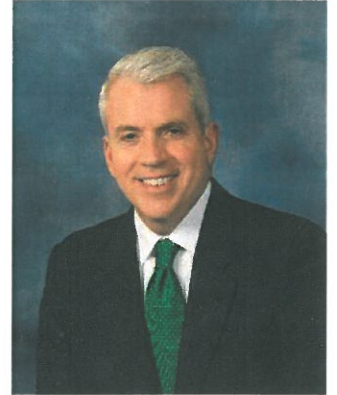


Remarks for David's 15th Anniversary

Fifteen years ago, a man came to CBC and we are all the better for it. This man, John David Turner, first came to us as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation, a post he held through March 2005, when he was called as Senior Pastor. His commitment to Christ and his vision of what Central could and can achieve and how it could and can be a welcoming place for all of those who seek, have touched our lives in countless ways. These include:



- A steady pattern of membership growth which includes the addition of young families
- An exceptionally strong, well-prepared ministry staff with sound stability that reflects a high degree of shared vision and teamwork
- A visioning process that resulted, among numerous accomplishments, in an endowment initiative and a new neighborhood mission with Providence Elementary School
- Advocacy and leadership for restructuring the staff to provide for an enhancement of family ministry marked by coordination of youth and children's ministries and missions initiatives
- Leading Central to a robust relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and CBF Virginia, having served both organizations in a variety of rolls including that of moderator, CBFV; serving on the board of the Baptist Today magazine, and hosting the first Mission Madness
- Being elected to the board of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond and enriching us through interns from BTSR
- Continual improvements in our facilities including the sanctuary renovations, the prayer room, the new parlor, and the soon-to-arrive porte cochere

We have each been beneficiaries of David's calming presence and his beautiful pastoral spirit which has been manifest in both celebration and loss. He has recently extended that pastoral spirit into the community through his volunteer work with the Chesterfield Police Department.

One of the greatest gifts that David has brought to Central is, through his remarkable way with words, the messages he brings. These are messages that are alive with hope and with love, and most importantly, messages that challenge us and cause us think in new ways about what it means and what it looks like to be the presence of Christ in our community and the world.

It seems enough to celebrate that David is simply the person who he is, and what he has accomplished in this place, but wait.....there's more. He is now the second longest serving pastor in the history of Central Baptist Church. What a milestone.

So, David, we thank you for the amazing embodiment of servant leadership that you have brought to us and for your loving spirit which has touched us in countless ways.

-Doug Cox, Chair of Personnel Committee