



THE BAPTIST INFORMER

NEWS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FOUR OAKS

APRIL 2020

Mission Statement

The family of First Baptist Four Oaks believes in God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

To fulfill the Great Commission, we will love, serve, learn, and fellowship together.

*Church: 963-2102
Parsonage: 963-3199
Preschool: 963-2013*

www.fbcfouroaks.org

*My God, my God, **why** have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
Psalm 22:1 (NRSV)*

The “Why?” question. My guess is you (or someone you know) have asked that question recently in light of the life-changing events of the last few weeks. Perhaps it is the child in your home (or other children in your life) who is asking “why” school is postponed or “why” all extracurricular activities are cancelled? Perhaps it is a family member or friend who is asking “why” they are being released from their job? It may be someone in your circle of acquaintances asking “why” they have been diagnosed with COVID-19? Or maybe a family who is asking “why” their loved one died from this illness.

The “Why?” question is not new (someone is always asking “Why?” about something), but it is usually an individual or a small community wondering “Why?”. I think that is the reason our current situation is unique - everyone, everywhere, seems to be affected in one way or another. So a lot more people are asking the “Why?” question at one time than usual.

The psalmist knows a lot about asking “Why?” On behalf of the author as an individual, or on behalf of the people of God as a whole, the psalmist voices “Why?” in the form of a lament (like Psalm 22 quoted above). Bernhard Anderson, in his book *Out of the Depths*, quotes Old Testament scholar Roland Murphy in which he differentiates *lamentation* (“an expression of grief over a calamity that is not reversible”) from a *lament*, which is “an appeal to God’s compassion to intervene and change a desperate situation.” Anderson builds on this by saying, “...the laments are really expressions of praise - praise offered in a minor key in the confidence that Yahweh (God) is faithful and in anticipation of a new lease on life.”

Even Jesus asked the “Why?” question. From the cross, at 3:00pm on the Friday of his death, Jesus uttered, “My God, my God, **why** have you forsaken me?” In saying the first verse of Psalm 22, whether he spoke all the verses or not, we are to assume he had the complete psalm in his heart and on his lips before breathing his last (Take a moment and read the entirety of Psalm 22 to know of the hope to which the psalm refers).

And join us for worship (through the internet) on Easter Sunday, as we proclaim the hope that, in the resurrection of Jesus, sin and death and the grave have been overcome. The hope that, even in the midst of asking our “Why?” questions, God is at work in the world bringing about new life. The hope that, in the risen Lord, God is reconciling us to himself, and to each other. For Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

John

Youth News!

I'm not really sure how calendars have cleared, and I feel busier than ever! Change and transition are more time consuming than moving through our regular routine. But it has been pushing me to think creatively and outside of the box for ideas in moving forward with a ministry with social distancing restrictions. The Youth committee and I have come up with a couple of ways for the Youth to stay connected.

The Youth and I will "meet up" on Zoom during the week. We will have to play with consistent times but for now we will meet at 2 different times for flexibility.

Thursdays @ 7pm & Fridays @ 11am

I have set up a Youth Group *Instagram* account.

Hopefully, it will be a place we can stay connected.

I will post some bible verses and maybe funny (to me) stuff.

If you have any questions or have something you would like to share, don't hesitate to contact me. (Text and personal email for quickest response)

Cell: 919-464-7499

Personal Email: jjjjchampagne@gmail.com

Youth Email: fobcyouth@gmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Youth Zoom Zone- Thursdays @7pm or Fridays @11am

Facebook Live- Sundays @11am Worship & Wednesdays @7pm Romans Bible Study

Thank You...

Dear Four Oaks First Baptist:

Thank you for remembering our family during the recent death of our Dad Othal Minshew. The flower was absolutely beautiful and the food that was served after the service was so delicious. We appreciate your cards, thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

Love, Kim Robertson



Item for April:

Stuffed Animals



Brick Paver Fundraiser

Deadline Extended Until April 30



CHECK OUT THE WMU BULLETIN BOARD LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE PRAYER ROOM FOR ANY 'NEWS ITEMS'. ACTEENS AND GIRLS IN ACTION GROUPS ALSO HAVE SPACE FOR ITEMS AVAILABLE.

Events for WMU Mission groups in April 2020:

Agape Mission Group will meet on April 7 at 10:30 a.m. with Lynda Rabon in the FH. The Missions for Christ Mission Group will meet on April 5 at 2:00 p.m. with Gloria Lick in the FH. The Dorothy Parker Group will not meet in April. The Lib Canaday Group will meet on April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Beginning in January 2020, we will start collecting items for the Samaritan Purse shoebox for 2020: A collection box will be placed in the library. The item to begin collecting in April is stuffed animals for a boy or a girl. Remember ages are: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. If we dream big, maybe we can reach 200 shoeboxes again! As you pack your shoeboxes do not forget to include the \$9.00 for postage.

Johnston Community College (JCC) and Johnston Baptist Association are partnering together to offer "Adopting an International Student" program. There are approximately 175 international students attending JCC this semester. Kelton Hinton, JBA Associational Missionary is requesting that any family interested in providing a "family-oriented meal" once a month thru April to contact the JBA office at 919-965-9450 and show your interest.

Annie Armstrong Easter offering – Week of Prayer for North American Missions is March 1-8. The theme is "It's all about the gospel." *Prayer guides will be distributed and offering collected on Easter Sunday, April 12.*

Save the Date: Kennedy Home Food Drive on April 20 & 21, 2020. The Johnston Baptist Association will begin collecting items for the **Baptist Children's Kennedy Home in Kinston Spring** campaign. The drop-off will be at the Johnston Community College campus on April 20 & 21. **Gift cards are certainly acceptable so that they can purchase perishable meats and other items.**

Coronation Services, Sunday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. – A reception following the Coronation service will be in the Fellowship Hall. The WMU-FO Ladies groups will help provide refreshments. **This year we are asking parents of those children who are in the Coronation help donate 1 food item for our reception.** A signup sheet will be posted on the WMU bulletin board. WMU facilitators will be contacted for items their group can provide. The **2020 Freda Parks Creech Woman of the Year award** will be announced during the Coronation services.

JBA-WMU Annual Spring Meeting is Saturday, **May 16** at First Baptist Church Four Oaks. The theme is "**Reach Out to Foster Program (REACH).**" Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and program will begin at 9:00 a.m. Guest speaker for this meeting is Susan Hales Stem from Smithfield First Baptist Church. Ms. Hale will give updates on her commitment with the foster children of Johnston County. To further help these foster children please bring hygiene items for girls and boys of all ages. A collection box will be available. All ladies of our church are invited to attend this event and asked to share ideas on mission projects. Refreshments will be served during the morning break time. Door prizes will be announced. Make plans to attend on May 16 and help represent our WMU-FO.

WMU-NC is offering a training session on **August 1 at Clement Baptist Church, Autryville.** A new theme for the next two years will be introduced during this meeting. Registration is online at wmunc.org.



Birthdays

- 01 *Jean Lee*
- 02 *Brian Fogleman*
- 03 *Michele Norman*
Christina Hibbs
Katie McLamb
- 05 *Christie Stephenson*
Jessica Hamby
- 06 *Jason Lee*
- 07 *Thurman Whittington*
- 08 *Cindy Edwards*
Samantha Conceico
Hazel Evans
- 09 *Nathaniel Sloan*
- 10 *Patsy Parker*
Amy Byrd
Cheryl Chicki
- 14 *Lee Carter*
Lauren Maxwell
- 18 *Jean Whittington*
- 19 *Alice Ann Elam*
- 20 *Debbie Blackmon*
- 22 *James Norris*
- 23 *Carlye Durham*
Sophia Lee
- 25 *Ned Walsh*
- 28 *John Littleton*
Harold Keen
Roger Price
- 29 *Jason Coats*
Allison Earp
Will Whittington
- 30 *Everett Jackson*

Anniversaries

- 08 *Lin & Amy Byrd*
- 10 *Tim & Teresa Daniel*
- 16 *Mario & Lisa Gonzalez*
Chris & Joan Santoro
- 20 *James & Susie Norris*
- 29 *Michael & Elizabeth Fish*
Kelly & Sterling Parker

