

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

I've been wondering and praying about two significant church matters – deacon nomination and church nominations. Some say such energy is wasted energy. The interest in institutional life is almost nil. And as one who has worked with the church as both an institution and the body of Christ I think I can understand the adverse feelings some might have. I'm not interested in institutional life just to maintain an institution. At the same time, I think I also understand the need for organization. I heard it stated about a recently deceased leader, "They not only knew the ideas that motivated people, but they knew how to organize people to achieve their ideas."

Christianity is nothing more than an idea, an ideology, until it is also embodied in some organized way to be the presence of Christ. Whether giving out a cup of cold water or supporting a community day care organization is a necessity. People use to talk about the absolute necessity of brick and mortar. Most know now, that is not all the truth. Brick and mortar does not make a church, or a business, or a movement, or a ministry. You may or may not need brick and mortar these days for any of these things. But you do need some organization if you are going to have a business, start a movement or be a church. That organization may change. Some committees and leadership positions may change through the years. Some are more active than others, but all serve to organize Christian ideology into a tangible embodiment of Christians being the presence of Christ.

The church needs someone to collect, count, deposit, etc. the money. "Follow the money," people say. Well, the church needs someone to follow the money. Volunteers are vital to the church's mission. So we need someone to enlist people for church leadership positions. You see where I'm headed.

So I want to ask you to wonder and pray with me:

Do you know of anyone who is strong but empathetic that would be willing to follow the money with the Finance Committee? Or serve with the staff leadership on the Personnel Committee? Anyone know the church body well enough and good at enlisting? Could you serve with the Nominating Committee? What about a person who is full of ideas for missions that can work with the Missions Committee to support missions and expand mission partners? Who has some board experience and would like to join the Stepping Stones Board, to support the day care ministry the church cherishes? Who likes legal details and can be trusted to handle the legal matters of the church as a Trustee? Or who works well at a moment's notice to help organize a meal for a family in grief?

There is hardly anyone that would say they have some extra time or left over energy to do these things – so don't start by asking such a thing. Start by asking about your skills, your gifts, your heart, your service to Christ in Christ's church ... and raise your hand to help the church be embodied to be the presence of Christ.

*Leading,  
Craig*



# WHAT FUN WE HAVE HAD!

What fun we have had! Children's Choir is off to a FANTASTIC start this Fall Semester. We have more than 40 children registered and participating, and over 15 adult leaders with our Tuesday afternoon Children's Ministry. How exciting! We are looking forward to a great semester. Our Children's Choir theme is, "God's Masterpiece" and is about learning to be who God has created us to be. The first performance for our Children's Choir is Sunday, September, 29, 2024 during the Morning Worship Service. The Children will lead us in two songs for a special time of worship. Please mark your calendars, and plan to join us!

Also, our Youth Program has kicked off on Wednesday nights! Doors open at 5:30 PM. We have fellowship, games, dinner, and a message each Wednesday evening. There are many exciting things happening and we are looking forward to a great Fall Semester and year together. Please join me in praying for all of our students, families, and volunteers within the Student Ministry here at First Baptist Church.

Blessings,

*Dylan*

## EVIL vs. THE HOPE WE SING

I write this a few hours after the horrific shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder. Too near, too dear! Before moving to Milledgeville about 15 years ago, I was Minister of Music for 9 years with First Baptist Church of Winder, only about 5 miles away. Then I was Interim Music Minister at Bethlehem First Methodist, a little over a mile from the school.

Our son Tim and his family live in Winder now. Between full time ministry positions, he substitute taught at Apalachee many times last Spring. He knows two of those killed, and his family knows many of the school's students. We are most grateful that our granddaughters are home schooled! But that doesn't mean that our hearts don't break for these victims and their community.

It is when evil like this rears its ugly head that the hope we sing in worship is most dear. *"In Christ Alone Our Hope Is Found," "all other ground is sinking sand."* He is our *"Living Hope,"* so *"I Speak Jesus over fear and all anxiety."* *"Life is worth the living just because He lives."* *"Oh may I n'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet!"*

The songs we sing in worship are not just for our own entertainment. They are our statements of faith in Christ Jesus, our proclamation, testimony, and praise – the very foundation of our lives that is not shaken even in the worst of life's earthquakes! This is the reason I am so glad that Dylan Bowden is teaching our Children's Choir to sing their faith.

So let us not despair or grow worried or anxious, *"but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,"* as Philipians 4 tells us. Let us embrace the peace, purpose, and provision of God's presence. May the truth in the music we sing inspire us to live with hope and confidence in His unfailing love. That is what we sing, and why!

*John Cotten*

## SONS OF JUBAL CONCERTS

Sons of Jubal, Thurs. Sept. 12, 7:00pm, Tabernacle BC, Carrollton <https://tabernacle.org/live-stream/>  
Jubal Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, Sept. 22, FBC Social Circle, 6:00pm

## MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



**CHRISTMAS ON THE AVENUE**

COMBINED REHEARSALS BEGIN  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11  
AT 7:30PM  
AT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

CONTACT REV. JOHN COTTEN  
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



**JUBELLATION  
HANDBELLS**

BEGINS  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15  
AT 1:30PM

Contact Rev. John Cotten for more information



# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR SEPTEMBER

Scott and Amy Joris

## USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Marvin Franklin, Gene Adams, Edge Farley,  
Clayton Lancaster, Chad Davis

## DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 8

John Wojtas

## DEACON FAMILIES

Ron Harley Family, Janice Knowles,  
Randall McCook, Betty Pinholster,  
Don Turney Family, Jerry Williams Family,  
Craig Williamson Family

## DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 15

Robin Benton

## DEACON FAMILIES

Sean Bennett, Carl Haizlip Family,  
Clayton Lancaster Family, Ennis Lankford Family,  
Thomas Ralston Family, Joann Smith Family,  
Tom Thompson Family, Hunter Giddens

## WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, August 18                      98  
Sunday, August 25                      100

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### AUGUST 18, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$8,787.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$336,618.48</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$343,304.29</u>

### AUGUST 25, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$6,083.75</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$346,819.04</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$349,388.04</u>

## BIRTHDAYS

09/07 - Joan Key  
09/09 - Sabrina Carmichael  
09/10 - Grady Strube  
09/11 - Joann Smith, Christine Winslette  
09/13 - Kay Stevens  
09/14 - Nell Wright, Kathy Faulk  
09/15 - Gage Rainey  
09/17 - Jack Ferrell  
09/18 - Lilly Kent Rainey, Casey Kauffmann

## ANNIVERSARY

09/13 - Jeff and Alanna Davis

## STEPPING STONES 50/50 RAFFLE

Please don't forget the Stepping Stones 50/50 raffle. You may purchase a ticket from Dylan Bowden, Robin Benton or any Stepping Stones Board member or teacher. Tickets are \$2.00 each, and the winner will keep 50% of the proceeds raised.

The drawing will be held on a Facebook live on October 1st. We appreciate your support in helping our children. To God be the Glory!

*Denise Carmichael*  
SSLC Director

Stepping Stones Learning Center  
Presents

**50/50  
RAFFLE**

We are planning a raffle for our ministry as part of our fall fundraiser to raise funds. See a Stepping Stones employee or board member to get your tickets and support our ministry!  
Let's Get to Selling!!

Tickets will be \$2.00      Sold from September 3rd-30th      Live Drawing October 1st

The winner will be selected based on the winning ticket drawn and will receive half of the funds collected.  
For example, if we raise \$2000, the winner will get \$1000!

SSLC Board Members and Staff are not eligible to participate.



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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSIONS SUNDAY

Sunday, September 8  
10:50 AM

Service will be held in the Gym

The Missions Committee invites you to Missions Sunday. Several guests will share with us about our various missions we support during our service and will have tables around the gym for you to learn more or find a way to get involved. You do not want to miss this! Following the service, we will have a \$5 lunch.

KATHY WIDENHOUSE

*just  
take a step*

A devotional Bible study  
for the busy and overwhelmed



*Ladies*  
**BIBLE STUDY**

MONDAYS

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9

Contact Kim Camp to Sign Up!

JOIN US FOR OUR

*5th Sunday Lunch*



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP

THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT, BREAD, AND TEA.  
PLEASE BRING CASSEROLES, VEGETABLES, SALADS, AND DESSERTS.

COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

OCTOBER 6

