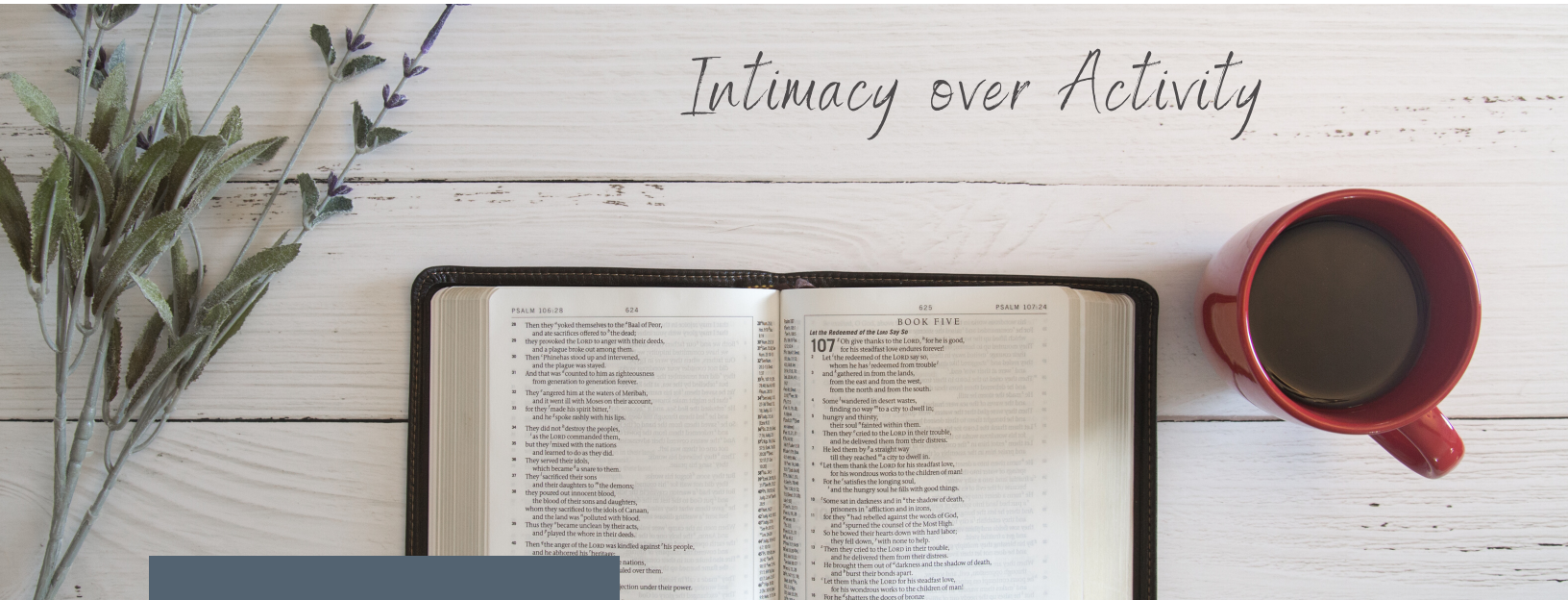


# CATAWBA FOCUS

Monthly Newsletter of Catawba Valley Baptist Church



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## WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

### Walking in Wisdom

Dear friends, the recent days have taught us much about what it looks like to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. It is in the absence of *activity* that you discover God's called you first-and-formost into *intimacy* with Him. In a society that offers highly polarizing views of the circumstance we are in, the Scripture clearly offers you and I a higher plain of living - a path of wisdom. The book of Proverbs tells us, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*" (9:10). Wisdom for living is found in a life that *fears* the Lord and walks blamelessly before Him. The Christian does not merely navigate days like these with *optimism*, but by clinging "to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61: 2). True wisdom is not found in the *opinions* of others, but in *intimacy* before the Almighty, seeking His understanding. In these days, God has taught us to value intimacy over activity and to remember what's truly important. The Scripture tells us, to number our days - to evaluate our days - that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. Godly wisdom is at odds with pride, arrogance, and fear; yet those are many of the responses fueling the situation we are in. Let's humble ourselves before the Lord, fear Him and experience the peace of following our Good Shepherd on the path He has laid out for us. Praying for you much in these days! - Pastor Aaron Mansfield

# WHERE WE LAND

An upcoming podcast for God's glory and our good

What started out as a temporary substitute for our in-person midweek services turned into an ongoing opportunity for broader outreach and ministry.

Our live Bible study, "At The Table," premiered on Facebook every Wednesday night. We were blown away by how well this new format was received. As Pastor Aaron and Pastor Stephen neared the end of the study, they saw an opportunity to bring a podcast to life - an idea that began long before quarantine changed our ministry methods. Though challenging in many ways, the coronavirus provided the time necessary to dive deeper into ways to increase our church's outreach, even when the COVID-19 restrictions lift.

Enter *Where We Land: Christ, Culture, and the Church*, a new podcast that exists to educate, equip, and guide believers through some of the challenging and confusing topics in our daily life. The Church exists now in a time like none other in history. Our global technology and colorful cultural landscape have produced an environment for broader reach of the Church, but at the expense of the having a clear understanding of why we believe what we believe. Ignorance, emotionalism, tradition, and apathy have become the informants of our beliefs, instead of the solid rock of Truth - God's Word. This is the mission of *Where We Land*: to teach followers of Jesus how to think, not what to think. From leaning in to the character of Christ, to navigating through cultural issues, to understanding fundamental doctrines of the church, *Where We Land* will help you find the light of Truth to discover where you land.

In addition to our two pastors, we'll have another voice joining for weekly broadcasts. Our administrative assistant, Morgan McClure, will be bringing another perspective to the table. The season trailer is set to release on June 4th, which will function as an introduction to some of the topics ahead, as well as a time to get to know the three co-hosts a bit better. Episode 01 will premiere the following Thursday. In keeping with our Facebook following, we will be premiering a video recording of our episodes, and the audio podcast will drop on Apple Podcasts, as well as our website, Friday mornings.

Our prayer for *Where We Land* is that it will be a useful resource for believers at any stage of their walk with Christ, that it will be a tool for God's glory, and our good. Stay tuned for the first episode- we can't wait to see what the Lord will do!



# Summer Schedule

Looking ahead to our summer ministry

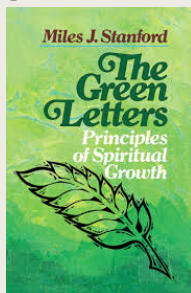
## Connection Gatherings - Equipping Together

Connection Gatherings are already underway! This is an informal setting in which we are becoming equipped to better read and understand scripture. Our study is entitled "Jonah: distancing from God's direction." These take place twice a week, Sundays at 4:30pm and Wednesday at 6:30pm until July 1. Please remember to attend only the session you signed up for online. We will also be streaming the Wednesday sessions on Facebook Live and releasing the audio file online Thursdays, for those who are unable or uncomfortable attending gatherings at this time.

Now - July 1



July 8 - August 12



## Adult Bible Studies

The men and women's adult Bible studies will begin on July 8 through August 12, and will take place on Wednesday nights. During these meetings, students are welcome to join their parents as there will be no youth meeting on Wednesday nights. Childcare will be provided pending the state phase progression.

## IncrediWorld Virtual VBS

Due to health restrictions, VBS will be held virtually from July 12-15. The "IncrediWorld" VBS videos will be released every night at 6:30pm on Facebook. There will be a virtual lesson each night, along with a puppet show, crafts, songs, and more! Volunteers are still needed, so please contact Justina Anderson if you would like to sign up!

July 12-15



July 27-August 1



## Teen Adventure Camp

We will be taking our 7th-12th graders to wild and wonderful West Virginia July 27-Aug 1 for adventure camp! Accommodations will be at Appalachian Bible College in Beckley, WV. This camp includes several exciting opportunities, such as white water rafting. Then, Thurs-Sat we will attend the Student Prayer Advance. If your teen has earned a camp scholarship, the camp cost is only \$50! Contact Pastor Stephen for details!

## Junior Camp

Junior camp is being held the week of Aug 3-7 at Camp Eagle! This camp is for kids ages 8-12. Pastor Stephen will be the guest speaker for the week. Kids will enjoy outdoor activities, games, and a wonderful opportunity to grow in the Lord. Contact Pastor Stephen for more details!

August 3-7



# CONNECTING THE DOTS

## Keeping up with the Jones' (and Collogans too.)



Sara went to Camp Eagle in June 2019. She met several friends that went to CVBC and Pastor Stephen. She came home telling me how she wanted to go to VBS and see them all again. Sara and Jackson both went to VBS and would come home so excited to go back the next night. I attended on Parent's Night and was amazed by the love I received by everyone. We already had a church I had been at most of my life and were not looking to switch.

The next day following Parent's Night I had a overwhelming sense of peace and felt God calling me to go visit CVBC on a Sunday. We visited in August and once again were greeted with the genuine love of Christ. After prayer and time, we decided to become members in October 2019. Sara and I joined the choir and I started helping in Cubbies and Sparks. I also volunteer in the nursery. Sara loves her youth group and the boys have loved meeting new friends. We talk often how it's different than any other experience as everyone makes us really feel like we are part of the family. Sara and Jackson were both baptized in December 2019. It has been amazing to see God move in our lives since coming to CVBC. Our hearts are so grateful that God a plan to lead us to CVBC even when we had no idea.

-Reneé Collogan

We had recently left a very large local church and were visiting my parent's church. It was a loving congregation, but very little activity for kids, youth or young(ish) adults. My sister Reneé was telling me how her kids really enjoyed their time at CVBC VBS, and she had the chance to chat with some people, there. She felt it to be a warm and welcoming church, that aligned with our beliefs in God's Word. She had prayed about it and wanted to visit. In talking with her, I decided to try it out with her.



I remember our first Sunday. Honestly, Sam and I found the drive from west Salem to be a little long and curvy, but after our first visit, that drive didn't matter at all. From day one we felt welcome, known and loved. That was August of 2019. We began attending regularly. Sam got involved with the youth right after Christmas, and we joined on Feb 26, 2020. I have gotten involved by serving in Cubbies & Sparkies. Before the pandemic, my son Luke (a college student), and Sam and I had just gotten involved in Doc Mason's life group. CVBC has been a huge blessing in our lives. From Christmas caroling to shut-ins, serving in AWANA, Sam's involvement with the youth, Wild Game Dinner, and the countless sweet friendships we have made, we have no doubt that CVBC is our family. We love you guys!- Courtney Jones

## SPECIAL DATES

**A complete list of current online services and ministries may be found on our website at [catawbavalleybc.org](http://catawbavalleybc.org)**

**June 27**

**MANSFIELD BABY SHOWER**

**July 12-15**

**INCREDIWORLD VIRTUAL VBS**

**July 27-August 1**

**TEEN ADVENTURE CAMP**

**September 16-20**

**MISSIONS CONFERENCE**

**October 8-10**

**COUPLES RETREAT**

**October 28**

**TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

**KNOW GOD DEEPLY FOLLOW GOD BOLDLY**

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**WE GLORIFY GOD BY OBEYING HIS MISSION AND MAKING HIM KNOWN HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD**