

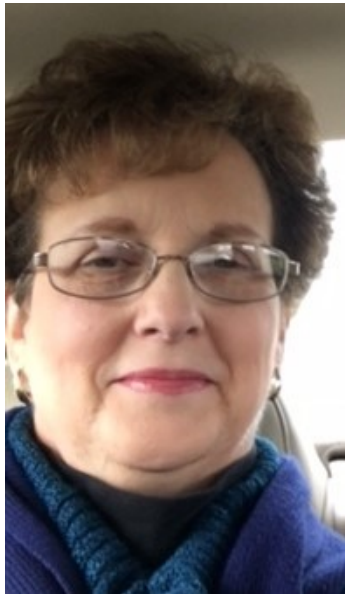
Show Me Your Glory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRFIELD

February 2017

There is No Stage 5

Sometimes best known as Raymond's Mom, Carol Vaughn is an unassuming, quiet, and faithful presence in our church family. Carol recently celebrated a birthday that is made more significant knowing the path that she has walked.



"I never thought I would be a cancer patient," Carol says, but she very quickly became one in April 2015. Her journey through cancer is one that has taught her so much about control, acceptance, and trust. Carol was diagnosed with a HER2 type breast cancer which was already at stage 4 before she knew it, and she shares, "there is no stage 5."

She immediately thought, "who is going to take care of Raymond?" She has a wonderful partner in her husband, Roderick, but as a mom, there is a natural fear that someone won't do things "like I do or like I would want them to be done." Basically, what she found was that she had an overwhelming desire to be in control of the situation, but had to accept that she was not.

The treatment for Carol's cancer was chemotherapy, which was conducted along side other cancer patients. As she completed that portion of her treatment plan, she didn't

need to have surgery or radiation. She continued to work through the chemo treatments and learned to "slow down and take one day at a time."

As the chemo treatments were completed, Carol had another PET scan to check the status of the cancer. Saying that she is grateful to God is inadequate to describe the "overwhelming gratitude" discovering that scan found nothing there. But with that joyful news came a tinge of sadness. Thoughts of "why am I more special," began to filter through her mind. She sat beside many others in treatment who would not be as fortunate as her in the outcome. Just this week she was saddened to hear of the passing of one of those ladies. While it brought out feelings of unworthiness and undeserving, it also reminded her that there is a reason for everything. God continues to reveal what her purpose is, she reminds us, "He sees something in us that we don't ever see in ourselves."

Carol had the support of her family, her church family, and her work family to walk along with her. But there were complications in that support. With his autism, Raymond doesn't have the typical response and understanding of what this disease meant. So, it is hard to know how to help him, but she reminds us, "God made Raymond just as he should be, and I wouldn't trade him." Carol was also struggling with her Mom's deteriorating health.

As her Mom's mental condition began to fail, she wasn't able to support Carol in the fashion she would have years ago. That created another emotional struggle for Carol. So, the support of others became necessary in this time. Having a child with special needs, Rod and Carol have developed like many other special need parents a "self sufficient" mind set that makes receiving help hard. This experience has taught them to be more accepting of help and more aware of paying it forward to others.

Originally from the Mt Erie area, Carol grew up with her parents and brother and sister in a small country church not far from her house. She became a Christian as a young girl there, and she joined FBC as a member a few years ago.

For a quiet unassuming personality, she did have a bold streak years ago. She tells a story of calling up Rod to ask him out based on the

recommendation of her parents. She had never met him, but took a risk, and it worked out well for them.

Carol continues to be in a treatment study for cancer. She takes a Herceptin treatment every three weeks for 90 minutes. She still isn't in control, and she is okay with that.

Carol credits the fact that, "God has allowed me to accept and trust." She doesn't sit around and ponder what will happen next; she knows that is fully in His hands.

*You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forever
more. Psalm 16:11*

What a blessing to see the way God is working in Carol's life. Audio transcript is available on fairfieldfbc.org

Praise Team Part 3 —Sheila Tomberlin (continuing series)



“It is about the Lord and Savior that I worship, He is worthy of whatever musical offering we give.”

Sheila Tomberlin has been singing as long as she can remember. She sang in children's choir as a 4 or 5 year old, with "Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs, and Fireflies" being the first production she remembers performing.

Sheila and her older brother David both share a love of music and spent countless hours together listening, practicing, and performing. A self proclaimed music geek, she remembers her brother checking out the scores of Handel's Messiah from the library so they could sing the different parts and play their instruments to it as well. Sheila is a gifted flutist.

Sheila loves music, she has appreciation for all styles of music. With worship music, Sheila stresses, "the importance of the song in worship is the lyric."

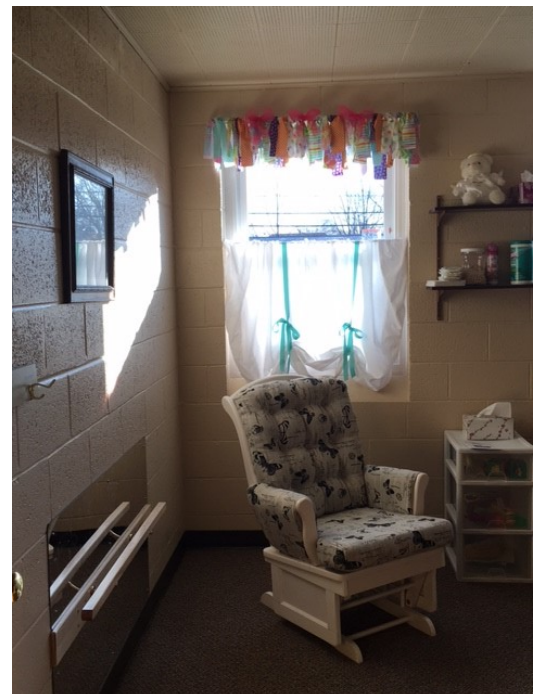
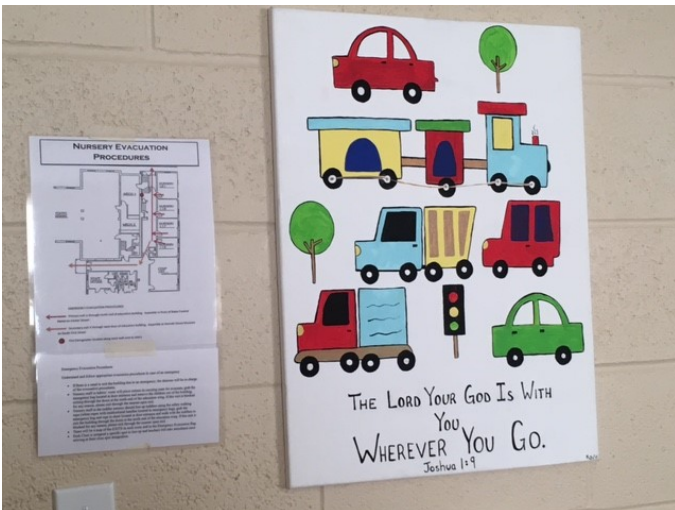
We are very blessed to have Sheila as part of our praise team. Thank you for your faithful service.

*My heart is steadfast, O God! I will
sing and make melody with all my
being! Psalm 108:1*

Nursery



We are thankful for all the families and children we have in the nursery. The picture above features many of the children and families that were present for the nursery dedication day. We are also very thankful for the labor of love that went into the nursery remodel from the painting, lighting, decorating, planning, and prayer. We are blessed.





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Sermon Broadcast on WFIW 1390 at 10:45 each Sunday

How Firm a Foundation

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

*In every condition, in sickness, in health;
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
As thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.*

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*Even down to old age all My people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;*

*And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.*

*The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.*

In 1787 Dr. John Rippon published A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors. Among these original hymns was the title "How Firm a Foundation."

Perhaps the most noteworthy and appreciated feature of this hymn is how closely it resembles the words of the Bible itself. Consider, for example, how stanza 3 echoes Isaiah 41:10:

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*Fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

<http://www.challies.com/articles/hymn-stories-how-firm-a-foundation-free-download>