



Kevin Cox - Missionary of the week

Greg saw the flyer announcing a free lunch provided by the Christian student club on campus. Although he was a Christian, Greg felt he had strayed from his fath. He was interested in finding someone with whom he could have spiritual conversations.

During the free lunch, Greg met Kevin Cox, a North American Mission Board collegiate missionary and the two talked. Greg then began attending Kevin's weekly Bible studies, where he gained a hunger for God's Word.

"Greg started a Bible study with friends that grew during COVID to having more than 20 students involved – many not Christians!" Kevin said. "Greg is now passionate about having gospel conversations with his friends and helping them know Christ."

Kevin coordinates Christian student clubs at six colleges in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he and his family live. He also serves with The Church on Seven Hills, where he and his wife help with Bible studies, children's ministry and worship.

"Ministry in New England is about embracing both joy and pain," he said. "In order to find the one who weeps when hearing the gospel, you have to receive rejection from ten others".

"The Lord is teaching us to find greater joy in Him that we might 'consider it all joy...when [we] encounter various trials'" (James 1:2 NASB).

Pray students and their friends would come to know Jesus during this challenging season. Pray, too, God would raise up more leaders who are committed to planting a new church in the city.

*Submitted on behalf of the WMU by Edna Stanley

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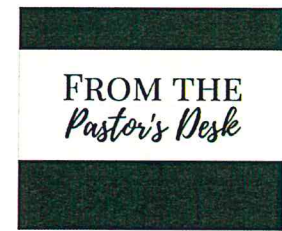
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Volume XLVIII June 1, 2021 Number 6



TJ's Take

As many of you know, by the grace of God I headed down to Texas last month to attend my graduation upon the completion of my PhD in Systematic Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I do not have the words to adequately describe the feeling of relief and satisfaction I experienced for finally finishing this degree.

When I yielded to the call to ministry that God placed on my life, I sought counsel from several pastors who encouraged me to pursue formal theological education. In 2012, I began my seminary journey with the intention of preparing myself



MICKEY'S MUSINGS

Thank you...

...just isn't enough to express the depth of gratitude we owe to you, the body of Central Baptist Church! It has truly been an honor to serve the Lord in this place for the last 10 years. The outpouring of love and appreciation at the reception on May 2 was both humbling and moving. It is a joy to serve with you and we look forward to many more years of service here in Paris.

Sue Ellen and I have truly been partners in ministry for the entirety of my 21 years as a Music and Worship Pastor. I still tease her about the afternoon we drove to Paris to meet with the search committee at the home of Carl and Alice Holoch. For several days leading up to that meeting—and reiterated on the way that day—Sue Ellen said she would serve in any way I needed her to, but she just simply wanted to be a wife and mother and that she no longer wanted to play the organ on a regular basis. During the interview, the committee pointed out that they had heard that Sue Ellen played the organ and asked if she'd be interested in doing so at CBC. I almost gave myself whiplash by jerking my head around too quickly when, without hesitation, she said that she would love to do so. Right there, on the spot, she changed her mind—a woman's prerogative, so I've been told—and I'm glad she has continued serving in that way!

Thank you...

...is also extended to Scott and Jennifer Bersaglia who led on our behalf on May 30 and to Jack Crump and Jake Ballard who will lead on our behalf on June 6 as Sue Ellen and I attend the wedding of a nephew and then enjoy some time away. Thank you for your support and acceptance of the individuals who so willingly and capably serve in our absence.

to be someone who rightly divides the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). I went to school to prepare myself to serve as a senior pastor who could lead a local church in the study and practice of God's Word. However, when I completed my Masters of Divinity in 2015, I did not sense that I had an adequate understanding of the Bible and theology to be able to help lead and shepherd a church. I knew that I wasn't quite ready in terms of my overall biblical understanding and training.

So, it was out of a sense of needing to better prepare for my role in pastoring that I sought out the opportunity to pursue the PhD. In other words, I did not aim to earn my doctorate for the accolades or a pay raise or in order to become a seminary professor. Rather, I pursued the degree in order to become better equipped to be able to serve the local church.

The academic journey over the past six years has certainly been demanding and arduous. It has taken a steady diet of late nights, early mornings, and extended study sessions. Saying "Yes" to a PhD means you are simultaneously saying "No" to countless other things.

Over the course of those years, I have gained a much deeper understanding of systematic theology and the cohesiveness of the biblical narrative. I have a much better foundation of the history of the church and the development of theology over the course of time. I have learned to think critically and have been able to read broadly. I'm thankful for the time I have been able to commit to this journey. But I'm especially thankful to be done!

I'm also thankful for the love and support you have shown me as a church family over the past year. You have prayed for me and encouraged me to keep going, even when I wanted to quit. Your support has meant more than you'll ever know. I look forward to continuing to serve our Lord together in the years to come.

And one more thing—I don't want anyone to refer to me as a Doctor. I'm still just your pastor!

In Christ,
Pastor TJ

Check-in Kiosk

Beginning this summer, 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.

July 4 Cookout

On Sunday, July 4 from 5:00p-7:00p, we will gather as a church at the Clintonville Road property to celebrate. Meat will be provided and prepared on the grill; please supply a side dish or dessert to complete the menu.

Click the link to register

<https://centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com/connect?ei=7VBFW25>

The current CDC guidance on choirs

As a church, we have held that will observe the CDC recommendations related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, I am a Life Member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), a professional organization whose mission is "to inspire excellence and nurture lifelong involvement in choral music for everyone through education, performance, composition and advocacy." In a document dated May 19, 2021, ACDA summarized the latest CDC recommendations and results from the choral/singing-specific research ACDA helped sponsor: "If everyone in your group is fully vaccinated, the CDC says they can sing inside or outside without masks and without needing to follow the other protocols of distancing, ventilation, and so on."

Therefore, if you have been fully vaccinated—or are willing to take personal responsibility for being in a singing environment without having been vaccinated—we would love to have you join us when choir rehearsals resume in August without masks. (Full Disclosure: I have been fully vaccinated.)

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 excited to have an active children's and student ministry this summer. Please be in prayer for both groups going to camp.

On Sunday evenings, the children ministry will be teaming up with the student ministry from 6:00 to 7:30 through the summer. 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. Through the summer, student ministry will be meeting on Thursday evening and Sunday evening with the children. 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 were unable to get enough adult leaders to sign up for

June 6th through the 10th, so we have moved it back to August. 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 1st through the 5th
6-8:30 PM

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



CBC Family,
Thank you so much for the kind words, encouragement, prayer, gifts, and celebration upon the completion of my degree. I never would have been able to finish without your unending support! We are so thankful for every one of you.
TJ & Chloe

CBC Saints,
Words are not adequate to convey our appreciation for the recognition of ten years at Central. We are blessed beyond measure and thank you for the monetary gifts, cards, gifts and most of all your presence at our gathering. There is nothing like the body of Christ showing love. Thank you!
In Christ,
Mickey, Sue Ellen & Jake

Dear Central Baptist Church,
Thanks to everyone for their support and prayers through the trying times this past year since mom's passing. Thank you for all the cards, prayers, phone calls and especially the donations to Hospice and to Central Baptist Church in memory of my mother. She is deeply missed. Continue to pray for me as it does not get any easier. Thanks to all who came to celebrate with us on May 8th.
Peggy Kerr, Margaret's daughter

**Average Giving Report
through May 23rd**

Year to Date Budget Giving \$194,953
Year to Date Budget Required \$179,238
Budget Surplus \$15,715

May 2021 (through May 23rd)

Average Sunday School 102 Average Worship 218

Julia Woodard
CBC Goal \$600 - Offering received \$1,045

JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	3 7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property	4	5
6 6:00 PM Youth	7	8	9 10 AM Staff Meeting	10 7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property	11	12
13 12:00 PM Dotson/Stamper Shower 5:00 PM Deacons 6:00 PM Youth	14	15	16 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Business Meeting	17 7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property	18	19
20 Father's Day No PM Service or activities	21	22	23 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	24 7 PM Youth @ the Clintonville Property	25	26
27 6:00 PM Youth 6:30 PM First Baptist hosting Gospel in every home	28	29 Youth Camp June 29th-July 3rd	30 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting			

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)
 6:30 PM - Pastor's Bible Study

Monday:
 9:00 AM - Willing Hand Quilters

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. You can
 also scan the QR code below with your phone's camera to
 be directed to the link.



Central Baptist Church
CHURCH CONNECT