

First Baptist News

Volume LIV No. 7

July 6, 2017



Discern. Discern. Discern. If there is a theme to my work in spiritual guidance, it is to discern. Discernment is our hearing and knowing God's call in our lives. It is far more than knowing what we should do or what path to take. To discern is to listen through the distractions in our lives and to receive the healing, blessing and invitation that is the abundant life.

As I discern today, I want to thank you for the tremendous opportunity you have given me to participate in the Shalem Institute's Spiritual Direction Program. I participated in the second (and final) residency last week and was overwhelmed by the wisdom shared in the classes, the richness of the fellowship of the faculty and associates and, most especially, the attentiveness of the Holy Spirit. I have a lot of work to do to complete the Spiritual Guidance program (reading, writing, giving, and receiving "direction") but I have already been blessed beyond my highest hopes for the program. Thank you for encouraging me in this work and for the time to attend the residencies and complete the assignments.

I am a better Christian and minister because of the Shalem program, and I look forward to sharing the fruit with you. The best way I know to do so is to dedicate myself to helping us discern God's presence in our fellowship. Our lives are full. Whether we work, are in school or are retired, we typically have something to do, somewhere to go or someone to see every day. Much of what we busy ourselves with is good, but it can be better if we go with an abiding awareness of God's presence. We don't just check in with God when we read a morning or evening devotion or when we attend church on Sunday. God is always with us and God is inviting us to periodically *be still and know* (Ps.46:10) so that we may be fully alive as we go about our days. If you would like to know more about Spiritual Guidance or would just like to talk sometime about your life with God, I'd love to have a conversation.

Peace,
David

Preparing for Sunday—

"Forsaking Popularity"
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus experienced a wide range of emotions in Matthew 11. He is proud of John the Baptist and indignant at the rejection of Chorazin and Bethsaida. In the passages we will read on Sunday he seems frustrated by the fact that John and he are being criticized despite being faithful to their callings. The chapter ends however with a heartfelt invitation. Jesus invites us to "come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (v. 28). We should not attach ourselves to whims of our neighbors. Those who seek to be popular with the crowds are chasing the wind and will not find what they want. Jesus is inviting us to forsake popularity and to make our home with him.



Check out the **"I'm In"** display at our bulletin board. You can pick up a commitment card, a prayer guide and an "I'm In" sign to show your commitment to FBC this summer!

Congratulations to Rev. Tim Little for 15 Years of Service at FBC!



Any seasoned minister can give you a long list of tasks and responsibilities for which a seminary education does not prepare you. If you are a music minister, the big days are spent in front of a talented choir who is eager to lead the congregation to worship in song. On other days, you might find yourself rehearsing, recruiting children's choir leaders, or polishing hand bells. In Tim Little's case, you could also find yourself hotwiring an air conditioner that may have been in use in the time of Moses, grilling a small feast of hamburgers for Community Café or visiting a friend in the hospital. First Baptist has been blessed for the past fifteen years to have Tim serving as our Minister of Music. While he transitioned two years ago to part time, he is still a vital part of our church's ministry and we are grateful for his expertise and willingness to serve in any manner necessary. Please express your gratitude to Tim as you have opportunity and better yet, sing with great joy that God has blessed us with such a faithful servant to lead us in song.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy...” Those famous lyrics from the 1935 musical *Porgy and Bess* may have some truth to them. Summer means no school, more beach trips, and time for rest and relaxation. But while the summertime livin’ may be easy, the summertime children’s ministry schedulin’ is a little more hectic! We have a lot that goes on here during the summer, as evidenced by the pictures you’ve hopefully seen on Facebook. Here’s a brief recap of what our children have been up to so far...

Vacation Bible School: 43 children attended this 3 night program of Bible stories, crafts, games, and missions. They learned stories about the many ways Jesus surprises us with his love, his compassion, and his grace, and had a wonderful experience thanks to the dedication of so many volunteers who helped teach, guide, and feed them each night. (If you know a VBS volunteer – thank them!) They also raised \$225 for Marc and Kim Wyatt, CBF Field Personnel in Raleigh, NC, who minister to refugees and internationals in the Triangle Region.

Baptism: Gabrielle Hardee was baptized on June 18. It was a wonderful day of celebration as this child took an important step in her faith journey.

Lego Mini-Camp: 16 children played with Legos and learned Bible stories about David at the same time! I loved watching the creativity of the children as they took some of the building challenges I gave them (create a Lego Goliath, build a Lego crown) and brought them to life in so many unique ways. We had a blast together!



Still to come this summer? A trip to Passportkids camp in Spartanburg, SC (we leave this Sunday); Art Mini-Camp (with a focus on missionaries around the world); and Music Day Camp (we still have a few camper spots open – register today!).

All of these activities and ministries are not possible without this congregation. Your support (with finances, service, and prayer) allows us to offer meaningful activities for children throughout the summer. Thank you for being a congregation that values children and invests in their faith development!

Erin



If you have never taken a Myers Briggs personality test, it is worth your while. There are free ones online that only take a few minutes to complete. It is sometimes especially helpful in terms of your spiritual development and relationships to know how you differ from others in the way you perceive God, life, and family.

I’m an INTJ. Without getting too deeply into it, INTJs tend to prefer rationality over emotion. It doesn’t mean we don’t feel emotional at times, but it does mean we don’t make decisions based on them. That’s a good thing, because emotions are buzzing around me like gnats right now.

After an intense week of camp with some truly amazing teenagers, I am always a little emotional. They each are dealing with their own private issues, some that most adults would buckle under. Seeing them bond together and support each other is a truly beautiful thing. Although we see a glimpse of that here, taking them to another setting always results in spiritual and relational breakthroughs.

Immediately coming off those emotions and coming home to see my much missed wife, daughter and (to a lesser extent) dog, stirs the soul even more so. Then, seeing a youth hospitalized, seeing some of our collegians in town that don’t come often, and packing for what is sure to be a challenging hike totally off the grid, has provided no emotional peace.

I am grateful that the next week will provide a lot of time to pray, walk, and soak in God’s creation. It will provide time for reflection, and more prayer. A switch from the challenge of a 500+ student camp in the city to the challenge of no technology (seriously, we can’t even bring a watch) in the wilderness may bring my emotions to overwhelm me. Yet, God is God and worrying is a waste. Much love to the folks back home. Prayers appreciated.

Peace,
Doug



Over the next week, Doug and a group of FBC Youth are hiking portions of the Appalachian Trail.

PASSPORT KIDS!—Spartanburg, SC

July 9-12, 2017

7 FBC Children plus their chaperones will be attending PassportKids! Camp. Please pray for them during this adventure!

**M-Fuge—Charleston, SC
June 25-30, 2017**



For the Record

Budgeted 2017	685,000.00
Weekly Need (2017)	\$12,924.53
Received July 2, 2017	\$10,007.27
Need to date	\$348,962.26
Received to date	\$314,271.38
Over (Under) Budget	(\$34,690.88)

Sunday School Attendance—154

**Family Night Supper Menus
July 2017**

July 12—Hamburgers, Baked Beans, French Fries, Salad, Chocolate Cake (Sugar-free)

July 19—Baked Potato Bar

July 26—Spaghetti, String Beans, Texas Toast, Salad, Banana Pudding

Music Day Camp



July 31-August 4, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

For children who have completed
1st-6th grade

\$55 — 10 spots are still available!

The Music Day Camp Musical, "Table for 5,000" will be presented on Friday, August 4th at 5:00 p.m. in Cherry Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited!

Quarterly Church Conference

July 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

(At Family Night At Prayer)

Reminder

The church has discontinued the use of the post office box address. Mail will no longer be forwarded to us as of July 1, 2017. Please send mail to:



606 N. Walnut Street
Lumberton, NC 28358

First Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC
 606 N. Walnut Street
 Lumberton, NC 28358
 (910) 739-4336
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Coming up. . .

- July 6-12— Wilderness Trail
- July 9-12— Passportkids!
- July 15— Community Café (hosts needed)
- July 16-17— PassportChoices
- July 18-20— Art Mini-Camp
- July 17— Finance Committee & Deacons Meetings
- July 26— Quarterly Church Conference
- July 28-Aug. 1— Youth Music Retreat
- July 31-Aug. 4— Music Day Camp

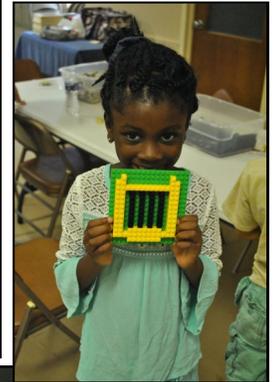
- Aug. 1— Deacon Nominations Open
- Aug. 7— Book Discussion on Growing Young
- Aug. 8— Youth Committee Meeting
- Aug. 10— Candlelight Vigil for Friends and Family of Victims of Murder & Homicide
- Aug. 11— ECM Staff Development Day
(Closed to students)
- Aug. 19— Community Café— hosted by The Circle of Friends and Rupert Collins Sunday School Classes
- Aug. 21— Finance Committee & Deacons Meetings
- Aug. 27— Sunday School Promotion Sunday
Youth Fall Kick-off
- Aug. 30— Deacon Nominations Close

- Sept. 4— Labor Day—ECM & Church Offices Closed
- Sept. 11— Baptist Women's Luncheon
- Sept. 14— Fun & Fellowship



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JUNE 27-29, 2017

Flower Calendar

Contact the church office at 739-4336 or daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org to place flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one.

2017	Oct. 1, 8
July 16, 30	Nov. 19, 26
Aug. 6, 20	
Sept. 3, 10	

CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 739-4336 or daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org
www.fbclumbertonnc.org

- Mrs. Nancy Bass**—Financial Coordinator
- Rev. Erin Collier**—Minister to Children
- Dr. David Elks**—Pastor
- Mrs. Daphne Fletcher**—Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Dorothy Hunt**—Building Superintendent
- Rev. Tim Little**—Minister of Music
- Mrs. Kandace Ramsey**—Administrative Assistant
- Rev. Doug Reedy**—Minister of Youth