



A G A P E

Good Tidings

Loving the world as God loves us.



325 South Oak Street, Cornelia, GA / (706) 778-4412

Newsletter Volume 35, #8 August 1, 2016

Walking with Jesus with Pastor Eric Spivey

As we begin my 7th year as your pastor, I am aware of all the work and ministry God has done among us in our 6 years together.

Over these years God has assembled an extraordinary staff team to serve our church and lead us. Over these years God has focused our vision and clarified our values to establish our identity in our community. Over these years God has also begun to recalibrate our structures around our vision.

As your pastor, I have spent the majority of my pastoral energies in first season together on the pastoral leadership. Much of my time, mental energies and preaching focus have gone into creating the new missional and discipleship culture within our church.

Now, we are entering into a new season of ministry in the church. The urgency of pastoral leadership is waning. This waning has been the source of my prayers this summer. "Where does the church need me focused now," I have prayed.

Consistently, the answer has been: Preach the Gospel. Preaching the Gospel is always a part of a pastor's responsibilities. However, in our first season together, my preaching has helped nurture our leadership journey. Now, I sense God inviting me to shift this. My pastoral leadership needs to nurture my preaching.

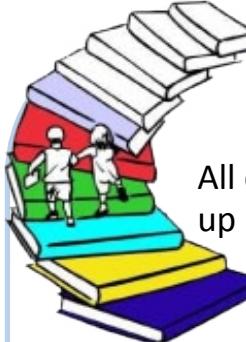
This slight, but significant, shift invites me to reconsider my weekly schedule. I need a healthy preaching rhythm in my life. A true preaching life requires as much listening as study. Listening to the joys, hopes, hurts, and pressures in your lives, my life and in the world takes time. My present schedule promotes more doing than listening. Starting in August, I will carve out more time to listen.

Continued on page 5



Wednesday, August 17 at 6pm

COOKOUT, LIVE BAND, BOUNCY HOUSE



AUGUST 7th

Moving Up Sunday

All children and youth will be moving up to their new Sunday School classrooms for the 2016 - 2017 school year!

All Students (preschool to grad school) and Educators are invited for a special **Sunday of Blessing and Commissioning** as the new school year begins.

This will be a great event to invite your friends to join you.

Kids, be sure to bring your backpacks
to the service at 10:45 as we will be hosting

"Blessing of the Backpacks"

to pray over all students and school staff.



By the early 1800's public school was available in America for all children at least through elementary grades. Most towns and rural areas worked toward providing what was necessary for students to receive the best possible education. I remember my grandfather bringing wagon loads of home grown produce to assure the lunch room provided good healthy meals. First Baptist has a renewed interest in Cornelia Elementary under the leadership of some recently retired teachers. We invite you to share in FBC Partnership with Cornelia Elementary.

Vacation Bible School has its beginning when a Baptist Sunday School teacher in New York provided Bible school in the summer for children in the slum areas of the city, in a saloon, the only available space. Many have fond memories of Miss VBS, Ellene Wiggins. Etched in hearts and mind forever are flannel graph Bible lessons, stories of missionaries, saluting the flags and Bible, and those Stand-up – Sit-down chords! VBS is still a very special time at FBC.

Helen Bryson



FBC Partnership with Cornelia Elementary School

First Baptist Church of Cornelia has entered into a partnership with Cornelia Elementary School. As a result, we will have the opportunity to impact the lives of the students at our school. Amber Miller, Eric Spivey, Brenda Blackburn, Shirley Burton, Kerri Dodd, Dianne Oliver, Tammy Ivey, and myself are members of a team at FBC to make certain that this new partnership with our school is productive. We welcome your ideas and participation.

Cornelia Elementary is proud to be a school with a diverse population where children can develop an understanding of the perspectives of those from different backgrounds and learn to function in a multicultural, multi ethnic environment.

The many people who work at this school appreciate these children who come from different backgrounds. Students thrive in an environment created where each child's strengths and interests are nurtured. The faculty and staff know that students learn best in a supportive environment where children feel safe and valued.

We hope you choose to become a part of the loving and supportive community of this special school.

Opportunities to Serve:

Your first opportunity will be to bring suggested school supplies and place in the crates located in the church office. Please bring by Wednesday, August 3rd. We also plan to provide treats for the faculty as they return from summer break.

The school will have an Open House on Wednesday, August 3 from 4-6, and we would like to assist with welcoming children and their families. If you would like to help on this date, please contact Deborah Worsham at worshamdb@yahoo.com.

We hope you will be able to attend the Annual Prayer Walk Thursday, August 4 at 2:00 p.m.; in the media center at the school.

Shona Purcell, a second grade teacher, will lead as we pray for all areas of the school. Pastor Eric will be helping to lead this time of prayer for the students and staff. Please join us at this time to pray for Cornelia Elementary.

Deborah Worsham



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016

When asked to share my impression of my first experience of being involved in Vacation Bible School at First Baptist, Cornelia, these thoughts came to mind:

Seeing 180 children sing out with all their heart, "GOD IS WITH ME WHEREVER I GO!", may be my favorite moment of 2016.

Our kids walked away from VBS with so many valuable truths from scripture. From Jonah to Noah to Peter, we went on a deep sea discovery of life changing insights. Through science experiments, crafts, songs, puppet shows, games, Bible stories, and even snacks children learned that God knows them, hears them, strengthens them, loves them, and sends them! I have been abundantly blessed to be a part of VBS and watch our amazing church minister to these little ones!

Amber Miller
Children's Minister



A G A P E DISCIPLESHIP: GROWING DISCIPLES

A WORD from Pastor John:

In my message on July 24, I mentioned an article called "Christians, You Don't Have to Speak Into Everything" By Tyler Edwards, discipleship pastor at Carolina Forest Community Church in Myrtle Beach, SC. He gives some great tips on how to know when you should address an issue – and when not to. I thought I would share some of those tips with you this month. Special thanks to Amber Miller, our children's minister, for sharing this article with me.

Does it need to be said? Just because the media picks something up or there is a cultural issue going on doesn't mean it needs to be discussed. It does not benefit us to discuss everything. Before we speak into an issue, we should be sure the issue merits being spoken into. Is it beneficial? Will it help break down apathy? Heal? Give a sense of peace? Before speaking into something ask yourself if what you have to say has value. Is there something to be said that will help with Biblical understanding, relationship development, healing or growth?

What does the Bible say? One of the most important times to speak into something is when there are hot topics in culture that relate to clear Biblical truths. Sometimes the world around us serves us opportunities for timely, relevant messages on a silver platter. That's definitely a time to take them. Christians should make sure before they address any issue that their opinion is Biblically accurate, gracious, understanding and expresses the love of God.

Does it honor God? David had two opportunities to kill Saul and become king. David refused both times. He didn't kill Saul because it wasn't his place and it wouldn't honor God to do so. Sometimes what looks like the right thing to do, what seems reasonable and justified in our minds is not the Godly thing to do. Our primary concern is honoring and obeying God. Don't skip this step. Spend some time in prayer to figure out if God is convicting you to speak or to remain silent. Let Him guide you.

Consider your bias. Are you speaking into this because it's a touchy subject for you personally? Is it your own agenda? We should be careful not to dive too deep into the pool of our own passion projects. Not that we can't have them, but we aren't speaking for ourselves, we are speaking for God.

Ask yourself why? Why do you want to speak into it or to remain silent? Check your motivation. It's easy to be silent out of laziness or fear. It's easy to speak out of anger or pride. The "why" matters. Get Godly counsel. You don't have to make the decision alone. Before ranting on Facebook or telling the world how you feel about something, maybe you mull it over with some Godly friends or your pastor. Iron only sharpens iron through contact. There are times you will regret your silence. There are times you will mourn your speaking. It's OK to make mistakes. What's not OK is to fail to consider the importance of what we do and how our voice impacts how others see Jesus. What we say matters. As we live for Jesus we should also speak His heart and His truth to the world around us.

Read more at <http://www.relevantmagazine.com/life/christians-you-dont-have-speak-everything#z6bj8Jp7poUJX9WO.99>

GET INVOLVED

Adult RECHARGE Wednesday Night Classes Begin

AUGUST 24 @ 6:15 P.M.



2016 Bible Orientation Classes

Taught by Dr. Eric Spivey

Purpose of Series: To build adult biblical confidence that allows individuals to discover God's Word and initiates a life time of Biblical study.

BOC 2: New Testament Orientation

Purpose: To introduce the story of Jesus through the 4 Gospels, the beginning of the church, and basic Christian theology in a way invites students into a lifetime of New Testament study.

Class Dates: August 24 – September 28, 2016 (6 weeks)

Classroom: 211

BOC 3: Bible Orientation

Purpose: To introduce the development, transmission, and interpretation of the Bible that invites students to trust in God's Word.

Class Dates: October 5 – November 9, 2016 (6 weeks)

Classroom: 211



The Best Laid Plans ... and Acts of God: How unexpected events changed human history.

Taught by Carlos Camp

Class Dates: August 24 - September 28.

WATCH YOUR BULLETIN & CHURCH WEBSITE FOR MORE CLASSES WE HOPE TO ADD IN THE COMING WEEKS!

Children's Ministry


AUGUST 3
Open House Cornelia Elementary 4 – 6

AUGUST 7
MOVE UP SUNDAY

All kids will move up to their new grade's Sunday School class!



PRAYER WALKS in HABERSHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

Thursday, Aug. 4, 2:00 p.m.

**First Baptist Church is assigned to
Cornelia Elementary School**
140 Old Cleveland Road
Coordinator: Dr. Eric Spivey

The church family is invited to join in prayer for the safety of the children and administration during this school year. We hope to discover other ways we can partner with our school to better serve. Feel free to visit the school of your choice.



YOUTH NEWS

SPECIAL THANKS TO RACHEL MAYO for all her help this summer. Rachel has served as our Congregational Intern, this summer, helping out in all areas of church life. I am especially grateful for her help with our student ministry this summer. She will finish up her time with us on August 2. Please express your thanks to her when you see her here and church. She and her husband Robert will continue to be involved in the life of our church.



PROMOTION DAY IS SUNDAY AUGUST 7! All students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church on this day. COLLEGE STUDENTS are also encouraged to bring backpacks then, too.

BAPTISM will be offered on August 7. If you are interested in talking with Pastor Eric, Pastor John, or Amber Miller about being baptized this day, please make an appointment with one of them.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN AUGUST FOR STUDENTS

August 3 – NO ACTIVITIES

August 10 – NO ACTIVITIES – Watch your bulletins and emails just in case we plan something for this date!

August 17 – FALL KICK OFF! LISTEN UP FOR MORE ABOUT WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING ON THIS NIGHT STARTING AT 6:00 p.m.!

August 24 – Regular youth group time will resume starting at 6:00 p.m. in THE WELL, 3rd floor Family Ministry Center.

August 31 – Regular youth group meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Current Deacon Fellowship (With rotation end dates)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Peggy Boozer (2018), | Ben Brooks (2017), | Donald Crowe (2017), |
| Kathy Crowe (2017), | Wes Dodd (2016), | Steve Doran (2017), |
| David Elder (2018), | Jane Ferguson (2018), | David Foster (2017), |
| Wade Hasty (2016), | Don Higgins (2016), | Sally Higgins (2016), |
| Jason Hughes (2016), | Chester King (2018), | Tom Lawrie (2016), |
| Phil McClain (2017), | Richard McMullan (2018), | Alan Nesmith (2018), |
| Jay Reed (2017), | Dalton Sirmans (2016)*, | Caleb Souther (2016), |
| James A Stapleton (Jimbo) (2017), | Jimmy Stapleton (2018), | |
| Larry Whitfield (2018) | | |

*Filling unexpired term (open for nomination)

Continued from page 1

MUSIC AND ARTS IN WORSHIP

Our children in VBS sang fun and energetic songs to praise our wonderful God and Creator. We jumped for joy, shouted thank you, and gave all our praise to Him! It was a joy to teach these children some new worship songs and watch them give their praise to God. One of our songs used the familiar words of the great hymn, O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus. This new upbeat version with a new melody was one of my favorites of VBS. Doing motions while singing this song was a powerful worship experience as it reminded me of how much God loves each of us.

*O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me,
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of His love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To my glorious rest above.*

I want to use some fresh, new settings of familiar hymns to bring a little more variety to our worship in August. With the start of a new school year, let's bring some new songs to offer our praise and glory to our Savior whose deep, deep love is unmeasured, boundless, and free!

Blessings,
Bobby

Deacon Nomination & Election

A deacon at First Baptist Cornelia is a servant of the church. Deacons serve the church through ministry to individuals and families. Deacons serve the church by promoting unity within the congregation. Deacons serve the church communion both in the sanctuary and the homes of our shut-ins. Deacons serve the church by guiding the staff, committees and leaders. More than anything, deacons serve the church by praying for God's presence and guidance in all that we do and say.

We need our church members to nominate individuals to serve the church as deacons for the coming three years. This year, we will continue our deacon development process by focusing on our deacon leadership.

PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3.

Election of our deacon slate will be on Sunday, August 28.

Walking with Jesus

I will invest Monday mornings for retreat, peer group coaching, and listening. I will be out of the office until after lunch on Mondays usually working from home. On Tuesday mornings, I will focus on our staff team. On Wednesday mornings, I will focus on studying for Wednesday Bible Studies. On Thursday mornings, I will focus on sermon completion. And I will continue to take Fridays off. In the afternoons and evenings, I will schedule meetings and pastoral care. I pray this new rhythm will be healthy for me, for you and our church.

The second aspect of this renewed emphasis on preaching will be a new worship rhythm in our church. While we already have special seasons for Advent, Lent and Holy Week, I am working with our Worship Design Team and staff to develop worship seasons throughout the year. This special emphasis will help us continue to live into the vision and values of our church.

Finally, I hope to use my preaching to invite each of us into deeper study, meditation and experience with the Bible – God's Word. Beginning in August I will preach through the Gospel of Mark. Each Sunday we will reach a section of the Gospel and I will preach from that section. I pray this series will deepen our understanding of the Gospel and transform our lives as we follow Jesus each day in our marriages, work and ministry.

It's been a great 6 years of ministry together. I'll see you Sunday as we start another year together.

Pastor Eric Spivey

A G A P E FELLOWSHIP: PRAYING SPIRIT LED FAMILY OF FOLLOWERS

TUESDAY, AUG. 2

7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
/Stew & Que

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3

6:00PM Adult Prayer Meeting/FH

THURSDAY, AUG. 4

2:00PM Prayer Walk Habersham

SUNDAY, AUG. 7

9:45AM Sunday School
10:55AM Worship

TUESDAY, AUG. 9

7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
/Stew & Que
7:00pm Book Club/BR

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 10

6:00PM Adult Prayer Meeting &
Church Conference/FH
7:00PM Adult Choir Practice

SUNDAY, AUG. 21

9:45AM Sunday School
10:55AM Worship

MONDAY, AUG. 22

11:00AM Round Table

TUESDAY, AUG. 23

7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
/Stew & Que

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24

5:15PM Fellowship Meals resume
Reservations Required
6:00PM Preschool/Children's Ministries
Adult Prayer Meeting/FH
Youth Worship & Bible Study
6:15PM Adult Recharge Classes
7:00PM Adult Choir Practice

SUNDAY, AUG. 14

9:45AM Sunday School
10:55AM Worship

MONDAY, AUG. 15

11:00AM Benfield Group

TUESDAY, AUG. 16

7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
/Stew & Que

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 17

6:00PM **FALL Kickoff**
7:00PM Adult Choir Practice

Quarterly Church Conference
6:00 pm August 10

SUNDAY, AUG 28

8:30AM Deacon Meeting
9:45AM Sunday School
10:55AM Worship

TUESDAY, AUG. 30

7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
/Stew & Que

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 31

5:15PM Fellowship Meal
Reservations Required
6:00PM Preschool/Children's Ministries
Adult Prayer Meeting/FH
Youth Worship & Bible Study
6:15PM Adult Recharge Classes
7:00PM Adult Choir Practice

Ladies,



The next Bible study to be offered by the WEM Team will be Priscilla Shirer's study: *The Armor of God*.

This 7 week Bible study will begin in October 2016 and finishing before Thanksgiving. Details at Lifeway.com

Please take a moment to let us know whether you would prefer to attend on:

1. Wednesday nights 6-7:30 pm
2. Sunday nights 5:30-7:00 pm

We need your input now so that we can firm up the plans for the Fall.

PLEASE RESPOND BY EMAIL to Donna Trotter (dcmt306@gmail.com) or Kathy Crowe at crowdedonald@Hotmail.com

Thank you for your input! WEM Team

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

The meal prices are:

Adults: \$5.50

Children Under Age 5: FREE

Children Age 5-12: 3:50

Family Reservation Max: \$17.00

4 Week Reservations Plan:

Adults: \$20.00 per month

Children Age 5-12: \$12.00 per month

Family Max: \$68 per month

5 Week Reservations Plan:

Adults \$25 per month

Children Age 5 – 12: \$15

Family Max: \$85 per month

MEAL RESERVATIONS ARE

REQUIRED either **WEEKLY** or on a **STANDING** basis.

Reservations & Cancellations

MUST be **RECEIVED BEFORE**

TUESDAY NOON for the following day's meal.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS

or cancellations, go to:

www.fbccornelia.org, click

Wednesday Night Fellowship meal Reservations

(Toward the bottom of the home page)

or phone

Sheila Thomason in the church office (706)778-4412.

Information for the September *Good Tidings* is due by **September 15th**.

Please email to bjwidding@fbccornelia.org

SPECIAL GIFTS (June)

MEMORIALS:

Ministry Budget:

Claude Barnes, Cliff Kimsey

Unified Missions:

Greg Jenkins

BENEVOLENCE FUND JUNE ,2016

Shared:\$ 1,105.00

Clients:23

A G A P E COMMUNITY: EXTENDING GOD'S GRACE



Ladies, set aside this important date!

September 25, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

You don't want to miss the

Fabulous

Fall Fun & Fellowship Event for Women

Fabulous FoodFun Fashion Show***Fantastic Speaker***

Claudia Mejerle

Professional Stylist and Makeup Artist based in Atlanta. Combining her love for cosmetics, aesthetics and people, Claudia specializes in making women look and feel their most beautiful for photo/video shoots, special events and weddings. She is the wife of Brad Rogers and the daughter-in-law of Kerri and Wes Dodd.

Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

FBC Banquet Room ~ Reservation details to come.

In the meantime... SAVE THE DATE.

Sponsored by Women's Enrichment Ministry Team (WEM)

WE NEED HCLC!



Habersham Christian Learning Center

Community Summit
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18,
AT 7:00PM

MUNCH & MINGLE
6:30PM

HABERSHAM EMC
CONFERENCE ROOM

6135 GA HWY 115,
Clarkesville, GA 30523

SERVICE REMINDER

AUG. 7

SS Greeters:

Ben Books, Mozelle Carlan,
Phil McClain,
Charlotte Meister

Child Care

Nursery:

Jennie Swindler

2s & 3s:

Carrie Trotter

Children's Church:

Millie Sheffield

Ushers:

Phil McClain, Rick Barron,
Wade Hasty, Nolan Nix, Dalton
Sirmans, Bill Tanneberger,
Dennis Tedder, Robert Tyler,
Ed Vaughn

Church Greeters:

Gerald and Jane Dunham

Patrol:

Jimbo Stapleton

Wednesday Night Lockup/

AUG.:

Donald Crowe

AUG. 14

SS Greeters:

Mozelle Carlan,
Charlotte Meister

Child Care

Nursery:

Lauren Terry

2s & 3s:

Alan & Heather Nesmith

Children's Church:

Celia Brooks

Ushers:

Richard Whatley,

Grant Bentley,

Bill Chandler, Steve Doran,

Brian Peek, Chester Skelton,

Larry Whitfield

Church Greeters:

Brad & Carrie Trotter

Patrol:

Rick Barron

Wednesday Night Lockup/

AUG.:

Donald Crowe

AUG. 21

SS Greeters:

Mozelle Carlan,
Charlotte Meister

Child Care

Nursery:

Susan McMullan

2s & 3s:

Grant & Alice Gunter

Children's Church:

Marcia Spivey

Ushers:

Jarvis McFarlin, Herman

Benfield, Donald Crowe,

Wes Dodd, Murphy Doran,

Terry Doran, David Elder,

Jack Irvin, Jared McFarlin

Church Greeters:

Terry & Libby Doran

Patrol:

Richard Whatley

Wednesday Night Lockup/

AUG.:

Donald Crowe

AUG. 28

SS Greeters:

Mozelle Carlan,
Charlotte Meister

Child Care

Nursery:

Denise Lindermann

2s & 3s:

Ed & Patsy Vaughn

Children's Church:

Libby Doran

Ushers:

David Foster, Jason Hughes,

Jack McMullan, Richard

McMullan, Mark Reed,

Caleb Souther,

James A. Stapleton III,

Larry Warren

Church Greeters:

Dalton & Margie Sirmans

Patrol:

Jarvis McFarlin

Wednesday Night Lockup/

AUG.:

Donald Crowe

DEACON OF THE WEEK

AUG. 7

Caleb Souther
(706) 894-1217

AUG. 14

Jimbo Stapleton
(706) 776-7214

AUG. 21

Jimmy Stapleton
(706) 778-8278

AUG. 28

Larry Whitfield
(706) 7778-9755

If there is a ministry need, please call the Deacon or the church office.

Sermon Series

The Story of *Jesus*

LESSONS FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK

July 31

Title: Listening to the Gospel
 Scripture: Psalm 46:10
 Worship Elements:
 • Rachel Mayo Testimony, FBC Congregational Intern



August 7
MOVE-UP
Sunday

Title: Ready to Follow
 Scripture: Mark 1:1-20
 Worship Elements:
 • Blessing of the Backpacks
 • Commissioning of Educators

August 14

Title: Following To Serve
 Scripture: Mark 1:21-45
 Worship Elements:
 • Mission Story: Cornelia Elementary Partnership

August 21

Title: Responding to Antagonism
 Scripture: Mark 2:1-3:6
 Worship Elements:
 • Children's Sermon

August 28 – Deacon Election Sunday

Title: Insiders
 Scripture: Mark 3:7-35
 Worship Elements:

MINISTRY STAFF

Dr. Eric T. Spivey, Senior Pastor

Rev. John Swindler,

Assoc. Pastor, Discipleship & Student Ministries

Bobby Ivey, Minister of Worship & Music

Mrs. Amber Miller,

Minister of Children and Community Outreach

Jarvis McFarlin, Business Manager

Bobbie Foster, Organist

Mary Turner, Pianist

Ministry Assistants

Sheila Thomason, Finance

Bernice Widding, Publications

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 Cornelia, GA 30531

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