



# THE BUILDER

The Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Dunn, N.C.

June 2021 Issue



I have shared before how I am learning to pay attention to the things I may say in a prayer, stop to think about a sentence I have written, or be aware of something that I may say to someone as I am trying to encourage them, because in that moment, I realize that the words are meant for me too. These ah-ha moments are joyful to me. They remind me of the Spirit's work in my heart. They are evidence of God's awareness of my needs. One happened last week, and I want to share it with you.

I was texting with someone, when I saw that I had written, *"Even though I have never walked in your shoes, I have worn the socks."* Even before I sent the text the power of those words made me stop and think.

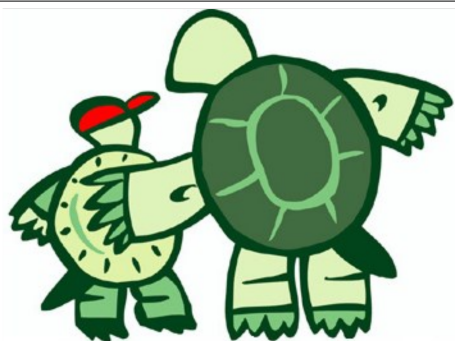
Over the years I have learned that it isn't always helpful to tell someone that *"I know what you are going through,"* or, *"I know how you feel."* Truthfully, no one knows how another person feels. When we say we know how they feel it can have the opposite effect from providing comfort. It can cause a person to feel devalued as if what they are going through is common when for them it is painfully unique. In the heat of the moment a person needs to know you are beside them, they don't need to think you are discounting their suffering. Still, our life experiences do give us insight into what they may be feeling. It is from these insights that empathy is born.

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. I remember a professor of Pastoral Care suggesting that both empathy and compassion in the Biblical sense are best described as being beside someone as an understanding presence during their suffering. Our life experiences give us insight into what a person may need from us. They offer us an awareness of how best to be a friend.

One of my favorite passages in Scripture is in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, **"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."** I often hear people say that they wouldn't know what to do or what to say to help someone. Yet all of us have lived through things that can help us know how to be there for others. While we may not have worn the shoes someone else is wearing, we have worn the socks. Our suffering, our living through tough moments, teach us how to be there for others. The memory of what we needed in certain situations informs us how to be there for someone else. We don't have to have been through exactly what others are going through. We need only to go through our sock drawer and remember something that helps us sit beside them as a comforting presence.

In all honesty, the only one who really knows is Jesus. He has worn the socks and the shoes. Jesus identifies so perfectly with humanity in all that he endured. He wore all the socks. He knows betrayal, hunger, pain, loss, loneliness, and poverty. He experienced temptation, silence, and longing. These are just a few of the human things he experienced that helps him understand from our side of creation what we are feeling. Then from the divine side, Jesus knows our hearts and can sense every one of our needs. Our pains are not a mystery to him. Jesus both sits with us and equips us to sit with others. When we pray and seek his wisdom, Jesus provides us what we need to help others even as we find ourselves helped.

This too is why we need to protect our fellowship. As a church, we are uniquely gifted to be there for each other. In this body of Christ, we have been given not only gifts for preaching, teaching, and leadership, we have also been given the gifts of comfort and compassion to share with one another. Please don't ever think that you are not important. We need the experience of your socks to help us walk in our shoes. *Len*



Child Dedication  
on Father's Day

*Let us know if you would like to participate!*





## Deep Impact Kids Weekend

Calling all 2nd—5th graders!

November 5th—7th, 2021

Cost: \$110; \$50 Deposit Due August 1st.

Where: Duplin, NC

DI Kids is a wonderful mission experience where kids get to serve in a community doing mission projects, worship, learn and play in a camp setting. We encourage families to come together. Contact Sara for any questions or to sign up!



### Budget Update (5/20/21)

Received YTD \$136,254.79

Required YTD \$169,599.20

Budget Deficit YTD (\$33,344.41)

You may give online at  
[www.fbcdunn.com](http://www.fbcdunn.com), by using the app or by mail to  
309 W. Broad St., Dunn, NC 28334

### Handbell News

The handbell choir along with the Music Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 9th, at 7:15 pm to polish the bells and get everything ready for the first practice on June 16th. Everyone is invited to come play with us.



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Kathryn



### Beyond the Stained Glass

We partner with the Dunn United Ministerial Association Food Pantry and Help Center. They always welcome volunteers!

Food Distribution Days are the second and fourth Tuesdays. However, there are many other opportunities to help them such as, sorting food, assisting with the Help Center and Back Pack Buddies.

Contact the church for more information.

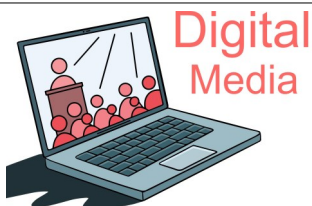
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DUNN'S DAY IS JUNE 22ND.**

### Candle Lighter

June 6 Brandt West  
June 13 Bill Tarplee  
June 20 Wyatt West  
June 27 Grace Overby

### Scripture Reader

June 6 Mary Charlotte Pope  
June 13 Alexa Wise  
June 20 Gracie Byrd  
June 27 Ron McLamb



June 6 Cole Holland  
June 13 Braylon Boswell  
June 20 Anna Tarplee  
June 27 Caroline Wrench



### Radio Lesson

June 6 Kelly McLamb  
June 13 Bo Jones  
June 20 Chuck Turnage  
June 27 Larry Snipes









June 6 Family Worship Together (Graduate Sunday)  
June 13 Melissa Barefoot & Mary Overby  
June 20 Angela Jones & Kathy Fennell  
June 27 TBD

### Outdoor Lesson

June 6 Jackie Byrd  
June 13 Cathy Keever  
June 20 Sue Rupert  
June 27 Neil Emory

# JUNE EVENT & BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>FIRST SUNDAY breakfast</b> June 6th at 10:00		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10		
 <b>Graduate Sunday</b>			7:15 Handbell Work Time		Courtney Phillips Ashlyn Vincent	Christopher Aldredge J. Nowell Smith
Griffin Barefoot	Troy Clayton		Hayden Smith	Jackie Byrd Audrey West	Tyler Fennell	Cody Byrd
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
 <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> Child Dedication	7:00 Deacon's Meeting  Armida Avery Hudson Whitaker		7:15 Handbell Practice  Randy Sills	Sallie Landen Gene Moore		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		 <b>Food Pantry Day</b>  Robert Carr Bill Fennell Joy Weeks	7:15 Handbell Practice		 <b>YOUTH RETREAT</b>  Murry Phillips Maegan Thornton	 <b>YOUTH RETREAT</b>  John Harlan Jackson Christine Wells
Glenda Denning Breanna Vincent	Julia Scott Brian Wise		Samuel Scott	Brenda Beasley Ronnie Horne Phil Fusco		
27	28	29	30			
			7:15 Handbell Practice			
Gracie Byrd Linda Fuller Lucille Smith Lynn Zich	Grant White					

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U.S. Postage Paid  
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First Baptist Church of Dunn, Inc.  
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(910) 892-6161  
[www.fbcdunn.com](http://www.fbcdunn.com)  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Pastor  
Minister to Families & Outreach  
Minister of Music  
Accompanist  
Administrative Assistant  
Custodian

Dr. Len Keever  
Sara Williams  
Kathryn Wise  
Mary Sue Godwin  
Angela Jones  
Kevin Snipes



WE HOPE TO HAVE  
VBS N-PERSON  
THIS YEAR!

Thur. July 29th—Sun.  
August 1st.

**Volunteers are Needed!!**

Planning Meetings:

Sunday June 13th at 4pm

Sunday July 11th at 4pm

**Contact Sara if you want to help  
change lives this summer!!**



### UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

June 6th: Youth 6:30pm

June 13th: Youth 6:30pm

June 20th: NO ACTIVITIES - FATHER'S DAY

June 25th—27th: Youth Summer Retreat

July 4th: NO ACTIVITIES

July 11th: Youth 6:30pm

July 18th: Tubing Trip (details TBA)

July 25th : Youth 6:30pm



### **FBC Youth Retreat**

When: June 25th—27th

Where: Mount Shepherd Retreat Center  
Asheboro, NC

Cost: \$110

Registration Due June 9th

Questions: Contact Sara