



# SoundFourth!

## Weekly Newsletter

### A Word from the Director

Choir Family,

*"Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him."*

~ Luke 2:25-33 ~

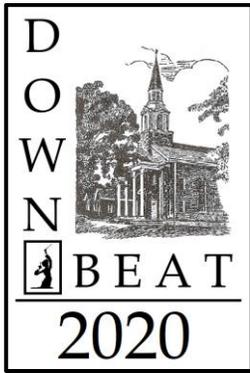
Simeon is a character we only hear a small bit from in the Scriptures, but the role He plays in the story of Jesus points us to a similar moment in the Old Testament in the person of Moses. Both men have the same revelations made known to them directly from God – they will see the salvation that God gives, but they will move into eternity before experiencing it. Moses leads the Israelites to the edge of the promised land, but he knows he will not enter. In the same way, Simeon knows he will see the Messiah, but will not be there for the Messiah's life. How did each of them take this news? Both seem to show joy in the task that they know God has set them. They know that God has tasked them to wait, and to take joy in the waiting while doing the other tasks that God has set them to do.

What do we gather from these examples today? I think we see two things. First, we, like these two, are finding ourselves waiting for the day of salvation and resolution – for the day that we crest the hill and see the end of this COVID experience and end up back to whatever normal will be. This is our current situation and prayer. We see from the example of Simeon that his reaction indicates that the coming of the Messiah had been on the forefront of his mind for a very long time. Likewise, we find ourselves preoccupied for the resolution of our situation. Second, however, we see that these two men were joyful in what they had, using what they had, and doing the work that God set before them at that time. Moses prepared the next generation of leaders and tried to lay the groundwork for what God would have the Israelites do next. Simeon worked in the temple as a faithful servant to the Lord.

As we wait for the day when life will return to "normal," let us continue to serve God even now in the ways we can, and wait for the day when we can return to our church campus and serve in the ways we had been used to as well as the new ways that He is guiding us to. This could not come to us at a more appropriate time than where we are in our church history! Let us embrace change and faithful following of our Savior as we continue onward in our pastor search! As the old hymn says *"Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene - one step enough for me."*

May we take the next step in this time of waiting in faith and joy!

In His Service,  
Braxton



### Announcement

At this moment, we are waiting for the movement to Phase 3. The current date for that decision comes on September 11<sup>th</sup>, so at this time we will continue to play on returning to rehearsals on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-2pm as a kickoff to our fall and Christmas music! More information will be coming to you all soon!

### Announcement

I have heard from a few of you about the potential switch to Wednesday night at 6:30pm, and I cannot wait to hear even more from you all about your opinions! Remember our potential new schedule:

5:30 – Dinner

6:30 – Bible Study, Children’s & Youth Activities, and Sanctuary Choir

This new schedule would enable anyone interested in choir to join our group and have something for every age group! For those of you who engage in a study and choir normally – we would record the Bible study so that you and others can engage with us online. I want to hear from you. Please call me at the office of the church or email me to talk with me about this development. We, as a body of faith, desire to be a place where everyone can use the gifts that God has given them without a hindrance, and we believe that this solution can work for everyone so that everyone who wants to serve through music can, but in order for that to happen, however, I need to hear from everyone on their opinion! I can’t wait to hear from YOU!

### Update on Our Website!

Our website and the way in which our church interacts online is changing day by day as we go through this time in our lives! As such, I wanted to remind you all that we have our own choir page! This is a place where I can update you all on events & repertoire as well as post the choir newsletter and keep up a calendar of all we have going on! Here’s a guide as to how to log-in!

1. Go to our website at [www.fbcsmithfield.org](http://www.fbcsmithfield.org)
2. Scroll down on the main page and click on “Music & Worship Ministry”
3. Scroll down to the button on that page that says “Choir Login” and click it.
4. Log-in with the password “fbcchoir”

### Prayers & Praises

- Pray for **Lori & Delbert Garrison** as they mourn the loss of Delbert’s brother, **Rob**. Pray for peace and comfort for them and their family.
- Continue to pray for all who are being affected in health and financially by the coronavirus.
- Pray for the leaders in our church and in other churches as they continue to make decisions generally and in relation to the virus – may God give them His mind and Spirit to guide them.

Do you have a prayer request or praise?

Do you know of someone who has needs in this time?

If you know of any prayer needs or people who need help in this difficult time, please email it to Braxton at [braxton@fbcsmithfield.org](mailto:braxton@fbcsmithfield.org) so that it can be known for everyone to address!

*He answers prayer!*