finally admitted defeat, found the right tool, and fixed the chair in less than a minute.

Sometimes, when God calls us, we feel like butter knives in a screwdriver's world—wrong shape, not strong enough, and likely to bend under pressure.

But here's the truth: in God's hand, you're the right tool for the job. His presence gives you the strength you lack, and His people help you keep from bending.

Isaiah 41:4 reminds us that God has been "calling forth the generations from the beginning... I, the LORD—with the first of them and with the last—I am he."

Throughout Scripture, God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things:

- Moses tried to excuse himself: "Pardon your servant, Lord... send someone else" (Ex. 4:13).
- Gideon protested: "I am the least in my family" (Judg. 6:15).
- Isaiah responded boldly: "Here am I. Send me!" (Isa. 6:8).

God's call isn't about our sufficiency—it's about His. And His call isn't just a one-time event. He keeps inviting us deeper into service, deeper into trust, and deeper into His purposes.

This month, take two steps:

1. Thank someone God has used to bless you—maybe a Sunday School teacher, a deacon, or a friend who pointed you toward Christ. Your encouragement might just be God's way of keeping them in the race.
2. Ask God how He might use you to bless and strengthen someone else this week.

Even if you feel like the "wrong tool," in God's skilled hands, you're exactly what He needs for the job.



Dr. John Whitten

Dr. John Whitten
Senior Pastor

family retreat weekend

october 11-13 • spicewood, tx

reframe

faith + life

Calling all families! Join us October 11-13 at Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center in Spicewood, TX for our first ever Family Retreat! Connect with one another, other families, and the Lord during this intentional time of worship, fellowship, and fun.

Our theme this year is Reframe: Faith + Life. Often, discipleship outside of church can seem like its own separate item on our never-ending To-Do list. Many times, we feel like we are failing. We have great intentions but lack in the follow-through.

That's why during this weekend, we want to help families reframe how they view spiritual growth so they can better connect faith to everyday life in a meaningful way.

Cost is per family and includes lodging, all activities, and meals (children 2 and under are free and do not need to be included in your family count): 3-4 person family, \$400; 5+ person family, \$500. Space is limited so register soon! The deadline to register is September 10th.

speaker



KEVIN WASHINGTON
ASSOCIATE AD
ATHLETICS CHAPLAIN
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Our retreat speaker is Kevin Washington. Kevin currently serves as the Associate AD for Mission Impact and Enrichment/Athletics Chaplain for Baylor University. Prior to coming to Baylor, Kevin was the Director of Player Development/Football Chaplain for the University of Texas. Kevin is a husband, father, and disciple maker who is passionate about helping people connect faith to everyday life. He is a dynamic speaker and leader, and we are thrilled to have him at this year's Family Retreat.

SEPTEMBER

CHURCHWIDE

SEPT. 14: BAPTISM CLASS

Ready to take the next step in your faith? Join us for Pioneer Drive's Baptism Class from 10:10–11AM in the Café. This class is designed to help you explore what baptism means and how to take this important step. Know someone who might be interested? Feel free to share this invitation—we'd love to see them there!

SEPT. 21: MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If you've been considering becoming a member of Pioneer Drive, we'd love to help you take that step! Our next Membership Class is happening from 10:10–11AM in the Café, where you'll have the chance to meet some of our ministers, connect with others, and learn what it means to be part of our church family.

OCT. 29 - TRUNK OR TREAT

Save the Date! Dress up and decorate a trunk.



COLLEGE MINISTRY

COMMUNITY GROUP

Our weekly community groups begin in September! All college students and individuals ages 18-24 are invited to be a part of one of our groups. Both groups are co-ed and meet at 6:30PM on either Monday or Tuesday night. Dinner is provided. Contact Taylor for more information.

CONNECTIONS

SEPT. 28 - TEAM NIGHT

Are you a volunteer in the Connections Ministry or the gathering? If not, are you interested in becoming one? You're officially invited to join us in the cafe from 4-6PM on September 28th. We will enjoy food, fellowship, games, and consider how to best carry out the role to which God has called us in the Pioneer Drive family. We look forward to seeing you there! Childcare is available. The deadline to register is September 24th.

FAMILY MINISTRY

SEPT. 14: SOUND OF HOPE MOVIE

Join us for a screening of the movie, The Sound of Hope: the story of Possum Trot. This story is one worth hearing, and we hope you will join us as we raise awareness of the great need for foster care. Doors open at 5:30PM, and the movie begins at 6:30PM in the Conference Center. There will be concessions in the Cafe.

MEN'S MINISTRY

SEPT. 8: BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

BSF will meet Mondays at 6:30PM beginning September 8th. This year's study, Exile and Return, invites you on a powerful journey through the Old Testament, where God's people were called to build His kingdom in a foreign land. Their story is our story—we, too, are strangers in a broken world, called to build for His glory. Books included in this year's study: Ezekiel, Daniel, Ezra, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Nehemiah, and Malachi. Curriculum provided for school-aged children as well. Connect with Nathan@pioneerdrive.org for more info.

GROW YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Does your personal quiet time feel stagnant? Do you struggle with prayer request time on Sunday mornings or engaging your family in spiritual discussions? Discover a simple yet fresh approach to prayer. Contact Nathan@pioneerdrive.org or 281-794-6749 for more info or to setup an introductory meeting in-person or online.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

SEPT. 10: BLOOD DRIVE

The Hendrick Mobile Blood Unit will be on campus Wednesday, September 10th from 4:30-6:30PM to receive donations. You must be at least 17 years old to give, but Texas allows for 16-year-old individuals with a signed parental consent form. All blood types are needed, but O-, the universal donor and O+, the most common blood types, are in high demand. All donors receive free swag and yummy treats.

SEPT. 28: CITY LIGHT

Visiting other communities can help broaden our capacity for friendship with God & neighbors. On September 28th, we will partner with City Light for their 9AM service. You can participate by reading scripture, praying, singing, sharing testimony, or simply hanging out. Come early for breakfast. There are various times and locations to visit ministry partners throughout the week. Connect with Nathan@pioneerdrive.org or 281-794-6749 to learn more.



EVENTS

INVITATION TEAM

We need volunteers who can visit over the phone with or pass out invites to our neighbors. Even giving 15 minutes at your convenience is a big help! Church staff will make your mission as simple as possible. Connect with Nathan@pioneerdrive.org or 281-794-6749 for more.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

SEPT. 5: FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS

Join us at 10:00AM for Fridays with Friends. Parents with preschoolers join us for swimming and pool fun! Register on realm by Sept. 3. More details when you register.

PRIMETIMER MINISTRY

SEPT. 4: PRIMETIME LIVE

Primetime Live is back to its regular schedule this month on the first Thursday. Join us when Marsha Hammack from the Grace Museum will give an update on the renovations of Abilene Heritage Square. Coffee and conversation starts at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall. The program begins at 11, followed by a Chick-fil-a lunch (\$8) at noon. Be sure to register online or by calling the church office by September 2, even if you don't plan to eat so we will have a chair for you.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

FEB. 20: CAFE CONNECTIONS

Ladies of all ages and stages are invited to come for a time of fellowship and encouragement on the third Thursday of each month at 10AM in the Cafe. Coffee & light breakfast snacks are provided. Come as you are and bring a friend. There is no cost or registration.

SAVE THE DATE

Rooftop Worship: October 16th at The Grace Museum
Women's Christmas Dinner: December 9th
More info to come later.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

SEPT. 7: HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIRS

High School & Middle School Choir Rehearsals resume on Sunday, September 7. Middle School Choir is open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th graders and meets in Room 2220 from 4:30-5:30 PM. High School Choir meets in the Music Suite from 4:30-6:00 PM. We look forward to great semester and want you to be a part of it!

SEPT. 28: CHILDREN-LED WORSHIP

Our first through fifth graders will greet, pray, read scripture, sing, and help take up the offering during the 9AM & 11:15AM worship services in the gathering.



We are excited to share an update on our Next 70 Building Campaign! This initiative is paving the way for our church's future as we expand our facilities to better serve our community for generations to come.

As of the end of August, we have already collected \$3,189,751 in contributions toward this campaign! Your generosity is truly making a difference!

The new church offices are well underway in the previous foyer, parlor and craft room in the Activities Building. The upstairs offices received four new rooms as well. The current office phase is set to finish in the fall, allowing for construction to begin after on the new worship center!

To learn more and get involved, you can visit the Next 70 webpage: pioneerdrive.org/next70. It takes all of us to fulfill God's mission for our church. Jump in and join us!





MAGNETIC MENTORING



For several years, I contemplated becoming a Big Brother with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. My work commitments and responsibilities at home with my daughters made it seem impossible to commit the necessary time. However, after attending an axe-throwing and rib-eating event promoting the program, I felt a strong pull to explore this opportunity.

After discussing it with my wife and daughters, who were supportive, I embarked on this journey. Three years ago, following an interview process, I was matched with a seven-year-old boy. Our first outing at Sonic for ice cream left a memorable impression when he proudly introduced me as his "Big Brother," humorously clarifying that I wasn't his real older brother because of my age. That day marked the beginning of a special bond.

Since then, our time together has been filled with fun and laughter. Whether we're bowling, playing putt-putt, heading to batting cages, swimming, playing video games, or enjoying pizza and ice cream, each moment is as much fun for me as it is for him. It feels like reliving my younger days as a dad.

This relationship has touched my life profoundly. My "Little" has shown me the impact of spending just a few days each month with someone who lacks a father figure. He's improving in school and always greets me with love and enthusiasm. We talk about his challenges and dreams, like his latest ambition to build a pizza empire and let me live in his mansion when I'm older.

Simply being present makes a significant difference. No elaborate plans are needed—just showing up for 4-6 hours a month creates a lasting impact.

It pains me, though, that his two brothers haven't been matched with Big Brothers. His younger brother often clings to me, wishing to join our adventures. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of volunteers, they remain unpaired.

If you're reading this and feeling a "pull" on your heart, I encourage you to explore this program. BBBS does an incredible job matching volunteers with children in need, as they did with me. Joining this program has forever enriched my life, and I hope it can do the same for you.

In Health,

Ron L. Richert

SUNDAY NIGHTS

Sept. 7: Griffin Jones, 6PM Music Suite

Sept. 14: Sound of Hope Movie, 6PM Conference Center

Sept. 21: Meeting Night, No Evening Service

Sept. 28: John Whitten, 6PM Conference Center



LOCAL. MISSION. PARTNERS.

**Learn more and find out how
you can get involved.**

Contact Nathan Adams:
Nathan@pioneerdrive.org



All For One Mission is a church in the Alameda neighborhood. They are reaching the families with Worship services and Bible study. They have a food pantry and a clothes closet. Their vision also includes taking their members on mission trips to the Caribbean to share God's love outside the US.



The mission of House of Faith Abilene is to take Jesus to neighborhood children, youth, and families. They hope to provide a sense of belonging and strengthen their faith, enabling them to honor God with their lives and offer themselves in service to Him. House of Faith offers Bible clubs, youth Bible studies, and neighborhood summer activities.



Shining Star Fellowship is a beacon of light in a low-income community. They are on the corner of S. 3rd and Palm. They have weekly worship services and Bible studies. Also, they are reaching the community with other ministries.



The local chapter of Habitat for Humanity helps families in need by building new houses. Through the work of many volunteers, they are able to provide safe housing for families who need help.



Sparrow's Nest is a crisis pregnancy center located in Snyder, Texas. They are a residential pregnancy support for women in need. They help women who choose adoption with the resources they will need and support them through their pregnancy. They also help women who choose to keep their baby and help them prepare for motherhood. They offer GED support and coaching for future success.



Christian Women's Job Corp is a faith-based training program for women started by the Women's Missionary Union. They offer training to help women find meaningful employment to improve their lives.



ABILENE-CALLAHAN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Baptist Social Ministries offers a food pantry for people in need. They are located on Pioneer Drive near our church. They accept food donations and volunteers to provide food for people in need.

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.

Pioneer Drive
BAPTIST CHURCH

701 S. Pioneer Drive
Abilene, TX 79605



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pioneerdrive.org



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