

JUNE 20, 2024

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

VBS was so spirited! The participation of children and workers together created beauty once again! So many thanks for the volunteers! You made good happen. Your leadership took care of all the details and loved children mightily. Thanks to all the parents who made their children's attendance a priority. And that is a big one! There are so many choices. Thanks to you for making VBS a choice for your child! I look forward, anticipating more joy, as we continue to partner together to rear our children. We shall always find support in one another.

And what can I say about Dylan! Those were the first cream pies I've had in a very long time. And while I don't remember any of the children who pied me, I do remember those adults who reveled in smashing pies! I'm always grateful for Dylan's work and partnership, as well as the diligence with which he carries it out. What a gift the kid is!

As you live through the summer days, I hope it affords you with unique times together with family and friends as well as some unique opportunities on the water, among the trees, in the garden and wherever else you spend time in this unique season. I thank God for shade trees and cool waters; for the heat of the sun that nurtures seeds and plants into such tasty things like tomatoes, corn, peaches and watermelons.

John Blasé wrote a short poem that holds my attention:

FORGIVE US

We've no clue how adored we are, tiptoeing
through this knotted green world on eggs shells
with our fists clenched tight rehearsing our
litanies of trouble all the while rationing breaths
afraid of running out of misery.

We royals eking out an existence based on scarcity
when the truth is the banquet is spread before us.

Teach us to fall against the earth. Train us to
listen for the wind's chamber music.

Warn us the world is so necessary.

Peace,
Craig

P.S. Scott Sharp will be the guest of honor at the 5th Sunday dinner on June 30. He is retiring, upon Doctor's orders due to declining health. It is our hope and prayers he continues to be among us many more years, but in a new capacity. His work over the past years has always been impeccable. He cared for the church buildings as if they were his personal child. We will miss his diligent care for our sacred spaces. If you desire, you may share your thanks for his work with a gift to a love offering. Please contact the office if you have any questions about how to do so.

THE MORNING PRAYER

For many Christians, starting a good habit like daily prayer may feel hard to do. Sometimes we may not even know where to start. We Christians know the Lord's Prayer, which is always a great prayer to say at any time and any place, but we may not know other prayers, and we may feel intimidated to "make up" our own.

Aside from the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther also suggested a Morning and Evening Prayer. The morning prayer is as follows:

"I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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."

This prayer is often my "go to" prayer over morning coffee, or when I get into the office. This prayer can do so much for us as we start our day.

First, the prayer reminds us this past evening we survived not by our own powers, or by sheer luck. We survived the night because our bodies are a gift from God who continues to sustain us through all the days He decides we have in this world. What a great way to start our day by recognizing all we have is truly a gift from God.

Second, in the prayer we ask that God would keep us from "sin and every evil" during this upcoming day. What a wonderful prayer for us to ask from our God who is so gracious in forgiving us when we do sin (John 2:1).

Third, maybe the sweetest and most powerful phrase is at the end of this prayer. We confess to God we are commending to Him "our body and soul, and all things." It is very powerful for us to admit that we are commending our lives to God. To "commend" gives me an image of us literally falling into the arms of our Savior in complete trust knowing that He and He alone can preserve us from all hardships in this life.

Beginning a habit of prayer does not have to be intimidating. We can start with simple steps like praying the morning prayer above. Try it out for a week. Pray the above prayer every day, for one week, and I would not be surprised if you have it memorized by the end of that week. I assure you, there is no greater way to start your day!

Dylan

LET THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE

**Let the people praise thee, O God;
let all the people praise thee!**

Psalm 67:5 KJV

People who study such things tell us that the most frequent command in the Bible is *to sing*. Singing is mentioned over 400 times, depending on which version you use. Ours is a singing faith! We sing our praises to God for who He is and what He's done. We sing in times of joy and sorrow. Many of our prayers, testimonies, and blessings are best expressed when we sing them together.

Interestingly, nowhere in the Bible does it say that singing is just for "singers." It's a gift from God that we all should enjoy here on earth as we will in heaven. We don't have to wait till we all get to heaven to "sing and shout the victory" or "praise the Lord (that) His mercy is stronger than darkness, new every morn; our sins, they are many, His mercy is more!"

While we are thankful for committed, gifted singers and instrumentalists who serve in special ways, Psalm 67 tells us to let *all* the people praise Him! Our congregation is our largest, most important "choir," and it excludes no one. When people tell me, "Oh, you don't want *me* to sing," I'm always tempted to smile and reply, "God certainly does!"

On June 23, the congregation will select the songs we sing. As you enter the sanctuary you will be given a slip of paper on which to indicate the title and number of a hymn in our Celebrating Grace hymnal that means a lot to you. (The alphabetical *Index of Titles and First Lines* on page 749 may be helpful.) You will be asked to turn these in quickly so that I can arrange them in our service. We will sing as many of your selections as time allows. Any that we do not have time for in this service we'll sing in upcoming weeks. You may request songs that are not in our hymnal, but we'll save those for another week, too.

You are also invited to sing with our Summer Choir. On July 7 we will sing Matt Redman's "*10,000 Reasons*." On August 4 we'll sing the Southern Gospel favorite, "*Moving Up to Gloryland*." Both of these Sundays we will rehearse briefly in the Choir Loft at 9:00a.m., finishing in time for Sunday School. We will not wear robes, and we will move out into the pews after we sing.

As you are reading this, our Surge music camp at Shorter University is wrapping up. Our final concerts are on Saturday, June 22. I am always amazed at how much our students learn in a week's time. That's why we call it "*Surge!*"

We're enjoying Summer, but our music ministry is already making plans for our Fall semester, including our adult and children's choirs, handbells, and even the 16th annual "Christmas on the Avenue." As always, I welcome your prayers, thoughts or suggestions.

"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."

Ephesians 5:19

VBS 2024 - CAMP FIRELIGHT

Thank you all! Thank you parents, for trusting us with your little ones.
Thank you volunteers for giving of your time to invest in these students.

A total of 47 kids and 30 volunteers!

We were able to raise 356 canned food items for the PCO Foodbank!



VBS 2024 - CAMP FIRELIGHT

We trust God to go with us! We trust God to lead the way!
We trust God to give us wisdom! We trust God to give us peace!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY,
JUNE 30



5th Sunday *Lunch*

JUNE 30



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

SCOTT SHARP'S RETIREMENT LOVE OFFERING

WE WILL BE COLLECTING A LOVE OFFERING FOR SCOTT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 23, AND JUNE 30, AND IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO HIM AS WE HONOR HIM ON SUNDAY, JUNE 30.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR GIFTS IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED FOR SCOTT SHARP-LOVE OFFERING.

ALL LOVE OFFERING CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO SCOTT (RATHER THAN FIRST BAPTIST.)

YOUR GIFT CAN BE:

1. PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATE
2. PLACED IN THE DESIGNATED BASKET IN NARTHEX
3. DROPPED BY THE CHURCH OFFICE



JOIN OUR TEAM

WE ARE HIRING A CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please contact
Rev. Dylan Bowden at
revbowden@gmail.com

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

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 23

John Wojtas

DEACON FAMILIES

Gene Adams Family, Tammy Baker Family,
Linda Copelan Family, Jim Hall Family,
Jim Kauffmann Family, Ben Leverette Family,
Jim Ryan

DEACON FOR JUNE 30

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

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, Pam Lacey, 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

06/20 - Steve Marshall
06/21 - Anne Marie Horton
06/23 - Phyllis Blanton, Wyatt Hewette,
Whitley Cannon, Randall McCook
06/27 - Sara Beck
06/28 - Wreese Cannon
06/29 - Cindy Williams, Linda Copelan
06/30 - Kyle Ralston, Tracy Stickley
07/01 - Daryl Covington
07/04 - Frank Thompson, Rebecca Prance

ANNIVERSARIES

06/20 - Stew and Ashley Rich
06/22 - Sammy and Lynda Walker
06/26 - Jim and Vicki Hall
06/29 - Donald and Tammy Baker

WELCOME

We welcome Christian and Taylor Keiser
to the membership of First Baptist Church.

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, June 02</u>	<u>87</u>
<u>Sunday, June 09</u>	<u>105</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 2, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$10,499.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$224,412.32</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$234,174.29</u>

JUNE 9, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$12,766.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$234,612.88</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$246,940.29</u>

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



Happy



4TH OF JULY

**The Church Office will be closed on July 4
in observance of Independence Day.**

**We hope you have a blessed day
with your family and friends!**

