



THE BUILDER

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

July 2021 Issue



Pastor's Page

There is a Peace Lilly in my office a friend gave me a few months ago. So far, I have managed to keep it looking good. I moved it several times to find the best place for light. I water it weekly to keep it green and lush. Unfortunately, last week as I took time away to spend with Jared and to conduct a wedding, the plant grew thirsty and dry. When I came into the office yesterday, it was drooped, and its flowers were brown. I watered it and waited a few hours, but nothing happened. It remained looking lifeless and spent. I watered it again toward the end of the day and left it to sit overnight. This morning I was happy to see the Lily looking perky and full of life. I am so glad I was patient and didn't give up too quickly; I am thankful I didn't throw it away.

This flower reminds me so much of how we must constantly tend to faith. To stay strong in the Lord we must be constantly watered and cared for. We grow weak and droopy when we don't attend to feeding our inner spirit with Living Water. Our foliage turns brown and our beauty fades when we don't pay attention to keeping our hearts on Jesus. Too often when we neglect faith, and then we need it most, it is like a dried-up Peace Lilly looking parched and ugly, nearly dead, and useless.

The thing is, God does not want our faith to die. God does not want us to lose our vitality. God wants our faith to remain strong, ready at a moment's notice to grant us shade and comfort when we need it. Like the Peace Lilly, our faith droops when we are not watering it. Like the Peace Lilly, the evidence of our neglect is noticeable. Still, the life of the Spirit remains in us. God does not take away God's love for us. There is always potential in the Christian's heart that with proper watering, renewal, and rededication, we will flourish and grow again. Of course, like the Lilly, it may not happen with one watering, and it may not happen in a short time. Sometimes we must return to the well numerous times depending on how dry we have allowed our hearts to become; often it takes time to be restored to the place where we once were.

As I cut the dead flowers from the Lilly, I was reminded again of Jesus' words on pruning (see John 15:2). Evidence of neglect had to be dealt with. The plant recovered but not without having to go through a time of cutting away those flowers that were brown and dry. Today, the plant once more brings beauty to my office, but only after a period of renewal and waiting.

Psalm 121 comes to mind. The Psalmist asks from where his help will come. He answers that the help he desires will come only from God. *"He who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel will not slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper. The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night. He will keep you from Evil, God will keep your life."*

If you are feeling spiritually parched, return to the living water of Jesus. Drink deeply from the well God has prepared for us. Do not let yourself become spiritually dehydrated. Don't forget to pay attention to your faith. Desire a faith that is strong to provide you shade and comfort, strength, and vitality when you need it the most. Jesus told the woman at the well, *"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life"* (John 4:14).

Don't dry up this summer. Please, join us in worship----and don't forget to bring your bucket. *Len*

COVID-19 UPDATE

We are excited to announce that in their June meeting, at the recommendation of the Worship Committee, the Deacon's voted to resume all in person church activities August 1st. Following a welcome back fellowship breakfast on August 1st in the picnic shelter, Sunday school classes will meet in their respective rooms on August 8th. Wednesday night activities will resume August 4th with Adult Bible Study in the sanctuary at 6:30 with youth and children's activities in their normal places. Choir will meet in the sanctuary at 7:30. In addition, the Deacons ask that we continue social distancing; those wishing to continue wearing masks are welcome to do so.

For those accustomed to viewing the Bible Study on our website, Facebook, or You-Tube, the on-line Wednesday night Bible study will be from 5:45 to 6:15. Our Sunday services will continue to be broadcast on WCKB and our other outlets at their regular times.



EXCTING NEWS! We will start back regular adult choir practice on Wednesday, August 4th at 7:30. Meet me in the sanctuary to get back to doing what we love. I look forward to seeing you.

Kathryn

Handbell News

We had a wonderful first few practices! Thank you to those who came. There's still room for more ringers. Everyone is invited to come play with us.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!



Budget Update (6/20/21)

Received YTD \$174,550.52

Required YTD \$211,999.00

Budget Deficit YTD (\$37,448.48)

You may give online at www.fbcdunn.com, by using the app or by mail to 309 W. Broad St., Dunn, NC 28334



Candle Lighter

July 4 Carly Jo Barefoot
July 11 Lillian Moore
July 18 Allison Wise
July 25 Tyson Stephens

Scripture Reader

July 4 Julia Scott
July 11 Caleigh Jones
July 18 Madeline Scott
July 25 Kamryn Wise



July 4 Ron McLamb
July 11 Ella Holland
July 18 Aaron Smith
July 25 Cole Holland

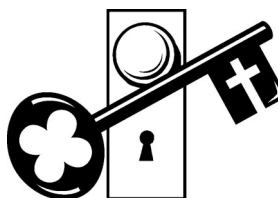


Radio Lesson

July 4 David Moore
July 11 Kelly McLamb
July 18 Bo Jones
July 25 Chuck Turnage

Outdoor Lesson

July 4 Cathy Kever
July 11 Jackie Byrd
July 18 Sue Rupert
July 25 Neil Emory



Bldg. Grounds Volunteer

July 4 Bo Jones
July 11 Chris McDaniel
July 18 Joe Miriello
July 25 Marc Phillips

Sound Volunteer

July 4 Michael Stephens
July 11 Mark Dunham
July 18 Ron Dupree
July 25 Chris Sinclair

July 4 Family Worship Together
July 11 Sara Williams & Miranda Moore
July 18 Melissa Barefoot & Mary Overby
July 25 Angela Jones & Kathy Fennell

JULY EVENT & BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Olivia Thompson	John Godwin Ben Jordan Ella Kelly Wyatt Scott
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No 1st Sunday Breakfast Next one is August 1st			NO EVENING ACTIVITIES		Ashley Barbour Doris Carr Audrey Wright	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4:00 VBS Planning Meeting Faye Bleacher Pam Callahan	Tyson Stephens	Braylon Boswell Jan Jernigan		Tony Barbour Michael Stephens	Donald Altman Boyd Dixon Bobby West	 Youth Tubing Trip Don Davis
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Carly Jo Barefoot Grace Overby		Kaisleigh Fitzgerald Randy Horne	Jeffrey Johnson Patrick White	Christopher Dunham Taylor Dunham Caroline D. McLeod Ella Miriello		Terrill Brown William Elmore Chris McDaniel Rick McDuffie Madeline Scott Karen Watson
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Logan Golding Caroline Phillips Jessica West		Bo Jones		Ed Lassiter Parker Watson Jo Ann Wells

July 30th 5:30pm - 8:00pm
 July 31st 10:00am - 1:30pm
 Aug. 1st 9:30am - 12:00pm

VACATION
 BIBLE
 SCHOOL



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Dunn, NC
Permit #51

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



IN-PERSON VBS!!
FRIDAY JULY 30—SUNDAY AUG 1
FRI: 5:30pm—8pm
SAT: 10am—1:30pm
SUN: 9:30am—12pm

Registration Begins July 1

**JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND
BIBLE ADVENTURE!!**

Volunteers are Needed!!

2nd Planning Meeting:

Sunday July 11th at 4pm

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



DI KIDS

CHILDREN'S MISSIONS

Deep Impact Kids Weekend

Calling all 2nd—5th graders!

November 5th—7th, 2021

Cost: \$110

Where: Duplin, NC

\$50 Deposit Due August 1st.

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!



UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

July 4th: NO ACTIVITIES

July 11th: Youth 6:30pm

July 17th: Tubing Trip

July 25th : Youth 6:30pm



FBC Youth!! Tubing Day!

When: JULY 17th

Where: Cape Fear River Adventures

Cost: \$24

Meet at church to ride the bus at 9:30

Questions: Contact Sara