

JUNE 6, 2024

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

VBS begins this Sunday – so I thought I would let the VBS theme lead the preaching. It starts this way:

Vacation Bible School
has been the rule
for so long for Baptists.
It'd break their wrists
to do anything else in June,
even if it brought you a big Juneboon

So here we are. Another June
thinking what crazy loons
all will be after the heat, the kids, the long days
before we run away for some beachy laze.

This year, someone said let's call VBS
"Camp Firelight,"
and learn about the Lord of light!
Who do they think they are foolin'?
You gonna light a fire when June calls for coolin'?

But "Camp Firelight" it is because we like light
and are scared of the night.
Scared, afraid and in trouble
somebody found a verse that puts us in a bubble.

Join us Sunday to find out how this tale ends. And to hear the lessons you might review with the children each day in your private devotions. Your light may be lit. And it may challenge you a bit!

Peace,
Craig

In Psalm 56:3
An old poet who wrote a Psalm was madder than
a hatter.
He wrote some lines when he didn't know what
was the matter
He fusses for part of the time, cries out in fear
only to find himself remembering the Lord is near
Trust in Yahweh
even when you think there is no-way,
to get through the night,
that seems such a fright.

But what else is a person gonna do
When you can't ring Aunt Mary Sue
or reach Uncle Lou
But trust in a God named Yahweh
Who claims to know Thee-way?

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I was reading through some articles this last week and came across one that a friend of mine wrote and that I thought you may all like too. So, enjoy! -Dylan

“For the last few weeks in worship, we have been exploring God’s mysterious gift of the Holy Spirit. On the last Sunday in May, the Holy Spirit is identified as a member of the God-Head, the Trinity, and I will once again try to explain the unexplainable.

I am reminded that in the early church, Celtic Christians chose, not the dove, but the wild goose as a symbol representing the Holy Spirit. It sounds strange to us, but it has a long tradition in Ireland. While the Roman Church imagined the Holy Spirit in the form of a peaceful, graceful dove, the Ancient Celts understood the Holy Spirit to be like a wild goose. When you hear of the Spirit descending like a heavenly dove on you, you hear harps and strings softly playing and get a peaceful feeling. The image of the Holy Spirit as a dove has become so familiar and domesticated an image, we pay little attention.

The image of a wild goose descending upon you is a different matter altogether. A wild goose is one noisy, bothersome bird. I like this image of the Holy Spirit as a wild goose because it jars us out of our complacency. We need such an image to correct our overly safe and overly sweet image of the Spirit. One preacher friend asked, “How many times can you sing ‘There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place’ without your blood sugar reaching diabetic levels?”

When the Spirit comes in the Bible, it never seems to be sweet or safe. God’s Spirit called the prophets to speak to Israel in words that were bold and sometimes dangerous. Ezekiel saw a vision of God’s Spirit blowing through a valley of dry bones and bringing them to life. John the Baptist dressed in camel’s hair and eating wild locusts proclaimed, “I baptize you with water but he who comes after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Paul gave this advice to young Timothy, “For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:6-7).

Neither safe nor tame, the Spirit inspired Paul to proclaim, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28).

It was this wild Goose that Jesus referred to when he preached his first sermon and quoted Isaiah, saying, “For the Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of God’s favor” (Luke 4:18).

The Holy Spirit empowers the church to be the agent of change in the world, a counter-cultural entity. The task of the church is to breathe in the Spirit and be inspired by the Spirit to act on behalf of God. But the church has been waiting to exhale far too long. As the Spirit of God flows into us, it also ought to flow from us in the way we treat one another, the way we speak to one another, in the way we treat others in our community, in the way we live out the new life we receive when we accept Jesus Christ as Lord.”

Dylan

EVER IN JOYFUL SONG!

In 1869, our country was still in the painful recovery from the Civil War when the great blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby penned, **“Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!**

Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim... Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song!

That is what our first Summer Choir of 2024 will do this Sunday. We’ll practice in the Choir Loft at 9:00 am. We’ll wear summer attire, no robes. (Sorry, no Speedos, Harris!) People don’t have to be Choir or church members or even adults to join us. Our anthem is *“Ever in Joyful Song.”* It opens and closes with an exciting but easy fanfare, sandwiching Crosby’s old gospel hymn, #354 in our hymnals.

We’re kicking off Vacation Bible School this Sunday. Both our music and sermon reflect the VBS theme verse, Psalm 56:3, *“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”* We will sing classic hymns like, *“Be Strong in the Lord”* and *“Leaning on Jesus,”* but also a couple of today’s favorite worship songs, *“His Mercy Is More,”* and Phil Wickam’s *“Battle Belongs.”*

We have two more Summer Choir Sundays before our Fall Semester kicks off. On July 7 we will sing Matt Redman’s *“10,000 Reasons,”* and on August 4 it’s the Southern Gospel favorite, *“Moving Up to Gloryland.”* Come sing with us!

Surge music camp is next week, on the campus of Shorter University. We’ll have two students there this year, Wyatt Wojtas and Van Wells. I am blessed once again to be teaching and handling some administrative duties.

Yes, it’s still early Summer, but plans are already being made for this Fall, including our adult and children’s choirs, handbells, and the 16th annual *“Christmas on the Avenue.”* As always, I welcome your thoughts or suggestions.

“O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” Psalm 95:1-2

BlesSings!

John



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR JUNE

Randall McCook

USHERS FOR JUNE

Mike Reagin, Head Usher
Don Baker, Tim Camp,
Hollis Harrison, Jim Ryan

DEACON FOR JUNE 9

Susan Davis

DEACON FAMILIES

James Cheney Family, Edge Farley Family,
Mabel Hicks, Guerry Key Family,
Jesse McMillen Family, Betty Sills,
Roger Vining Family

DEACON FOR JUNE 16

Edge Farley

DEACON FAMILIES

Jene Etheridge Family, Don Masson Family,
Karen McGinnis, Steven Prance Family,
Cooper Rainey Family, Mac Rainey Family,
Andrea Welch

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

SYMPATHY:

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family of Gary McElhenney in his passing.

OUR MEMBERS:

Sylvia Cheney, Joni Dixon, Norman Holle,
Scott Sharp, Janice Turner, Nell Wright, Unspoken

FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Darren Alford, Nancy Banister, Lynn Butterworth,
Rainey Collis, Gloria Covington, Doug Hall,
Cami Jackson, Billy Joiner, Charles Joiner, Dale Joiner,
Nancy Joiner, Pam Lacey, Bill Lee, Everett Marsh,
Red Marshall, Eleanor Moye, Sheryl Murphy,
Rebecca Rocker, Walt Rocker Jr. Stephen Sharp,
Linda Stowe, Will Thompson, Leigh Ann Willis

ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOME

& HOMEBOUND:

Mary Jo Balas, Jo Ann Clay, Maxine Godin,
Luceil Harrison, Mary Ann Heath,
Gaye Lankford, Sug Walton

MISSIONARY FAMILIES:

Trey and Kaitlyn Lancaster in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
Matt and Michelle Norman in Catalunya, Spain

BIRTHDAYS

06/04 - George Dissmeyer
06/07 - Barry Chambers
06/08 - Barbara Giddens
06/10 - Harrison Harper
06/14 - Peggy McMillen
06/16 - Pam Thompson, Tom Thompson
06/18 - Laura Thompson
06/20 - Steve Marshall

ANNIVERSARIES

06/07 - David and Leslie Peebles
06/09 - Don and Pat Turney
06/15 - Terry and Phyllis Blanton
06/15 - Victor and Kay Stevens
06/16 - Cooper and Marie Rainey
06/17 - Marvin and Annette Franklin
06/20 - Stew and Ashley Rich

THANK YOU

To My Church Family at FBC Eatonton,

Thank you all for the beautiful flowers you sent during the difficult loss of my brother. I'm forever grateful for the calls, texts and continued prayers during this difficult time. I'm so blessed with such a wonderful church family.

Love,

Brooke McMillen Family

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, May 19</u>	<u>111</u>
<u>Sunday, May 26</u>	<u>98</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY 19, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$9,837.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$204,011.20</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$216,263.79</u>

MAY 26, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$7,411.50</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$214,211.76</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$223,675.29</u>

JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	3	4 6:00pm VBS Volunteers Meeting	5	6 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	7 7:30pm Movie Night	8
9 8:30am Deacons Meeting 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 6:00pm VBS	10 6:00pm VBS	11 6:00pm VBS	12 6:00pm VBS	13 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	14	15
16 FATHER'S DAY 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	17 Surge Music Camp	18 Surge Music Camp	19 Surge Music Camp	20 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary Surge Music Camp	21 Surge Music Camp	22 Surge Music Camp
23 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	24	25	26	27 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	28	29
30 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship & Communion 12pm 5th Sunday Lunch						

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS

**FAMILY
MOVIE
NIGHT** FREE
ENTRY

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7
AT 7:30PM
ON THE FRONT LAWN**

POPCORN, HOTDOGS, CHIPS AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED.
BRING CHAIRS OR A BLANKET



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 9 - 12
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTEATONTON.ORG



5th Sunday
Lunch

JUNE 30

The church will provide the meat, tea and bread. Please bring casseroles, vegetables, salads, and desserts.



**COMMUNION
SERVICE**

**SUNDAY,
JUNE 30**

