



THE BUILDER

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

August 2022 Issue



Last week, Cathy and I went to St. Francis Springs Prayer Center just north of Greensboro for a couple of days for spiritual retreat. Unlike a vacation where people go to ‘get away from it all,’ we went there to get closer to the source of it all.

As I reflect, I wonder if that is why so many times, when people come back from vacations, they are so tired; we go to escape when we should be going to get closer. The silence, time for prayer and readings, journaling, and walking in the woods was powerfully refreshing. Jesus said, “Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). When we are tired and overwhelmed, we try to escape when we should be working to draw nearer to God. We set aside time to get away when we should be making time to grow closer.

Anyway, while I was there, I began to think about my newsletter article for this month. Sitting on a bench, I found myself looking at the forest. Tall oaks were growing next to maple and poplar trees. Beneath them were dogwoods enjoying the shade the taller trees provided; closer to the ground were azaleas that next spring will bloom announcing the arrival of yet another year. As I took it in, I imagined older sages with wisdom to share, younger trees growing toward the sun, saplings sprouting up from the leaves announcing to all that the forest will live on long after the old oak falls, a victim of storms or a blight that diseases its once vibrant strength. Looking at these trees, I thought of the church and how we too resemble the variety of a thriving forest. We are a gathering of species in different stages of life, reaching up towards God for meaning, purpose, and sustenance.

As my eyes danced like a squirrel from one tree to another, one especially caught my eye. It was a saintly oak. What was unique was that this tree was partially broken in the middle, giving the appearance of a person in prayer. It bowed low to the ground, its leaves remaining lush and lively. Battered by the storm that assailed it, the oak remained faithful. Its roots went deep into the soil, evidence of years of growth, drawing from the earth, trusting in the sun to continue to provide. My eyes settled on this tree for longer than a moment. It spoke deep to deep as I thought of those who I have known in church who remain fixed to their faith even when storms have done their best to break them.

The priest at St. Francis uses a walker to get around. He is bent like that tree. His roots go deep into the faith that sustains him. I have seen this too in the churches I have served. I have enjoyed the witness of faithful believers whose faith remains strong long after storms have done their best to beat them down. Their testimony encourages me to put my roots deeper into the soil of faith, into the life of Christ who give me strength. I have seen Christians bearing witness as they suffer through cancer, broken marriages, disappointments, loneliness, and old age. I have witnessed leaves growing on bent and beaten bodies because their roots are set deep in the life of Christ who does not fail them. And as I think of them, I can’t help but think that they are the most beautiful ones among us.

Outside the chapel at St. Francis Springs is a verse framed for all to see as they enter to ask their questions and seek peace, to confess their sins, long for presence and the knowledge of being loved and included: “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Perhaps what we need is not time away but time to be still. Maybe what we really need is renewal, the renewal only God can provide. *Len*



During August, we will be collecting school supplies and food for the Back Pack Buddy Program.

- #2 Pencils**
- Erasers**
- Notebook Paper**
- Dry Erase Markers**
- Crayons**
- Glue Sticks**
- Kid’s Scissors**
- 1 Subject Notebooks**
- Pocket Folders**
- Tissue Boxes**
- Clorox Wipes**
- Hand Sanitizer**

- Quart and Gallon Sized Ziplock Bags**
- Microwavable Cups of Pastas, soups,**
- Chef Boyardee Pop Tops**
- Pop top cans of Beans & Weenies**
- Pop Tarts**
- Fruit Cups**



Sunday August 28th

Immediately Following Worship
12-2pm

FOOD TRUCKS, FUN, and FELLOWSHIP

Bring your collected school supplies and
Back Pack Buddy Food



Attention all present and future choir members! I can not believe that summer is almost over and school is about to resume! (ssshhh, don't tell the kids!!) That being said, we are planning our Christmas Cantata and would love for all that are interested to come and join us for this grand event that is taking place the evening of Sunday, Dec. 11th. We are so excited to be able to bring back our beloved tradition of our annual Christmas Cantata celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. We will begin rehearsing our cantata beginning Wednesday, September 7th at 7:30pm in the Choir Room. We can't wait to see you!

In Song,
Kathryn and Mary Sue



Budget Update 07-31-22
Received \$233,525.39
Required \$269,464.71
Budget Deficit YTD (\$35,939.32)



Go to our website at
www.fbcdunn/Click Give.

MEMBERS



Sound System

- Aug. 7 Mark Dunham
- Aug. 14 Ron Dupree
- Aug. 21 Christopher Moore
- Aug. 28 Michael Stephens

Radio Lesson

- Aug. 7 Bo Jones
- Aug. 14 Chuck Turnage
- Aug. 21 Larry Snipes
- Aug. 28 David Moore

Unlocking/Locking

- Aug. 7 & 10 Chris McDaniel
- Aug. 14 & 17 Marc Phillips
- Aug. 21 & 24 Robert Barefoot
- Aug. 28 & 31 Mark Dunham

Prayer Coordinator: Miranda Moore

Greeters: Mike Blackmon
Jan Jernigan
Pat Miriello

Candle Lighter

- Aug. 7 Wyatt West
- Aug. 14 Brandt West
- Aug. 21 Bill Tarplee
- Aug. 28 Campbell Phillips

Children's Church

- Aug. 7 Family Worship Day
- Aug. 14 Sara Williams & Miranda Moore
- Aug. 21 Angela Jones
- Aug. 28 Melissa Barefoot & Mary Overby

Scripture Reader

- Aug. 7 Ron McLamb
- Aug. 14 Kamryn Wise
- Aug. 21 Caroline Wrench
- Aug. 28 Julia Scott

Children's Sunday School

- Aug. 7 Angela Jones
- Aug. 14 Jan Jernigan
- Aug. 21 Miranda Moore
- Aug. 28 Jan Jernigan

Nursery

- Aug. 7 Denise Jarrell
- Aug. 14 Melissa & Julia Scott
- Aug. 21 Sharon Byrd and
Jacquelyn Alphin
- Aug. 28 Lauren Stephens

AUGUST EVENT & BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Regular Activities 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 6:00 Youth Fellowship</p>			<p>Regular Activities 6:30 Kids Club 252 6:30 Youth Bible Study 6:30 Adult Bible Study 7:30 Choir Practice</p>			
1	Pam Hodges	Carolyn Smith	3	4	5	6
7	8 7:00 Deacon's Meeting	9	10 6:30 Church Conference	11	12	13
Jeff Beasley	Bristol Stephens	Kathryn Wise	Ruby Johnson	Jeanne Barbour Cole Holland Anna Tarplee	Ted Fitzgerald Robbie Pope	Pat Fitzgerald Ricky Parker Graham Thompson
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5:00 Handbell Practice						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Ginger Barbour Bill Tarplee IV Sandy Thomas	John Michael Blackmon Kate Cochran Landon Smith	Patricia Hinson	Carol Clamon Larry Watkins Becky Wise	Annette Barfield	Mary Sue Godwin
28	29	30	31			
5:00 Handbell Practice						
Cathy Pope		Sandra Schneider	Matthew Jones Ashlyn Ritter		Debbie Best Sharon Byrd	Wiley Bowen Carolyn Coleman Benjamin Thompson



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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



Don't Forget Our FBC Whole Church Summer Challenge!
Make sure you have a "make waves" bracelet and take pics of you making waves in the world. Post on your FB page, text them to a staff person or email them to the church office and we will post them on our FB Page. We are the hands and feet of Christ wherever we go and are always connected to our church family!

*"let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."
- Hebrews 10:24-25*

Every Wednesday Night



Throughout the summer
at 6:30pm
Fellowship, Bible Study,
Games
Bring a friend!
All are welcome



Wednesdays at 6:30pm



We continue to "Make Waves" all summer long on Wednesday night at 252 Kids Club! Join us for music, games and Bible stories that all help remind us what it means to impact the world around us!

AUGUST 24th: Kids will sing at Carrolton during their Wednesday night time. Kids need to be at Carrolton at 5:30pm to be ready. We will sing and share some scriptures with the residents and afterwards go to Pelicans for a treat.