



THE BUILDER

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

June 2020 Issue



Words of Encouragement from Our Pastor

I wonder how the events of these times are helping us to discern God's presence among us. What will be different when we look back at what we are learning? While I cannot begin to give justice to these questions, or the ones they would surely provoke, there are some things I am sensing that I want to suggest for thought.

For starters, I think our theology of worship will be enlarged to encompass those who are present with us electronically. The events in which we are presently involved have highlighted the importance of streaming services for some who have never had to worship this way. Being isolated at home, many are understanding perhaps for the first time how those who are confined for health reasons, or who cannot worship on Sunday's due to their jobs or etc., have been staying connected to their church. Where streaming may have been an afterthought in the past, it has now become a priority. I don't see that changing. In our attempt to keep worship fresh and relevant to all our members, we have increased the ways we reach those who have previously been unavailable to us. In this, I see wonderful things occurring.

Another thought for me is how the meaning of church membership and attendance are being enlarged. While I am not questioning the importance of being together as a body, I am having to rethink the meaning of attendance. I am being challenged to realize that resident and non-resident status may not apply in our electronic age. Each week we have members who no longer live in Dunn worshipping with us; and we have many worshipping with us regularly who have not officially "joined." Angela tells me that some who are non-members have contributed to our ministry. Some are watching and participating at different times. Some are having Zoom gatherings and a few who are not on our roster have had watch parties to attend our services. Looking at our Facebook numbers alone, our worship views far exceeds what was our average worship attendance. What does that tell us as we move forward? Perhaps, that when one attends to worship wherever one is, they too are joined with us in attendance.

Lastly for now, does the meaning of the word "sanctuary" need to be explored? "Sanctuary" means a safe place, a refuge. While many of us have always considered our safe place, our refuge from the world, to be a room at church where symbols of our faith adorn, and the words that are spoken lead to God, I have long known that sanctuary is also a state of mind. Sanctuary is both a place in the physical location of our church building, and a quiet place in our heart where we go to pray and practice spiritual listening. Sanctuary is wherever we go to find the safety of Jesus's presence, the refuge of God's love. All of us have a place where God wants to provide us shelter; we do not have to be there (place) to be there (present to the Lord). Many are discovering this to greater degrees---perhaps for the first time.

There are many exciting things that are happening. God is opening our eyes and enlarging our understandings. For some, this new experience has given them empathy for those who have craved it for so long. Yes, it will challenge us to have these conversations. And, we may not always agree on how to discern what is happening. Still, isn't exciting to think that we may be in one of those moments of His-story that will help define the Church for generations to come?

In these things, pray with me that we will be faithful. That we will be moved to go where God is leading, that as new doors are opened, we will always look to make sure it is Jesus calling us to enter. *Len*



**Photography dates have been rescheduled!
The dates are September 22-26.
We ask that everyone please have your picture taken because the directory will not be complete without you.
Call the office at (910) 892-6161 to sign up or go to our website!**

Budget Update (5/24/20)
Received YTD \$135,628.50
Required YTD \$188,579.16
Variance YTD (\$52,950.66)

**Give online through www.fbcdunn.com, by using the app or by mail to 309 W. Broad St.,
Dunn, NC 28334**

JUNE EVENT & BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>As we are able to schedule events and activities, we will inform you through our website, bulletins, telephone and announcements.</i>					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Chloe Clayton Dusty Hinson Lois Neighbors	Courtney Phillips Ashlyn Vincent	Christopher Aldredge J. Nowell Smith	Griffin Barefoot
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Hayden Smith	Jackie Byrd Audrey West	Tyler Fennell	Colby Byrd	
Troy Clayton		16	17	18	19	20
		Chuck Allen Randy Sills	Sallie Landon Gene Moore		Kerry Metz	Glenda Denning Breanna Vincent
Armida Avery Hudson Whitaker		23	24	25	26	27
	22		Brenda Beasley Phil Fusco Ronnie Horne	Laney Kittrell Murry Phillips Maegan Thornton	John Harlan Jackson Christy Wells	Gracie Byrd Linda Fuller Lucille Smith Lynn Zich
21						
	Robert Carr Bill Fennell Joy Weeks	Samuel Scott				
Julia Scott Brian Wise		30				
28	29					
Grant White	Walter Kirkpatrick					