

Re-Connecting

“Disconnected.”

It's a word I have heard repeatedly, beginning with my first conversation with the Pulpit Supply Committee in early July. Disconnected from one another, from the church campus and from the worship of God together in the same room, while at the same time suffering the nearly simultaneous departures of Joel and Jennifer Campbell and Bruce Hartgrove. Many of us understandably feel like the dry bones of Israel in exile: “We are cut off completely,” they said in Ezekiel 37:11.

In recent weeks, we have begun a concerted effort to Re-Connect:

- this issue of the Herald;
- Wednesday evening prayer time and Bible study by phone/video conference starting on September 9;
- a new “**Pastoral Care Line**,” **336-881-6480**, the messages on which will be monitored and responded to by a deacon on call or staff member;
- reminders to watch the church Facebook page for updates; and
- the dissemination of email addresses for Heather Absher (heather@fbchighpoint.org) and me (jeff@fbchighpoint.org) for you to be in touch as you have need.

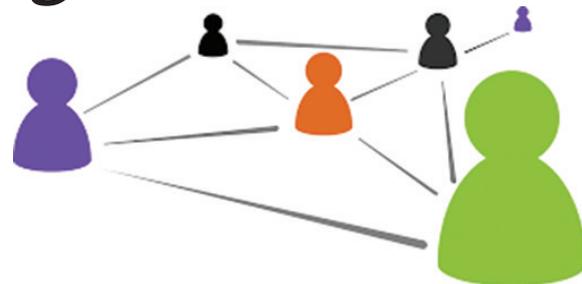
And those aren't even all. A new phone tree system is being set

up so that you will hear from me at least weekly with pastoral cares and concerns and praises, among other important congregational information. In addition, a Steering Committee convened by Rick Hines is laying the groundwork for our safe return to corporate worship.

Re-Connect. Re-Connect. Re-Connect.

You know the rest of the story in Ezekiel 37. You've probably sung it: “The foot bone connected to the leg bone, The leg bone connected to the knee bone, The knee bone connected to the thigh bone,” and so on. “Oh, hear the word of the Lord! Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk aroun'.” And so we will. Re-Connected. Together in the Spirit “that is from God” (1 Corinthians 2:12).

– Dr. Jeff Rogers, Interim Minister



Steering Committee

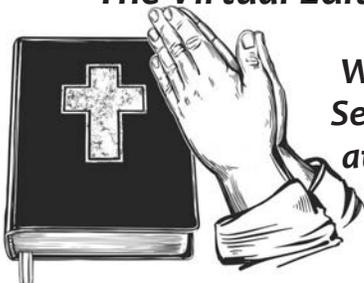
Chair of Deacons Rick Hines has appointed a Steering Committee to develop plans and guidelines for the congregation's return to in-person worship on a Sunday yet to be determined once Phase 3 of the state's “Safer at Home” initiative has begun. The committee is utilizing the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' “Interim Guidance for Places of Worship and Religious Services (July 27, 2020),” as well as best practices identified in other churches in North Carolina and Georgia. These practices include wearing masks, check-

ing for symptoms at an outside door, signing in for potential contact tracing, social distancing of seating, using multiple exits, and many others. Full details of the plan will be distributed in advance of our return. Serving on the committee are Carol Brooks, Cy Brooks, Michelle Gardner, Rick Hines, Joy Key, Nancy McNeill, Maxine Perdue, Gary Pressley and Jeff Rogers. If you have any comments, concerns, or questions, please contact one of the committee members.

Midweek Prayer and Bible Study:

The Virtual Edition

Starts
**Wednesday,
September 9,
at 7:00 p.m.**



Jeff Rogers will lead a weekly virtual prayer time and Bible study on Zoom, a video-conference software that permits users to connect with one another on a computer, tablet or smartphone or to call in by telephone if they do not have internet access. We will share our cares and concerns and praises, pray together and then engage in a Bible study on the book of James.

The Bible study, “Religion 101 with Professor James,” explores the message of James in its time and ours. Dismissed in the 1500s by the great reformer Martin Luther as a “straw epistle,” this book's pragmatic and practical approach to the Christian life; its themes of testing, wisdom, and consistency; and its strong stand for social justice make it sound every bit as much like a book for our time as for the time in which it was written.

Instructions, the phone number for calling in, and the link for Internet users will be distributed by email and by USPS. Be watching for them, and reconnect on Wednesday evenings beginning September 9.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – 405 N. Main St., High Point, NC 27260-5088

336-883-0178 – www.fbchighpoint.org – www.facebook.com/firstbaptisthighpoint

Financial Comments through July 2020

Since we haven't had Church Conferences, I just want to give a brief look at the numbers through July.

Budget giving has been \$199,675 and we have spent \$209,382, so we have overspent by \$9,707. At the same point last year, we had received \$262,628 and spent \$281,920 so we were "in the red" then by \$18,662. It's a good surprise that we're just a little better than a year ago, but still we're spending more than taking in. Additionally, outside of budget we have had the lease income from Christ United Methodist Church for 7 months and Communities in Schools (CIS) started their lease in July. This income helps us to be cash-positive at this point, but I feel that our own giving should support the budget and to look at budget numbers without the lease income.

Spending is down overall because of staff reductions and being very careful to tighten up on everything else we spend. At the same time, we've still had some minor extra costs to get the areas ready for Christ's Little Acorns and CIS. We will continue to be very mindful when spending the donations you make to the church.

I think, as a church family, our biggest financial challenge during shutdown is to keep contributions up to the level of the budget we all subscribed for this year. We are way behind that figure of \$275k for 7 months. If we could "give the budget" and have a period with lower spending, we can build back some savings we have consumed the last 3 years. So, I encourage all of us to commit to build FBC back to a stronger financial position.

– Don Myers, Treasurer

Covenant Agreement

First Baptist Church, High Point, N.C. and Dr. Jeff Rogers

Start Date: August 1, 2020

Responsibilities to be performed by Dr. Rogers:

1. Worship preparation and leadership.
2. Facilitate Wednesday evening adult prayer meeting / Bible study / vespers either in person or via videoconference.

3. One of the primary functions of the interim is to help facilitate communication and connection with the church family whether through in-person meetings or through virtual presence. This could include facilitation of virtual Sunday school meetings.

4. Facilitate the interim process.

5. Attend meetings of the congregation (including business meetings and meetings of the Health and Safety Steering Committee), Deacons, Church Council and any other meetings as needed either in person or via videoconference.

6. Office hours to be held on Sunday afternoons. If church members desire to meet with Dr. Rogers in person, these meetings should be scheduled in advance at a time agreeable to both parties when Dr. Rogers is already in High Point.

Relationships:

1. The Interim Pastor will meet with committees requiring his input either via videoconference or in person when scheduled in advance.

2. He shall be available upon request to assist the Pastor Search Committee.

3. He will work with the church staff in the preparation of the weekly Order of Service.

4. The Interim Pastor is not expected to participate in all church parties or fellowship times, but is welcome and encouraged to do so as his schedule permits.

5. If additional staff or an intern is added to the staff, the Interim Pastor is expected to work with the minister or intern in a professional capacity.

Accountability:

As stated in the Church Constitution, the Interim Pastor will work directly with the Pastor Relations Committee, comprised of the executive officers of the Diaconate, the previous chair of the Diaconate, and the chairs of the Stewardship and Personnel Committees. They will meet and consult with one another on a regular basis relative to the programs and ministries of the Church.

Personal Time Off:

The Interim Pastor will receive two weeks of vacation time per year. This will begin with vacation starting on a Sunday and concluding the following Saturday. An additional two Sundays during the year will be granted as time away from the pulpit. (This is to be interpreted as two full weeks plus two additional Sundays to equal one Sunday per quarter). When the Interim Pastor is on PTO, the Pulpit Supply Committee will fill the pulpit.

Stepping Up

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, we would like to offer special thanks to Heather Absher for stepping up and taking over some of Jennifer Campbell's important duties upon her departure. Heather accepted the challenge of editing and organizing the recorded worship video posted each Sunday on Facebook. She also volunteered to ensure our prayer request notifications would continue in a timely manner, which is so important while our church is closed during the COVID crisis. Feel free to reach out to her with any questions or news by calling the church office or emailing her at heather@fbchighpoint.org. We appreciate you, Heather.

– Nancy McNeill

Offering and Income

January 1 - July 31

Weekly Budget Need
\$9,076.00
Tithes & Offerings
\$164,987.15
Building Use/
Recreation/ Parking
\$5,025.00
Total Budget Receipts
\$170,012.15
Budget Needs to Date
\$272,280.00
Budget Receipts to Date
\$199,675.23

August 2, 2020

Weekly Budget Need
\$9,076.00
Tithes & Offerings
\$1,860.00
Building Use/
Recreation/ Parking
\$0.00
Total Budget Receipts
\$1,860.00
Budget Needs to Date
\$281,356.00
Budget Receipts to Date
\$201,535.23

August 9, 2020

Weekly Budget Need
\$9,076.00
Tithes & Offerings
\$3,330.00
Building Use/
Recreation/ Parking
\$0.00
Total Budget Receipts
\$3,330.00
Budget Needs to Date
\$290,432.00
Budget Receipts to Date
\$204,865.23

August 16, 2020

Weekly Budget Need
\$9,076.00
Tithes & Offerings
\$4,450.00
Building Use/
Recreation/ Parking
\$0.00
Total Budget Receipts
\$4,450.00
Budget Needs to Date
\$299,508.00
Budget Receipts to Date
\$209,315.23

There are several ways you can support FBC with your monetary gifts.

Online, go to www.fbchighpoint.org, and click on the word "GIVE" in the blue bar. Instructions will appear for giving online with credit and debit cards using Tithe.ly. There are also instructions for setting up an automatic bank draft.

You can still mail checks to 405 N. Main St.

Building Updates

Since we last met, a lot has gone on at First Baptist as far as building updates. We have a new outside mailbox and exterior doors have been rekeyed. Someone was hired to mow, taking over for our own Bill Logan and Phil McNeill. We are in the process of hiring a cleaning service.

An approved gate and fencing will be installed soon on the ramp going down to the children's outside doors. This will be black vinyl covered fencing on the rails going down the ramp to keep the kids from falling through. A black vinyl covered gate will be installed at the bottom to keep the kids contained when used as a play area. The cost was totally borne by the preschool, Christ's Little Acorns.

Preschool Opening

Christ's Little Acorns will open Sept. 9 with 44 students. The preschool has set up guidelines for operation with information from the CDC, the State, a doctor and two lawyers to cover their bases. The preschool will be utilizing the lobby entrance and the two outside preschool doors for morning entrance for the students. This, along with other measures, is to limit contact by students with each other. The preschool has insurance that has coverage for First Baptist Church.



Quarterlies

New quarterlies for September-December are available. Save your May-August copies because we'll use them at a future date.

Blessing Box

The Missions Committee is once again challenging our Adult Sunday School classes to gather supplies for our Blessing Box in the front of the church for a month.

We are asking the classes to take turns actually filling the Blessing Box. We can bring our contributions to the Church Recreation Ministries lobby, but it might be easier these days to keep up with filling the Blessing Box ourselves if possible.

If your class would be interested in a month, contact Diana Baxendale at diana.baxendale@gmail.com or 336-870-9395 with their preference of what month they would like to do this mission.

We need to fill the schedule so our Blessing Box will be filled each week. If you are not a part of a Sunday School class, you are welcome to bring items as well and place them in the Blessing Box.

Items that will be a blessing to people in need are canned food (cans with pop tops are especially helpful,) Band-Aids, diapers, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, hand warmers and more.



Staff

Dr. Jeff Rogers
Interim Minister
jeff@fbchighpoint.org

Heather Absher
Director of Finance
and Communication
heather@fbchighpoint.org

Gary Pressley
Building Superintendent

Carol Brooks
Herald editor, Webmaster
cab1@northstate.net

Sympathy to:

- Susan Stanley in death of her brother, Ted Dilday.
- Linda Winslow in the death of her brother, Jerry Ray.
- the family of Mickey Miller
- Brenda Deets in the death of her father
- Carol Brooks in death of her cousin, David Smith
- Debbie Edwards in death of her mother, Betty
- Martha Lancaster in death of her nephew, Albert Madden
- Al and Joyce Mills in the death of their son, Terry.
- Bill Logan in death of his brother-in-law, Dale Payne
- Carole Bright and Shelley Garis in the death of their mother and grandmother, Nancy Smith
- Gayle Smoot for the death of her aunt, Mildred Hastings
- Radiant Club member Ann Teague, sister of Betty Coggin, in the death of her husband, John.
- Alisha Hunnicutt in the death of her grandmother

Praise for:

- birth of Cy and Joni Brooks' grandchild
- birth of Bryan and Kathleen Culbreth's grandson
- to the Campbells for the sale of their High Point house

Congratulations to:

- Terry Eddinger for his promotion to Rear Admiral and Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Navy Resrve Matters

Prayers for:

- recovery of Becky Dogan
- recovery of Diania Baum
- recovery of Bethe Freeman
- recovery of Chris Reddeck
- recovery of former church secretary Cheryl Taylor
- recovery of Karen Coats, daughter of Rob and Donna Fincher
- recovery of Cynthia Eddinger's brother's wife from COVID-19
- all COVID-19 sufferers

Prayer Needs

Email heather@fbchighpoint.org or call Heather Absher at 336-883-0178 when you or someone in your immediate family is in the hospital and/or is in need of prayer. Please provide their address so we may mail the prayer sheet to them. Please get permission to publish their names on our prayer chain and email. Also please let us know when it is time to remove their name from the list.

Pastoral Care Line



881-6480

Deacons on Call

September 6

David Williams
Teena Reddeck

September 13

Jeanneen Adamcik
Diania Baum

September 20

Jon Clark
Pam Burgess

September 27

Brenda Deets
Rick Hines

Deacons

At the August Deacons meeting, the Diaconate appointed an ad hoc Committee to Nominate Deacons for 2021. The slate of 6 potential Deacons will be given at the October church conference, live or by Zoom. The vote to accept the slate of Deacons will happen in a called church conference on a designated Sunday morning thereafter, live or by Zoom meeting. Upon approval, the new Deacons will assume office January 1, 2021.

Rick Hines
Deacon Chair

Postmaster, please send change of address to:
First Baptist Church, 405 N. Main St.,
High Point, NC 27260-5088

The Church Herald

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BIRTHDAYS

Betty Jo Clary	Sept. 1
Terry Eddinger	Sept. 1
Josephine Edwards	Sept. 3
Miguel Torres	Sept. 4
Gayle Smoot	Sept. 8
Robert Culler	Sept. 10
Don Myers	Sept. 10
Martha Harrison	Sept. 11
Linda Henretta	Sept. 11
Geneva Pruden	Sept. 15
Nanette Cornwell	Sept. 17
John Hunnicutt	Sept. 17
Barbara Hunnicutt	Sept. 20
Martha Smoot	Sept. 23
Katheryn Burgess	Sept. 24
Brenda Jones	Sept. 25
Dixie Clapp	Sept. 26
Kathy Martin	Sept. 26
Ruth Lansford	Sept. 27
Robert Kaiser	Sept. 30

CALENDAR



Sunday Worship

Live Stream Every Sunday

at 11:00 a.m. on



*Midweek Prayer and Bible Study:
The Virtual Edition*

*Starts Wednesday, September 9,
at 7:00 p.m.*

Details to come