

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

Joyce Rupp has been a recent re-connect of mine. I've been reading her as a part of my devotional readings. Her entry is *The Face Reveals the Soul*. She recalls Irish author John O'Donohue who relished the beauty in others:

"In the human face, the anonymity of the universe becomes intimate ... The face is the mirror of the mind ... Each face is a particular intensity of human presence. When you love someone and are separated from them for a long time, it is lovely to receive a letter or a phone call or even, in the silence of your own spirit, to sense their presence. Yet there is such deeper excitement when you return again and see the face you love; at this moment you enjoy a feast of seeing. In that face, you see the intensity and depth of loving presence looking towards you and meeting you ... The human face is the subtle yet visual autobiography of each person. ... The face always reveals the soul; it is where the divinity of the inner life finds an echo and image. When you behold someone's face, you are gazing deeply into his or her life."

Rupp reminds us of the blessing from the Old Testament book of Numbers. The blessing asks, "the Lord make his face to shine upon you" or as another translation says, "the Lord turn his face toward you."

Rupp challenges us, to turn our faces toward others. Look at the variety of faces among which you live. "Open your mind and heart to their invisible stories and the journey of their souls. Find joy and solace in the recognition that a spirit drenched in divine goodness rests at the core of each person whose face you observe ... And then, rejoice that God's face is shining upon you."

Also, as teachers and students prepare to return to the classroom, lift them up in your prayers. Send the students and teachers you know a short text or card, encouraging them in their vital tasks as they resume the school rhythm. Send a card to one of the local schools to post on their office bulletin board that offers blessing and love for the task ahead of everyone in the school. Through the missions committee our church sends each school a monetary gift to be used as needed for students who show up inadequately prepared for class.

May students, teachers and staff be blessed with the hopes of another beginning.

May patience abound, for themselves and others.

May joy be ignited as they work together.

May the faces, and the souls behind them be nurtured.

Peace,  
*Craig*

# A GREAT WAY TO END THE DAY

## Evening Prayer . . . A Great Way to End the Day!

Last month, I mentioned how praying Luther's Morning Prayer is a great way to start the day. A sweet friend here at FBCE after reading my June article, asked me if there was also an evening prayer, and if so, could I share it with them? Well, Luther did in fact also write an Evening Prayer that could be a great way to end the day! If you are unfamiliar with Luther's Evening prayer, it reads as follows:

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

As Christians, we never know what a day is going to have in store for us when we wake up. However, when we are going to bed at night, we can think back on the day and know exactly how that day went. It could have been a good day, or the opposite could have been true. We sinned against God, we commit errors against each other, even our health may have taken an unexpected turn. We could have had a very bad day!

So, there we are going to bed at night with a bad day in our rear view mirror. What do we do with that? Are we lying in bed stewing over what we did, and what we didn't do? Are we laying there staring at the ceiling with regret thinking, "If only I had said that just a little bit differently." As we are unable to sleep, are we thinking about what tomorrow is going to bring, afraid it might be worse than today?

What I love most about Luther's Evening Prayer is not only do we ask God to forgive us of any sins we committed that day, but even more so, we pray this, "For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things." As we are preparing to close our eyes and rest for the night, we are resting not just into a bed, but even more so, we are resting in the loving embrace of our Savior Jesus Christ who will always be with us and who always offers to us His peace. In this prayer, we are literally saying to Jesus, "Forgive me of my sins, turn the troubles of this life from troubles into blessings, and allow me to receive a rest that you and you alone can give."

There is truly no greater way to rest at night, than to do so knowing we are always resting in the arms of our loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Dylan**



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PARENT AND VOLUNTEER MEETING

Tuesday, August 13  
at 6PM  
in the Fellowship Hall

# MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

*“He has given me a new song to sing,  
a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see what he has done and be amazed.”*

Psalm 40:3 NLT

One of the main reasons we take time in worship to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is to highlight what God has done in the past and what He is still doing today. That’s why we pause for a moment before singing to consider the *why* of what we sing, not just the *what*. It’s not wasted time, but a brief reminder of the very reason we sing. “Many will see what he has done and be amazed.”

It may be mid-July, but we are looking ahead to what God has in store for us this next semester. Here are some musical highlights.

**Sunday, August 4** – Summer Choir gets together at **9:00am** to sing the summertime favorite, “*Moving Up to Gloryland*.” Everyone of every age is welcome to join us! We’ll not wear robes, and we will sit in the congregation after this song.

**Wednesday, August 14, 6:00pm** – Re-Choir! This is our kickoff to the new season, and our first look at the music for *Christmas on the Avenue*.

**Tuesday, August 20** – Children’s Choir resumes, under the direction of Dylan Bowden. (See his article for details.)

**Wednesday, August 21, 7:15pm - 8:30pm** – Choir Rehearsals resume. We have an exciting mix of music from both past and present to prepare.

**Sunday, August 25** – Our worship will largely be led by Southern Gospel pianist extraordinaire, Jeff Cleghorn.

**Wednesday, September 11** – Our first Combined *Christmas on the Avenue* rehearsal.

**Sunday, December 8, 6:00 pm**, First Methodist Church – *Christmas on the Avenue!*

Among our hymns for this Sunday is Hal Hopson’s 1972 setting of the first verses of I Corinthians 13, known as the Love Chapter. “*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*” May our singing this truth remind us, as will our Pastor’s sermon, that our actions speak our love and compassion louder than our words. Another song puts it this way, “*They will know we are Christians by our love.*”

Let the redeemed of the Lord sing so!

*John*





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EATONTON & STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER WILL HOST A

## back to school

**BASH**

**JULY 28TH 6-8PM** **FREE EVENT**

COME JOIN US FOR:

HOT DOG DINNER	WATER SLIDES
KONA ICE	JUMP HOUSE
FREE HAIR CUTS	BABY POOLS
GAMES	DUNKING BOOTH

**FREE BOOKBAGS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE!**



**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

**WITH OUR STEPPING STONES MINISTRY**

If you feel led in your heart to donate to our ministry you will find our tree located in the Narthex. All checks can be made to Stepping Stones.

**GOD BLESS AND MANY THANKS!!**

## 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>

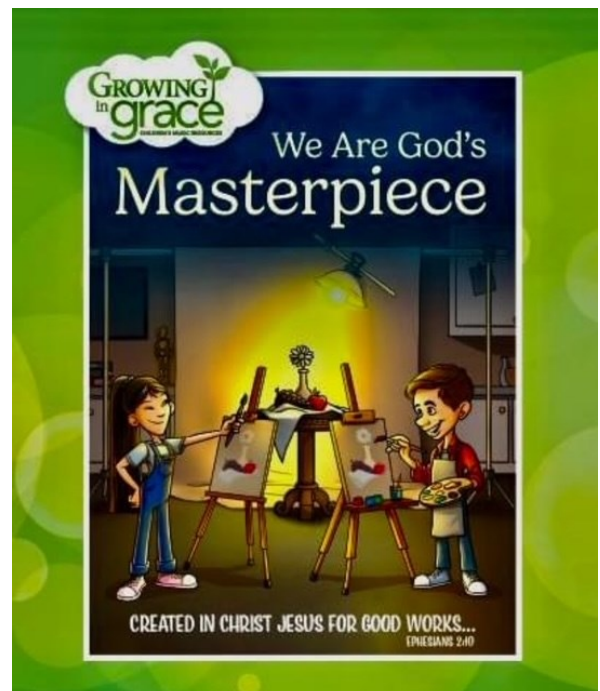


First Baptist Church

# 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 JULY

Clayton and Pam Lancaster

## USHERS FOR JULY

Cary Walton, David Giddens, Scott Joris,  
Ben Leverette, Jesse McMillen, Charles Patten

## DEACON FOR JULY 21

Laura Thompson

## DEACON FAMILIES

Mary Jo Balas, Tasha Cannon Family,  
George Dissmeyer Family, David Lutz Family,  
Kay Stevens Family, Faith Thomas, Beth Willis,  
Karen Willis Family, John Wojtas Family

## DEACON FOR JULY 28

Jesse McMillen

## DEACON FAMILIES

Helen Benshoof, Kent Duffey Family,  
Mike Faulk Family, Hollis Harrison Family,  
David Heath Family, Bill Kitchen Family,  
Scott Sharp, Patrice Underkofler

# INTERCESSORY PRAYER

## OUR MEMBERS:

Sylvia Cheney, Joni Dixon, 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, 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

07/20 - Dylan Bowden  
07/22 - Lanier Harvey  
07/30 - Jesse McMillen, Steven Prance  
07/31 - Tripp Rich  
08/01 - Jack Cardwell, Lisa Herndon, Joan Barclay

# WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, June 30 119

# FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 30, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$7,788.75</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$265,214.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$265,878.04</u>

# WE ARE HIRING

WE ARE  
**HIRING!**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
EATONTON  
115 N. MADISON AVE  
EATONTON, GA 31024

## *CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT*

### Job Qualifications:

- Demonstrate a personal Relationship with Jesus Christ
- Experience in Christian Service & Worship
- A Heart for Teaching and Working with Children
- Outgoing, Friendly, and Approachable
- Organization Skills
- Effective at Written and Oral Communication
- Team Player, Flexible, Collaborative, and Self-Motivated

### Job Requirements:

- Must Pass a Federal Background Check
- Lead & Coordinate Sunday Morning Children's Church
- Help Plan and Coordinate Quarterly & Summer Children's Ministry Activities
- Assist in Planning and Running Annual Vacation Bible School
- Additional Duties Related to Children's Ministry as Needed

### Reports To:

Senior Pastor & Associate Pastor

### Position Status:

Part-Time

\*\*\*Please email any questions or resumes to:

revbowden@gmail.com

ATTN: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASST

# WEDNESDAY NIGHTS



**WEDNESDAY  
NIGHTS  
ARE COMING!**

**BEGINNING AUGUST 21**

5:30pm - Supper & Fellowship  
6:00pm - Youth Group  
6:15pm - Adult Bible Study



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

# PRAYER RIDE FOR OUR SCHOOLS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST  
10:00 AM

FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY  
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

We will gather around the flagpole in front of each school, and have a time of prayer for the staff, students, teachers, administrators, and faculty for the upcoming school year.

CONTACT DYLAN TO SIGN-UP TODAY!



Come together in prayer for a powerful experience.