



Bronson Baker is a collegiate missionary serving through the University of Oklahoma’s (OU) Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM). Bronson leads the freshmen ministry, coordinates weekly large gatherings, and manages the ministry’s coffee shop.

“Working with freshmen is one of the most exciting and rewarding opportunities in college ministry,” said Bronson. “Helping freshmen learn to fully trust God in the midst of the chaos of their first year of college is absolutely incredible and always adventurous.”

Because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Bronson said the 2020-21 school year began with many unknowns and many opportunities to trust God.

“At the start of the school year, we had not been able to meet many incoming students, so we had no idea what we were going to do,” he said. “As a staff, we asked God to work and bring us students. When the school year started, more freshmen came around than we had ever seen. In the first three weeks we saw around 30 incoming students give their lives to Jesus! This happened only through prayer.”

Bronson said each new school year brings new challenges.

“Learning how to communicate effectively with each class that comes in is a challenge. Every class has its own culture, issues, worldview, and preference of social media. It does not matter what I can teach or tell them – it matters what they can learn. So every year is a new cycle of learning what makes the most sense to these students and how to speak to and love them well.”

Pray God would raise up laborers to reach the students at OU with the gospel. Pray, too, that God would provide support for the OU BCM staff and bring a revival to the OU campus.

\*Submitted on behalf of the WMU by Edna Stanley

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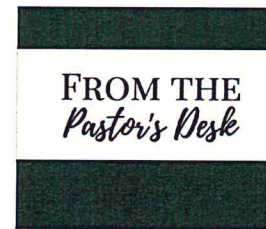
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TJ's Take

Church Family,

As Christians, we take seriously the commands of Scripture to “be subject to the governing authorities” (Romans 13:1) and to make “supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings” for those in our civil government (1 Timothy 2:1). We also certainly recognize the wonderful blessing we have to live in this nation, and we thank God for those who have given their lives in defense of our unique political and religious freedoms.

Sadly, though, oftentimes the church's allegiance to God and country have been conflated. Some consider patriotism and commitment to our nation to be part of the church's identity. The longstanding historical idea of the United States of America being a "Christian nation" suggests that to follow Christ requires an unwavering commitment to the American flag.

However, while patriotism can be a fruit of Christianity, it must never be its focus. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the sole prize and priority of the church. We put no person or thing next to the name of Jesus. The gospel is about the kingdom of Christ, not the kingdoms of men. While we are thankful to be citizens of this nation, as those who are in Christ, we must remember that our primary citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

For this reason, you may notice that we have attempted to remove any conflation of God and country. In particular, you may notice that we have respectfully chosen not to sing songs which blur these lines or to display the American flag within our worship center. Indeed, we honor the flag of the United States and all it represents. However, our allegiance is not to a flag or to a nation, but to Christ. Certainly, we honor our country. But we only worship our God.

Like our Baptist forefathers, we believe that the civil government should have no sovereignty over the Lord's church. Nor should the church seek to blend its message with the various political agendas of the age. Church and state should be distinct—and the unbelieving world should know it.

As we consider these matters, you may wonder, "Why does this even matter? Is it really that big of a deal?" According to Scripture, it does matter. Because our God is a jealous God. The very first commandment that Yahweh delivered to His people on Sinai was simply, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Therefore, to guard ourselves from potential idolatry, we are not

placing any image in our place of worship other than the cross of Christ.

At Central Baptist Church, the gospel will remain our central focus. In saying these things, we do not intend in any way to dishonor our veterans or our country. Rather, we simply aim to honor our Lord and Savior, to whom we must give an account for every word and deed.

As the pastor of this congregation, I take seriously my commitment to fulfill the duties as cited in Acts 20:28: "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." For this reason, we will remain steadfast in our effort to erect no image or idol that distracts us from the mission of the church and that takes away from the glory that our God is due

In Christ,  
Pastor TJ



## MICKEY'S MUSINGS

### Operation Inasmuch

Operation Inasmuch is focused on the entire body of Christ and provides tremendous opportunities for people to serve for the first time, families to serve together, and for the church body to come together to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Our service to the community this fall is scheduled for **August 28**. Please mark your calendars and begin praying for how God will use you in this outreach/service project.

### Children's Music

Music Makers is moving upstairs and to Sunday nights, combining with the children's discipleship program for an evening of spiritual and musical development. Sue Ellen Ballard and Leslie Morris will be leading the music activities as our children learn music fundamentals, hymns, songs, and choruses. The children will sing monthly in the church services, present a program of Christmas music in December, and conclude the 2021-22 academic year with a musical in May. All children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are encouraged to participate beginning on **August 15 at 6:00 p.m.**

### Worship Choir

The Worship Choir—open to all in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older—will begin on Wednesday, **August 11** at 5:45 p.m. in Room 205. The choir will practice every Wednesday and sing one Sunday per month during both morning services. No audition required. We are currently scheduled to sing on August 22, September 19, October 24, and November 28.

### Check-in Kiosk

Beginning this fall, we will have a check-in kiosk in the nursery hallway. This kiosk will allow parents to check-in their nursery and grade school children, print name tags, and escort their children to where they are going without having to stop at the manned stations. Of course, the manned stations will still be operational at both the nursery and at the third-floor landing for guests and to resolve kiosk issues that may arise.

### Lunch Bunch

After a long 15 months of not getting together, it's past time for our Boomers and Seniors to do it again! Let's have lunch together on **Tuesday, July 6 at 11:30 a.m.** for the lunch buffet at Giovanni's Pizza. We don't check ID's, so regardless of your age, we'd love to have you join us! Be sure to sign up at the Registration Center so we can be sure to have enough seats at the table.

Blessings, Mickey Ballard



Church Family,

First, I would like to thank everyone for the graduation cards and gifts. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your kindness and love. It definitely has been a challenging road, but with the support of my wife, daughter, family, and church family, I completed my Masters of Divinity degree.

I also want to thank everyone that has shown support for our students and children that are going to camp. The donations given have really helped in reducing the cost of camp for both groups. Everyone is looking forward for camp, and we are all excited to have an active children's and student ministry this summer. Please be in prayer for both of these groups.

Through the summer, the children's ministry will be teaming up with the student ministry from 6:00 to 7:30 on Sunday evenings. We will be having a summer filled with devotions, fun, and games. Please pay attention to the Remind App for announcements. Some Sundays we will be have messy games or games that will get everyone wet. I will send out a message in advance so everyone can prepare for those Sunday evenings.

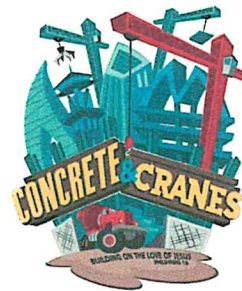
Student ministry will now be also meeting on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 for youth. I am looking forward to getting back in a routine of meeting twice a week. Thursday evenings will be just for middle and high school students. This time will be dedicated to Bible study and some fun and games.

Lastly, if you do not know by now, our Vacation Bible School (VBS) date has been changed to August 1st through the 5th. We are in need of adult leaders that want to give a few hours of their time to teach children God's Word.

VBS is an exciting time for our children not only children at CBC, but children in the community. This is a great outreach opportunity. The more adult leaders that are involved, the more opportunities we have to meet families in the community and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the registration table and you can register your child for VBS on the online church portal. Please sign up to help. This is a great ministry with an amazing opportunity to meet families in the community.

If you have any questions about any events or upcoming activities this summer, please contact the church office or myself.

God Bless,  
Jonny



Vacation Bible School  
August 1<sup>st</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>  
6-8:30 PM

Sign-up sheet on registration table  
Sign your child/children up on Church Connect



CBC Family,

We want to thank everyone that sent prayers, cards and especially the phone calls during the loss of our grandson, Brent. Thanks to Pastor TJ for the beautiful sermon at the funeral.

Brenda & Gayle Sosby & family

Dear Friends,

Blessed are the givers, blessed are the receivers. I am so blessed to have people who cared for me when I was down with my surgery. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

John Fields

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for your love, prayers, cards and food we received during the loss of my brother. What a special blessing you are to me and my family. God bless each of you.

Bette Edwards

To all at Central Baptist Church,

We thank you so much for your prayers for me before, during and after surgery. God certainly took care of me. We appreciate the cards and food as well. Thanks again for being so kind and thoughtful.

Craig and Sharon Edwards


**Average Giving Report  
through June 27<sup>th</sup>**

Year to Date Budget Giving \$237,564  
Year to Date Budget Required \$215,088  
Budget Surplus \$22,476

**June 2021**

Average Sunday School 107 Average Worship 212

# JULY 2021

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Youth Camp	2	3
4  8:00/10:45 AM Worship	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ Gio- vanni's	7 10 AM Staff Meeting	8 7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property	9	10	
No PM Service or activities		1:30-3PM Backyard Bible Club @ Clintonville Rd. Property	6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property		17	
11 8:00/10:45 AM Worship	12	1:30-3PM Backyard Bible Club @ Clintonville Rd. Property	10 AM Staff Meeting	Audio System Tuning & Training	16		
6:00 PM Youth 7:30 PM Deacons Meeting			6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property			
18 8:00/10:45 AM Worship	19	20 1:30-3PM Backyard Bible Club @ Clintonville Rd. Property	21 10 AM Staff Meeting	22 7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property	23	24	
6:00 PM Youth		<b>Children's Camp</b>	<b>Children's Camp</b>	<b>19th-23rd</b>			
25 Lord's Supper 8:00/10:45 AM Worship	26	27	28 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	29 7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property	30	31	

## Our Ministry Opportunities

**Sunday:**  
 8:00 AM - Worship Service  
 9:30 AM - Sunday School for ALL Ages  
 10:45 AM - Worship Service  
 6:00 PM - REV 3 Ministries (Youth)  
 6:00 PM - Prayer Time in the Chapel  
 6:30 PM - Pastor's Bible Study

**Wednesday:**  
 6:30 PM - Prayer Meeting

**Thursday:**  
 7:00 PM - Youth at the Clintonville Property

Church Connect can be activated by visiting  
[www.centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com/connect](http://www.centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com/connect). You can  
 also scan the QR code below with your phone's camera to  
 be directed to the link.



Central Baptist Church  
 CHURCH CONNECT