From the Senior Pastor’s Desk

‘Why the Church Doesn’t Need Any More Coffee Bars’

I came across an article last week with the above title. It was written by a woman, Kimberli, who recently lost her husband after a three year battle with cancer. Before I wrote a word, I thought it appropriate and important to stop and offer a prayer for her and her family.

Kimberli wrote, ‘Church leaders, remember that you are not just trying to attract the hip and the cool to your church. You are reaching widows. You are reaching children who don’t have a parent. You are reaching someone battling with a disease. You are reaching a person going through a divorce. You are reaching a businessman who thinks they have all that they need. You are reaching the hurting. And the only thing they need is Jesus.’ Part of me aches as I read those words and agrees whole heartedly. I sincerely hope that her church had a minister and a ministry that will meet her at the point of her need. And yet, part of me is troubled by the article.

Articles like these are abundant and I tend to read them all. They usually have one main thing, or a short list, that must be done (or stopped!) in order to turn a church around. ‘These are the six things you need to do to get your congregation to tithe!’ ‘This is why your congregation isn’t singing!’ ‘This is what you must do to help your church grow!’ Perhaps there are so many articles because the need is so great, as the vast majority of churches in America are in decline.

Here is my frustration with these articles – there is no silver bullet. In other words there isn’t just one thing that is going to turn a trend line around. Having a coffee shop or not having a coffee shop won’t make much difference. What will make a difference is addressing a wide range of Biblical issues, with a spirit of unity, with a desire to bring glory to God. I would like to briefly address some of these issues that JHBC is attempting to address:

An Emphasis on the Centrality of Prayer. John 15:5 “…apart from Me you can do nothing.” Prayer humbly honors God as we acknowledge our dependence upon Him. Prayer taps in to wisdom and power that we will never have on our own. Over the next months we will have two church wide prayer meetings; I beg you – come and be a part! But this will not be enough. Individually and communally we must emphasize the centrality of prayer. May every member become a prayer warrior for our church, community, and world!

Children’s Ministry. (Facilities) Over the next few weeks I hope the Vision 2017 Steering Committee will be able to bring you the finalized plans for the Children’s Wing. The Children’s Ministry Team is currently studying a new ministry program that is Biblically based, energetic, and appealing to kids – and their friends! We hope to implement this next September. Simultaneous with this ministry, we hope to offer a Small Group for Single Parents (51% of all parents within a three mile radius) in our community.

Personal Evangelism. Over the last three years I have led several evangelism studies on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Honestly, this is an area that requires additional emphasis. I hope in the coming months that our passion for Jesus will overflow and give us the courage to share our faith. After Easter, I will begin a sermon series entitled Go and Tell; Your Story, Your Victory, Your Calling, and Overcoming Your Fears.

Continued
From the Senior Pastor’s Desk - Continued

Youth Ministry. The Vision 2017 Steering Committee has had several unexpected challenges over the last several months with regard to engineering and building codes. Over the next few weeks all of this will be explained and plans presented that will give us excellent youth facilities.

Missions Emphasis. In addition to the excellent ministries JHBC is already involved with, in the community and around the world, we have started a Family Night Dinner OUTREACH which is off to a good start. We will review its effectiveness in May. We are also looking at a Back Pack Pals ministry in the summer time, in order to feed hungry children, in the name of Jesus. We will participate in the Sanford Block Party/Operation In As Much, and lead an Expired Medicine Campaign for our community. Aprons and Hammers ministry will continue to meet the needs of our widows, and compliment the deacon’s ministry.

Assimilation. We would like to review the entire process of bringing people into the church. From the parking lot, to the entrance (foyer), to our congregational welcome, and follow up with visits and calls, to membership, new members/Christian’s classes, and discipleship! We have many first time visitors but few second time visitors – together let’s figure out why so that His church might grow and shine!

Facilities. Of the 18 Vision 2017 projects, 14 are complete, two are on hold for logistical reasons, and two will be presented to the church over the next few weeks. Safety issues have been addressed, Sunday School classes renovated, and many others things accomplished. We remember that all of these projects were implemented in order to facilitate discipleship, safely, and for generations to come. I am so proud of all of you for your hard work and financial contributions – your vision for the future!

Music Ministry. The Personnel Committee has listened carefully to your comments from your surveys and town hall meetings. Based upon your comments, the Personnel Committee will likely bring you recommendations, very soon, with regard to potential changes in job descriptions. These changes will allow the Associate Pastor of Music to focus more fully on promoting/developing a music program for all age levels. The Personnel Committee will give you monthly updates on their progress. This is such an important part of the future of the ministry of the church; I ask that you make this a daily part of your prayers.

Discipleship. As we are considering rewriting the job descriptions for the Associate Pastor of Music, it is an opportune moment to look at our education and discipleship ministry. Some of the current educational tasks may be moved to other staff members, some added and some potentially deleted. This is a discussion that the entire church can be involved in in order to improve the total church ministry.

You may be asking yourself, what does this have to do with a coffee bar in church? Here’s the thing…that coffee bar really wasn’t for Kimberli at her moment of great need. It was more likely intended for the awkward seeker that had a vague, and not fully understood desire, to come to church for the first time. It was hopefully intended to be combined with a welcoming hand shake and a warm smile; a bridge to start a conversation that will help transform someone from awkward seeker to disciple and member of the body of Christ.

If you look at the coffee bar alone, it surely will appear, at least as foolish, if not hurtful. But if it is part of a wide range of ministries, intended to meet a wide range of people, at different stages of their spiritually journey, then it makes much more sense. Again, I pray that Kimberli’s church had such ministers and ministries to pray for her, love her, and walk with her through the most difficult moment of her life.

There are no silver bullets. For our church to grow and thrive and shine for Christ we will have to address a wide spectrum of issues to meet a wide variety of needs. Prayer is the first, last, and most important. Some of the other things mentioned above will contribute to our goal. Some may not be as effective as hoped – so we will adapt, and change, and move forward. Some of you have other ideas that need to be heard to accomplish the goal. Together, in unity, with the intention of honoring God, leading the lost to Christ, and growing in relationship to Him, we can do this! I look forward to walking with you to accomplish this, for His glory.

Pastor Cal
As I sit here writing this article, it is the week after our Youth Disciple Now Weekend, where we focused on the theme of “Act, Love, Walk” which was based on Micah 6:8, and the idea of acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God. It’s basically been our theme for the year, as a few of you have seen displayed on the back of some black hoodie sweatshirts our youth have been wearing.

During this Lenten season, I’ve been wondering more about what that means on my own life. One of the things that we talked about over Disciple Now Weekend in regard to “acting justly” is that we can recognize that we aren’t doing it when we take part in actions that are unjust. However, one point that our study brought up is that when we ignore the needs of others around us, who may be less fortunate than we are, we are acting unjustly as well. We must be willing to intercede on behalf of others when we see injustice happening, even when choosing to do so is unpopular.

We “love mercy” when we focus on the needs of others and recognize them as more than just a number. One of the many sins of the Israelites that Micah points out was that they were focused too much on themselves and never showed mercy to others around them. I think it’s part of our human nature to do such a thing, yet we are called to show love and mercy to others around us, and put their needs above our own.

Of course, we can’t do this without “walking humbly with God”. God is the one that gives us the strength to follow Jesus. In spite of what some popular preachers would have you believe, following Jesus is counter-cultural. It causes us to stand out and sometimes take unpopular stances in order to stand up for the poor and oppressed. After all, Jesus showed us that the Kingdom of God is an upside-down kingdom, where the last are first and the first are last.

So, if we’re going to follow Jesus and live in such a way that we embody the presence of Christ to Sanford and the world, then we’re going to need to focus more on acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. It’s not always easy, and it certainly isn’t popular, but it does provide us with both eternal and abundant life.

Blessings,
Rich
Family Ministry News

Children’s Ministry News

Sunday Night Activities
Sundays, 5:00 PM
Bible Drill (grades 4-12)
Sundays, 6:00 PM
Children’s Activities

Wednesday Night Activities
Children’s Choirs: 6:00–6:45 PM
Mission Groups: 6:45–7:30 PM

There are classes for children of all ages. The nursery is open for infants and toddlers.
(No Activities on 1st Wednesday Night)

Saturday, April 15
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
(McDowell Hall)

Children’s Worship
April 9 and 30
Bullock Matthews Room
During 11:00 AM Worship

Youth Ministry News

Wednesday Night Worship
6:30-7:30 PM - Youth Center

Upcoming Events

April 23

- Our teenagers will be leading us in worship during the 11:00 AM worship service.
- Following the service, youth will eat lunch in McDowell Hall, then go out for an afternoon of fun at Defy Gravity.

MiNISTRY TEAM MEETINGS FOR APRIL

Children’s Ministry Team
Tuesday, April 4 - 6:30 PM

Youth Ministry Team
Tuesday, April 11 - 6:30 PM
Worship Notes: Six Ways to Sing Better in Worship This Weekend

I took a large team of musicians to a country closed to the gospel in SE Asia several years ago. Upon our return, one of the teenagers that had been on my team commented to his mother about worship in our USA church, “Worship just isn’t the same here. People aren’t really singing out with passion. For people here, worship just is not precious.”

That comment has stuck with me for years. That young man was quite observant. For many of us, worship is no longer precious, no longer about our Savior. We can get in a rut of going through the motions or just wanting a pleasant, feel-good experience. For our brothers and sisters in countries with Christian persecution, worship takes on a different character. I long for a taste of that here at JHBC.

Chuck Lawless, a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a non-musician, penned these words to help us prepare to REALLY worship as we sing the songs in worship:

1. **Pray as you enter the worship center.** My guess is that most people who gather for worship pray only when prayer is scheduled in the order of worship. It would do us well to pray prayers of praise, confession, and thanksgiving before the corporate worship begins. Get your heart ready for singing.

2. **Sing because God commands us to sing.** It’s hard to read Scripture like Psalm 47:6 (“Sing praise to God, sing praise”), Psalm 96:1 (“Sing a new song to the Lord”), Psalm 100:1-2 (“come before Him with joyful songs), and Colossians 3:16 (“singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”) and do anything less than sing well. Singing is not a matter of choice; it’s a matter of obedience.

3. **Push beyond your personal preferences.** All of us naturally have preferences about songs and worship styles, and I doubt we can just erase those preferences. We can, though, decide to sing God’s praises regardless of our preferences. If we choose not to participate in the worship because we don’t like something, we’ve made ourselves the center of an event that’s supposed to be focused on God alone.

4. **Really pay attention to the words.** Lyrics matter. Don’t just sing the words. Read them. Think about them. Internalize them. Whether I’m singing, “There is a fountain filled with blood” or “You’re a good, good Father, it’s who You are,” the words can move me and make me want to worship Him more.

5. **Sing as your proclamation of the gospel and your praise of the Redeemer.** When we sing of Him, we proclaim the good news with emotion that often comes from deep within our being. Singing can encourage the most wounded soul and melt the hardest heart.

6. **Remember that many believers around the world must sing silently.** Or, at least they must sing softly because of the threat of persecution. We who have the incredible privilege of singing God’s praises without fear ought to sing with all our might.

Sing well this weekend because God is worthy of our praise!
IN MEMORY OF DONNA HOLT  
(sister of Katie Rice)  
*To the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*  
> By Maxine and Gilbert Matthews  
> By Lee and Mary Sue Patterson

To *the Benevolence Fund*  
> By Sylvia Thomas  
> By James and Daphine Tolliver

To *the Vision 2017 Fund*  
> By Tony and Agnes Kelly

---

IN MEMORY OF SARA POPE  
(aunt of Wanda Howard & Sandra Ward)  
*To the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*  
> By James and Daphine Tolliver

---

IN MEMORY OF MABEL MOORE  
(sister of Lucy Maddox)  
*To the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*  
> By Lee and Mary Sue Patterson

To *the Benevolence Fund*  
> By Sylvia Thomas

To *the Vision 2017 Fund*  
> By Tony and Agnes Kelly  
> By Maxine and Gilbert Matthews  
> By Juanita and Herman Neal  
> By James and Daphine Tolliver

---

IN MEMORY OF WALTER THOMAS  
*To the Benevolence Fund*  
> By Mayna Diggs

---

IN HONOR OF JOY BERRYMAN  
*To the Vision 2017 Fund*  
> By Ann and Steve Alford

---

IN HONOR OF REV. RONNIE BYRD  
*To the Music and Education Fund*  
> By Wilma Winstead

---

IN HONOR OF BETH MALLOCH  
*To the Benevolence Fund*  
> By Sylvia Thomas

---

IN HONOR OF MARVA LEE ROUSH  
*To the Benevolence Fund*  
> By Sylvia Thomas

---

IN HONOR OF AARON and SHPRESA SMITH  
*To the Operation Mobilization Fund*  
> By James and Daphine Tolliver

---

IN HONOR OF DAVID, HEATHER and JOYTI WEBB  
*To the City on a Hill Mission Fund*  
> By James and Daphine Tolliver

---

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

**CALLIE BATCHELOR**  
Granddaughter of Dock & Lorena Batchelor  
Callie’s birthday is April 11. She is attending Central Carolina Community College Her address is 2600 Taton Court Sanford, NC 27330

**EMMA COWFER**  
Daughter of James & Brenda Cowfer  
Emma’s birthday is April 8. She is attending Central Carolina Community College Her address is 433 Dublin Drive Sanford, NC 27330
It’s hard to believe that March marks one year we’ve lived in Little Rock. Oh how we miss our North Carolina family & friends. If we’re being transparent, this has been tougher than we would have ever imagined. However...we still know this is where He has us! There are still occasional tears and anxiety that typically accompany this missionary lifestyle, but the time between them continues to get longer. We have had to cling to the Lord and each other, more than ever through this transition, and it has made us so much stronger as a couple and as a family.

Jason has fit in great in the Publishing Department, and projects continue to go smoothly. Development is really ramping up on FamilyLife’s newest resource, “Art of Parenting.” Our biggest challenge is weaving in family time after a full day of ministry, followed by evenings of work to effectively maintain our financial support team. At times, this new lifestyle can be draining for Jason. Ericka has made some great friends since arriving. The Lord continues to put her in relationships with women who need encouragement in marriage and parenting and someone to just be “real” with. The kids have adjusted well and enjoy Arkansas. Gabriel has just started taking parkour and Gracelyn, gymnastics. Anything to help get some of that energy out is a huge blessing to Mom & Dad. They miss their grandparents the most but get to visit frequently via FaceTime! We’ve recently started serving at “Weekends to Remember”, which has been so encouraging for us. The travel can be a bit much for the kids, but it’s a good opportunity to do ministry as a family and explain how lives are being changed with the gospel.
UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

April 3
6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting

April 4
6:30 PM - Children’s Ministry Team

April 5
6:15 PM—Family Night Outreach Dinner

April 11
6:30 PM—Building & Grounds Meeting
6:30 PM—Youth Ministry Team

April 13
7:00 PM—Maundy Thursday Service

April 14—Good Friday
    Church Office Closed

April 15
11 AM—1 PM—Children’s Easter Celebration

April 16—Easter
9:45 AM—Sunday School Classes
11:00 AM—Worship Service
No Evening Service or Activities

April 19
11:00 AM—Higher Heights Meeting

April 23
11:00 AM—Youth Sunday

April 24
6:30 PM—Baptist Men

April 29
9:00 AM—12 Noon—Sanford Block Party
    and Expired Medicine Campaign

April 30
5:00 PM—Sandy Creek Baptist
    Associational Spring Meeting
    At Sandy Branch Church

April 1 - Billy Cox
    Phil Lawrence

April 2 - Hunter Bond
    Janice Johnson
    Johnny Whiteside

April 3 - Gilbert McDowell
    Mary Upchurch

April 5 - Freda Lowe

April 8 - Emma Cowfer
    Jean Walker
    Tammy Whitney

April 11 - Callie Batchelor

April 12 - Colby Johnson

April 13 - Henrietta Harkey

April 15 - J. Marshall Garner

April 20 - Diane Willett

April 21 - Kelly McCracken

April 23 - Gayle Heppding

April 24 - Beth Malloch

April 25 - Mildred Rouse

April 28 - Ed Byrd

April 29 - Alicia Holly
    Ashley Wallace
The fellowship of Deacons met on March 6th. There were 13 present for the meeting.

Jeff Brown opened the meeting with devotion on, Intentionally Meeting the Lost. He gave several Bible references including John chapters 15-17. It is important to constantly place ourselves in opportunities to reach the lost. Upon first contact, try to make a true connection. Trust God to speak and guide your words. Relationships are important in making those connections. Many times we want to win the lost with minimal investments made. We tend to isolate ourselves among our Christian friends. We must invest our time and intentionally walk in “unfamiliar territories” of our daily lives. Are we simply withdrawing to fellowship among our Christian companions, or are we ready to truly invest our time to reach the lost? “If not you, then who? If not now then when?”

After the devotion, many prayer requests were made. Jeff led us in prayer, specifically for the many names mentioned.

The Deacons discussed several items including, contacts and outreach, 2017 Scholarship Committee Appointments, Sanford Fire Marshall Report of JHBC, Lawn Maintenance Contract Update, Vision 2017 Steering Committee Update with a focus on the new Children’s Wing, Upper Room, and Youth Building.

Pastor Cal Sayles gave his Senior Pastor Report and the Deacons shared Congregational Feedback. The question was asked by a member of the congregation about where to report maintenance requests. There is a purple notebook designated for this purpose located on the Greeter’s Desk in the church office.

Brenda Cowfer closed with prayer.

There will be a Business Meeting on Sunday, March 19, 2017.

Our next Deacon’s Meeting will be Monday, April 3, 2017.

Please continue to pray for the fellowship of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church that we may be a beacon of light to a lost world.

THANK YOU NOTE
Dear Friends at Jonesboro Heights Baptist,
On behalf of the patients at North Carolina Baptist Hospital/Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, we want to thank you for your monetary gift to our Mother’s Day Offering/Benevolent Fund. Your gift to this offering and fund brings hope to patients who suffer from great financial need. Every dollar of your gift helps struggling patients pay their hospital bills in the name of Jesus Christ and His love.

In Christ,
Rev. Leland A. Kerr
Baptist Healthcare Liaison
FaithHealthNC
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

Dear JHBC,
The financial support given by your congregation helps make it possible for this special group of folks to live in an environment filled with compassion and hope. Thanks again for your church family’s support of this important ministry.

Sincerely,
William B. Stillerman, President
Baptist Retirement Homes of NC, Inc.

SHOES! SHOES! And More Shoes!

Time to go shopping and catch the shoe sales for the Powell River Baptist Associational Annual Shoe Fair

March is a good time to purchase good sturdy shoes for the school children of Lee County in Jonesville, Virginia

A Mission Team will travel to Jonesville first weekend of August to participate in the Shoe Fair

Please remove all tags from shoes, tie the pair together and place a tag with the size on the outside of the shoes.
THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, visits, calls, cards, food and text messages as we worked through our frightening encounter. God provided us with what we needed that night and we are truly blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. May God continue to bless and watch over each of you.

In Christ,
Lynwood and Cindy Jones

Dear Church Family,

We appreciate so very much your acts of kindness when my sister, Donna Holt, passed away. Thank you for your prayers, love and support during this difficult time.

John Henry and Katie Rice

Dear JHBC Family,

It is with humble hearts we wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your thoughtful acts of kindness including paper goods and ice and gifts of friendship and love. Your unique expression of condolence is a beautiful symbol of remembering Walter’s life that has provided our family with tremendous comfort and strength during this difficult time. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for these blessings and most of all for your presence in our lives.

Thank You.

We Love You,
Sylvia
Roy, Leigh Ann, Jan & Richard

Dear JHBC Family,

Please accept this small monetary expression of my appreciation to Ronnie Byrd for all the years he enriched by life with beautiful music. His steadfast leadership at JHBC was a true gift of God’s love. Although I am content in Virginia, I miss Sanford, all of my friends and family, and especially my church.

My Love,
Wilma Winstead

CALLING ALL SENIOR ADULTS
Come and be a part of our
HIGHER HEIGHTS

Wednesday, April 19
at 11:00 AM in McDowell Hall
Special Guests - Jubilee Choir

Dear Friends,

In February I had the wonderful privilege of traveling to the Dominican Republic to share the love of Jesus through your shoebox. There were about 85 children at this party in the middle of Santiago, DR. This little guy was so appreciative. We were able to share the Gospel of Jesus with puppets and songs. Please continue to pray for this little man and the children in this community. Please pray that the pastor there will be able to follow up with each of the families that were touched by this outreach.

I hope that God will encourage you to continue the good work preparing shoeboxes next year.

In Christ,
Jeffrey Noll
PO Box 91
Shady Grove, PA 17256
jnollhbc@verizon.net
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 AM Sunday School</td>
<td>11 AM Worship Service and Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>5 PM Children Bible Drill</td>
<td>5 PM Youth Bible Drill</td>
<td>6 PM Hymn Night</td>
<td>9:45 AM Deacons Meeting (Main Conference Room)</td>
<td>7:30 AM Men’s Prayer 10 AM Ladies Bible Study (Main Conference Room) 10:00 AM Benevolence Interviews 6:30 PM Children’s Ministry Team Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 PALM SUNDAY</td>
<td>9:45 AM Sunday School</td>
<td>11 AM Worship Service</td>
<td>5 PM Children Bible Drill</td>
<td>5:00 PM Youth Bible Drill</td>
<td>6 PM Discipleship/Worship</td>
<td>12:00 PM Marjorie Spence/Brown Bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 EASTER</td>
<td>9:45 AM Sunday School</td>
<td>11 AM Worship Service</td>
<td>No Evening Service or Activities</td>
<td>6:30 PM Nell Smith/Mary Herring</td>
<td>17:00 PM Marjorie Spence/Brown Bag</td>
<td>7:30 AM Men’s Prayer 10 AM Ladies Bible Study 10 AM Benevolence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 YOUTH SUNDAY</td>
<td>9:45 AM Sunday School</td>
<td>11 AM Worship Service</td>
<td>5 PM Children Bible Drill</td>
<td>5 PM Youth Bible Drill</td>
<td>6 PM Discipleship/Worship</td>
<td>6:30 PM Baptist Men (McDowell Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, February 19, 2017
Sunday School - 136 + 14
11 AM Worship - 226
PM - Art Auction, Cake & Chili Cook-Off - N/A

Sunday, February 26, 2017
Sunday School - 144 + 11
11 AM Worship - 218
PM—Hymn Night—80

Sunday, March 5, 2017
Sunday School - 129 + 3
11 AM Worship - 211
PM - Church-Wide Town Meeting - N/A

Sunday, March 12, 2017
Sunday School - 105 + 2
11 AM Worship - 147
PM - Discipleship/Worship - 33