



THE BAPTIST INFORMER

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

June 2022

As a lion or a young lion growls over its prey and, when a band of shepherds is called out against it, is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise... (Isaiah 31:4)

I have always enjoyed the writings of Eugene Peterson. Peterson, who is at once preacher/professor/ poet, burst onto the ministerial scene in the last part of the last century with his clarion call to the church to return to its first love (Revelation 2:4). But mostly, Peterson is remembered (he passed away in 2018) as being a prophet to pastors, proclaiming that the identity and work of ministry are to be grounded in “Prayer, Scripture, and Spiritual Direction.” During this month when I usually discuss reading books, I wanted to share a few thoughts from Peterson on reading scripture.

For Peterson, reading scripture is much more than an intellectual exercise. In one of his works, entitled *Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*, Peterson draws our attention to Isaiah 31:4 (quoted above). He notes that the Hebrew word for “growl” (*hagah*) points in the direction of savoring and enjoying and mulling (like a dog gnawing a bone). *Hagah* is also used for “meditate,” as in Psalm 1:2, where the psalmist states that happy are those who “delight in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.”

Peterson makes the following connections by writing, “*Hagah is a word that our Hebrew ancestors used frequently for reading the kind of writing that deals with our souls.... There is a certain kind of writing that invites this kind of reading, soft purrs and low growls as we taste and savor, anticipate and take in the sweet and spicy, mouth-watering and soul-energizing morsel words - “O taste and see that the LORD is good!” (Ps. 34:8).... I am interested in cultivating this kind of reading, the only kind of reading that is congruent with what is written in our Holy Scripture.*”

When you and I read (study) the scriptures there is a certain amount of “information” we glean from them (e.g. the circuitous journey the Hebrews took as they made their way to the promised land). In addition, the scriptures provide for us “inspiration” as we encounter the daily challenges of life (e.g. the reminder we get that God is our shepherd who provides and protects us). But ultimately, reading the scriptures gives us “transformation” as “*we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him*” (2 Cor. 3:14).

May you all have a safe and blessed summer. And enjoy what you read!

Grace & Peace, *John*

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



Vacation Bible School

June 12 - 16

Sunday ~ 5pm

VBS Parade

Monday-Wednesday ~ 5:30-8pm

Rocky Railway VBS

(Meal Included)

Thursday Evening ~ 5:30pm Until

Family Night Movie - "A Week Away"

Thank You...

Dear Church Family, Steve and I would like to say thank you for everything y'all have done for us since I've been sick. The phone calls, visits, texts, food, and most of all the love and prayers keep us going. Please continue to pray for us. We love and appreciate each of you. Love, Cheryl Chicki

Thank you to the WMU for serving our young people in the month of May. Your hospitality for the Coronation Banquet, RA Luncheon, and Graduate Breakfast was wonderful. We appreciate you serving the young people in this congregation. THANK YOU!

Dear First Baptist Four Oaks, Thank you so much for allowing me the privilege of sharing with your church. It is so encouraging to see others get excited about serving these young people, and I am sure God loves to see us reaching out to orphans. I pray God richly blesses your church and ministry. Thank you for your partnership so that we can continue to REACH out. In His Love, Susan Stem

*FBCFO Family, Thank you so much for your generous gifts and the going away party! I'm thankful for my experience at FBCFO, all that I learned, and how I was welcomed with open arms. I'll miss you guys and I treasure my time spent with the youth group and your church!
Love, Jonathan Murphy (Our Church's Intern for 2021/22)*

Youth News!

It has been an incredible year in Discipleship Training! Getting back into a routine on Wednesday nights has been refreshing. Our Youth are loud but engaging. I am thankful for that! Our final month of May has been about celebrations. We have celebrated our Acteens & RAs, our graduates, and our intern Jonathan. It has been busy but so rewarding. We will have some local events planned to stay connected over summer break. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer!

Thank you to everyone who helps to teach, lead, volunteer, and donate. It has been such a joy to see our Youth building relationships with each other and with God.

Grace and Peace to all,

Jami Champagne

Youth Email: fofbcyouth@gmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, 6/11: Youth Band will be doing 3 songs for a revival in Barbour's Grove

Sunday, 6/12- Thursday, 6/16: VBS (See Elizabeth Parker and Carly Fogleman for details)



Churchwide Missions for June 2022 WMU/Women's Ministry News

**WMU Watchword: "... But we are not those who turn back and are lost.
We are people who have faith and are saved." (Hebrews 10:39 NCV).**

**(All group meetings subject to COVID regulations.)
Scheduled Events for WMU Mission Groups in June 2022:**

**The Agape Mission Group is scheduled to meet in the Fellowship Hall on June 7, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.
The Dorothy Parker Group and Lib Canaday Group will not meet in June.
Missions for Christ Mission Group will not meet in June.**

**Beginning in January 2022, we will start collecting items for the Samaritan Purse shoebox for 2022:
A collection box will be placed in the library. The item to begin collecting in June is clothing items for
a boy or a girl. Remember ages are: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. If we dream big, we can reach 200 shoeboxes again!
As you pack your shoeboxes do not forget to include the \$9.00 for postage.**

2022 Freda Parks Creech Woman of the Year award. Congratulations to Carol Moore, recipient of this award was announced during the morning church service on May 1. WMU-FO would also like to thank all those individuals who helped us with food items for the Coronation. The reception was one of the best ever after a two-year hiatus!

**There is a WMU-NC Leadership Training at Askewville Baptist Church, Windsor on Saturday, July 30.
Registration is \$30 and includes a copy of the 2022-2023 Missions Leaders Planning guide, lunch and
all training materials for this year.**

The 2022 Mitchiner Scholarship Recipient was Naomi Beasley from Pisgah Baptist Church in Smithfield. Her parents are Brian and Tisha Beasley from Angier. This year there was a \$1,000 scholarship awarded.

Camp Mundo Vista dates are: Mother-Daughter Retreat, August 5-7, 2022.
To register go to: campmundovista.com.

**The newly revised Funeral Food Committee sheets are available on the WMU bulletin board. We have
tried to keep this updated to better serve everyone. As of May 27, 2022, members from Group 1 will be
the next group to serve a meal. Margaret Baker, Kathy Parker and Donna Baker are Co-Committee
Chairs from Group 1.**

**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.**

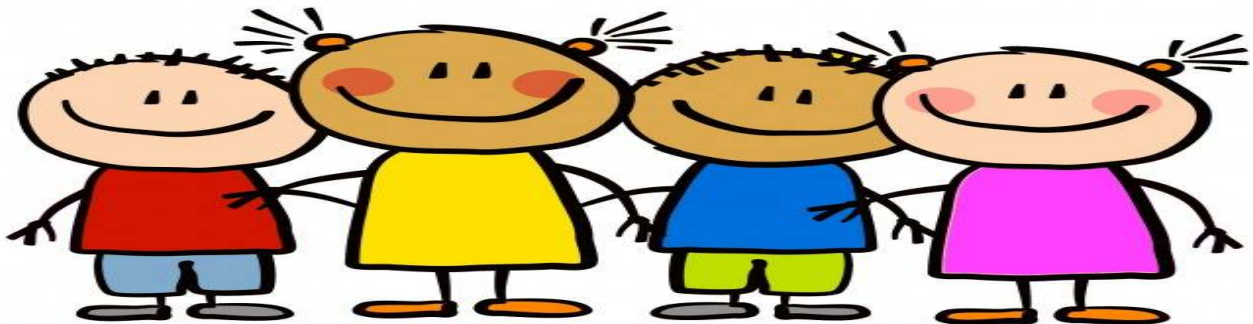


**The Young At Heart will meet for lunch at Barbour's Grove Park
Tuesday ~ June 21st
11:30 AM**

Preschool News

The month of May has been exciting for FBCFO Preschool. The units for May were Pond Life, Spanish Week & Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Plants, Oceans, Bible stories & Mother's Day. Ms. Allie made delicious tortillas and Ms. Dulce shared pottery and souvenirs that she collected when she lived in Mexico. The Happy Campers visited Four Oaks Elementary. They are ready for kindergarten! We planted flowers in the church garden box. The students enjoyed picking and eating strawberries at Smith's Nursery. The Fishies and Flamingos enjoyed a walking field trip to Fairytale Sweets to see how ice cream is made. We enjoyed graduation. We were so proud of our students! The Bears visited Ogi to see how furniture is made. All the students remembered our veterans and received a small flag. Their last day is June 2nd.

We are sad to see Ms. Dulce and Ms. Allie leave our preschool. However, Mrs. Laura Rogers has moved to a teaching position and Mrs. Ellen Boyd and Mrs. Phyllis Austin will join our staff. We are so excited for them to be part of our team! We are still interviewing applicants for a Director. Please contact the church office if you know someone who is interested in this position. We want to thank FBCFO for your prayers and support.



JUNE 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*Designates each week						
			1 *7:00 PM Wednesday night activities cancelled beginning June 1st.	2 *12-2:00 PM Food Pantry open	3	4
5 *10:00 AM Sunday School *11:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Deacon Board meets	6	7 10:30 AM Agape Mission Group meets	8	9	10	11
12 5:00 PM VBS Parade	13 5:30-8:00 PM VBS 7:00 PM Bldg. & Grounds Comm. meets	14 5:30-8:00 PM VBS	15 5:30-8:00 PM VBS	16 5:30 PM Until VBS Family Night Movie - "A Week Away"	17	18
19 Happy Father's Day! 7:45 AM Baptist Men's Breakfast	20	21 11:30 AM Young at Heart meets at Barbour's Grove Park for lunch	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



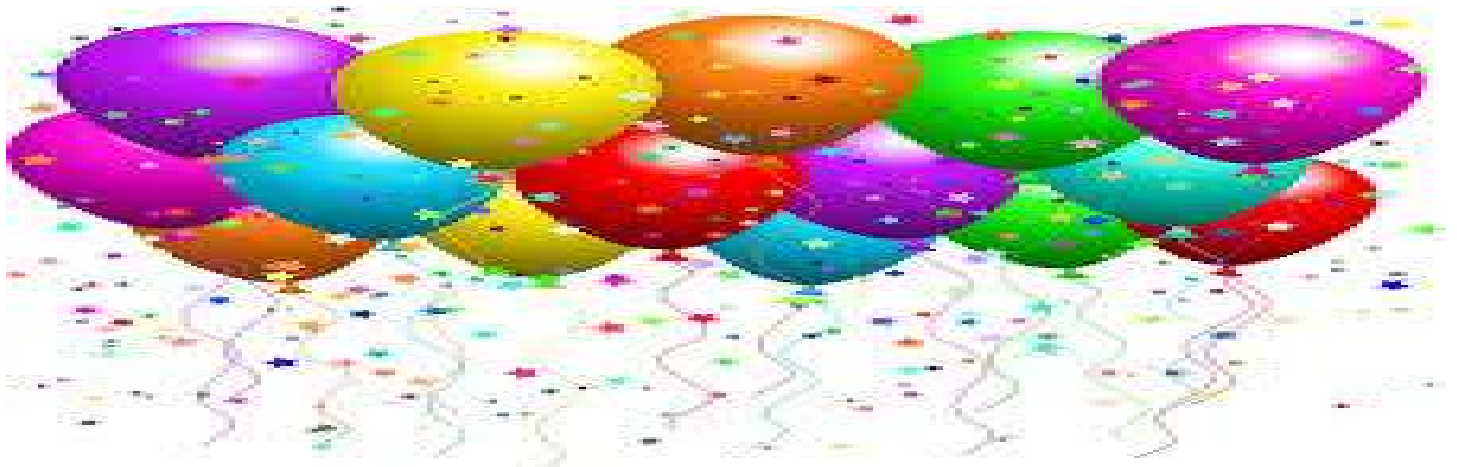
Birthdays

- 01 *Gage Stephenson*
Christina Templeton
- 03 *Craig Boyd*
Benjamin Lee
- 04 *Elijah Price*
- 06 *Tally Jackson*
- 07 *Jonathan Norris*
- 09 *Jeffery Hamby*
- 11 *Joe Hemmingway*
Sue Vann
- 12 *Nancy Langdon*
- 15 *Lesa Clothier*
Greg Earp
- 17 *Karl Aupperle*
Jim Sumerel
- 19 *Greg Stewart*
- 20 *Shannon Parker*
- 21 *Catherine Hock*
- 22 *Pat Bridgers*
- 23 *Eric Fogleman, Jr.*
Rose Minshew
- 25 *Lannetta Lockhart*
- 26 *Susie Norris*
- 28 *Spenser Driggers*
- 30 *Marilyn Parker*
Alma Strickland



Anniversaries

- 01 *John and Michele Norman*
- 02 *Anthony and Holly Price*
Caleb and Cameron Thornton
- 06 *Jim and Lynda Rabon*
- 07 *Wayne and Denise Hamilton*
- 12 *John and Kay Hatch*
- 13 *Scott and Melissa Sanders*
- 16 *Stephen and Donna Baker*
Will and Sarah Whittington
- 19 *Eric and Carly Fogleman*
- 23 *Mickey and Pat Bridgers*
Ron and Susan Sloan
- 24 *Bill and Wendy Barbee*
Walter and Rebecca Holt
- 25 *Lee and Alicia Lamb*



Cradle Roll (Worship)

June 05 *Amanda Strickland*
 June 12 *Vicki Grimes*
 June 19 *Brenda Strickland*
 June 26 *Tally Jackson*

First Baptist Contacts

Pastor	Rev. John Norman, Jr.
Minister of Music	Mrs. Phyllis Toothman
Minister of Youth	Mrs. Jami Champagne
Secretary	Mrs. Cheryl Chicki
	Mrs. Deirdre Parker
Organist	Ms. Annette Langdon
Pianist	Mrs. Summer McLamb
Preschool Interim Director	Mrs. Kay Surles
Deacon for the Month	Mr. Chris Vann

2 - 5 year old Church Nursery (Worship)

June 05 *Amanda and Lela Jo Strickland*
 June 12 *Elizabeth and Ryan Boyd*
 June 19 *Tally and Everette Jackson*
 June 26 *Chris and Wendy Heritage*

Worship

June 05 *Pentecost*
 June 12 *Trinity Sunday*
 June 19 *Father's Day*
 June 26 *3rd Sunday After Pentecost*

Children's Church

June 05 *Josh Champagne and Robbie Adams*
 June 12 *Melanie Autry*
 June 19 *Mary Jon Barefoot*
 June 26 *Allison Tucker*

Flowers

June 05
 June 12
 June 19 *Walter and Rebecca Holt*
 June 26



Four Oaks First partners with the Triangle East Baptist Association (JBA), Baptist State Convention of NC, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (National), and the Southern Baptist Convention.

***First Baptist Church
 P.O. Box 717
 403 North Main St.
 Four Oaks, NC 27524***