

Greetings WBC'ers,

At the very core of who we are as a local fellowship rings this refrain: "we exist to glorify God." Since 2013, our vision statement has been: By the power of the Holy Spirit, through new life in Christ and communion with the Father, **Waxhaw Bible Church exists to glorify God.** An integral part of this existence is the communication of the Gospel. Jesus commissioned us, His Church, to carry Him and His ways to our community and to the world. In Acts 17:24-28 we are reminded that our existence here in Waxhaw, in the 21st century, is not by accident:

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and boundaries of their habitation, that they would see God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His children.'

With that in mind, as we've developed our posture over the past several months with prayer, wisdom and counsel, we thought it pertinent to communicate our goals and intentions as we continue to re-open the campus.

As we've said before, and as you are all certainly aware, it is challenging to decipher the information we receive regarding Covid-19 because much of it, if not all, has been clouded by agendas and political leanings, one way or another. We are currently being told that "community spread" is upon us. Yet, community spread does not preclude us from fulfilling our mission to communicate the Gospel, disciple the body of Christ, and display the love of Christ to the world around us. To be clear, considering the way viruses spread throughout a community (homes, grocery and retail stores, etc.), it is unreasonable to think that we could prevent any further transmission. What is reasonable, and what has become our goal, is to do our best to minimize the spread within our fellowship while continuing to fulfill our vision and call.

So, as we continue to re-open, we continue the following posture:

1. Honor and glorify God in all we do.
2. Honor our governing authorities until they ask us to dishonor God.
3. Be respectful and responsible with our gathering:
 - a. Encourage 65+ and immune-compromised persons to join in via livestream.
 - b. Expect anyone who has been exposed to the virus or is showing any symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, etc.) to refrain from gathering.
 - c. Maintain a clean and safe campus environment.
 - d. Encourage appropriate physical distancing, face covering when distancing not possible, and keeping hands sanitized.

While this virus has caused considerable inconvenience for all of us, please keep in mind that it has caused much more inconvenience for some than for others. We may not like wearing masks, not shaking hands, and keeping our distance from one another when attending in-person, but there are some in our church family who have not been able to attend in-person since March 8th. Others have not attended for fear of taking the virus home to at-risk loved ones. You may not see the need for the precautions, but we all need to keep in mind what the Apostle Paul told the Philippians: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4). Even though it may be inconvenient, this virus has provided a wonderful opportunity for us to take that to heart and to put that into practice.

We love and appreciate each and every one of you. We pray for you often and covet your prayers as we continue to navigate these uncharted waters.

With love in Christ,

The Elders of Waxhaw Bible Church