



First Baptist Church of Wallace

408 West Main Street, Wallace, North Carolina 28466 -- 910-285-2534 -- www.WallaceFirstBaptist.org

"I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness." - John 10:10

Monday, July 6, 2020

Dear First Baptist Church family,

We want to share with you that our much-loved Student Pastor, Jacob Capps, will be leaving us in late August. His bride-to-be, Hope Cooper, has accepted a job in Charlotte, NC, which made it necessary for them to find a home in that area. Jacob will most likely be serving a church just outside of Charlotte. This has been a tremendously difficult reality, because Jacob dearly loves all of you in his First Baptist Church family, and had been praying that the right job for Hope would be somewhere close to Wallace. But God opened other doors. Jacob's last Sunday with us will be August 23, the Sunday before his wedding.

Jacob Capps is one of the most mature, gifted, and effective Student Pastors with whom I have worked in all of my pastoral ministry. He has set a tremendously high bar, and we are determined to reach for that high standard as we seek our next student pastor. Finding the right person is far more important than seeing how quickly we can fill that position.

But we are already seeking resumés and posting the position on ministry-related sights. While we want to be picky, we will not be dragging our feet.

In the interim period:

I will be forming a team of people to carry on our student ministry, to provide the fellowship, fun, and spiritual guidance that have been characteristic of Jacob's leadership. Some of you will be receiving a call asking you to consider being a part of this team.

We will also be working to keep our Children's Ministry Team ramped up and strong, because today's children's ministry lays the groundwork for much of tomorrow's student ministry.

Our Personnel Committee will meet soon to organize for the search process. This is the group that will be examining resumés, interviewing, and ultimately finding the best candidates. Our procedure in the past has been to bring the best candidate(s) here to First Baptist Church to let the students meet them, to have them actually lead the students, and then get feedback from our students, parents, and leaders before offering the position to anyone.

We also plan to have a gathering of students, parents of students, and the adults who have been or will be engaged in leading and assisting with our student ministry. At this gathering, we would like to get your feedback about the issues most important to you in our student ministry and the leader we are searching for.

We ask for your prayers, your faithful participation to keep this ministry strong, and your input regarding how we're doing... until we find that leader God has already prepared for us and for our amazing students.

Finally, we have already booked our Student Summer Retreat for 2021. It's at Garden City again, and will be June 21-25 which is the week following Father's Day. Jacob Capps has agreed to serve as our "guest leader" for that week. So, students and parents, reserve that place on your calendar now! It will be a powerful week of spiritual growth and fun, and also a wonderful reunion.

God sent an amazing leader our way when Jacob joined our staff. The circumstances of life now call him to the next part of his journey, and call us to trust that God can "do it again" as we wait on Him and listen for His voice.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Alan Thompson, Senior Pastor