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# THE BAPTIST INFORMER

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

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## JUNE 2021

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*For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we read the Book of Ecclesiastes, we realize the one who penned the book has seen a few things. We are not completely sure what all the individual has seen or experienced, but the writer knows enough to understand the complexity and blessing, joy and sorrow, of life. To be sure, all of these times are referred to as “a season.” And it seems the writer believes that each of these “seasons” lasts for a period of time, and then another season begins.

### **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.*

As more and more people are being vaccinated and the deadly disruption of COVID-19 begins to recede (at least in the U.S.) with the regular routines of our daily lives beginning to return, I have been thinking about this passage (and others as well) in preparation for us to begin the next “season” of life together as FBC Four Oaks. What is next? Where do we go from here? How do we get there? Do we wave a wand and suddenly everything goes back to the way it was before?

As much as I would like for that to happen, I am not really sure it can - for a few reasons. (1) We all have changed. I celebrated a birthday at the height of the pandemic last year and I am about to celebrate another. With the passage of time I look different than I did a year-and-a-half ago. This is most evident in our children and youth whose physical growth amazes us when we see them, perhaps for the first time in a long time. (2) We have all been changed. I do not think I am the same “person” I was at the beginning of March 2020 - nor should I think that. A lot has happened over the last 15 months besides the pandemic; natural disasters, discussions of race, the role(s) of law enforcement, and a tumultuous election cycle just to name a few. And that does not take into account births & deaths, beginnings & endings, triumphs and failures. How have you changed?

So where does all this leave us? With only unanswerable questions about tomorrow? Well, again, I think this is where Ecclesiastes can once again help us - not only with a description of the way the cycle of life unwinds, but with a word of encouragement that in looking “back” (realizing seasons have come before) we may actually find guidance on how to navigate the “future.” Sort of “Back to the Future” if you will. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

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

[www.fbcfouroaks.org](http://www.fbcfouroaks.org)

Grace and Peace,  
*John*

## Youth News!

We have ended our normal Wednesday night meetings but will be meeting consistently through the summer to work on music and some projects for the basement. There are so many exciting things happening with our youth. Music from these youth is hopefully just the beginning. I pray that these new things will grow our student's faith as well as those around them.

We are continuing to have committee members and the Deacon Board reach out to Youth. The Youth Committee and Deacon Board have received prayer cards for Youth that they will be praying for. The Youth Committee and I will be evaluating our spiritual gifts to discern how to best serve our youth ministry, our church, and the Kingdom of God.

Please be in prayer for our Youth, Youth Committee members, the Deacon Board, and myself as we journey through making disciples that make disciples! If you have any questions or have something you would like to share, don't hesitate to contact me.

Grace and Peace to all,

Jami Champagne

Youth Email: [fofbcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fofbcyouth@gmail.com)

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Music and Basement projects through the summer--**(Days/Times TBD)**

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## **COVID-19 Update**

I wanted to update you on some changes that will take place on **June 6** regarding worship and the church's COVID-19 protocol we have been following over the last several months.

1. We will gather together for worship **in the sanctuary**.
2. There will be a section of the pews cordoned off for those who feel more comfortable to continue to socially distance.
3. We will no longer screen individuals as they enter the church.
4. If you are ill, we ask that you join us for worship online rather than in-person.
5. If you have been vaccinated, masks are optional. If you have not been vaccinated, masks are recommended. (Masks and hand sanitizer will still be available as you enter the church).
6. Childcare workers (for Nursery and Sunday School) will either be vaccinated or asked to wear a mask.
7. All of the entrances/exits of the church will be open.

I also wanted to thank the church for every effort made in navigating the waters of worship and ministry over the past year. To say this season has been "unusual" would be an understatement. But the church has, with God's guidance and strength, weathered the storm and persevered. Thank you!

I look forward to worshipping with you all on June 6.

Grace and Peace,

*John*



**Churchwide Missions for JUNE 2021**  
**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).**

**Scheduled Events for WMU Mission groups in JUNE 2021:**

**Due to COVID-19 status, some of these groups may elect to not meet in-person during June.**

**Agape Mission Group will meet on June 8 depending on COVID-19.  
Dorothy Parker Group and the Lib Canaday Group will not meet in June.  
Missions for Christ Mission Group will not meet in June.**

**Beginning in January 2021, we will start collecting items for the Samaritan Purse shoebox for 2021: A collection box will be placed in the library. The item to begin collecting in June is clothing items. 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.**

**The 2021 Freda Parks Creech "Woman of the Year" award will be presented on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall during the morning worship service.**

**The WMU-FO Focus Day has been re-scheduled to Sunday, September 26, 2021. After careful consideration, a decision was made to reschedule due to COVID-19. This year will be the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of WMU-FO. The guest speaker is Amy Pardue Boone, Executive Director & Treasurer – WMU-NC. Mrs. Boone will speak on the WMU theme "Relentless." The Heck Jones offering will still be collected during the month of February. We need old photos to make a video that will be shown during the morning service. Also, if you are interested in participating on the program during the Focus Day in September let Laura Rogers or Brenda Barnes know.**

**JBA-WMU Annual Fall Meeting is Saturday, September 11 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 **September 11** and help represent our WMU-FO.**

**Carolina Women Retreat at Fort Caswell Conference Center on October 15-16, 2021. Registration is coming out soon on WMUNC website or contact Rebecca Lindhout at [rlindhout@wmunc.com](mailto:rlindhout@wmunc.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 January 31, 2021, members from Group 1 will be the next group to serve a meal Margaret Baker, Donna Baker and Kathy Parker Co-Directors from Group 1.**

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## Birthdays

- 01 Gage Cooper Stephenson  
Christina Templeton
- 03 Craig Boyd  
Benjamin Lee
- 04 Elijah Price
- 05 Fernando Asedo Suarez
- 06 Tally Jackson
- 07 Jonathan Norris
- 09 Jeffrey Hamby
- 11 Sue Vann  
Joe Hemingway
- 12 Nancy Langdon
- 15 Greg Earp  
Lesa Clothier
- 17 Jim Sumerel
- 19 Greg Stewart
- 20 Shannon Parker
- 21 Catherine Hock
- 22 Pat Bridgers
- 23 Eric Fogleman  
Rose Minshev
- 25 Lannetta Lockhart
- 26 Susie Norris
- 28 Spenser Driggers
- 30 Alma Strickland  
Marilyn Parker

## Anniversaries

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

