

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

As I read Howard Thurman I was reminded of the necessity of goodness for the sake of goodness. One of the things for which I pray, is that school, church and community school students to move beyond simply the reward-punishment model to recognize the good of goodness. I pray both political and religious leaders grow to recognize the good of goodness.

Thurman notes “from early childhood we are drilled in the experience of expecting to be rewarded because we are good and punished because we are bad.” He recognizes the question persists through a lifetime,

“Shall I be good because of some reward,  
Because the virtuous act pays dividends?”

At beginning levels of decision making and law keeping the answer is simply, “Yes!” However, as people mature from childhood there is the hope people would not always be so childish in their reply to this question. As Thurman states, “There is a wide area of human experience in which we are involved directly in the category of reaping and sowing. We cannot escape the logic of this part of the moral law. Individuals as well as nations do reap what they sow.”

But there is also another step involved in human development that is crucial to human existence. And that is the deepening conviction of the good of goodness. Jesus certainly embodies this greater maturity. And he teaches the good of goodness as a part of the Gospel!

Thurman writes:

It is not enough to be good because of some reward, because the virtuous act pays dividends. The virtuous act may or may not pay dividends. In the last analysis, people cannot be persuaded to be good because of the reward either here or beyond this “vale of tears.” People must finally come to the place in their maturity which makes them do the good thing because *it is good*. Not because is it a command, even a divine command, but because the good deed, the good thought, the good life is in *itself good*. This is the strength of the good deed – that it is good. When this is our awareness, then the whole matter of reward and punishment, approval and disapproval, becomes strangely irrelevant. Shall I be good because of some reward, because the virtuous act pays dividends? No! I shall be good because it is *good*.

May it be so among us! May school students mature to be good because it is *good*! May our political and religious leaders do the same!

Peace,  
*Craig*

# A GOOD STEWARD OF TIME

I am excited for all our children and youth activities to begin this fall. Our youth will kick off another year together on Wednesday, August 14th at 5:30pm and our Children's Choir will begin on Tuesday, August 20 at 3:00pm. Please note that there will be a Children's Ministry Meeting for all parents and volunteers on Tuesday, August 13 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a time for parents and volunteers to talk about plans for the fall. Please if you are able to come and be a part of this meeting, I would greatly appreciate it! We have many exciting things planned for our children and youth this fall that you do not want to miss.

As August has now suddenly fallen upon us, I'm shocked by the simple reality that summer is just about over! Yes, some of us are trying to squeeze in that one last vacation or get outside for just a few more minutes. But at least in part, we've started to transition back into the swing of our fall routines. How has this happened? Wasn't it just yesterday we fished the opener, planted our garden, or celebrated someone's graduation? And I was just getting used to the longer days when the sun was showing its bright face.

I once heard from a counselor that time seems to pass more quickly as we get older because we're experiencing fewer "firsts." When we're continually experiencing new things, time tends to stand still while we're living them. After we've repeated those events numerous times, they don't faze us much anymore — and before we know it, months have passed, seasons have changed, and it's time to start the annual cycle again.

Yet, we should not allow our time to be something that simply evades our grasp, trickling through our fingers. After all, time itself — every moment on this earth — is a gift from God. We each have 24 hours today and seven days this week to use however we please.

At the end of this summer, we have an opportunity to reflect on how we used our time these last few months. Did we set aside time to pray? Have we taken time to serve others? What time have we given back to God?

When we assess the use of our time, we must make a spiritual examination — "Have I been a good steward of the time given to me?" Maybe now is a good time to make some changes in our lives and get more involved. There is no better time than right now to seek out ways to serve God in our community and those around us. This is what it means to be a good steward!

As the lazy days of summer give way to the routine and activity of fall, remember to keep God in your hearts, in your minds, and on your lips as we continue serving and worshipping together.

*Dylan*





# NOTEWORTHY

Eight years ago, I had been comfortably retired from full time ministry for several months when Keithen Tucker called and asked if I would come lead musical worship for First Baptist Eatonton for a couple of weeks until you could find someone suitable as your next Minister of Music. I happily agreed, but I'm beginning to think you guys are dragging your feet! Thank you for your gracious love and support. I love each of you, and I love serving our Lord with you!

Whether it's 2021's *"I just want to speak the name of Jesus"* or 1886's *"I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ Who died for me,"* that's always been my goal - to use a wide variety of music to help my fellow believers to worship, and to encourage them to boldly proclaim that it is in Jesus that we live and move and have our being. In His name and presence we find grace, healing, freedom, peace, transformation, power and purpose.

## OUR MUSIC MINISTRY IS SOON BEGINNING OUR FALL SEASON:

- Re-Choir – Wednesday, August 14, 6:00 pm. Our Choir kicks off with a preview of music we will be singing in the coming months, including *Christmas on the Avenue*. This is the very best time of the year to start singing with us!
- Children's Choir, K4-5<sup>th</sup> grade, begins Tuesday, August 20, 3:00-4:30 pm.
- Our regular Choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, August 21 at 7:15.
- Pianist Extraordinaire Jeff Cleghorn will lead our worship on Sunday morning, August 25.
- *JuBELLation*, our handbell choir, begins anew on Sunday, September 8 at 1:30. We would love to welcome new ringers!
- *Christmas on the Avenue*, 2024 Edition, will be Sunday, December 8, at 6:00 pm in the Great Hall of Eatonton First Methodist Church. Our first Combined Rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 11, 7:30 pm at First Methodist.

**YES, I'LL SING, RING, AND PLAY THE WONDROUS STORY!**

*John*



**Re-Choir!**  
**Wednesday, August 14**  
**6:00pm**  
**Choir Room**



**CHOIR**  
**Rehearsals Begin**  
**Wednesday,**  
**August 21**  
**7:15pm - 8:30pm**  
  
Contact Rev. John Cotten  
for more information.

# STEPPING STONES CHRISTMAS IN JULY THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity during our Christmas in July fundraiser. We so appreciate you coming along side of us to help with our needs. We are proud to be one of the premier daycares in this area. Other points of pride are the children we care for, that come from such varied backgrounds. One of our new board members was surprised to learn of the foster children that attend. You also may not have realized that. Some of our families are churched, some are not. We take it as a sacred trust to be asked to mentor all of our children with the love of God. Because of you, and our church, we have been here as a local mission field for 25 years this year. A mission field because we plant seeds in these young lives, seeds that we ourselves may never see come to fruition. We trust God to handle the watering and fertilizing.

**“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? AND HOW ARE THEY TO BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD? And how are they to hear without someone preaching (teaching)?**

Romans 10:14

*Sincerely, Denise Carmichael  
Stepping Stones Director*



## STEPPING STONES IS HIRING



### We are Hiring!

As our summer help returns to school, we are seeking to bring on a new team member! If you possess the following qualifications, we would be delighted to hear from you; if not, we can collaborate with you to meet the necessary requirements.

- TCC/CDA
- CPR/First Aid Certified
- Experience

**If you have a love for working with children and sharing the teachings of the Lord through them, we welcome you to visit our office or contact us at**

**706-485-0690.**

## STEPPING STONES NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

**We are seeking volunteers to lead our WEE WORSHIP and SWAG WORSHIP.**

If you are musically talented, want to share a Bible story, pray with our children, make a fun craft, or share a missionary experience, please contact Denise or Brenda at 706-485-0690.

Below is a picture of Robin Benton sharing with our children during WEE WORSHIP





# 2024 - 2025 SCHOOL PRAYER RIDE



## *Putnam Primary, Putnam Elementary, Putnam Middle, Putnam High, and Gatewood*

God, grant wisdom and understanding to the **public officials, school boards, superintendents, administrators** and more who are juggling so many concerns and challenges for this coming school year. Shower them with creativity and clarity in all of the work they must do... *SILENT PRAYERS*

Lord, please have mercy on the **parents and other caregivers** of students who face difficult situations and schedules. Help those who must juggle the task of providing for their families and their children's need for education. Bring order out of confusion and hope from despair... *SILENT PRAYERS*

Heavenly Father, help **students of all ages** in the coming days, weeks and months. Encourage those who suffer from a lack of social interaction. Empower those who need help with online learning. Encourage those with special needs. And please keep them all safe and healthy while they learn... *SILENT PRAYERS*

Lord, you know the situations faced by **teachers and staff** at this time, some of whom must enter the front lines, others who must learn new ways of teaching, and still others who must cope with personal struggles and uncertainty. Please come to them and strengthen them, granting fresh ideas and a renewed passion in their workplaces and work challenges... *SILENT PRAYERS*

God, hear our prayers for school system personnel facing even more challenges than usual in their lives and livelihoods: **custodial staff, cafeteria staff, bus drivers, and others.** Provide for the unemployed and under-employed. Help those who are struggling. Grant relief to those who are overworked and encouragement to those who are overwhelmed... *SILENT PRAYERS*

For all of the above, Lord, please protect and preserve them physically, emotionally, and mentally. Keep them safe and healthy; increase their strength and stamina now and in the future, in Jesus' name, AMEN.

# BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Thank you to Stepping Stones, Dylan and others who put together our Back to School Bash.  
What a great way to kick off the new school year!





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US FOR...

## Juliet Ladies Lunch

AUGUST 15  
SOUTHERN PROSPECT  
WATKINSVILLE

THE BUS WILL LEAVE THE CHURCH AT 10:30AM  
Call the Church Office to Sign Up Today!

## 2025 DEACON NOMINEE & CHURCH CONFERENCE

THE 2025 DEACON NOMINEE LIST IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE FOR UP TO 12 NOMINEES IN THE CHURCH CONFERENCE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 18.

Contact the church office for more information.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER



### BEGINS AUGUST 21 AT 5:30 PM

Adults - \$9 Children - \$5 Family Max - \$28  
CALL TODAY TO RSVP TO OUR PERMANENT LIST

## Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

BEGINS AUGUST 21  
AT 6:15 PM  
IN THE SANCTUARY



# CHILDREN'S CHOIR

It's already that time! Time to register for our Fall Children's Choir! Our theme this year is, "We Are God's Masterpiece!" We will gather after school each Tuesday from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Transportation is available. This program will include a story and lesson, snack, choir practice, and recreation. Choir will start on Tuesday, August 20, 2024! If you've any questions please reach out to Dylan in the Church Office. Please sign up with the link here: <https://form.jotform.com/233315894421153>

First Baptist Church

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Begins Tuesday, August 20, 2024  
3:00pm - 4:30pm  
K4-5th Grade  
Register on our website today!



GROWING in grace

## We Are God's Masterpiece



CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS...  
EPHESIANS 2:10

# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR AUGUST

Charles and Shelia Patten

## USHERS FOR AUGUST

Mike Lyons, Brandon Cardwell, Howell Cardwell,  
Mike Faulk, Frank Thompson

## DEACON FOR AUGUST 4

Jim Ryan

## DEACON FAMILIES

Howell Cardwell Family, Sherri Farmer Family,  
David Giddens Family, Luke Harvey Family,  
Harris McCollum Family, Ed Ricketson Family

## DEACON FOR AUGUST 11

Cooper Rainey

## DEACON FAMILIES

David Dixon Family, Pam Douglas,  
Jim Howell Family, Mike Lyons Family,  
Charles Patten Family, Glenda Ridley,  
Ed Self Family

# INTERCESSORY PRAYER

## OUR MEMBERS:

Sylvia Cheney, Joni Dixon, Jack Ferrell,  
Norman Holle, Gwen Ralston, Kyle Ralston,  
Thomas Ralston, Scott Sharp, Janice Turner,  
Nell Wright, Unspoken

## FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Darren Alford, Nancy Banister, Lynn Butterworth,  
Rainey Collis, Gloria Covington, Amy Crowe,  
Doug Hall, Cami Jackson, Billy Joiner,  
Charles Joiner, Dale Joiner, Nancy Joiner,  
Bill Lee, Everett Marsh, Red Marshall,  
Lisa Morgan, 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

08/01 - Jack Cardwell, Lisa Herndon, Joan Barclay  
08/03 - Cary Walton  
08/04 - Brandon Cardwell  
08/05 - Mark Smith  
08/06 - Rhett Rich  
08/07 - Marsha Lutz  
08/08 - Susan Davis  
08/11 - Gene Adams  
08/12 - Eleanor Rocker  
08/13 - Mabel Hicks  
08/15 - David Heath

# ANNIVERSARIES

08/04 - David and Joni Dixon  
08/09 - Mac and Libby Rainey  
08/09 - Sonny and Janice Turner  
08/15 - Joe and Paula Rossee

# WELCOME

We welcome Bridget Borders as our  
Part-time Children's Minister!

# WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, July 07</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Sunday, July 14</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Sunday, July 21</u>	<u>112</u>
<u>Sunday, July 28</u>	<u>118</u>

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## JULY 07, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$13,779.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$275,415.12</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$279,657.04</u>

## JULY 14, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$9,050.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$285,615.68</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$288,707.04</u>



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



## A BLESSING FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

ARISE TODAY BLESSED BY ALL THINGS,  
WINGS OF BREATH, DELIGHT OF EYES,  
WONDER OF WHISPER, INTIMACY OF TOUCH,  
ETERNITY OF SOUL, URGENCY OF THOUGHT,  
MIRACLE OF HEALTH, EMBRACE OF GOD.

MAY YOU LIVE THIS DAY COMPASSIONATE OF HEART,  
CLEAR IN WORD, GRACIOUS IN AWARENESS,  
COURAGEOUS IN THOUGHT, GENEROUS IN LOVE.

- ADAPTED FROM JOHN O'DONAHUE'S MATINS