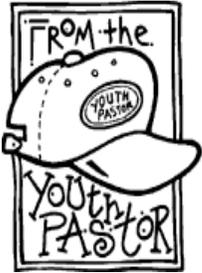


# First Baptist *News*

a family of faith



This time of year is always exciting and emotional as the summer winds down, last year's seniors depart for college, and younger youth prepare to move up a grade. Our church is going through change as well. Challenges and opportunities abound.

This past Sunday I had the privilege of filling a pulpit across town. My favorite hymn for years has been "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and I was pleased to see it appear in their order of worship. Remaining faithful to God is a challenge during change, stress, and grief. Thankfully, God is always faithful to us.

Please pray that our new college freshmen will remain faithful to their faith and their true selves as new and old temptations surround them. Pray they find a community of believers on or off campus. Pray that they feel God's presence when loneliness strikes. Pray they understand the importance moderation in all things. Most of all, pray that they know the love of God never leaves or wanes.

Lastly, pray for our rising class of seniors. We are a youth group that demands a lot in terms of leadership from each class of 12<sup>th</sup> graders, and this year should be especially challenging in a number of ways. Your prayers are appreciated.

*Doug*



*We are currently in a period of pastoral transition. As we give thanks for the past 11 years of ministry alongside Dr. David Elks, we also look to the future and consider how the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church, Lumberton, will continue to grow and change. For information regarding these changes, we invite you to visit [www.fbclumbertonnc.org/transitions](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org/transitions).*

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

This past Sunday, Bo Prosser shared a meaningful sermon about listening for God's voice. As he shared his story of looking for a sign in the form of an alligator, it reminded me of an ongoing conversation I had with a friend in college. In talking about life decisions, we would always joke, "where's a burning bush when you need one?" Decisions are certainly easier when there's an audible voice telling you which way to go!

Of course, even a burning bush requires paying attention and listening in the first place. In his book *Does God Have a Big Toe?*, Marc Gellman offers a modern day midrash (a Jewish tradition of interpreting scripture through story) that suggests that the burning bush was a patience test. Gellman writes:

*God caused a bush to start burning in the desert just near where some shepherds were pasturing their flocks. A few shepherds passed it and walked away. They didn't even notice that the bush was burning, but not burning up. Bushes are not special. And bushes on fire are not that special, so nobody took the time to sit long enough to watch the miracle happen. Moses, who had run away from the palace and become a shepherd, saw the bush and sat down on the ground and watched. Moses watched and watched and saw that the bush's leaves were burned off and the bush's branches were black, just like an ordinary burning bush. The only thing different about this burning bush was that it did not burn up. It just continued to burn and burn and the branches never fell down in a heap and the fire never went out. And Moses was the only one who waited long enough to notice.*

Perhaps "burning bushes" are more common than we think, and in our busyness and distractedness we miss them. Maybe we just need to notice, to sit long enough to watch the miracle happen, and be ready to hear God's voice.

Erin

During the week of August 12-16th the church office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

There will be no *First Baptist News* published the week of August 15th. Look for a new edition on August 22nd!

### *A Note of Thanks...*

The Friends of Jesus had a wonderful time at Camp Caraway this past week for Happiness Retreat. The theme for this year was Trusting and Obeying God. We had classes where we made crafts, sang songs and played games while learning about Noah and how he trusted and obeyed God.

We also had fun swimming, eating lots of great food and spending time getting to know new friends. The highlight of camp is always the talent show, and many of our students participated. They did a wonderful job and we enjoyed watching. And of course, we had a dance on Monday night that everybody loved. Everybody danced, including the chaperones!

We would like to thank our church family for allowing us to go to Happiness Retreat each year. Camp is such a wonderful experience for each student and they love going. We are truly blessed to have a church that cares so much about our class and we appreciate all the love that you show us.

Lynn Smith



### **CBF NC Beach Weekend** (Leadership Retreat) September 20-22

**For grades 7-12. \$175 per person**  
**Sign up in the church office.**

### **For the Record**

Budgeted 2019.....	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2019) .....	\$13,461.54
Received August 4, 2019.....	\$9,627.00
Need to date .....	\$417,307.69
Received to date.....	\$352,173.54
Over (Under) Budget.....	(65,134.15)

Sunday School Attendance, August 4—179

## Deacon Nomination

The Deacons of First Baptist serve in two major capacities: administrative and ministerial. As an administrative body, they help lead and guide our congregation. As a ministerial body, they participate in the care of our congregation through the deacon care team plan, building relationships with and offering support to our church family. Please prayerfully consider your nominations for deacon, write their names below, and return to the church no later than August 31, 2019. You may nominate as many as you would like and turn in as many nominations as you would like during the month of August. (There is no need to nominate the same person more than once.) In accordance with our bylaws, those eligible must be at least 21 years of age and resident members of First Baptist Church for at least one year.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Listed below are the names of persons elected in 2014-2018 as Deacons of this church. **Do not** nominate any of these persons. They are ineligible for re-election at this time.

Barbara Andrews (2020)  
Allison Branch (2022)  
Sam Britt, II (2018)  
Margie Cockrell (2020)  
William Davis (2020)  
Judy Driscoll (2019)  
Jim Driscoll (2021)  
Dan Floyd (2018)  
Melinda Frederick (2018)  
Phyllis Gibson (2022)  
James Gore (2021)

Kim Gore (2018)  
Donna Hardee (2022)  
Keith Hardee (2019)  
Drina Hedgpeth (2019)  
Bruce Huggins (2021)  
Liz Lytch (2019)  
Colin Osborne (2020)  
Eddie Prevatte (2019)  
David Ramsaur (2022)  
Lisa Rust (2021)  
Mary Anne Rust (2020)

Kenneth Sasser (2022)  
Johnny Smith (2022)  
Lynn Smith (2020)  
Christy Strickland (2019)  
Jeremy Strickland (2018)  
Tony Thompson (2021)  
Ed Thornadyke (2019)  
Chris Walters (2021)  
Hoss Watts (2019)

Nominees will be reviewed for eligibility according to the bylaws of First Baptist Church. Eligible nominees will be contacted by the elections committee to assure their willingness to serve if elected. Deacon Election will take place the 1st Sunday of October 2019. You may place your nominations in the offering plate or fax or e-mail nominations during the week to the church office at (910) 739-7858 or [daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org).

**A Called Church Conference will be held at 6 p. m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, to vote concerning the following change to the church bylaws:**

That the first sentence of Section 6 of Article IX of the Bylaws be amended by replacing the word "twelve (12)" with the word "seven (7)" so that a Pastor Search Committee of this church shall hereafter have seven (7) rather than twelve (12) members.

The 2019-2020 Nominating Committee Report, and nominees for our Interim Pastor Search Committee will be presented at the Called Church Conference on August 28th.

### Wednesday Night Speakers

The following speakers will be sharing during our devotion time at Family Night at Prayer in August & September.

August 14—Lashauna Deese

August 21—Catherine Lee

August 28—Called Church

Conference/  
Jeff Frederick

September 4—Lisa Rust

September 11—Larry Sawyer

September 18—Scott Billingsley

September 25—Kenneth Rust

First Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC  
 606 N. Walnut Street  
 Lumberton, NC 28358  
 (910) 739-4336  
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**Attention Senior Adults:**

November 5—Carolina Opry Christmas Show  
 Lunch at Paula Dean's/Shopping at  
 Broadway at the Beach  
 \$70 per person. Limited space  
 available. Pay in the church office to  
 reserve your spot.



- August 14**— Boneless Pork-loin, Grilled Mixed Vegetables, Wild Rice, Rolls, Peach Cake
- August 21**— Barbecue, Baked Beans, Hushpuppies, Cherry Pie
- August 28**— Baked Chicken w/gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Rolls, Salad, Blueberry Pie

**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.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2019</b>         | Aug. 2, 23, 30      |
| Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22  | Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 |
|                     | Oct. 4, 11, 18      |
| <b>2020</b>         | Nov. 15             |
| Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26  |                     |
| Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23   |                     |
| March 8, 22, 29     |                     |
| April 5, 12, 19, 26 |                     |
| May 3, 17, 24, 31   |                     |
| June 7, 14, 21, 28  |                     |
| July 5, 12, 19, 26  |                     |



**Coming up. . .**

- August 13—Senior Adults to Greensboro Dinner Theater
- August 15—Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Murder & Homicide
- August 17—Community Café hosted by The Circle of Friends Class
- August 19—Finance Committee & Deacons Meetings
- August 20—Youth Committee Meeting
- August 25—Sunday School Promotion Youth Fall Kick-off
- August 26—Robeson County Schools Begin
- August 28—Called Church Conference
- September 2—Labor Day—ECM & Church Offices Closed
- September 9—Baptist Women's Luncheon
- September 16—Lunch & Learn Finance Committee & Deacons Meetings
- September 21—Community Café hosted by The Bridge Class
- September 28—Friends of Jesus Fall Festival
- September 29—5th Sunday Fellowship
- October 6—Deacon Election World Communion Sunday

**CHURCH STAFF**

- Contact us at 739-4336 or  
 daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org  
 www.fbclumbertonnc.org
- Mrs. Nancy Bass**—Financial Coordinator
  - Rev. Erin Collier**—Associate Pastor of Families and Worship
  - Mrs. Daphne Fletcher**—Administrative Assistant
  - Rev. Tim Little**—Minister of Music and Facilities
  - Mrs. Kandace Ramsey**—Administrative Assistant
  - Rev. Doug Reedy**—Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions