

June 18, 2023

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Wednesday Night

On **June 21**, we will have a VBS work night at 6:00 p.m. Please come!

D-3 Teen Camp

Please pray for our teen campers and counselors! They are worshipping at Tim Wade's church, Boone's Creek Baptist Church this morning, then attending D-3 camp the rest of the week. They return to Savannah on Friday, **June 23**.

Senior Saints

The Senior Saints will go to Jesup Health and Rehab in Jesup on **June 20**, where we will visit with Shelma Lewis. While there, we will sing hymns and share the gospel with the residents of the facility. Afterwards we will go to Jones Kitchen for some Southern style country cookin'. Please sign the list in the hall and meet at the church at 8:30 a.m.

Also, Tom is planning the **Fall Christmas Trip to Myrtle Beach**. The trip will be **December 4-6**, and will include two nights, two breakfasts, two dinners, and two shows. The cost is \$315 if you want a room by yourself, otherwise, it is only \$226 per person. There is a sign up sheet in the hall. Sign up so he knows how many rooms to reserve.

Special Called Members' Meeting

There is a Special Called Members' Meeting scheduled for Sunday, **June 25**, at 6:40 p.m. We need to decide and vote on recommendations to replace the air conditioning units in the gym.

Vacation Bible School

Our VBS is **June 26-30**! Classes are full, except for 3 preschool spots. See Cindy Wise if you have any questions. Take note of the prayer items on page 4.

Camp Scholarship Fund

If you would like to help any of our kids and teens who need help paying for camp, please designate a gift to our Camp Scholarship Fund!

Hearing Assist Solutions Available

We want to highlight the availability of a new system we have in place to help those who are having trouble hearing the service. Speak to John Earl Blanton or anyone else who works in the sound booth to find out more!

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt
Senior Pastor
912-398-4363
bob@fabchurch.com

Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone:
912-355-0949
office@fabchurch.com
www.fabchurch.com

June 18, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

2 Samuel 22:2-4

Pew Bible p. 274

Hymn #126, bulletin p. 5

“Rock of Ages”

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Posner

Revelation 21:3-4

Pew Bible p. 1041

Hymn, bulletin p. 6

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Scripture Reading

Psalm 85

Howard Ernst

Pew Bible p. 493

Hymn #290, bulletin p. 7

“Be Still, My Soul”

Message

Tom Keller

Love Your Enemy, Part 2

Sermon on the Mount #21

Matthew 5:43-48, Pew Bible p. 811

Hymn, below

“Doxology”

Old Hundred tune

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

Love Your Enemy, Part 2
Sermon on the Mount #21
Matthew 5:43-48

I. Introduction: Love Defined.

II. Jesus: Full of Love and Truth (John 1:14).

III. A Biblical Theology of Love (Deut. 6:4-6; 10:16; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26).

IV. Conclusion: The Practice of Love (Genesis 2-3).



Important Upcoming Dates

June:

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 17-23 | D3 High School Camp | |
| 21 | VBS Work Day | 6:00 p.m. |
| 25 | Special Called Members' Meeting | 6:40 p.m. |
| 26-30 | Vacation Bible School | 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. |

July:

| | | |
|-------|--|------------|
| 2 | After Church Lunch & Family Day | 12:00 p.m. |
| 4 | Office Closed for Independence Day | |
| 7 | Women's Fellowship: Celebrate Freedom! Potluck | 6:00 p.m. |
| 23 | Quarterly Members' Meeting | TBA |
| 27-29 | Older Children's Camp (note corrected date!) | |

August:

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 16 | Adventure Club Kickoff | 6:20 p.m. |
| 26 | Back to School Bash | |
| 27 | CMI Speaker: Jonathan Sarfati | 7:00 p.m. |

September:

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 4 | Office Closed for Labor Day | |
| 17 | After Church Fellowship | 7:00 p.m. |

For VBS please pray that:

Everyone will sacrificially give to our mission offering for Shannon and Danielle Hurley, from S.O.S. Ministries.

The children would be attentive during the new videos each day at closing.

The lessons learned during VBS week will be remembered and applied.

Our electricity and air would not have issues.

The children would love the snacks, crafts and games and would understand the Bible "bits" given each day.

No one will have food related problems.

All VBS workers will be faithful to their commitments, energetic, joyful, enthusiastic, hard-working, and on time each day.

God will be glorified!



Rock of Ages

AUGUSTUS M. TOPLADY, 1740-1778

TOPLADY

THOMAS HASTINGS, 1784-1872

1. Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my-self in Thee;
 2. Could my tears for - ev - er flow, Could my zeal no lan-guor know,
 3. While I draw this fleet-ing breath, When my eyes shall close in death,

Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy wound-ed side which flowed,
 These for sin could not a - tone- Thou must save, and Thou a - lone:
 When I rise to worlds un-known And be-hold Thee on Thy throne,

Be of sin the dou-ble cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.
 In my hand no price I bring, Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my-self in Thee.

Women of Light: Celebrate Freedom!

Bring food to share and wear red, white, and blue!

Friday, July 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the Pavilion

Contact Amy Keller if you have questions!

Sign the list in the hall and bring a friend!

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

Stuart Townend

1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all meas - ure that
 2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -
 3. I will not boast in an - y - thing: No gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But

He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How
 shamed I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It
 I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why

great the pain of sear - ing loss. The Fa - ther turns His face a - way as
 was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His
 should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But

wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
 dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
 this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

KATHARINA VON SCHLEGEL, 1697-?

Trans. by Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897

JEAN SIBELIUS, 1865-1957

1. Be still, my soul- the Lord is on thy side! Bear pa-tient-ly the
 2. Be still, my soul- thy God doth un-der-take To guide the fu-ture
 3. Be still, my soul- the hour is has-t'ning on When we shall be for-

cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to or-der and pro-vide-
 as He has the past; Thy hope, thy con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake-
 ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,

In ev-'ry change He faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul- thy
 All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul- the
 Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul- when

best, thy heav'n-ly Friend Thru thorny ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
 change and tears are past, All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

Articles

Gen Z's Identity Crisis

By Sara (Barratt) Starkey

Generation Z is experiencing an unprecedented identity crisis.

Identity, is one of the most discussed topics amongst Christians and non-Christians alike, as everyone grapples for answers to questions like: *Who am I? What defines me? Do I matter?*

Gen Z is a generation of people desperate to know and express themselves. Gen Z is also the most accepting of all “identities” and the most fluid with the concept of identity. We can be whoever we want, regardless of gender, and we are whomever and whatever we feel, regardless of reality. You would assume in this environment of acceptance and encouragement of all identities, that identity crises would be nonexistent. Finally, everyone can be exactly who and what they want to be. But in truth, instead of the most secure and confident generation, much of Gen Z is often rootless, aimless, insecure, and desperate to discover who they really are. - And we have to ask: *Why?*

Boundaries = Security

Studies have shown that children play more freely when they know the boundaries of their playground. Without a fence, they keep their play confined to the center of the playground. But with a fence, they feel at liberty to roam every inch they are given. In a similar way, children without clear parental guidance and authority feel insecure, whereas children who have parents who discipline, direct, and set healthy boundaries feel safe in their parents' care. It's a seemingly contradictory truth: *boundaries bring freedom.*

The word “boundaries” is the last word people want to hear when it comes to identity. Do a quick web search on “identity crisis” and it's not hard to figure out the general consensus on how to fix one. We're encouraged to “look inward and explore,” “go on a journey of self-discovery,” “do what makes you happy,” “ignore judgment,” and in short, turn our focus entirely toward ourselves. **We're told that our identity is something only we can define and our emotions get the ruling vote on who we are. The problem is that emotions are subjective and ever-changing.** If emotions define identity, then our identity also becomes subjective and ever-changing. Have you ever heard of someone who was bi-gender? It means an individual who identifies with two distinct genders—perhaps they are more male one day, more female the next. Their confusion over their identity has reached a point where it shifts between two points. This is an example of what happens when objective standards of identity are torn away and relocated on the shaky, shifting ground of emotions.

Growing up in the midst of such uncertainty, is it any wonder teens are struggling with who they are more than ever?

To have a secure identity requires boundaries. The boundaries of reality, and most importantly, the boundaries of a truth that is greater than ourselves: God's truth.

Reality Defines Identity

Let's start with how reality defines our identity. Throughout the years, I've had many different identities. I've been a student, piano teacher, secretary, author, and editor. I've been a girlfriend and a fiancée. Many of these labels have only lasted a season. But un-

derneath them all are foundational realities that define who I am in every season. I'm a human being who is created in God's image. I'm also a woman. How do I know? My body tells me so. It's an observable fact that has nothing to do with my feelings or my life situation. Everything in my life could change, but these core realities never will.

Countless fundamental human realities are under attack as individuals sample “alternate realities.” But the truth of reality is as intrinsic as the force of gravity in our atmosphere. You can't shove it aside, and no matter what anyone says, it will always continue to exist. We are human beings. We are boys or girls. Our bodies tell us this is true, and regardless of what subjective emotions claim, these are facts that cannot be shoved aside and will always continue to exist.

Reality is unmovable because it is backed by an even greater truth: the God who created it. True identity begins first and foremost with God—not ourselves.

The *Imago Dei* Defines Identity

A solid understanding of identity requires more information than we can find by looking at ourselves. We need to know God—who he is, why he made us, how he made us, what his character is like, and who he created us to be. Much of this truth is found in the rich theology of the *imago Dei*—the image of God. Scripture tells us that “*God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*” (Genesis 1:27).

All of humanity is made in God's image. We hold the stamp of his creation upon our lives. This stamp is one of authority and ownership. As created beings, we are defined primarily by our Creator. When we think of identity in this way, it becomes clear that in order to understand who we are, we need to look to the One whose image we bear. The *imago Dei* has radical implications upon identity that go beyond information about ourselves. After all, it's about his image, not our own. We're simply bearers—reflections and shadows—of that image. As the only creation who can boast this incredible distinction, the *imago Dei* reveals the depth of God's character and creativity, outlines guidelines on how we should live, work, and use our bodies, and defines the ultimate goal of our lives—to glorify the One who made us.

Gen Z's identity problem began by leaving God out of the equation. Without knowing who God is and his intentional and intimate work in creating us, we're left with a gaping hole in our understanding of identity. **Identity is not a primary issue, but rather a secondary one.** The only reason we, as a generation, are struggling with it, is because we have a weak or nonexistent understanding of the primary topic: God himself. Secular Gen Z has kicked God to the curb and chosen to follow their own way, embracing their own emotions and preferences as god. Much of Christian Gen Z lacks solid theology and a thorough understanding of God and his Word. Instead of being taught who God is, we're taught more often about who we are.

Pastors and parents understand that identity is important and have sought to help teens recognize that their identity is in Christ. I've heard numerous sermons, read dozens of articles, and listened to countless songs that talk about who God says we are, or encourage that we are loved or valuable and worthy. Understanding who we are in Christ is critically important, but beginning a theology of identity with who *we* are leaves out the most important part of the story—who God is. Far too often, we open with the “You are,” “We are,” “I am,” story instead of the “He is” story.

Teens (and adults) *do* need to know who they are. But when our default responses to questions of identity focus more on us than on God, we settle for answers that mimic the world's self-focused approach. “Identity in Christ” cannot be separated from Christ and all that comes within the message of the gospel—God's holiness, mankind's rebel-

lion, and Christ's sacrifice on the cross. If our teaching of identity glosses over these foundational truths, "identity in Christ" simply becomes a Christian catchphrase that leaves the hearers wondering how to find identity in God when all they've been told is more about themselves.

We Need More God-Discovery

In a nutshell, the true reason for today's identity crisis is not that we have forgotten who we are, but that society has rejected the God who created them. Cut off from the source of all life and truth, humanity naturally flounders. Hardened hearts sink into confusion and despair as they refuse to grasp hold of the lifeline of truth extended to them—the knowledge of God and the saving blood of Jesus. It's Romans 1 in action: Worshiping and serving the creature rather than the Creator and being given over to whatever lust is within our hearts (see Romans 1).

It's just like those kids on the playground. When we look for ourselves in the wide, open field of our own emotions and in the culturally accepted lie that we can be whoever we want, we quickly become lost, confused, and disoriented. But when we seek the heart of God, we find within him truth that secures us, enlightens us, and gives us purpose and clarity.

As I say in my book *Stand Up, Stand Strong: A Call to Bold Faith in a Confused Culture*: "Understanding our identity begins with a greater understanding of God. While culture places secure identity within a journey of self-discovery, that journey is a dead-end road. We don't need more self-discovery. We need more God-discovery" (p. 42).

There is a greater and more lasting standard of identity than what can be found on an internet search. To truly understand who we are requires that we look past ourselves, look to God's Word, and go on a journey of knowing the God who created us. We cannot find within ourselves what can only be found within the heart of God. But within his heart, we find all we need and more besides. ❖

Generation Z and the Fight for Mental Health

By Sara (Barratt) Starkey

It's not hard to see. The ever-increasing reports of shootings enacted by disturbed teens points to dark and troubled minds. So does the upward surge of young people identifying as LGBTQ+. Then there are statistics revealing suicide to be the leading cause of death among 15–24 year olds and the fact that nearly 20 percent of high school students report having thoughts of suicide and 9 percent have made attempts at ending their lives. According to Pew Research Center, 70 percent of teens claim that anxiety and depression are significant problems among their peers.

Why is Gen Z such a depressed, suicidal, and hopeless generation? Maybe it's just the natural struggles of growing up. Or maybe it's all a result of negative news stories, conflicts around the world, and political upheaval. Other sources show the COVID-19 pandemic caused teens increased mental health issues and that they're still experiencing the effects of lockdowns, isolation, and disrupted lives. And nearly everyone agrees that social media negatively impacts a teenager's mental health.

Each of these reasons holds elements of truth, but they're not the root of the problem The root goes deeper, with each of the above issues as subsequent "offshoots." I want to explore four foundations of today's teenage mental health crisis. These four foundational issues have caused and are continuing to cause a host of problems for teens and I believe are at the root of Gen Z's struggle and brokenness.

Foundation #1: Gen Z Lives in Virtual Worlds Instead of Engaging in the Real World

Gen Z is also known as the iGen, or the internet generation. We're the generation who has grown up with screens in front of our faces and the World Wide Web at our fingertips. We're the generation who thinks "play" means *video games* and not *time outside*. We're the generation who could be considered the test case for virtual reality. - And guess what? The test case has flunked.

Nearly every expert agrees that social media, excessive screen time, and lack of personal interaction are detrimental to physical, mental, and emotional health. Screens are addictive and the addiction has dug its claws deep. For many teens, screens feel safe.

We live in a turbulent and complex age. There's no denying the political upheaval and worldwide turmoil unfolding around us. Throw into the mix stress at school, bullying, or unsettled home situations and many teens are desperate for some form of escapism. Screens provide the perfect outlet. Virtual worlds feel safer because they're not real and provide a much needed distraction.

But what are teens being distracted by? The majority of teen content can be described by words like *violent*, *pornographic*, *demonic*, and all around *dark*. Many media forms portray self-harm, suicide, distorted sexuality, peer pressure, and unfettered violence. TikTok particularly has been credited with promoting the rise of transgender teenagers. The platform is addictive, persuasive, and agenda-driven. Even one former transgender influencer stated, "TikTok really is causing irreparable harm to a generation of young people." **The content teens escape to absorb into their souls and shape them until their inner reality becomes more terrifying than the outward reality they were attempting to forget.**

These forms of escapism can lead to deeply disturbed minds and emotions. We must never forget that humans are created to engage in the real world. We were created by God to live in the world he made, to work with our hands, and to engage in relationships with fellow image-bearers. Every single one of those things has become riddled with imperfection since the fall, but the distortion Gen Z often engages in is a complete cut-off from those things. Gen Z fails to engage in creation and nature and instead engages with screens. A healthy work ethic that involves sweat and muscle is often a foreign concept. Relationships usually look more like online followers and fans than dinner around the table with parents, siblings, and grandparents.

Foundation #2: Gen Z Has More Peer Influence and Less Adult Influence Than Any Generation

For much of Gen Z, old people are like dinosaurs—legends from the past that are completely irrelevant to life today. Like King Solomon's son Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12, adults are rejected for the company and advice of peers.

Just look at the spaces created for teens. School, sports, and church programs are all peer-based. The "institution" that has suffered the most damage is the family. Who are the most influential adults in a teen's life? Our parents. Yet we have one of the worst breakdowns of the family society has ever seen.

Family is viciously attacked in our culture. The "nuclear family"—dad, mom, siblings,—is considered outdated, and the definition of "family" has been widened to accept any number of alternative family formations. The destruction of the family unit is nothing less than rebellion against God and his design for humanity, family, sexuality, and marriage. Parents are making choices based off of selfishness and the dismissive claim that "The kids will be fine."

Marriages demolished by divorce and split family homes? The kids will be fine.
Parents focused on careers who pass the training and care of their children into the hands of day cares and nannies? The kids will be fine.
Children conceived outside of marriage and raised by one parent or maybe a sympathetic relative or friend? The kids will be fine.
Same-sex “marriages” with two mommies or two daddies? The kids will be fine.

Well, the data is in and the results agree. The kids are not fine.

John Stonestreet says, “Children are the victims of our bad ideas.” The breakdown of the family unit as created by God causes countless problems for youth and will have a ripple effect in subsequent generations. God created family for a purpose. He reserved sex for marriage for a purpose. He created children to need both mommies *and* daddies for a purpose. That purpose is good and for the thriving of his creation. His design provides safe, loving environments for both parents and children to flourish. But humanity in rebellion looks at it and mocks, “Family? Marriage? Children? Let’s do it our own way.” “Our own way” leads to nothing but destruction. Consider teenagers who commit suicide, engage in self-harm, or land in jail. Unsettled family situations often lurk in their backgrounds. All the facts point to this truth: teens need engaged moms and dads. And teens need thriving relationships with older people too.

Foundation #3: Gen Z Believes They Can Live Outside of God’s Parameters of Truth and Reality

The lies contained in this foundation cemented themselves slowly with trickles of innocent sounding encouragement such as, “You do you!” “Follow your heart,” or “Only you can decide your destiny.” Gen Z has been conditioned to believe that they—their hearts, emotions, and desires—are the truest realities in the world.

Our world is one of parameters. Gravity causes objects to fall to the ground and helps us remain standing on our own two feet. Humans need food and water to survive. Men have certain biological attributes and women have others. It is, in short, the way God made things work.

Gen Z, however, believes that objective reality is...well, subjective. We’ve been taught that we are our own reality and how we feel about something determines whether or not it’s true. This is shown clearly in beliefs on transgenderism. But this idea is so pervasive that gender is not the only topic affected. Truths about morality and right and wrong are subjugated to one’s feelings about them. Objective truths over religion, the existence of God, and the creation of the world are laid bare to the gauntlet of emotional preference. Instead of the parameters, “Is this true?” and “Is this right?” the only parameter that matters is, “How do I feel about it?” Each of these issues is as objective as the existence of gravity. However, a denial of the existence of gravity would be called ludicrous, whereas the denial of these realities is called self-expression.

These perspectives directly tie into matters of depression and anxiety. When someone is experiencing depressive or anxious thoughts, their emotions become incredibly powerful. Yet their emotions are often communicating things that are not true. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, for instance, works to identify cognitive distortions (untrue thoughts) and intentionally replace them with facts that are true. But in order to do so, we need a standard of objective truth. We are told that how we feel is our objective truth. This mindset sends us into the downward spiral of our emotions where we are powerless to defeat our feelings...because feelings have become the truest thing to us.

Romans 1 calls this a distortion of worship: “*worship[ing] and serv[ing] the creature rather than the Creator*” and that it is the “*suppress[ing] the truth in unrighteousness*” (Romans 1:18,

25). By rebelliously cutting ourselves off from the only source of objective truth (aka God), our thoughts become futile and our hearts become darkened (Romans 1:21). The only way to thrive is to submit ourselves to God and his reality. Living in our own non-reality leads to destruction.

Foundation #4: Gen Z Is the Least Christian Generation

More than a third of Gen Z identifies as religiously unaffiliated, which is a 5 percent increase from millennials and a 9 percent increase from Gen X. Gen Z is the deconstructing generation, a generation known for leaving the church and blazing their own path of spirituality or rejecting religion in its entirety. Every poll done on religion and Gen Z shows a marked decline in matters of faith from prior generations.

What difference does this make on Gen Z's mental health? *Every difference.* We are spiritual beings who live in a spiritual world. **We cannot pretend that mental health struggles are separate from spiritual matters.** As humans created in God's image for the express purpose of glorifying him, what happens when we rebel against the very purpose we were created for? **Human flourishing depends upon right alignment with God and the purpose for which we were made.**

Jesus gave a poignant command in Matthew 6:33, "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.*" The interesting thing about this command was that it was given in the context of a conversation on worry. While worry as we define it may be on a different tier from Gen Z's struggles with depression or anxiety, it shows that **Jesus knows the human propensity toward such problems and gave us a directive to focus on instead: seeking God and his Kingdom. If seeking first the Kingdom of God can be considered an antidote to worry, it can also be assumed that not seeking first the Kingdom of God results in worry.** As a generation, Gen Z primarily is shown to seek the kingdom of *self*. Our desires, emotions, and opinions are placed above anything else. Yet the futility of our self-based kingdoms leads us straight to depression and anxiety because we've separated ourselves from what ultimately gives life meaning and are, in the words of Romans 1, "given over" to the darkness and depravity of our own sinfulness.

Struggles such as depression and anxiety are very real, but a dangerous assumption is that they can be solved apart from God. What Gen Z and every generation needs is a God who is bigger than our circumstances, stronger than our struggles, and whose truth is truer than our emotions. The solution to these four foundational issues can only be found by coming back to God and the design he created as good. Gen Z may be a deeply broken generation. But only Christ can mend the brokenness and provide the wholeness our hearts need. ❖

Missionary of the Week

Jerry Fields
RCE - Madrid, Spain

Greetings FABC Family!

As another school year is completed, there is so much to praise the Lord and be thankful for! God has sustained us and brought us through another year. There was a lot going on this past year! So much so that I am sure I will forget to tell you about a few things. Probably one of the biggest items to praise the Lord for was the lifting of all Covid related restrictions. These didn't happen all at once, but we sure enjoyed each stage of it. The most noticeable thing was we could gather as groups again. Families were allowed back onto the property and inside the buildings again. We could gather, fellowship, praise, eat, hangout, and just be together again. I think it would do us all good to remember to praise God for all the little blessings like these that we so often just take for granted!

Many times in scripture God commands us to look back and remember His faithfulness (because it helps us today and as we walk into the future). As a school, we celebrated 50 years of ministry this year! There were oh so many hours of planning and prepping for this three day celebration. Many people traveled back to Spain to take part in this special time of remembering what God has done over the years not only with the school, but in our own individual lives and our walk with Him. For some pictures of this, see the attached ECA School Report document.

Besides all of my normal teaching and technology administration duties, I was able to enjoy being involved with the middle school boys bible study and a computer coding afterschool club this year. I think one of the highlights of the year (even though it was in a formal class setting) was a full unit I was able to teach on the Reformation. We even got to spend extra time with it.

We have been short staffed in many areas lately so I have taken on more responsibilities that I am not overly comfortable with. Long hours of prep and grading time for subjects that are not my area. However, God has taught me a lot this year. Not only of other disciplines, but to trust Him more and more.

As ECA looks toward next year, we will surely set new student attendance levels. Praise the Lord! He is bringing more and more students and families into contact with the gospel of Jesus. But this is also a big prayer request. We need more help! We also need wisdom as to how to rearrange classes to fit all the new students. If you are interested in serving the Lord in an overseas ministry, see the attached ECA Staff needs flier.

Back to Covid relief - Another great praise item is that we were able to restart our partnership with the local public school this year. I was able to take part in three different interactions between our students/staff and the local school. Twice were directly with students in the classroom and activities court. The other was with teachers from



both schools. ECA also hosted two local students who are in the education track to observe and take part in our classes for a week. Pray with us that in these interactions we would shine the light of Jesus in all we say and do. Pray also for opportunities to share and to continue to be able to interact with the local school system.

Pray also for wisdom as we start the process of moving toward a building project. Very early in the process, but it is a direction we think God is leading us. Big dreams, but an even bigger God!

Pray for me personally - I'm tired. As I mentioned earlier, I have taken on extra things this year. I have the gift of helping others, but maybe I need to learn to say "no" at some point. I think my son Josiah has the same gift and problem. He is having to learn to balance many things this year. He won't be able to come home this summer as he has a full time job at Liberty this summer. I do plan to make a trip there to visit him. Please remember him in prayer.

Praise that Julia has a new job. She's no longer at David's but is still in sewing and learning new skills. She is thankful that she now has a normal, regular, full time work schedule. She is working at Savannah Window Fashions.

I am still quite short on ministry support but praise the Lord the bills are still getting paid. Please pray for me in this matter. Pray also as I look toward the future, social security is not too far down the road.

I look forward to connecting with as many of you as possible this summer.

Keep praying, remember God's faithfulness in the past, and trust Him with your future!

All because of the resurrection of Christ

Jerry Fields

(Josiah & Julia too :)

Nursery June 18

Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler,
Kay Stanford

Toddlers:

Debra Focht, Tricia Morris

Preschoolers:

Ashley Leoni, Elinor Morris

Nursery June 25

Babies:

Jay & Lisa Rowe, Lauren Rowe

Toddlers:

Sona Bailey, Debra Denney

Preschoolers:

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC

Today

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Coffee Fellowship | 9:00 a.m. |
| Sunday School | 9:30 a.m. |
| Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |

Tuesday

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Men's Bible Study | 6:30 p.m. |
| Women's Bible Study | 6:30 p.m. |

Wednesday

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| VBS Work Night | 6:00 p.m. |
|----------------|-----------|

Thursday

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Senior Adult Bible Study | 10:00 a.m. |
| Women's Bible Study | 6:15 p.m. |



Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for June:

Reggie Brown, Bobby DeLoach

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| "Systematic Theology" | Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt |
| "Young Marrieds" | Gym Overhang: Tom Keller |
| "John" | Piano Overflow: Steve Jackson |
| "Gratitude" (Women) | Organ Overflow: Tamera Smith |

Children and Students

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|--|
| Babies | Room 3: | Kay Stanford, Sandra Bridges |
| Toddlers | Room 24: | Eleanor Bowden, Linnea Posner |
| Pre-K | Room 25: | Emily Wise, Kamee Roberson/ Michael and Ruth Kleinpeter |
| K, 1st and 2nd Grade | Room 28: | John and Pam Humphrey |
| 3rd-6th Grade Boys | Room 202: | Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills |
| 3rd-6th Grade Girls | Room 204: | Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton |
| Youth Guys | Room 206: | Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion |
| Youth Girls | Room 206: | Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach |