

MAY 2, 2024

*First Baptist Church of Eatonton*

# Messenger

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE WITH ALL



## FROM THE PASTOR

I've shared this Billy Collins poem before, but it says so well what the Wednesday night prayer group has been doing called *Lectio Divina*, a.k.a. divine reading, devotional reading, spiritual reading of scripture. I hope you will read slowly and reflect what this teacher of poetry and writing says. Try to imagine doing these things – waterski across the surface – with the Holy Word. The poem reflects what he hopes for students of poetry –

### **Introduction to Poetry**

I ask them to take a poem  
and hold it up to the light  
like a color slide  
or press an ear against its hive.  
I say drop a mouse into a poem  
and watch him probe his way out,  
or walk inside the poem's room  
and feel the walls for a light switch.  
I want them to waterski  
across the surface of a poem  
waving at the author's name on the shore.  
But all they want to do  
is tie the poem to a chair with rope  
and torture a confession out of it.  
They begin beating it with a hose  
to find out what it really means.

Source: Billy Collins in *The Apple that Astonished Paris* (University of Arkansas Press, 1996).

As Billy Collins hopes for students of poetry I hope for students of scripture. May we be filled with such grace.

Peace,  
**Craig**

**P.S.** – What beautiful work has been done on Tuesdays with the gaggle of goslings shared with FBC each Tuesday for the past several weeks. I look forward to their presence and leadership in Sunday's worship, and even more so to the life they continue to share with us. May they and their families be blessed with joy and strength! Thanks to the many volunteers and our gifted "Pastor Dylan."

# “YOU SEE FLOWERS IN THESE WEEDS”

Summer is quickly approaching! The signs are all around. Grass is growing and needs to be mowed. More and more bugs are out buzzing, especially the cicadas this year! The dandelions have started to burst out of the ground. To most people dandelions are weeds. They are annoying and are very hard to get rid of, but to most young children they are beautiful flowers that make wonderful gifts. I am reminded of this each week after the Children's Choir, as the children hand me dandelions and clover flowers. This reminds me of a piece of wisdom shared with me by a retired children's minister: Weeds are just plants that we have not found a use for yet.

A weed is the term we use for unwanted plants. This says a lot about our perspective. Why do we value green grass over yellow fields of dandelions in our yards? Our dislike of dandelions says more about us than it does the plant, and I think there is a spiritual lesson hidden somewhere in there.

I am not the first one to notice this. There was a Christian band in the late 90's/early 00's called Five Iron Frenzy that sang about this in one of their songs appropriately titled Dandelions. The song begins with telling a simple story, that nearly every mother has experienced. A young child picks dandelions to lovingly give as a bouquet to his mother. The mother treasures these flowers, putting them proudly on display in a vase. In the chorus the lead singer crones, “She sees love where anybody else would see weeds.”

In the next verse the song pivots to God. After singing about God's greatness and mercy the song lyrics question: “Where do I fit in this puzzle, what good are these gifts? Not a martyr or a saint/ Scarcely can I struggle through/ All that I have ever wanted, was to give my best to you.” The song concludes: “Lord search my heart/ Dandelions- You see flowers in these weeds.”

When it comes to putting our faith into action, one of the reasons why we do not is because we are left wondering what kind of difference we will actually make. We see only limited results, we see minor drops in a bucket, and we see what we think amounts to nothing more than weeds. However, dandelions are a reminder that not all weeds are useless. I know it is an unknown song, but Five Iron Frenzy was onto something. When we seek to make disciples, nurture disciples, transform the world, and serve God in love then God sees beautiful flowers. God sees love and obedience where others might see weeds.

In the kingdom of God there are no weeds, there are just people that have not found their purpose yet. I feel assured that whenever we humbly and earnestly seek to serve God, then God does see flowers in the weeds.

Blessings,

*Dylan*

## ARE YOU GRADUATING?

If you have a student graduating from high school or college and would like them to be recognized in our graduation service on Sunday, May 19, please contact Rev. Dylan Bowden by May 5.

## ARE YOU GRADUATING?

If you have a student graduating High School or College this spring and would like them to be recognized for our Graduate Sunday on May 19, please contact Rev. Dylan Bowden or call the church office by Sunday, May 5.

Join Us For  
**GRAD  
SUNDAY**  
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!  
May 19, 2024



# *“If You’re Happy and You Know It”*

*If you’re **SAD** and you know it, pray to God,  
If you’re **MAD** and you know it, pray to God;  
When you’re **BAD** and you know it, then your prayer will surely show it,  
When you’re **GLAD** and you know it, pray to God!*

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, God tells us to pray without ceasing. People who study human emotions tell us that they can be summarized with just four short rhyming words: sad, mad, bad, or glad. For Sunday’s unofficial Children’s Day, I’m adding this new verse to “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

Our Children’s Choir, led by Dylan Bowden and volunteers, will sing, and our young’uns will help lead other parts of our worship. JuBELLation bell choir will accompany “O Worship the King” and later play “What Wondrous Love Is This” as our Offertory.

Part of our Pastor’s sermon is based on Psalm 139 that tells us that God knew us even as He was wonderfully knitting us together in our mothers’ wombs, down to the smallest detail. We will respond to this miracle with Tommy Walker’s 1996 hymn, “He Knows My Name.” It beautifully reflects Psalm 139 when it begins, “I have a Maker, He formed my heart; even before time began, my life was in His hand.” It’s going to be a memorable worship service!

This semester is fast coming to a close, both for school children and for our Choir and Handbells. Sunday is JuBELLation’s final activity until the Fall, and our Choir will take a break after they sing “Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me” on Mother’s Day and “Total Praise” on May 15. Of course we will still be worshiping musically during our Summer Semester, so I am especially open to suggestions for “specials.”

Last Thursday’s Jubal Ministries concert at Johns Creek Baptist Church in Alpharetta was truly a “foretaste of glory divine.” It is now viewable at [JubalJCBC.com](http://JubalJCBC.com). It was announced at this concert that our next Jubal Ministries mission trip, in October 2025, will be to **CUBA**, our 4th closed-to-missions Communist country after Russia, China, and North Korea!

**SONS OF JUBAL** - May 9, FBC Jonesboro, Preludes begin at 6:30

**JUBALHEIRS** (ladies) – May 10, Bethany BC, McDonough

**SURGE Music Camp** – June 17-22, Shorter University; 3 simultaneous camps on the same campus for students who have completed grades 3 through high school. Registration is open, and scholarships are available. See me for details.

*John Cotten*



## **Worship Concert**

**Thursday, May 9**  
**7:00 p.m.**

PreService Instrumental Music begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Jonesboro First Baptist**

142 College Street 30236 • 770-478-6710

No Charge.  
A Love Offering  
Will Be Received.

Presented by  
**Jubal**  
Ministries



## **Worship Concert**

**Friday, May 10**  
**7:00 p.m.**

PreService Instrumental Music begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Bethany Baptist, McDonough**

4 North Bethany Road 30252 • 770-957-4455

No Charge.  
A Love Offering  
Will Be Received.

Presented by  
**Jubal**  
Ministries



# PCO GOLF TOURNAMENT



## 2024 Caring Hands & Loving Hearts Charity Golf Tournament

Click Here To Learn More,  
Register and Donate

May 4 | Uncle Remus Golf Course

*A great golf outing, many great prizes  
and most of all A GREAT CAUSE*

## PUTNAM CHRISTIAN OUTREACH GOLF TOURNAMENT

To Register for the golf  
tournament please visit,

<https://www.pcoicare.com/>

## LADIES EVENTS

### *JULIET LADIES LUNCH*

All the ladies are invited to lunch  
on Tuesday, May 7th at  
Saltwater Fishery in Dublin.

The bus will leave the church  
at 10:30am. Contact the church office  
to sign up by Thursday, May 2.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

### Ladies Night

THURSDAY, MAY 16TH  
AT 6:00PM

AT KIM CAMP'S POOL AREA

DINNER, DESSERTS, LAUGHTER AND MANY  
BLESSINGS WILL BE PROVIDED

CONTACT KIM CAMP TO SIGN UP

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER WILL LEAD US IN  
A GREAT NIGHT. AFTER A LIFE CHANGING  
INJURY, ATLANTAN TRICIA PATTERSON IS  
A PARAPLEGIC KNOWN AS "CHICK IN A  
CHAIR." SHE WILL SHARE THE NUMEROUS  
WAYS HER BELOVED LORD HAS HELPED HER  
OVERCOME OBSTACLES IN HER LIFE  
INCLUDING LIFE IN HER CHAIR.



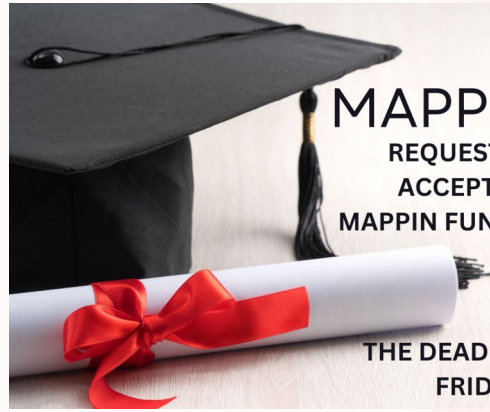
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Baptist Church Office  
will be closed on May 27

REMEMBER & HONOR  
**MEMORIAL  
DAY**



**CHOIR'S LAST SUNDAY  
BEFORE SUMMER BREAK**  
Sunday, May 19



**MAPPIN FUND**  
REQUESTS ARE BEING  
ACCEPTED FOR THE  
MAPPIN FUND SCHOLARSHIP.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS  
FRIDAY, MAY 31

# SUMMER EVENTS

**SUMMER BREAK**  
**NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
ACTIVITIES**  
STARTING MAY 29TH



**JOIN US THIS SUMMER**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH EATONTON  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JUNE 9 - 12**  
**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**



**Camp  
Firelight**  
A SUMMER CAMP *Psalm 56:3*  
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTEATONTON.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTEATONTON.ORG)



**SURGE MUSIC CAMP**  
June 17-22, 2024



Shorter University  
Elementary, Middle, and High School Students  
Registration Now Open - Contact John Cotten for details.

# MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	2 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	3	4 Putnam Christian Outreach Golf Tournament
5 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	6	7 10:30am JULIET Ladies Lunch in Dublin	8 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	9 <b>ASCENSION DAY</b> 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary 7pm Sons of Jubal at FBC Jonesboro 7pm Stepping Stones Graduation	10 7pm Jubalheirs at Bethany Baptist Church, McDonough	11 Gatewood School Graduation
12 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	13	14	15 LAST WEDNESDAY 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	16 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary 6pm Finance Meeting 6pm Ladies Night at Kim Camp's	17	18
19 <b>GRADUATION SUNDAY &amp; PENTECOST</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	20	21	22 6pm Fish Fry	23 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	24 Putnam County Schools Graduation	25
26 <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	27 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Church Office Closed	28	29	30 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	31 Mappin Fund Application Deadline	



# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR MAY

Steve and Robin Benton

## USHERS FOR MAY

Steve Benton, Head Usher

Randall McCook

Steven Prance

Cooper Rainey

Charles Winslette

## DEACON FOR MAY 5

Mike Faulk

## DEACON FAMILIES

Russell Davis Family

Julia Davis

Clyde Harper Family

Julie Harper

Gaye Lankford

Bill Sharp Family

Jill Vaughan

## DEACON FOR MAY 12

Jim Hall

## DEACON FAMILIES

John Bankston

Barry Chambers Family

Jeff Davis Family

Chad Davis Family

David Stickley Family

Jimmy Williams

# BIRTHDAYS

05/02 - Jene Etheridge, Bill Sharp

05/03 - Lisa Tubbs

05/04 - Luceil Harrison, Betty Pinholster

05/06 - Tommy Copelan

05/08 - Sheryl Hall

05/12 - Lois Schell

# ANNIVERSARIES

05/06 - Barry and Nancy Chambers

05/08 - George and Felice Dissmeyer

05/16 - Tommy and Amy McElhenney

# WELCOME

We welcome Stew Rich to the membership  
of First Baptist Church.

# THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

I'd like to thank you for the sweet note, gift and flowers you recently shared with me for Pastor's Wife Appreciation Day. I was quite surprised!! Your generosity is like a gigantic hug for me and I hug you back! I have actually allowed Craig to shop with me at TJMaxx. :)

It is always affirming to know that you are seen, heard and understood and that is as important to me as any gift, but the giving is part of what shows me you see and accept me, so thank you. Thank You for loving us and being family to us!

Love, Catherine

# WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, April 21 115

Sunday, April 28 120

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## APRIL 21, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$6,755.00

Budget Needs YTD \$163,208.96

Budget Receipts YTD \$171,775.94

## APRIL 28, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$7,365.75

Budget Needs YTD \$173,409.52

Budget Receipts YTD \$179,141.69

First Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 3400  
Eatonton, GA 31024  
Return Service Requested



# FISH FRY



**Wednesday, May 22  
at 6:00PM**

**Call the church office to RSVP  
by Wednesday, May 15**