

NEWS & VIEWS OF WILLIAMS

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Dear Church Family,

During this important moment in the life of our church, I wish to provide much more information about our activities as we start our transition and pastor search process. In the past few months, we have held two meetings with an expanded group of Deacons (active, inactive and emeritus), Personnel Committee, and Ministerial Staff. In the first meeting we talked openly about the strain in relationships that have occurred and the decline in attendance. Several in the meeting expressed the need for professional guidance and assistance with repairing relationships and conducting an effective search for God's will for the next pastor for our church. Frequent and broad communication throughout the process was also identified of utmost importance. A recommendation was made that we talk with trusted former pastors about organizations that have the expertise to provide this type of assistance. The Center for Healthy Churches (CHC) was identified as an organization that could provide such assistance to help rebuild relationships and conduct a successful search for a pastor for FBC Williams.

In a following meeting, the same expanded group held a virtual meeting with the Director of CHC, Dr. Bill Wilson. Dr. Wilson provided an overview of his organization and CHC's unique and distinctive approach to coaching a congregation through the pastor search opportunity. CHC has a nationwide network of consultants and leaders who value and believe in the local church and are committed to its future. The Center has worked with churches from approximately twenty different denominational groups that span the theological spectrum.

Dr. Wilson explained that CHC operates out of a theological framework of Spiritual Discernment. This emphasis means that a congregation and their Transition or Search teams begin with a season of reflection and earnest prayer for guidance. **Practicing the wisdom of "Holy Indifference"**, we gradually realign our thinking from a pragmatic search for the person we want toward an earnest desire to pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **"Not my will, but thine be done."** Relentlessly seeking God's guidance is more than rhetoric. It means adjusting our approach from a mechanistic hiring methodology toward a discovery of the church's uniqueness and its distinct calling from God into the future. The resulting awareness then guides the active search process.

Feedback from many meeting participants was extremely positive. Following the meeting Dr. Wilson provided a detail proposal outlining the transition timeline, search process, and cost for FBC Williams. This proposal was shared with the Deacons, Personnel Committee, and Finance Committee. In a meeting of Deacons and Personnel Committee members on September 20th, we agreed to move forward with the CHC assistance proposal. Final approval was given by the Finance Committee.

(continued)

The CHC process adapts the insights of Appreciative Inquiry for the self-study and active search process. Appreciative Inquiry is a model of planning that emphasizes building upon the core positives of the church. It asks “What is right about this church, and how can we build upon it?” Using this in the self-discovery phase of the search process means engaging the congregation in a series of discovery conversations around the themes of our Past, our Present, and our Future.

We ask questions such as: Why are we here and how did we get here? Where are we, really, as a congregation? Where do we sense God calling us? What does that call tell us about the type of person we need as our next pastor?

Using these foundational principles, the CHC congregational coach works with a leadership team or the pastor search committee in two distinct phases.

Phase One is the congregational self-study phase that lasts approximately four to five months. During that time, the congregation is interviewed and invited to remember, to notice, and to dream together. A transitional team plans a series of congregational conversations that are carefully crafted and designed to garner relevant data. The CHC coach leads the team toward spiritual discernment and discovery and the end product of the self study is a Congregational Profile and a Next Pastor Profile.

Phase Two is the active search phase, in which the pastor search team is actively involved in seeking out candidates that match the key components of the Next Pastor Profile. The CHC coach acts to encourage and monitor healthy process, while the search team does the critical work of interviewing candidates and discerning God’s leadership.

Each of the CHC Congregational Transition Advisors have a strong background in congregational life and most are former pastors who have long and distinguished track records in local churches.

Bill Owen has been assigned to Williams by CHC as our Congregational Coach. Bill is a congregational consultant and coach for Center for Healthy Churches after a 32-year pastorate at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Cross Plains, Tennessee. An experienced leadership coach, he also has worked as a cognitive coach among educators, particularly secondary school teachers, with a focus on innovation and personalized learning. He brings these skills and experiences to his work, along with a love for congregations and ministry staff development. He works extensively with the STEP—the Strategic Transition Education Program designed specifically for churches and their leaders during interim periods in a church’s life. **Bill will be at Williams on Sunday October 25, for the 10 am service, to introduce himself and share a message with the congregation on the journey we will begin together.** Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for this important service.

Please join me as we continue to pray for our beloved church and its dedicated membership. Pray the prayer of “Holy Indifference” and as Jesus taught us to pray “not my will, but thine be done”.

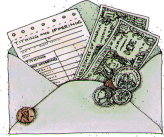
Lamar Freeman
Administrator

Ministry & Missions Budget

Needs		Receipts	
Monthly	\$ 27,928.09	\$	19,432.49
Year to Date	\$ 251,353.05	\$	204,480.96

TOTALS ARE THROUGH 09/27/2020

"A special thank you to each and every one of you for your monetary support and hard work that enables First Baptist Church of Williams to touch lives by sharing the love of Jesus". ~Finance Committee



TITHES & OFFERINGS

- (1) A **basket** is placed inside the CMC at the entrance in which to drop your tithes in as you enter or leave worship.
- (2) A **drop box** is located outside at the drive-thru at the CMC entrance. This is checked twice a day.
- (3) You may pay through **PayPal** link on the church's website: give.fbcwilliams.org
- (4) You may drop your tithes in the **mail** to the church or drop by the office during business hours.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Sunday School	9:00 am
Morning Worship	10:00 am
Choir Practice	4:00 pm
Youth Bible Study	5:00pm

Wednesday

Vespers (on-line only)	6:00 pm
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DRIVE BY WEDDING SHOWER

The Ladies of the Alan Boozer Sunday School Class will host a Drive-By Wedding Shower for Baylie Noah (bride-elect of Hunter Green on Sunday, October 11th from 1:30pm until 3:00pm. You may drive by and drop your gift off at FBC Williams CMC drive thru. Hunter and Baylie are registered at Walmart.



J.C.O.C.

Our church is scheduled to provide the following items to the J.C.O.C. for the month of **OCTOBER**: Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly and Crackers. Please take your donated items DIRECTLY TO the JCOC located just behind McDonalds.



OFFERING COUNTERS OCTOBER

Allison Ostrander and Diane Freeman



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

The youth will start a new study called T.B.D. (Think. Believe. Do) Michelle Thomas will lead the study each Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm starting Oct 4th. All 6th thru 12th graders are welcome to join.



FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

Our food pantry distribution will be held on Friday, October 23rd from 1-2pm.



Food Pantry Funds on hand: \$1,568.03



170th HOMECOMING

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, Nov 1st for our 170th Homecoming Celebration. Dr. Bob Ford will be our featured guest pastor, along with video messages from other former pastors and youth. We will have overflow seating in the sanctuary in addition to our socially distance seating in the gym. Pat and Lynnelle have lots of special music planned. A catered meal will be served following the service with tents for outdoor seating.

OCT 2020

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

Happy Birthday
Terry Boozer &
Jason Teal

02

03

04

Pat Barker
Speaking
COMMUNION

05

Happy Birthday
Wanda Green &
Joyce Johnson

06

07

08

09

Happy Birthday
Ayden Freeman

10

11

Happy Birthday Regina
Honts
Dr. Pat McFadden
Speaking
Hunter Green/Baylie
Noah Wedding Shower

12

13

Happy Birthday
Bryce Freeman

14

Happy Birthday
Patti McLeod

15

16

17

18

Nikki Haynes
Speaking

19

Happy Birthday
John English,
Sarah Freeman &
Wilson Lipscomb

20

21

22

Happy Birthday
Keith Johnston,
Carol McGinnis &
Abbigail Steele

23

Happy Birthday
Georgia Edwards
FOOD PANTRY
1-2 PM

24

**Church
Work Day**

25

Happy Birthday
Avigail Blades
Bill Owen-CHC
Speaking

26

27

Happy Birthday
Casey Maples

28

29

30

31

**JCOC NEEDS
For October**

**Peanut Butter
Jelly, Cereal &
Crackers**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WILLIAMS