

# *The Informer*

July 2020

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*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.*

PSALM 33:12

# A NOTE FROM TRACY

## CBF Holds Virtual Annual Meeting

Due to COVID-19, CBF held a virtual annual meeting on June 25-26. The theme for the meeting this year was "Toward Bold Faithfulness." Plenary speakers and break-out session leaders focused on this theme as they engaged issues such as COVID-19, racism, faith formation, and many more.

Over the last year, CBF has been engaged in re-visioning project. Their work can inform our work at Farmville, so I am sharing a bit of their process with you here. In the first phase of the process for CBF, a Discovery team conducted extensive surveys and interviews to identify:

- ◆ the most powerful gifts God has given our congregations and our Fellowship
- ◆ the most urgent needs we face in congregations, in communities and in our Fellowship.

They worked from the premise that we hear God's call in the places where our gifts most enable us to respond to needs. Following this model, here are some of the important questions for us to ask as we begin our own re-visioning process.

- ◆ Who is God calling us to be as a family of faith?
- ◆ What are the most powerful gifts that God has given us?
- ◆ What are the most urgent needs in our congregation and in our city?
- ◆ How might God be calling us to use our gifts to meet the needs around us?

CBF is getting ready to move into what they call the Response phase of their re-visioning process. Now they are asking the following questions:

- ◆ How do we organize ourselves to be faithful to what we have discovered?
- ◆ What is required to sustain an ongoing culture of collaboration in CBF life?
- ◆ How can we attain a financial model that seeks the thriving of congregations and the larger CBF community?

Soon, we will be asking similar questions. How we will organize ourselves to be boldly faithful to the mission that God gives us? What will it look like to collaborate with other groups doing ministry in and around Farmville? What will a thriving financial model look like for us and how do we get there? As we acknowledged last week, change can be difficult, but it is an ever-present reality. Please continue to pray for our church, the pastoral search committee, and the new leader that God is preparing to be Farmville's next pastor. Plan to be a part of the Town Hall meetings and re-visioning process when those meetings begin (hopefully later this month). Pray about how God might be calling you to think, act, and minister in new and innovative ways. I am excited to see what God has in store.

As always, I'm on the journey with you.

Tracy

# ZOOM LOG-IN INFORMATION

If you haven't joined us on Zoom yet, here are the very simple instructions to get started.

If you are logging in via the **INTERNET** follow the below steps.

1. Go to zoom.us.
2. Click on the tab labeled "Join a Meeting".
3. Click the box that says "Meeting ID or Personal Link Name". Type in corresponding meeting ID for either Worship Service, Daily Devotions, or Wednesday Night Sunday School as listed below and click "Join".

If you are calling in via **PHONE**, you do not need to follow these steps; just simply dial +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 and enter the corresponding meeting ID for either Sunday Worship Service, Daily Devotions, or Wednesday Night Sunday School as listed below followed by #.

This information and more can also be found on our website at <http://www.farmvillebaptist.org/virtual-gatherings/>.

**SUNDAY MORNING  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
AT 11:00 AM**

Meeting ID :  
626 833 551  
Password:  
592659

**DAILY DEVOTIONS  
(MONDAY—FRIDAY)  
WITH TRACY AT  
12:15 PM**

Meeting ID :  
844 110 379

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
WITH KEN COPELAND  
AT 7:00 PM**

Meeting ID :  
271 659 616  
Password:  
688863

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

If you are able to volunteer for our upcoming services please contact Sandy Yeatts or the church office at (434) 392—5041.

## Circling the Church in Prayer

Although we are unable to gather together in person each Sunday, we still encourage you to spend each Sunday morning at 10:15am praying for our church.

During this time we pray for discernment—What is God's plan for our church? How will God use our church within our community now, and in the future?

*God honors bold prayers and bold prayers honor God!*



Join us for an in-depth sermon series focused on the Fruit of the Spirit starting Sunday, July 5th

## COVID-19 UPDATE

For the safety of our community and its members all Farmville Baptist Church events and building will remain closed. We will begin to re-gather in person for Worship starting *Sunday, June 28th* within our sanctuary, and will also continue to offer our Worship Services virtually via zoom. For specific guidelines and details on our re-gathering please visit the "On Sunday" page under the Ministry Menu on our church website ([www.farmvillebaptist.org](http://www.farmvillebaptist.org)).

Our church office has resumed normal business hours starting *Monday, June 29th*. Those hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Although the church office is open, we encourage you to call or email with any needs before visiting to ensure the health and safety of everyone is achieved through proper social distancing and sanitation.

Our church deacons and leaders will meet to re-evaluate our ability to further open our building on *Sunday, July 12th*.

Throughout this time, please know we are working hard to virtually worship, stay connected, and complete mission outreach.


Please do not hesitate to reach out via email to either [pastor@farmvillebaptist.org](mailto:pastor@farmvillebaptist.org) or [office@farmvillebaptist.org](mailto:office@farmvillebaptist.org) with any needs, questions or requests.

Thank  
you!

The church leaders would like to thank ALL those who volunteered and stepped in to prepare our church building and sanctuary for in-person worship and re-gathering.

The work produced is impressive and shows how important the health and safety of FBC's members is to all. On behalf of the church community of FBC, thank you once again.

# JULY 2020

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |   |   | <b>1</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman<br>7:00pm : Sunday School Class<br>Via Zoom with Ken Copeland                                       | <b>2</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman                                   | <b>3</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman  | <b>4</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Elizabeth Covington<br> |
| <b>5</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Ann Swanberg<br><br>10:15am-Circle the Church<br>11:00am-Worship Service | <b>6</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman                                       | <b>7</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman                                       | <b>8</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman<br>7:00pm : Sunday School Class<br>Via Zoom with Ken Copeland                                       | <b>9</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>John Harris   | <b>10</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Addison Southall                        | <b>11</b>   |
| <b>12</b><br>10:15am-Circle the Church<br>11:00am-Worship Service<br>12:00pm-Deacon's Meeting          | <b>13</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman                                      | <b>14</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman                                      | <b>15</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Janett Southall<br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman<br>7:00pm : Sunday School Class<br>Via Zoom with Ken Copeland | <b>16</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Phyllis Druen  | <b>17</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Hannah-Gray Schmidt                     | <b>18</b>   |
| <b>19</b><br>10:15am-Circle the Church<br>11:00am-Worship Service                                      | <b>20</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman                                      | <b>21</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Shirley Rickman<br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman | <b>22</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Mark Cave<br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman<br>7:00pm : Sunday School Class<br>Via Zoom with Ken Copeland       | <b>23</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman                                  | <b>24</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman | <b>25</b>   |
| <b>26</b><br>10:15am-Circle the Church<br>11:00am-Worship Service                                      | <b>27</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Virginia Rosser<br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman | <b>28</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Lindsey Davis<br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman   | <b>29</b><br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman<br>7:00pm : Sunday School Class<br>Via Zoom with Ken Copeland                                      | <b>30</b><br>Happy Birthday<br>Ebony Arauz<br>12:15pm : Daily Devotional<br>Via Zoom with Tracy Hartman |  |   |

**Notes:**

# WHAT WILL WE SEE LESS OF IN AMERICA'S CHURCHES IN THE 2020'S?



Bill Wilson | June 29, 2020

Approximately 100 days into the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to find ourselves bewildered and confused by the upheaval to our ways of life as individuals, families and congregations. It seems as though a fog has settled over us, obscuring our vision of both the present and future church.

The disorientation brought on by current events is very real. We awaken each morning wondering what new part of the ground under our feet has shifted. When we try and peer into the future, we genuinely “see through a glass darkly” and find ourselves anxious about what we may face as we endeavor to do church in the 2020 decade.

Even with all the uncertainties around and within us, there appear to be some broad truths and trends emerging that are going to define our work in the Church for the foreseeable future. Here is a tentative list of things I expect us to see LESS of and things I believe we will see MORE of as churches venture into a hazy future:

## 10 THINGS WE WILL SEE LESS OF:

1. Full-time ministry positions are going to continue to decline as fewer churches can afford the staff models of the past.
2. The days of engaging the vast majority of our parishioners in Sunday worship only are rapidly going the way of the typewriter. The virus has shown us another way, and we will need to follow it.
3. Clear boundaries between work and home/family for ministers are increasingly blurred and can lead to an unhealthy loss of life and work balance. The ensuing weariness and fatigue is a painful reality for many clergy.
4. The number of judicatory and/or denominational employees and the assistance they offer churches will continue its precipitous decline. The looming economic recession among churches will dramatically impact the amount of money passed along to denominational entities. Fewer dollars, on top of a decade of declining income for most of them, will have a devastating impact upon their staff, missionaries, agencies and institutions.
5. A significant percentage of walk-in newcomers on Sundays, which has been a primary means of contact with potential congregants, will evaporate, as fewer non-churched people feel safe in large worship events.
6. For most of the 20th century, we engaged in facility-focused ministry models. Now, with our facilities sidelined, that model has been revealed as inadequate and based upon a world that may not reappear for several years.
7. Exclusively in-person educational models, based upon popular secular education models, are in serious trouble. Just as every educational institution is rethinking its delivery system, so must we.
8. Seminary-trained program staff members will become a rarity. Many fewer people are attending seminary or divinity school, and those who specialize in a particular field (music, youth, children, etc.) are especially in decline.

9. Single-focused staff positions will become a luxury few churches will be able to afford. Most will need to wear multiple vocational hats.

10. The churches that ignore cultural context and events of the day will fade and wither as people seek a way to engage their Sunday life with the reality of the life they lead Monday through Saturday.

## **10 THINGS WE WILL SEE MORE OF:**

1. An explosion of part-time contract staff members will arise to meet the needs and opportunities of the 2020s. This will challenge us to provide on-the-job theological reflection and education for those unfamiliar with such things.
2. A 7-day-a-week model of engagement of stakeholders will become the new norm for thriving churches. We will count differently, as we realize that much of our most important work occurs on days other than Sunday.
3. Home offices, fatigue and boundary violations among clergy and their families will create a need for better guardrails and policies that speak to life as we live it in the 2020s.
4. The rise of networks of fee-for-service advisors/consultants/providers will accelerate as the void of assistance to churches and clergy left by judicatories and denominations becomes more widespread.
5. The initial engagement of newcomers will become even more focused upon an online or personal relationship, often taking place in the midst of a weekday ministry or mission endeavor. Congregations will realize the urgency of having at least one staff member or key volunteer focus exclusively upon their online presence.
6. Facilities will become less and less relevant to a church's survival and ability to thrive. Those that re-envision how to utilize their property will consider a variety of ways out of the corner we have painted ourselves into. These will include multiple tenants, sharing spaces with other congregations, seeking collaborative acquisition agreements with other churches or entities, mergers, selling unneeded or necessary real estate, etc.
7. The way of doing faith formation will lean into the possibilities that virtual ministry offers. Like most educational institutions, we will quickly pivot to doing this work in a hybrid culture of virtual and in-person settings.
8. The local church will increasingly become a vital cog in the dispensing of sound theological training, perhaps in conjunction with entrepreneurial seminaries and divinity schools.
9. Laity will increasingly lead as program coordinators and ministry facilitators, while partnering for theological content with others (see #7 and #8 above).
10. Churches will continue to awaken to the pressing call to allow the Gospel to speak to the challenging issues of the day. We will recognize that our voice must be heard if we are going to be relevant to those who are part of our church and those who surround our church.

This is today's list. I'm sure it will change as congregations and their leaders continue to find their way into a strange, new world.

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

|         |         |  |
|---------|---------|--|
| July 1  | 7:00pm  | Virtual Bible Study with Ken Copeland via Zoom—Meeting ID : 271 659 616              |
| July 5  | 11:00am | Worship Service Virtually via Zoom with Meeting ID : 626 833 551                     |
| July 8  | 7:00pm  | Virtual Bible Study with Ken Copeland via Zoom—Meeting ID : 271 659 616              |
| July 12 | 11:00am | The Lord's Supper & Worship Service Virtually via Zoom with Meeting ID : 626 833 551 |
| July 12 | 12:00pm | Deacon's Meeting following Worship Service   |
| July 15 | 7:00pm  | Virtual Bible Study with Ken Copeland via Zoom—Meeting ID : 271 659 616              |
| July 19 | 11:00am | Worship Service Virtually via Zoom with Meeting ID : 626 833 551                     |
| July 22 | 7:00pm  | Virtual Bible Study with Ken Copeland via Zoom—Meeting ID : 271 659 616              |
| July 26 | 11:00am | Worship Service Virtually via Zoom with Meeting ID : 626 833 551                     |
| July 29 | 7:00pm  | Virtual Bible Study with Ken Copeland via Zoom—Meeting ID : 271 659 616              |

|   |   |             |
|---|---|-------------|
| Monthly Financial Report<br>Through June 30, 2020 | June Receipts<br>—Undesignated—                 | \$13,073.00 |
|   | YTD Receipts<br>—Undesignated—                  | \$66,788.00 |
|   | YTD Expenditures<br>—Undesignated—              | \$54,139.88 |
|   | YTD Receipts vs. Expenditures<br>—Undesignated— | \$12,648.12 |
|   | YTD Receipts vs. Expenditures                   | \$10,029.60 |

REMEMBER YOU CAN ALSO  
STAY INFORMED BY  
FOLLOWING OUR SOCIAL  
MEDIA PAGES!

[www.facebook.com/  
farmvillebaptist.org](http://www.facebook.com/farmvillebaptist.org)




@farmvillebaptist

### DEACON FAMILY MINISTRIES

|                 |        |                  |      |               |      |
|-----------------|--------|------------------|------|---------------|------|
| Chuck Daniel    | A—Bh   | Jordan Whiley    | Dr—E | Jack Davis    | P—R  |
| Jack Davis      | Bi—Coo | Kathryn Copeland | F—L  | Chuck Daniel  | S—Tn |
| Janett Southall | Cop—Dq | Becky Kelly      | M—O  | George Carter | To—Z |

### LIFE DEACONS

Peggy Cave, Jack Davis, Jim Davis, Joyce Davis, Gene Watson, Cecil Yeatts



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