

THE BUILDER

The Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Dunn, N.C.

August 01, 2009

From Your Pastor...

It all connects. During the last several months, we have been looking at those wonderful traits that mark us as Baptist Christians; I say Baptist Christians because while we are very intentional in how we express our faith we do not devalue other expressions of Christianity, it would be un-Baptist! We have looked at the centrality of Jesus, that Scripture alone is our authority in matters of faith, and how our concept of the Priesthood of the Believer informs us that every Christian has both the freedom to approach Christ personally as well as the responsibility of approaching Christ for others. Last month, we talked about the Baptist belief in separation of Church and State; of how we hold firm to the doctrine that each congregation and every member shall be free to worship God without interference or coercion. There is a thread that holds together this fragile cloth; it is called Soul Freedom, or Soul Competency. It is the deeply held belief that God has endowed each individual with the ability and freedom to make their own decisions in the matter of faith. Each person, regardless of intellect, station in life, or background is competent to make their own decision about Jesus.

As in past months, to understand this distinctive we have to take a moment to look at the culture into which it formed. In the 1600's, identification with a particular faith occurred not because of choice but because of birth. If one was born in France, one was Catholic. If born in Germany, one was Lutheran. If a person was born in England, one was born into the Church of England. A person's faith was dictated by the crown and the parent's obedience to have their child baptized shortly following birth. Early Baptists believed that matters of faith were personal and that as each person was given the freedom to make those decisions by God, it was wrong for them to be made by others. They believed that only a freely exercised decision about faith was a genuine choice. Our Baptist forbearers believed that matters of faith must be decided by the individual for him/herself and that only then was Christ truly accepted into one's life. In fact, it was so deeply held that only adults were allowed to be baptized as they believed only an adult could make such a monumental decision about something as personal and life committing as giving their life to Christ.

This belief is woven into so many of the ways we do church. We believe that baptism is a personal choice; we call it believer's baptism. We believe that each member is free to vote on matters of business in the church; it informs our understanding of the Autonomy of the Local Church (we will look at this next month). It is behind why we don't baptize infants and why we do dedication services instead. It is the doctrine behind our hymn of invitation to join the church or to come forward for prayer or rededication. It informs us as to why, when we gather to study Scripture, each person's insight is encouraged and honored. Soul Freedom informs that we will respect those who make decisions differently than us. It informs us that each person may be at different stages of faith and that we should not rush nor impede their relationship with Christ. It tells us to respect those who are of different Christian expressions as well as those who may chose to believe differently about God; we extend to others the same freedom we chose for ourselves even when those choices are painful and challenging. It empowers us to defend our faith while at the same time exercising patience with those with whom we may disagree. Soul Competency/Soul Freedom provides for us the vehicle to express that the diversity of faith among our membership is important to the life of the Church; through this doctrine we respect where the Holy Spirit is working diversity even amidst our unity.

Soul Freedom is among one of our most fragile freedoms. And, it is one of our most important identifying traits. Baptists have long held that God works in a person's life in a personal and transforming way. This cannot be manufactured nor can it be forced. I am reminded of a popular confession from Psychology: *The only person over whom I have any control is me.* For a Baptist, this is a good understanding of Soul Freedom. It is a freedom worthy of respect. It is how we understand God made us. It is how we came to accept Jesus and how we invite others to genuine faith. It is a doctrine worthy of attention.

Biblical Recorder

Please be advised that the new annual subscription, which begins in October, will be the last time the church will budget to pay for members to receive this publication. If you would like your name removed from the church list for this renewal, please contact the church office. If you wish to continue to receive it after October 2010, you will need to contact them directly.



Volunteers are needed for the Offertory Prayer on Sunday mornings. If you would like to volunteer to lead us in prayer, please contact Mark Johnson or let someone in the church office know.

SPREAD THE JOY

JOY Group News

The JOY Group luncheon was held Tuesday, July 14, at Western Sizzlin with 12 present. We'll blame summer for the attendance decrease but will look forward to an increase on August 11. The food and fellowship was great and the winner of the gift card was Jo Ann Wells. Congratulations Jo Ann! Kathleen Davis is August program chairperson and has scheduled Rev. Jesse Waugh to present a program of songs and testimony. Come and support Jesse!! Several issues were discussed on Tuesday and final decisions made by the JOY Group are as follows: 1) to help conserve our budget we will discontinue drawing for a \$5 gift card and 2) in addition to collecting for gas money from each person, we will also collect \$1 to pay for the bus driver meals. At this time, driver admission charges will continue to be taken out of budget money.

Rachel Johnson, July program chairperson, presented Carey Barfield of Skinner/Smith Funeral Home. He gave a very interesting program on traditional and cremation funeral services. He very graciously answered all our questions and explained everything in detail. He did a fine job. We thank Rachel for her outstanding program effort.

Upcoming July activities were discussed after which everyone began requesting information and also began signing up for space. We encourage seniors to become involved. You'll be glad you did! Come join us at our next meeting. Stay informed!

JOY Group Trips



- ☉ July 31-Hudson Bay Restaurant
Leave at 5:00
 - ☉ August 11-JOY Luncheon/Rev. Jesse Waugh 11:30 am Western Sizzlin
 - ☉ August 20-Ft. Fisher Civil War Museum (Free) & Aquarium (\$5.95)
Lunch @ K & W-Leave at 9:00
 - ☉ September 24-Anna Butler Chapel & Bell Tower (see completed chapel) Lundy Fetterman Museum-Campbell University Lunch @ Marshbanks Cafeteria-Leave at 10:30
 - ☉ October 15 or 22-Fall Foliage Tour Boone/Blowing Rock -*Overnight Trip*
(4 people to a room—\$22 each)
Limited to 20 people
Must sign up by mid August.
- SIGN UP NOW!**
Limited Seat Availability

Tithes Gifts

Are yours up-to-date?

Semi Annual giving statement have been sent out. Please review yours for accuracy. Notify Angela in the church office of any discrepancies.

Our Vitals

2009 Weekly Budget:	\$ 7,625.29
Rcvd. 06/28/09	\$ 6,721.05
Rcvd. 07/05/09	\$ 9,877.25
Rcvd. 07/12/09	\$ 5,093.50
Rcvd. 07/19/09	\$ 6,543.85
2009 YTD Variance	(\$ 19,311.24)

Prayer Concerns

In the June Business Meeting, upon the recommendation of the Deacons, it was decided to omit the prayer concerns from the monthly newsletter. This decision was made to protect our sick from those who may misuse this list. Please know that the weekly prayer list will continue in the church bulletin. If you would like a prayer list sent to you individually, please contact the church office.

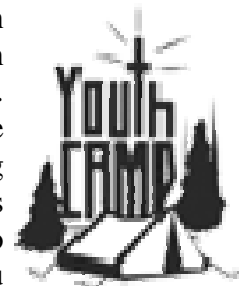


Sanctuary Choir Practice Resumes!!
















The Sanctuary Choir will resume their regular Wednesday night rehearsals on August 5th. I hope to see all choir members back and ready to work. This is also the time for any want to be choir members to come and join us. If you have ever sung in a choir or wanted to sing in the choir now is the time to come and join us. Rehearsals will begin at 7:45 every Wednesday night. It will not be long before we will begin working on Christmas music so why not join us now.

The Youth Corner

- ◆ Everyone had a wonderful time at the Tart Park Picnic. If you were not able to join us maybe next time you can.
- ◆ Our youth would like to say thank you for your support of our youth ministry. August 3rd-8th our youth will be away at summer camp. Please be in prayer for them while they are away. They will be serving God in a variety of different ways while at camp. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you when we return.



AUGUST EVENT AND BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>**REGULAR ACT.** 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship <i>*See Below for Details about Sunday Evenings*</i></p>			<p>**REGULAR ACT.** 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Youth 7:00 Children's Activities 7:45 Sanctuary Choir</p>			1
<p>2 **REGULAR ACT.** 5:45 Meal and Long Range Planning Session</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Myrtle Hall Lennie Surlles</p>	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<p>***** 10:30 Worship/Senior Cit.</p>	<p>***** YOUTH TO "DEEP IMPACT" AT CASWELL *****</p>	<p>**REGULAR ACT.**  Ted Fitzgerald</p>	<p>Pat Fitzgerald Shirley Johnson Jeremy Shaner Graham Thompson</p>	*****	*****
<p>9 **REGULAR ACT.** 5:45 Meal and Long Range Planning Session</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Barbara Carlisle</p>	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<p>10:30 Worship/Senior Cit. 7:00 Deacon's Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Ruby Johnson</p>	<p>11:30 JOY Group Lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Jeanne Barbour</p>	<p>**REGULAR ACT.** Church Conference</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Clint Eldridge  Cathy Snipes Miles Snow</p>	<p>Robert Tart</p>		Mary Louise Strickland
<p>16 **REGULAR ACT.** YOUTH SUNDAY 5:45 Meal and Long Range Planning Session</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> John Michael Blackmon</p>	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<p>10:30 Worship/Senior Cit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> April Harant Patricia Hinson</p>	<p>Adrienne Parish Larry Watkins</p>	<p>**REGULAR ACT.**</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Amette Barfield</p>	<p>9:00 JOY Group to Ft. Fisher Mary Sue Godwin Jessie Hawley Mildred Parker</p>	<p>Arnold Parish</p>	<p>Ginger Barbour Sandy Thomas</p>
<p>23 **REGULAR ACT.** 5:45 Meal and Planning</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> William Barefoot Marshall Hinson Mary Kerney Larry Mason Ava Smith</p>	24	25	26	27	28	29
	<p>10:30 Worship/Senior Cit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Alan Eldridge</p>	<p>Hal Earp</p>	<p>**REGULAR ACT.**  Billy Bates Debbie Best Sharon Byrd</p>	<p>Wiley Bowen Carolyn Coleman Alan Hinson</p>	<p>Cathy Pope</p>	<p>Rosalyn Farthing</p>
<p>30 **REGULAR ACT.**</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Sandra Schneider</p>	31					
	<p>10:30 Worship/Senior Cit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Ashlyn Ritter Matthew Jones Lesley Wood</p>					

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First Baptist Church of Dunn, Inc.
309 West Broad Street
Dunn, NC 28334
(910) 892-6161

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Personnel

Pastor	Dr. Len Keever, Jr.
Music Min./Assoc. Pastor	Rev. Jesse Waugh
Minister of Youth/Children	Matt Wilson
Administrative Asst.	Angela Jones
Organist	Mary Sue Godwin
Custodian	Maria Wadzinski



www.fbcdunn.com

Sunday Nights in August

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday nights in August. There will be a fellowship meal at 5:45 followed by round table discussions facilitated by the Long Range Planning Committee from 6:30 to 7:30.

The Youth will also meet at 6:30 to discuss their views and opinions about long range plans for the church.

The children will meet at 6:30 for a Missions Study followed by fun and games.

Please bring a dish to each Sunday night meal as indicated below:

August 2	Casseroles & Salads
August 9	Ice Cream Social
August 16	Sandwiches & Sweets
August 23	Old Fashioned Pot Luck

Our Volunteers

Aug. 2	Nursery:	Jerad & Suzanne McCall
	Radio:	Bob Jones
Aug. 9	Nursery:	Janice Thomas/Kathy Blackmon
	Radio:	Bo Jones
Aug. 16	Nursery:	Tense Eldridge/Amberly Wilson
	Radio:	Boyd Dixon
Aug. 23	Nursery:	Angela Jones
	Radio:	Larry Snipes
Aug. 30	Nursery:	Taylor & Christy Wells
	Radio:	Kathy Mann

Nursery Coordinator for August-Suzanne McCall
Children's Church for August-Carla Brown