

AUGUST 17, 2022

THE MESSENGER

Official Newsletter of First Baptist Church



Am I From Carrollton Yet?

There are a few occurrences of late that have led me to ask, “Am I from Carrollton yet?” I no longer need GPS to navigate basic routes in town and the surrounding area. I bought season tickets for Friday nights at Grisham Stadium. And then there’s this... I finally got on my bike and did my first official loop around the Greenbelt this past Saturday. Winding around town on this marvelous trail, I noticed a variety of scenes: residential neighborhoods, a medical district, open country, academic centers, industrial parks, government housing, and so much more. I can honestly say that Carrollton represents a diversity that is uncommon for a town of its size. While I celebrate this characteristic, I also recognize that it represents a challenge. Intrinsic to the word diversity, is the reality of “different.” Different carries with it a tension we all feel. Different means we are in someone else’s back yard. The norms are different. We don’t easily understand why things are the way they are. A common response to this tension is to retreat to the places that are comfortable to us, but before we do, we need to ask “why?” Far too often, the reason is that our comfort is a product of everyone being just like us, which isn’t always a good thing. Wouldn’t you know it? God has something to say about this!

Let’s harken back to a story as old as time. Do you remember the Tower of Babel from Genesis 11? Here’s a quick recap. After having reestablished Earth’s population following the great flood, people gathered under one language, one geographical location, and one project. Their goal was to build a tower that reached to the heavens, “so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4). God summarily intervenes and confuses their common language. You might be able to draw the connection between the name of the geographical site (Babel) and or common English word for someone who doesn’t make sense (babbler). In their confused state, the project fails and the people scatter once again. One common interpretation is that their confusion is a result of God’s punishment because they are building something akin to an idol. Perhaps. Another interpretation is that idolatry wasn’t the issue at all. Instead the issue is that people were trying to contrive an environment where different was eliminated entirely in favor of a homogenous (and I’ll add comfortable) setting. In so doing, they were in conflict with God’s original command to humanity. “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the world and subdue it” (Genesis 1:28). Within that command, God states that a multiplicity of identities, races, cultures, languages, etc. is a part of His will. In other words, God isn’t punishing humanity but intervening amongst them so that His creative design continues and so that His creation (i.e. us) lives more fulfilling lives. I think He’s still intervening even today just like he did with my bike ride. He’s trying to interrupt our routines of “comfort” and “likeness” so that we will once again be fruitful and multiply!

In that light, back to my original question: “Am I from Carrollton yet?” I’ll try to answer, and I hope it’s not confusing. I say “yes” in the sense that my family and I feel at home in this community. In fact, we love it! I also say “not yet” because I’ve yet to truly know and embrace all of the diversity that is here, and that, my friends, is a journey that will take a lifetime. There are so many different nooks and crannies yet known. Within them are the precious treasures made by the creator’s hands. A diversity of people, culture, and languages that reflect God’s original decree. I may never fully arrive in this quest, but isn’t that the point? Should I ever “arrive?” Should you? In that spirit, I want to ask that you join me in this journey. Let’s all allow God to scatter us a little by intentionally straying from our places of comfort and looking for the different that could be a bike ride or walk away. Will it feel uncomfortable? Most assuredly so, but God will grant you peace as you reach to see what most delights his heart – difference and diversity.

Sincerely,

Pastor David

Meet Our Interim Youth Pastors



Becca Davis



Mitch McLendon



Hannah Kay Brooks



Andy Smith

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER



COOPER TRAYLOR
SON OF WADE AND SARA TRAYLOR

AUG
2022



WADE, SARA, COOPER, REAGAN, AND
SAWYER TRAYLOR



THANK YOU
CINDY WELCH
FOR 18 YEARS
AS OUR NURSERY DIRECTOR

We would like to thank Cindy for the eighteen years she has taken care of and loved the babies and families at First Baptist.

Giving UPDATE

Date
August 14, 2022

WEEKLY GIVING

BUDGET
REQUIRED

\$19,745.25

BUDGET
RECEIVED

\$21,792.11

YTD BUDGET
REQUIRED

\$631,848.00

YTD BUDGET
RECEIVED

\$655,296.61

Special Gifts

A Special gift was given to the Legacy fund in honor of
Mrs. Carolyn Fodor
by Michelle Alexander of Roopville.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Poppyseed chicken, rice, green beans, salad, rolls
and dessert

AUGUST 24TH



Monday, August 22th

7:00a - Prayer Breakfast - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 24th

5:00-6:00p - Churchwide Supper

5:30p - Cam3 Kickoff - The Place

6:00-7:00p - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

6:45-8:00p - Youth Worship

7:00-8:30p - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 28th

Tyler Ingram's First Sunday

9:00-9:45a - Breakfast Fellowship

10:00a - Sunday School for all Ages

11:00a - Worship

12:00p - Business Conference

5:00p - Children's Ministry Team Meeting - The Place