VOL. 4 ISSUE 7

**JULY 2020** 





——— Celebrating the =

# FOURTH of JULIA

-INDEPENDENCE DAY-

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All announcements for Sunday's bulletin should be sent to the office by 9:00am on Thursday of each week.

Monthly calendar & birthdays will be available in the box near the hospital board.

The next deadline to submit articles for the August issue:

### **JULY 15**

Please contact Angel if you have any questions. angel@elizabethchurch.org

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If you would prefer to receive the Elizabethan electronically, please contact the office.

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# PASTOR'S POST

### "Freedom in the Pulpit"

Throughout my years in ministry, it has been disturbing to see how many ministers are willing to abdicate their responsibility to speak truth from the pulpit to appease the sentiments of the larger culture. The pressure to measure one's words carefully when addressing sensitive topics is a good thing. However, if a minister and congregation do not have the power of the Holy Spirit, that same pressure can crush a pulpit ministry into nothing more than religious platitudes void of practical theology.

The story has often been told of a group of pastors that were considering whether they should invite D.L. Moody (1837-1899) to be the primary speaker at a revival in their city. As Moody's ministry was being discussed by the pastors, one of them condescendingly exclaimed, "Does Mr. Moody have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit?" To that an older and well-respected minister replied, "No, but the Holy Spirit seems to have a monopoly on Mr. Moody."

May that be the case for us in these chaotic times that we are witnessing. May the Holy Spirit work in our lives and church in such a way that it is clear to the children of God that He has a monopoly on what is happening at Elizabeth Baptist. No doubt, those who are oblivious to the Holy Spirit will mock and ridicule our biblical worldview, but God did not call us to be popular. Rather, God has called us to share His truth.

During the month of July, we will address some of the sensitive issues that are taking place in our society and, through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, lift off the pressure to remain silent. As you look at the sermon titles and themes for the month, I encourage you to invite family and friends to come to worship with you by either coming to campus or worshipping online. This is the perfect time to invite those you care about to get involved in taking a stand for Jesus Christ.

Much love in Christ,



#### July 5 -

Sermon Title: "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death"

Theme: Christian freedom

Scripture: Daniel 3:8-25, 1 Timothy 6:6-16

### July 12 -

Sermon Title: "The Democrats' Desecration of

America"

Theme: Being humbled before the Lord

Scripture: Proverbs 16:1-8

#### July 19 -

Sermon Title: "The Religious Ruse of

Republicans"

Theme: Serving God in sincerity Scripture: Joshua 24:14-15

#### July 26 -

Sermon Title: "Trust God, Not Government"

Theme: Putting our hope in the Lord

Scripture: Psalm 146



I am so glad many of us have been able to return to worship in person! It has been so wonderful to see you and sing with you and glorify God together in worship. July 5 and 12, we will have a blended service at both 9:30 and 11:00. On July 19, we will begin adding some more traditional elements to our 9:30 worship. Our 11:00 service will continue to be blended, while the 9:30 and 11:00 services in the CLC will continue to be contemporary. I am so excited that we can worship and glorify God with such a wide variety of musical styles, while keeping biblical lyrics which are theologically sound. I would like to share with you a special poem by Douglas Murphy, his thoughts on music.

- Sharon Andrews

### Thoughts on Music

Music is a gift from our Creator, never to be taken for granted. Music affects our emotions and behavior, often making us feel sad or enchanted.

Music is a powerful language, with many combinations of notes. Music provides versatile usage, with numerous meaningful quotes.

Music is enjoyed by all nations, never to be controlled by one. Music includes multiple creations, known as both work and fun.

Music is a means of exalting God's story, not simply for mere entertainment.

Music that leads us to the Father's glory, preferably with beautiful arrangements.

Music is played by gifted musicians, with melodious vocals in harmony.

Music ministered under all conditions, by the Spirit's direction with certainty.

Music is written about Jesus the Son, composed by those He calls.
Music to be played and sung, reverberating throughout the halls.

Douglas E. Murphy February 12, 2020





It seems a long way from Oklahoma and Tennessee to Shelby, but Terry and Linda Fern found their way here.

Terry, born in Oklahoma City, and Linda, born in Nashville, were brought up in Christian homes.

Terry grew up with two older brothers, one now deceased and one living in Georgetown, Texas, while Linda

has one younger sister still in Nashville.

Growing up in Oklahoma City, Terry played high school baseball, basketball, and golf and started collegiate music study in private piano prior to his college classes. He served as president of the Glee Club and held several interim music positions while in college. Terry served his country in the US Marine Corps in Vietnam 1966-1968.

Linda, meanwhile, was active in missions, GAs, Sword (Bible) Drill in her church and in high school participated in oratory and debate.

Terry received his Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, Master's from University of Louisville, and Doctorate from University of North Texas.





Before coming to Gardner-Webb University, Terry's career included Assistant Professor of Music at Houghton College (New York), Ouachita Baptist University; and Belmont University. At GWU, Terry taught voice and opera for 30 years and was chair of the Fine Arts Department for nine years. He retired in 2010 but has been busy since then, serving in area churches as Interim Minister, including Elizabeth for three years before Mike McGee was hired.

Linda studied nursing at Oklahoma Baptist (where she met Terry), was the College Nurse at Houghton College and Instructor of Nursing at Kentucky Baptist Hospital

and Gardner-Webb University. She has been a Hospice nurse, staff nurse, Environmental Health Nurse, and held Case Management and Quality Management positions at then Cleveland Regional Medical Center. She retired in 2011.

The Ferns have been married 51 years and have two children: Jennifer and husband Tim live in Lancaster, Kentucky with children Hannah (19), Raigan (15), and Bryant (10); Jeremy and wife Ginger live in Shelby with son Colin (8).

Terry enjoys fishing, golfing and landscaping while Linda enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, handcrafts, volunteering and teaching at a home school cooperative. Both are avid birders and have enjoyed camping and hiking.

Members of Elizabeth for 35 years, Terry has served as deacon, Sunday School teacher, and choir member. Linda has been a Sunday School teacher, choir member, served on many committees, Children's Ministry worker, co-director for Apples of Gold, Bible study facilitator, and enjoys the prayer ministry.

Say the Ferns, "A life-changing event involving Elizabeth occurred September 14, 2002. Lightning struck our home in an electrical storm resulting in total loss. Our church family at EBC was immediately at our side—with tents, assistance to sort through the ashes, meals and a household shower to provide supplies, clothing and household items that we needed to begin again. So much was given we were able to help two other local families who had house fires within a few weeks of ours."

Elizabeth Baptist Church has been blessed since Terry and Linda Fern found their way from Oklahoma and Tennessee to Shelby.

# Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 9 Ice Cream at the Farm 4:00pm at Spake Farm Friday, December 4 Christmas at the Cove Details in July newsletter.







## 10 reasons to say <u>Yes</u> to serving in the Preschool / Children's Ministry

### 1 When we serve children, we serve Christ!

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me!" Matthew 25:40

# We live in an interconnected world; serving children makes a positive impact on our world.

"None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others." Philippians 2:4

### 3 Serving takes the focus off YOUR problems.

Serving others takes the focus off YOU and your problems and allows you time to focus on others. You'll find that when you are encouraging others, you YOURSELF will be encouraged.

You will learn that our **GREAT GOD** is bigger than all of our problems!

### 4 You will make an impact on your own children.

The Barna group recently released a statistic that shows your children are 80% more likely to continue in their faith if their parents were serving in the ministry. Your children are watching you and learning what you value.

### 5 Serving children will have the greatest LONG TERM impact!

Children are just beginning to develop life-long beliefs, habits, and values – we can help shape them! What gets "poured into" children will be what comes out of them as adults. When children grasp that God loves them and has a GOOD plan for their lives, their lives take on more meaning, purpose, and JOY.

### 6 Spiritual development begins at age two and is usually formed before age 13.

If people do not embrace Jesus as their Savior before the end of their teenage years, their chance of doing so later in life is slim. Children are the group of people who are the MOST receptive to the Gospel AND the most receptive to discipleship.

### 7 Our current young ones are our future leaders.

The people who are leading our country today were once young people who may or may not have had wise and caring people investing in them



### 8 Serving gives us an opportunity to put our faith into action.

Serving helps us grow in our faith. Scripture tells us that "Faith without deeds is useless." James 2:20 NIV

I see Christ in others, and they can see Him in me.

### 9 Young people are highly influenced by role models, but many don't have one.

You can be that role model!

"We are all role models to someone in this world and we can all have an impact — for good." Tony Dungy

### 10 It's FUN!

We play GAMES to learn! If you need a reason to smile, work with kids – they give you LOTS of reasons to smile. Their JOY is contagious. Seeing the world through their eyes is simply delightful!





### Class of 2020

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2020! This has been a year like none other, and even though all of our seniors have now graduated, it was certainly one for the record books. We are, nonetheless, proud of our students and their accomplishments. We traditionally have a breakfast for our graduates and celebrate them on Graduate Sunday in early June, but this year, we decided to make some changes due to the fact that we were unsure as to what would be the safest and most appropriate option for them. Instead of the breakfast, we hosted a dinner for our graduates on June 26 and honored them on Sunday morning, June 28. We have completed all of our senior seminars for this year, and our newest cohort of young adults are now enrolled in and are participating in Matrix, our young adult ministry. We want to welcome each of our graduates to this new organization and to the next chapter in their lives as they transition from adolescence into young adulthood. If your son/daughter is a recent graduate or is in the 18-23 age range, we would encourage them to participate with us in Matrix. We meet every Monday night at 7:00 in the Matrix House just below the main parking lot.

### **July Events**

We have tried to do all that we can to provide a summer that is both safe and productive for our students. They have missed so much in the last three months, and church has been the only relatively stable force in their lives outside of their families. Our desire is to try our best to keep them safe and carefully provide opportunities for them to socialize, grow spiritually, and help other people. To that end, we have crafted a mission trip that is in-state and we will also have a

modified Caswell experience this year. Our mission trip is scheduled for July 5-11 in Wilmington, and we have designed it so that we will be the only group in attendance. We are planning for all of our projects to be outside, and we will be totally self-contained for the week.



First Baptist Church of Wallace, NC has graciously agreed to house us, and we will limit excursions away from that facility except for our free day on Friday when we hope to take students to



the beach. Caswell is scheduled for (as of the most FORT CASWELL recent change) July 27-31. We plan to arrive on Monday afternoon and return home on Friday afternoon. We will also begin the transition process

for our rising seventh graders during the month of July, but I will be sending information to parents with details on this. Additionally, I will be sending emails and texts to parents of students who plan to attend Caswell and Wilmington about trip details and upcoming parent meetings.

#### **INVASION 2020**

As many of you might remember, we had scheduled INVASION for March of 2020, but it was cancelled due to the stay-at-home orders. We rescheduled it for August 21-23, but now the start date for the new school year has been moved up to the weekend prior to that, and our purpose had been to make this not only a back-to-school event but also a final event with our seniors before they head off to college. Since college move-in dates have now been shifted to early August, we have decided to postpone INVASION until the spring of 2021.

Danie Vertra





Several months ago we announced a collaborative project between the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association and EBC called "UP-LIFT." Originally, this was to be a four-day training event for students in grades 7-12 who were interested in forming or perfecting their student-led worship teams at their respective

churches. As we began to realize that the COVID crisis was not going to end by our July date, we moved the event to August. Then, we ended up moving Caswell, and it ended up conflicting, so we moved to a different week in August. Then the start-date of school ended up being moved to August 17. So, we shortened the event to a night and one day experience. As of now (and if this final date does not work, we will reschedule the event for next year), it is scheduled for Friday evening, August 7 and most of the day on Saturday, August 8. The event will feature a concert and breakout sessions on vocals, guitar, percussion, keyboards, and tech. We will serve a box lunch from a local restaurant as well. Cost per participant is \$35, and adult chaperons are \$15. Cost includes a tee shirt, lunch, and training material. I hope that all members of RIZEN/REDEEMED will be able to participate. The event is open to any student at EBC, though, regardless of his/her affiliation with RIZEN. If you are interested, please contact me or Rita Stewart in order to register.

# WARRIORS/WATCHMEN /180/FUEL

These four organizations/events were moved off our weekly calendar when we were placed under stay-at-home-orders. Warriors and Watchmen have resumed in-person meetings and will continue meeting Sunday afternoons from 6:00-7:00 until further notice. FUEL, our weekly small group Bible studies (Sunday School) that met on Sunday mornings, will resume whenever the adult and children's classes resume Sunday morning meetings. We hope to resume "180" in July, but parents will be notified via email of this schedule on a week-by-week basis due to the busy July schedule.



### **Parents of Rising Seventh Graders**

Normally by this time, I would have met with the parents of rising seventh graders and begun the transition into student ministry. I will be doing that over the month of July, so if you are a parent of a rising seventh grader, please email me at david@elizabethchurch.org and tell me your name and the name of your rising seventh grader so that I can begin building an email group for you and add you to the current parent email list.







### Discipleship Involves Reflecting and Sharing

When you look into a mirror, what do you see? Better yet, whom do you see? You may begin by describing physical characteristics. Perhaps the color of your hair or skin. You may list the color of your eyes or the size of your ears and nose. You may even think about the size of your head or body.

But what do you see when you look beyond the physical? What do you see spiritually? Are you someone that reminds others of Jesus or do you reflect the opposite? One way you can reflect Jesus in your life is by taking time to share your faith with others. This can be personally or it can be done on a social media platform. When we share on our social platforms, we are inviting others to join in with us and to be encouraged and inspired by the message. When we share, we are leveraging our relationships and evangelizing by compelling others to come and join to hear the message of hope. I read an interesting article by Richard Bumpers, West Central Region consultant of the Georgia Baptist Convention, sharing 10 ways to share your faith using social media.

- 1. **Share your TESTIMONY**. Express what God has done and is doing in your life. Put some thought into what you will share. Don't be offensive but be truthful in sharing the joy of knowing Christ and having a personal relationship with Him.
  - "... and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ." Philemon 1:6
  - "... but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense; yet do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15
- 2. **Share SCRIPTURE**. Be intentional about posting Scripture. By doing this, we are planting seeds and allowing people to see beyond their circumstances and to reflect on God's word. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the Greeks." Romans 1:16 "One who is taught the word must share all the good things with the one who teaches." Galatians 6:6
- 3. **Share POSTS from your church**. This will allow individuals to repost, to witness beyond the church walls, and to allow other people to become familiar with your church.

  "... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8
- 4. **Share BURDENS**. When it comes to hardships and the burdens of life, many of us try to handle it on our own and keep it to ourselves. To be able to join with someone who is feeling the pressures of life is encouraging. Whenever we share with others during times of hardship, we are being an example of Christ's compassion.
  - "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2
  - "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." Hebrews 10:24
- 5. **Share PRAYERS and PRAISE**. Ask, "How can I pray for you?" Celebrate with others as a great entry point to engage evangelistically.
  - "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another." Romans 12:15-16
- 6. **Share RESOURCES to meet needs**. This does not mean that you have to have the resources, but if you know of someone or a place that can help, then post this information and encourage others to contribute ideas as well.
  - "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

#### 7. Share your LOVE through social media.

- "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

  1 John 4:7-8
- "Jesus said to him, 'You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:38-39
- 8. **Share OPPORTUNITIES to connect in an online community group**. Although this does not take the place of in-person gatherings, it still allows us to connect with the community group of likeminded individuals. This is a way for us to continue to have spiritual growth.
  - "Do not neglect the meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:25
- 9. **Share in GIVING**. Giving goes beyond money; it extends to time, and your talent. Being able to share your time to listen and to serve is just as important. Consider ways to share through giving of your time and service.
  - "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7
  - "As we have the opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:1
- 10. **Share THE INVITATION of Jesus**. This is what matters most. Whenever we have a platform to share the gospel message, then let us provide every opportunity to allow people to respond to Jesus.
  - "... for this is good for all who desires all men be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:3-4
  - "Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

We must use every resource that we have as followers of Christ to share our faith to anyone who is willing to listen. Let us share our social media influence to encourage, introduce, lead, and uplift others for Christ.

Eddie Clay



### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

# **EBC Prayer Warriors Corner**

### 2 Timothy 4:7-8

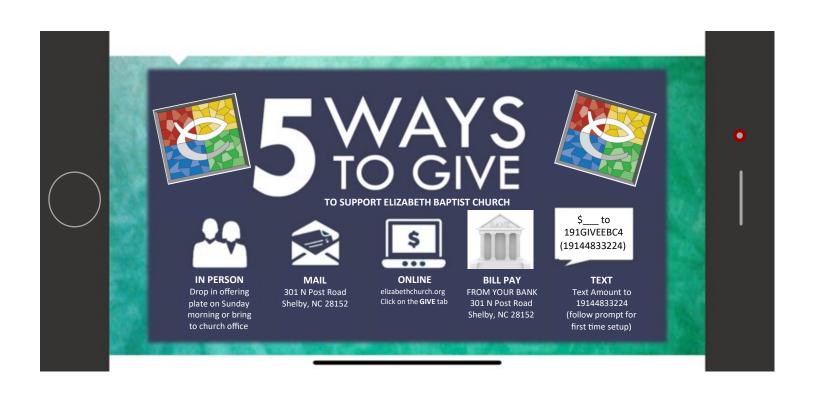
"I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

### Let us pray that this is our testimony every day!

Recca Bingham

If you would like to become a part of the Prayer Ministry, please contact Matt & Renee Brinton rbrinton@carolina.rr.com





### Soul Sisters: EBC Women's Ministry



**Summer Opportunities**: The Women's Ministry at EBC is offering you two opportunities to participate with us during the summer months.

- 1. **Jude Bible study**: Lifeway-sponsored 7-week Bible study led by Jackie Hill Perry. In her study Jude, we will study the often-overlooked book of Jude to recognize God's Word as an anchor in the ever-shifting cultural climate and discover your God-given identity in a world of deception. This begins 6/25/2020. You will need to order your study book on your own from Lifeway. Sign up for the free videos at Lifeway.com. If you get a late start, the videos will be available until near the end of August, so you can catch up. We will meet to discuss this at the end of the summer.
- 2. EBC Summer Book Club: Every summer, we choose a book, read it on our own, and get together to discuss it at the end of the summer. This year we have selected Lysa Terkuerst's book It's Not Supposed to be This Way. In the book, Lysa explores the question "What do you do when God's timing seems questionable, His lack of intervention hurtful, and His promises doubtful?" This book is on the NY Times Booklist "Ten Books You Need to Read During These Times." It is available from Lifeway, Amazon, Christian Books.

### **Upcoming Fall Opportunities:**

**Soul Sisters' Fall Retreat at EBC**: Due to the pandemic, our annual retreat will be a "scaled-back" one-day event. Our theme is "**Firmly Rooted**" and Scripture base is Col. 2:6-7. The sessions will be DVD-driven. We will have lunch and assorted beverages and snacks; craft time; worship music; good fellowship, fun, and Bible-study! Cost this year is \$5; tickets on sale the end of July. Be sure you put this on your calendar!

"Favored Women 2020 Conference" in Gatlinburg, Tennessee: September 25-27, 2020. Cost (includes hotel and conference) is \$159 w/4 per room, \$179 w/3 per room, and \$219 w/2 per room. Featured line-up speakers include Annie F. Downs, Anita Renfroe, and Joy Green. Music includes Mandisa and Casting Crowns. Deposit of \$75 by July 12. See Jill Putnam or Micha'l Floyd.

**Finally**: In this time of uncertainty, anxiety, and disappointment, we need to pray more than ever. This summer we ask you to join us in a concerted effort of prayer every Wednesday evening 5:00pm-7:00pm (10 minutes or two hours-your choice), in your own homes (or together as a small group) to send up prayers for our country, our leaders, our people.

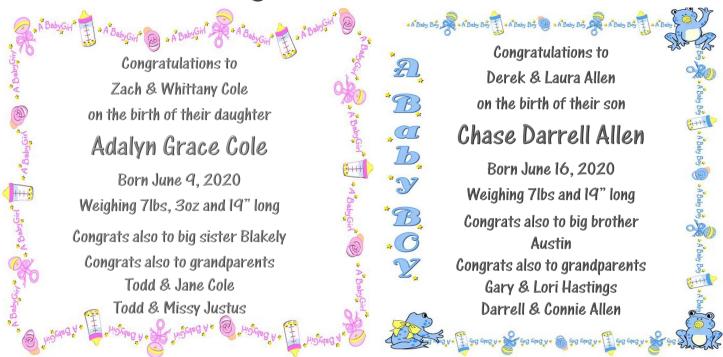
"God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world, the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil." --Mother Teresa

"To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees." --Billy Graham





# Congratulations!!





Wednesday, July 1

6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Sunday, July 5

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Worship Service & Livestream Worship

No evening activities

Youth Wilmington Mission Trip (July 5-11)

Monday, July 6

**Office Closed** 

Thursday, July 9

6:30 pm Young Professionals Lifegroup Meeting

Sunday, July 12

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Worship Service & Livestream Worship

4:15 pm RIZEN Rehearsal

6:00 pm Warriors & Watchmen Meetings

6:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

Monday, July 13

1:30 pm Afternoon Mission Group 7:00 pm MATRIX Lifegroup Meeting

Tuesday, July 14

1:30 pm RIZEN Rehearsal

Wednesday, July 15

6:30 pm Going Deeper in the Word (Bible Study)

6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Sunday, July 19

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Worship Service & Livestream Worship3:00 pm Sunday Small Group Leaders Meeting

4:15 pm RIZEN Rehearsal

6:00 pm Warriors & Watchmen Meetings

Monday, July 20

7:00 pm MATRIX Lifegroup Meeting

Tuesday, July 21

1:30 pm RIZEN Rehearsal

Wednesday, July 22

**6:30 pm Church Conference** 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Saturday, July 25

9:00 am Chrismon Workshop

Sunday, July 26

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Worship Service & Livestream Worship

4:15 pm RIZEN Rehearsal

6:00 pm Warriors & Watchmen Meetings

Monday, July 27

7:00 pm MATRIX Lifegroup Meeting Caswell (July 27-August 1)

Wednesday, July 29

6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal



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