

# First Baptist Church

## God our Focus, People our Mission!

### Candle of Love Newsletter

May, 2022

#### A Message from Pastor Eric

Last month, I introduced our church's new vision statement: **God our Focus, People our Mission!** This month I want to share with you about how God laid this vision on my heart and share some ways that this vision will direct our activities at First Baptist Church Creedmoor moving forward.

FBC Creedmoor recently celebrated 126 years since its founding. We have a long history of serving our community, and when I arrived in 2019 to become your pastor many of you shared with me about the rich history and legacy of this church. The more I learned about First Baptist, the more I was encouraged at how the people of this church care about their community and one another, and how they love and serve God. It is a joy to serve this church family and I have grown to love the people of First Baptist Creedmoor, and the community as well. It has increased my desire to seek God's will so that I can lead and serve this congregation well.

The more I study Scripture, the more evident it is to me that the entire Bible points to one singular act of love and compassion, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Good News that God loved humanity so much that He sent His Son to take on human flesh, live a perfect life, die on the cross to pay for our sins and save us, and be raised again to conquer sin and death, this message is what we call "The Gospel." All of Scripture focuses on God's ultimate plan of salvation, and it is what we as a church and as individual followers of Christ are called to live our lives for. Throughout the Old Testament, we read stories of God's work on behalf of people like Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Ruth, David, Esther and many more. Those stories declare God's faithfulness and move His plan of salvation forward one step at a time. The New Testament tells of how God took on flesh in the form of Jesus and accomplished the Father's will for bringing salvation to us, and the books that follow tell of the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel as Jesus's followers obeyed His command to take this Good News of forgiveness and salvation through faith in Christ to all the nations of the earth.

**Even though the record of history contained in the Bible ended over 1900 years ago, the story continues, and WE are a part of that story.** The task of sharing God's message of love, hope, forgiveness, and salvation has not yet been completed, and God has put us in this place at this time to be a part of His plan to reach the nations. The mission of our church is about focusing on God, His character, and His plans, and we can then take His Gospel message to those who are lost. The Gospel is always future focused and outward focused. It is future focused because we look forward to Christ's return and to eternity with God. It is outward focused because God's heart is to seek and save the lost, and so our hearts as His disciples must reflect His. As a church, we must be like the Apostle Paul who wrote, "Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." (Phil 4:13-14) So, what is the purpose of the rich history that God has blessed our church with? The answer to that can be found in the Bible.

The record of God's great activity in the lives of Abraham, Moses, and others were there to encourage God's people and help them trust that God would continue to be faithful in the future. Sometimes the people looked back at their past and longed for things to go back to how they used to be (like when the Israelites longed for Egypt while they wandered for forty years in the desert). But the purpose of remembering the past is not to want to go back to it, but to see God's faithfulness and power so that they can move forward into the future that He has called them to. The wonderful history of First Baptist Church Creedmoor is a source of encouragement and proof of God's faithfulness and power to His people in the past, SO THAT we can trust Him and move forward into the future He has called us to. We honor our past by trusting God for our future. Our history is not a history of great men and women who built a church that made a difference in this community, it is a history of men and women who served a great God that used His people to accomplish great things for His glory and honor. We still serve that same great God, and He still desires for His name to be honored and glorified in our midst.

Over the next months and years our church will continue to care for one another and love one another. We will continue to encourage and disciple one another. But we will do all these things and more so that we can turn our main focus outward towards the people in our community who do not yet know Christ as their Savior and Lord. Just like Christ's purpose was not to come for those who were "healthy" but to those who were "sick" and needed a doctor, our church's purpose is to actively and intentionally reach out to the lost in Creedmoor and beyond. This will bring new activities and outreach approaches. It may change how we do some of our current ministries. It may mean our services look and sound a little different than they have in the past. But as we follow and obey God as He leads us forward, we will experience the joy of seeing more and more lives changed, lost people being saved, broken people being healed, hopeless people gaining hope, and much more. But most of all, we will experience the joy of seeing our God's name lifted high and glorified among the people of Creedmoor and beyond. I hope you will pray for our church, support our efforts with your time and resources, and join us as we continue on this amazing adventure with our God.

# Taking the Gospel to Southern Granville and beyond...

## Wednesday Nights:

We have AWANA for children and Dive for youth that takes place from 6:30-7:45 p.m. each Wednesday. Please be in prayer for a new semester as we seek to reach more children and youth with the Gospel.

At the beginning of each month, we pack backpacks for Backpack buddies to allow the children and youth to help provide food for children in need here in Creedmoor. Both AWANA and DIVE have been well attended each Wednesday.

## Easter Egg Hunt:

Despite the lingering threat of rain, we had a great turnout and had about 30 kids attend; in addition to their families. We had a few families with children attend for the first time at either the Easter Egg Hunt or Sunday service and are making connections with them and hope to see them attend regularly.

## AWANA Celebration:

We will have our AWANA Celebration on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We will take time to recognize what the children had done learning God's word and memorizing scripture. I hope that you will make plans to join us that Wednesday.

## Summer Camps:

We are currently signed up for our children and youth to attend the following summer camps: **Centrikid Summer Camp at Gardner-Webb University in NC** – June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. We currently have 15 kids signed up. **Mfuge Summer Camp at Milligan University in Tennessee** – July 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We currently have 18 students signed up to attend.

### Message from our Deacon Chair

*May is here with all the brightness of color and opportunities it brings to God's people at First Baptist Creedmoor. We have just experienced the meaningfulness of Easter through several events in baptisms on Easter, with our lights of God's love shining ever brighter. Your deacons have been involved all across our ministries ensuring that our vision: "God our Focus, People our Mission!" shines bright across Creedmoor and beyond. The devotion I have chosen below from Our Daily Bread is the May 1st one, and I thought it was just so fitting at this time. I think you will too.*

#### Devotional - Let there be Light

In my daughter's earliest days, I often named for her the things she encountered. I'd identify objects or allow her to touch something unfamiliar and say the word for her, bringing understanding—and vocabulary—to the vast world she was exploring. Though my husband and I might naturally have expected (or hoped) her first word would be Mama or Daddy, she surprised us with an entirely different first word: her small mouth murmured light one day—a sweet, mispronounced echo of the word light I'd just shared with her.

Light is one of God's first words recorded for us in the Bible. As the Spirit of God hovered over a dark, formless, and empty Earth, God introduced light into His creation, saying, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). He said the light was good, which the rest of Scripture bears out: the psalmist explains that God's words illuminate our understanding (Psalm 119:130), and Jesus refers to Himself as "the light of the world," the giver of the light of life (John 8:12).

God's first utterance in the work of creation was to give light. That wasn't because He needed light to do His work; no, the light was for us. Light enables us to see Him and to identify His fingerprints on the creation around us, to discern what is good from what is not, and to follow Jesus one step at a time in this vast world.

By: Kirsten Holmberg

*Remember Team Deacon is here to serve with you and for you. We pray for you and our church family often and look forward to seeing more and more of you returning to church as time goes on. A world of opportunities to connect with others, renew relationships and serve the Lord awaits!*

*Serving with you,*

*Toni Anne Wheeler—Deacon Chairperson.*

We want to thank everyone who supported us at the Fun Run! We were able to give 5 scholarships totaling \$3500 to the following Seniors: Austin Carroll– J. F. Webb, Keith Gardner– South Granville, Mario Lyons– South Granville, Carmen Moore– Falls Lake Academy, Maxwell Whitt– Granville Early College



### Upcoming Events

- May 1 First Sunday Breakfast kids + Youth
- May 4 Food Mission, 9-11:30am
- May 5 Full Sunday School returns
- May 8 Mothers Day—Child Dedication
- May 14 Thrift Shoppe Yard Sale
- May 14 MS/HS Dive Together, 5-8pm
- May 18 Food Mission, 9-11:30am
- May 22 Deacons Board Meeting, 12-1:30pm
- May 25 Awana Celebration
- May 28 MS/HS Dive Together, 5-8pm

### Full Sunday School Returns!

June 5 at 9:45am

Join us for a remarkable day as we open Sunday School up back fully and celebrate our graduates with a Church wide Luncheon!

### Love in Action

*Do you need:* Prayer, Visit, Meals, Errands, Chores, Yardwork, etc.

The Outreach Committee has launched *Love in Action*, matching church members with needs to others who can help.

*If you have a need call, text or leave a voicemail for Ron Harrell 919-818-6974 .*

He'll pass your request to the outreach team, and they will connect you with someone who can help.



### May Birthdays

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Frances Peed     | 23 Steve Faucette |
| 4 L.A. Veasey      | 25 Bill Purvis    |
| 6 Sandy Fisher     | 31 Paula Mangum   |
| 9 Betsy Faucette   |                   |
| 12 Jacob Bailey    |                   |
| 14 Savannah Reif   |                   |
| 16 Collyn Faucette |                   |
| 16 Connie Separk   |                   |
| 17 Dianne Bennett  |                   |
| 17 Joshua Braeske  |                   |
| 20 Peter Haines    |                   |

### May Anniversaries

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 1 Kevin and Brenda Lawler      |
| 4 Faye and Don Washington      |
| 7 Christina and Bennie Goodwin |
| 7 Karl and Ede Pauplis         |
| 17 Martha and David Bailey     |
| 26 Shelby and Janice McStoots  |