

the Vision

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | SEPTEMBER 2021

Wednesday Activities Kick Off

Disciplelife Classes, Fusion, Youth & D6 Family Groups

Start Wednesday, Sept 8 at 6:15pm

Family Dinner Starts at 5:30pm

disciplelife
YOUTH MINISTRY



learn more and sign up at
fbcshallotte.org/wed

Administrative Assistant Needed

Unfortunately, Nancy has made the decision to retire. Thank you Nancy for your service at FBCS!

We are now accepting resumes for the administrative assistant position. If you or someone you know is interested, visit fbcshallotte.org/job-openings for a detailed job description and to submit a resume. Submission deadline is September 8, 2021. Please join the staff and personnel committee in prayer for God to send the right person to fill this critical position in the church office. Also, pray for the new personnel committee as they go through the interview and hiring process.

Church Events

- Sep 1st 5:30-8:30pm—
Back to School
Celebration
- Sep 5th 12:30pm—
Lord's Supper &
Deacon Vote
- Sep 6th – Office Closed
- Sep 8th 6:15pm—
Disciplelife, D6 Family
Groups, Fusion and
Youth Classes Start
- Give to NC Missions
Offering in September
- Sundays
9:45am Sunday School;
11am Worship Service
- Wednesdays at 12pm
Reset Bible Study

What World Will Lucy Live In?

On Sunday, August 15, Kim and I were in our post-church routine when Kaitlyn called with the news. She had gone into labor. Our granddaughter, Lucy, was on her way.

And at 1:24 PM Monday, August 16, Lucy arrived, and a new season in our lives began.

It's an amazing thing to watch your daughter cuddle her own daughter. It's humbling and surreal, astonishing and marvelous, all at the same time. There we were, three generations. Most of my life is in the rearview mirror. Kaitlyn's life is just now cresting the next hill, and Lucy's has only begun.

And that makes me wonder, what world will Lucy live in?

Watching Lucy, small and fragile, I know that the world is much larger than she can comprehend. And the world she was born into and the world she and her generation will inherit, will be much different from mine. Different, but also still the same. Here's what I mean.

What will shape her world?

Each generation is molded by world events, both good and bad, and by the powerful people who lead that generation into new destinations.

My generation was shaped by the 1960s, Vietnam, the resignation of Richard Nixon, and the rampant inflation in the 1970s. It was shaped by visionaries like Ronald Reagan, Steve Jobs, and Rick Warren, by the preaching of Billy Graham, and by the onset of reality television. And, of course, my world was shaped by the invention of the internet and the proliferation of the cell phone. My generation celebrated the fall of the Soviet Union and suffered through the Great Recession, Hurricane Katrina, and 9/11, which prompted the deployment of troops to Afghanistan.

Kaitlyn's generation was impacted by No Child Left Behind, the creation of Homeland Security, and the rise of socialized health care in America. She grew up in a generation with American troops in Afghanistan, but the reason for them being there was rarely mentioned. The mindset of her generation was shaped by "Friends" and the rise of streaming video. But more than anything else, Kaitlyn's generation has been molded and completely fashioned into the image of social media, perhaps the most influential force to shape and change society since the invention of the printing press.



Lucy's world is already being shaped by the Covid crisis, by the botched withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, and by the crisis at the southern border of the United States. Her generation will grow up in a world where marriage was long ago redefined to include same sex unions, and where socialism is widely accepted and even pursued in a nation originally grounded in a free market economy. In her world, these will be so woven into the culture as to be unquestioned. She will simply never know anything else.

The One who never changes

So each generation is shaped by its own unique problems, crises, joys and victories. As Lucy launches her life, I cannot predict or control what her generation will face. But I don't need to. What I need to do is to remind her to always put her hope in the One who never changes. The One who is the same for all generations.

God is the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He oversees the rise and fall of nations, and He is faithful to every generation (Heb. 13:8).

No matter what happens in our world, God doesn't change, and He is absolutely faithful. Lucy's generation will face its own challenges and be shaped by influences that we cannot predict. But He is her God just as He has been my God. We are flawed and foolish people, but He is a great and mighty God (Ps. 95:3, 145:3).

continued on page 3....



....continued from page 2

What World Will Lucy Live In?

And even if her generation faces the worst of times, she can always count on God to see her through.

Jesus was born into a world far worse than anything most Americans have ever experienced. Jesus' world was full of strife, military oppression, racism, economic depravity, religious persecution, and government interference. People were routinely executed in the streets, families separated by slavery, and livelihoods threatened by noncompliance with the status quo. And yet, God considered that to be the perfect time to send His Son into

the world (Gal. 4:4, John 3:16)!

We can count on Him

Because the world is a messy place, unpredictable and even dangerous, we need to know Who we can count on. So the Bible repeatedly reminds us that God is faithful (see Deut. 7:9, 2 Tim. 2 Thess. 3:3, Psalm 33:4, to name just a few). God is not dethroned by pandemics or terrorism or any other crisis people face.

In fact, He has already told us that the world would worsen as time marched toward His return (Matt. 24:29). But in the meantime, He never leaves us or forsakes us (Josh. 1:9). And He

is more powerful than the world around us or the Enemy who seeks to destroy us (John 16:33).

I don't expect the world to be perfect for Lucy. I know that people will let her down, that leaders will make bad decisions, and that she will likely struggle through her fair share of strife and heartache.

But I am comforted by this. No matter what happens in her world, and no matter what struggles might come her way, God will always be faithful to little Lucy, just as He has always been faithful to you and to me.

That's His promise (2 Tim. 2:13). And, no matter the mess

people make of the world, He will always keep His promises.

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations."

Ps. 89:1

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Bob

NC Missions Offering

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 (HCSB)

"Relief for today. Hope for tomorrow." is the theme for this year's North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO).

The theme is based upon Romans 15:13. No matter the circumstance and no matter the cost, we're called to bring relief to our hurting world through selfless acts of kindness and generosity. Because of your gifts to the North Carolina Missions Offering, Baptists are being mobilized across our state and around the world to provide relief in the

midst of pain and disaster. But more than providing temporary relief, we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, which offers eternal hope.

As you pray and sacrificially give to the North Carolina Missions Offering, remember that all of your gifts support vital ministries that offer love and hope in the name of Jesus Christ

Welcome to the Family



Betty Duke
joined Aug 8



Jeff & Kelly Hopkins
joined Aug 15

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048
fbcshallotte.org

Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm
Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am
Worship—11:00am



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 318
Shallotte, NC

Bible Verses to Memorize Weekly

These scriptures are powerful, inspiring, yet short, easy and simple verses for everyone. Take time each week to focus on memorizing the weekly verse.

- Week 36 – “I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.” – Isaiah 43:11, ESV
- Week 37 – “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” – Matthew 5:14, ESV
- Week 38 – “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16, NIV
- Week 39 – “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” – Matthew 6:33, KJV