



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEWPORT NEWS

First News: Monthly Vision Issue

June 5, 2019

Vision Team Article - Pentecost

Matt Tilley, Vision Team Chairperson

If you read *First News* then you probably have heard the story of Pentecost before. Let me give you a paraphrase of the events.

So a few weeks after Jesus' death, his followers get together. They're in Jerusalem because that's where Jesus told them to stay until they received the Holy Spirit. It is a holiday so they figure they might as well spend the day together. They probably don't know what is going on at this point.

It is entirely possible that most of them are questioning the whole thing. After all, did Jesus actually resurrect from the dead? Could it be true that Jesus' stories about living for God in this world and the world to come were real? They know what they saw and heard and (in Thomas's case) touched. But they don't know what is going on.

Peter is probably in a world of his own. He isn't one for introspection. He is a man of action, not words. Yet what should he think about the events of the last five weeks. Jesus was dead, then alive, then Jesus ascended to Heaven like one of the stories from Peter's childhood. And Jesus' last words directly to Peter, "feed my lambs." What did he mean by that? Was Peter, the one who had denied Jesus, the one who had fallen asleep in the garden, the one who was born the son of a fisherman supposed to take over and lead Jesus' remaining disciples?

Suddenly the world changed. The disciples heard a mighty wind and saw tongues like flame over each other's heads. And suddenly they couldn't wait to tell people about Jesus.

Peter, who *had* denied Jesus, took the lead. They walked out into a holiday crowd and started telling everyone about the good news that Jesus hadn't stayed dead. Even though it was the morning, people assumed the disciples were drunk or crazy. The crowd spoke different languages and didn't have a common language but they all could hear the story about Jesus in their own language.

So Peter told the story. Jesus who was crucified was the chosen one. Jesus was a better chosen one than they dreamed of, a better chosen one than Caesar, a better chosen one than Anakin Skywalker, a better chosen one than Iron Man (OK, maybe he didn't spell those last two out, but it helps to carry the point). And then Peter told them about what God was doing through Jesus.

Through Jesus, God called the people to join God in building a new reality here in the middle of the old one. Some folks in the crowd had joined in the efforts against God to destroy Jesus, but rather than fighting back, God was inviting them to join the disciples in becoming a new kind of people.

This is still our story. God is still inviting people to join God in the mission to make a new world in the middle of this one. We are one of the many communities organized around this reality. And so, on Pentecost (June 9) we look back to what God has done for us and we look forward to what God is doing in our midst.

Grace & Peace,

Matt

Vision & Lead Team Contact Information

Vision Team

Matt Tilley · mtalley@fbcnn.org

God Centered Worship

Ronnie Mason · rmason@fbcnn.org

Staff Coaches:

Dennis Adams · dadams@fbcnn.org

Lesley Spitzer · lspitzer@fbcnn.org

Authentic Community

Jeanette Lystlund · jlystlund@fbcnn.org

Staff Coach:

Susie Webb · swebb@fbcnn.org

Intentional Spiritual Development

Matt Tilley · mtalley@fbcnn.org

Staff Coach:

Randy Shepley · rshepley@fbcnn.org

Investment in Next Generations

Erin Fetty · efetty@fbcnn.org

Staff Coaches:

Randy Shepley · rshepley@fbcnn.org

Michael Adams · madams@fbcnn.org

Susie Webb · swebb@fbcnn.org

Compassionate Mission Partnerships

Kim Overman · koverman@fbcnn.org

Staff Coaches:

Randy Shepley · rshepley@fbcnn.org

Juan Garcia · jgarcia@fbcnn.org

Extend Good News Invitations

Andrea Derby · aderby@fbcnn.org

Staff Coach:

Michael Adams · madams@fbcnn.org

Sunday Services: 8:30am Traditional, 11:00am Contemporary, 12:30pm Hispanic; Bible Study: 9:45am

Web: www.fbcnn.org

Email: nikki@fbcnn.org

Phone: 757.930.0911

Pictures from Recent Events

Festival of Music May 5, 2019



Staff Anniversary for June

Sharon Hertzler - June 27 - Congratulations on 8 years!

Updates From Lead Teams & Personnel

Intentional Spiritual Development Lead Team

Discipleship Strategy 3: Training Plans

In April we talked about Discipleship Strategy. In May we talked about the types of small groups we have. This month we will discuss training plans.

Have you ever been amazed with an athlete's performance? Have you ever been in awe of a piece of art or music? Have you ever been spellbound by a speaker, comedian, or other performer? Do you know what all of these folks have in common? They all had to train to get where they are.

Paul, one of the first Christians, talked a lot about the relationship between discipleship and training. When talking about following Jesus, Paul said that we should all train as if we are trying to win a race in the (Olympic) games (1 Cor 9:24-27). Spiritual training doesn't make us automatically like Jesus any more than athletic training makes athletes automatically win games or races. However, it creates the space where the Holy Spirit can work to grow us to be more like Jesus.

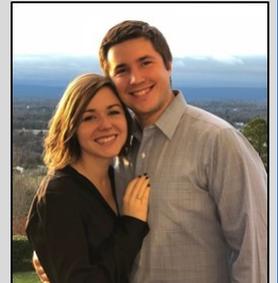
We think that it is a good idea for each of us to make a spiritual training plan every year. Your training plan should include the area in which you hope to grow, the things you will do to get there, and how you will be accountable. Its best to make these align and to have a friend or two who can ask you if you are making progress. One day, we plan to roll this out into a church-wide program, but we invite all our small groups to have conversations about what spiritual training plans might look like for you.

Matt Tilley, Chairman, Intentional Spiritual Development Lead Team

Personnel Team Updates

Associate Pastor for Young Adults

On Sunday, June 2, the membership convincingly voted, with (98% "yes" votes) to hire Ethan Brown as our Associate Pastor for Young Adults. Ethan has a Master of Divinity degree from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University and brings several years' experience working with young adults. We are blessed to have Ethan and his wife, Caitlin, as part of our family. Ethan's first day with us will be Sunday, June 16.



Nelissa (Neli) Rodriguez Bids Us Farewell

Due to personal and family reasons, Neli made the decision to vacate her position as Ministry Assistant. Neli sought guidance from her family and from God in making this decision. Her last day was May 31. Neli did an outstanding job as Ministry Assistant and we will miss her dearly. Although she has left her position, Neli and family still play a vital role as part of our church family. Please pray for Neli and her family as they make this life transition. We wish her all of God's blessings. If you have questions, please contact Kris Keyes, Chair of Personnel Team.

More News from FBCNN

Men's Monthly Breakfast · Saturday, June 8 · 8:00am · Payne Fellowship Hall

Please join us for the Men's Fellowship this Saturday, June 8th. Our very own, Rodolfo, who is a part of the Hispanic congregation will be sharing his devotion with us. We will be having a Breakfast Taco Bar, so come hungry.

Mark your calendar for our July 13th Fellowship. Our Puerto Rico Mission Team will be sharing their recent experience with us.

If you haven't signed up yet, please let the church office know if you plan to attend.

Mark Your Calendar- June



THURSDAY 6	FRIDAY 7	SATURDAY 8	SUNDAY 9	MONDAY 10	TUESDAY 11	WEDNESDAY 12
Hispanic Praise Team 6:00pm	Swingin' Singers Nags Head Trip 8:30am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	Traditional Worship 8:30am	Prayer Group (Prayer Rm.) 2:00pm		Sanctuary Choir 7:00pm
Transformed Praise Team 7:30pm		Prayer Group (Rm. 130) 10:00am	Bible Study 9:45am	Biblical Proportions 6:30pm		
			Contemporary Worship 11:00am	Delta Mission Circle 6:30pm		
			Hispanic Worship 12:30pm	The Bridge Young Adults 7:00pm		

Tithes and Offerings Received as of June 2, 2019

<u>Budget Need</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Hope 127 Year to Date</u>	<u>Debt on Educational Building</u>
\$517,078.60	\$516,180.12	\$17,307.00	\$504,653.34

Sign Raiser Total to Date: \$23,424

WAYS TO KEEP GIVING CONSISTENT AT FBCNN



ONLINE



MAIL



AUTOMATED THRU
YOUR BANK

Summer is almost here!! Make giving easy through any of the above options. If you need more information please contact Monica at 757-930-0911 or monica@fbcnn.org. **Thank you** in advance for your partnership.

Wednesday Night Menus

Regular Wednesday Night Dinners will resume on Wednesday, September 4.