

July 2020

FIRST EXPRESSIONS

First Baptist Church of Warner Robins

1135 Watson Blvd., Warner Robins, GA 31093

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www.fbcwr.org



“We Seek to Glorify God By Making Disciples of ALL Nations”

Our Ministerial Staff:

Casey Matthews Pastor

Nick Prieto Worship & Youth Pastor

Hey Church Family,

Think back to last December with me. You were preparing to celebrate Christmas with your family and friends. At church, we had Christmas parties scheduled, a Christmas Night of Worship on the calendar, the Latte Moon Café so the kids could raise money for missions, different community outreach events, a prayer walk, and the list goes on. Would you have thought that in the next six months so much would change? I know I didn't.

Think about this year with me. We're experiencing a global pandemic which has infected almost 10 million people worldwide. COVID-19 has claimed almost 500,000 lives worldwide in a matter of a few months. Our country is experiencing more social and political unrest than I've seen in my life. We've seen the unjust murder of at least two black Americans. We've seen rioting and looting. We've seen a group of people set up their own "sovereign nation" within one of our states. We've seen our political leaders sink to a new low in how they lead our country. We've seen our supreme court make some questionable rulings. We've seen our social media platforms explode with intolerant posts, comments, etc. among many. What else have I missed? I know I haven't covered it all.

Now, not all we have seen is negative. We've seen lots of good amidst the bad in this unique season of life. We've seen people "attend" church online who would never darken a door at a church building. We've seen families strengthened during our shelter in place. We've seen people invite more of their friends, family members, and neighbors to hear about Jesus. We've seen Christians of different ethnicities unite to stand up and speak out against racial injustice in our country. What else have I missed? I know there are so many more good things that have happened in the past few months.

What do we make of it all? I honestly am not completely sure. I have many more questions than answers. Here's what I know and my encouragement for us in this unprecedented time in our history:

1. **What I Know:** Throughout history, God has used times like these to get the attention of His followers and those who don't know Him.
2. **Encouragement:** PAY ATTENTION! Ask daily what God would have you learn.
3. **What I Know:** The end is near. Of course, Peter and other New Testament authors also wrote, almost two thousand years ago, that the end was near.
4. **Encouragement:** As Christians, we are to live as if the end is near every day of our lives. Peter encourages, in light of the end being near, we ought to live holy and godly lives (2 Peter 3:11). DO SO!
5. **What I Know:** Persecution is coming, and we should not be surprised. Jesus warned his followers that they would be persecuted. We've not experienced this in the USA but should expect it in the days to come.
6. **Encouragement:** Those who live differently will face persecution. Those who don't won't. Live a life worthy of persecution!

There is more I'd like to share but for the sake of time, I'll stop here for now. Let me know if you read this and what your thoughts are. Has God shown you the same things? What are some other things God has taught you in this time?

Love,
Pastor Casey

JULY 2020

**Birthdays*

Sundays
10:30 am Morning Worship

Wednesdays
6:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer
7:00 pm Band Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
WOWBSAR—Youth Event Tuesday, July 7th—Friday, July 10th 6:30pm—9pm 107 Lakeside Drive, Warner Robins Please see Pastor Nick to sign up or for more information.			1 Wednesday Night Service on Facebook—6pm No Choir	2 Independence Day Observed— Office Closed <i>*Alison Warstler</i>	3	4 Independence Day	
		5 Worship Service— 10:30am	6	7	8 Bible Study & Prayer—6pm No Choir	9 Youth Bible Study on Zoom—4:30pm	10 <i>*Caleb Cavanah</i> <i>*Dennis Prichard</i>
		WOWBSAR—July 7th—July 10th (Contact Pastor Nick for more info.)				Mission Team Host Week Begins	
12 Worship Service— 10:30am	13	14 Deacon Meeting —7pm	15 Bible Study & Prayer—6pm No Choir	16 WMU—10am Youth Bible Study on Zoom—4:30pm	17	18	
		Gainesville Mission Team Host Week—July 11th—July 17th					
						<i>*Penney Lockett</i>	
19 Worship Service— 10:30am Communion WRHS Feeding Program	20	21	22 Bible Study & Prayer—6pm No Choir	23 Youth Bible Study on Zoom—4:30pm	24	25 <i>*Bonwell Lipsey</i>	
26 Worship Service— 10:30am	27	28 <i>*David Peck</i> <i>*Jana Shugart</i>	29 Bible Study & Prayer—6pm No Choir <i>*Dale Evans Smith</i>	30 Youth Bible Study on Zoom—4:30pm	31		

Worship/Youth

I'm not sure what your perspective is from the outside, but this season of ministry has been BUSY! Yes, with a capital B-U-S-Y! Although we haven't met in person until recently, it has been one of the busiest times I've experienced in ministry. Not just me but for Nick as well. He has worked tirelessly the past several months to make sure services were done with the same excellence as they were when we meet in person. Nick has remained connected to his small group of older students despite their inability to meet in person. He has offered opportunities for our other students to grow online. Our choir has even continued to meet through zoom. Nick continued to think about our ministry at Huntington Middle despite the shutdown and personally made gift bags for each of the teachers, staff, and administration. He has spent hours, really days, working on the technical side of things so that ministry didn't just stop when we couldn't gather together. The list of things he has done in the past few months goes on and on. ***I'm so thankful for him!*** I know you are as well! Let him know how appreciative you are when you have a chance in the days to come.

On top of all the ministry responsibilities, he's found time to prepare for a new member of the family. If you've had kids, you know all the preparations that have to be made. I grow tired just thinking about it. On Saturday, he and Hannah welcomed Phineas James Prieto into the world. What a cute boy and a precious gift from God! Pray for their family as they adjust to their new normal. Pray for rest in this time as Nick spends well deserved time at home enjoying his family. Pray for Benaiah as he learns his new role as an older brother to Phin.

Pastor Casey

From the Children's Director

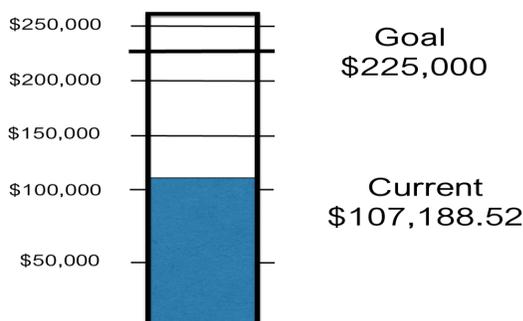
It has been great to see those of you who are back in person for the worship services. I have especially enjoyed seeing the kids in the worship service. They have all done very well being in "big church" during this time. The kids will continue to enjoy the worship service bags throughout the summer, and Lord willing, we will be able to start kid groups back sometime in August! When I began looking at the Mission Friends material for August, I was struck by how appropriate our missions focus will be, as it will be on nursing home residents. What better time to work on this topic with our children? Thanks to the quarantine, they will be able to identify with people in nursing homes, who live similarly to what they have just experienced. In the meantime, be on the lookout for a parent's survey and a Grow & Go worker's survey about the steps we will need to take to get everything ready for starting back with our kids. Stay safe and enjoy your summer!

Heather

Nehemiah Project Raising the Roof at FBC

Phase One of the Nehemiah Project is complete!

Phase Two Goal: \$225,000
Scope of Work: Education Building Roof



FIGURES

GIVEN TO REACH OUR WORLD FOR CHRIST

BUDGET REPORT FOR JUNE 1-27, 2020

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDED	\$31,458.14
June 1-27 Receipts	\$27,279.32
June 1-27 Expenses	\$17,667.09
Surplus as of June 27	\$10,062.23

FINAL BUDGET REPORT FOR MAY 2020

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDED	\$31,458.14
May Receipts	\$23,025.44
May Expenses	\$21,248.31
Actual Surplus	\$ 1,777.13

JULY LIST FOR DEACON OF THE WEEK

5—Curtis Dalton	12—Mike Sullivan
19—David Anderson	26—Chuck Hughey

USHERS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

David Burquest	Curtis Dalton
Chuck Hughey	David Anderson

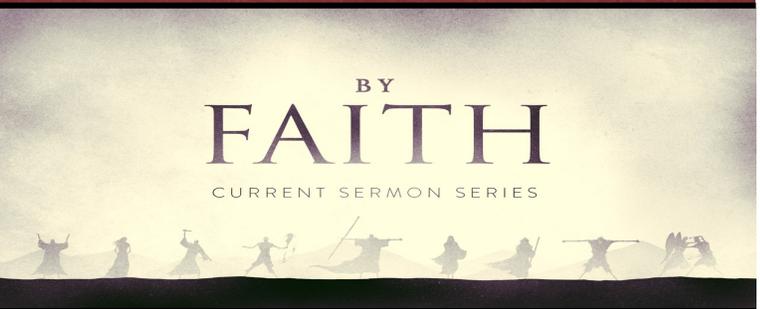
FACTS & FELLOWSHIP

"God at Work"

New Faces Each Week: Regathering has been really special. We've missed each of you and it is wonderful getting to see you in person and hear your voices raised as we worship together. But it has also been special because we've seen new faces each week in our services. It's obvious God is at work... let's praise Him!

Mission Team Coming: We have a mission team coming in July to minister alongside and in the name of FBCWR. God is already working by helping us build bridges in our community. We can't wait to share more about how He's working in the weeks to come.

How do you see God working? Let us know how God is at work. We only see a limited picture of how God is working in and through you so share with us. Next month we'll feature the ways you see God at work!



Our WMU is sponsoring a collection for the annual GBC Appalachian Backpack Ministry. This ministry provides filled backpacks for children at Christmas, many of whom get no other gifts. The backpacks are to be filled with specific items, which will cost approximately \$40 each. We are asking FBC members to consider contributions to this ministry. Please make checks out to First Baptist Church and put WMU Backpack in the Memo section. Thank you!

Wednesday Night Bible Study & Prayer will start back at church on Wednesday, July 8th at 6pm.

If you are unable to attend Sunday Morning services we will continue to have them available to watch on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistwr/>