

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Five necessary words for this season: **Kindness – Compassion – Humility – Respect – Love**

Someone said, “The news we consume sometimes consumes us.” Then they proposed, “What we put into the world is part of the ongoing creation of the world. This, really, is the only thing we can control – the energy with which we react to circumstances and people.”

That leads to a haunting question, “What will it be?” Will it be more kindness, compassion, humility, respect and love? A surplus of these things would surely fulfill the hopes of the one who said such things as the following:

“Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that’s charity? The stingiest of pawn-brokers does that. ‘I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You’ll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we’re at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.’ (Luke 6:31-36, The Message)

People who study DNA tell me “more than 99% of our DNA is the same from one human to another. With so little difference couldn’t we see how “we are made for kin-ness, kind-ness?”

The Hebrew word for kindness, *hesed*, appears 250 times in the Hebrew Bible in some version of the word kindness. Kindness is strategically important for Biblical faith. A wellness coach argues that nearly all the research shows anyone practicing kindness “is happier, has less stress and better relationships, is more successful in business, their marriages are happier, and they live longer.” Thus, Biblical witness and scientific research speak well of the strategic role of kindness for life!

A poll from September 2022 found that 75% of Americans, both conservatives and liberals (and everyone in between) who were surveyed agreed with this statement: “To restore peace and unity we need leaders to model kindness and understanding.” ‘We the people,’ the people who elect them must be willing to do this also. Maybe they need us to model it for them! Let us remember the beloved words we sing, “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

There was a day when two fierce political opponents met at one’s retirement dinner. They are both deceased, but the memory of what they did is almost unbelievable considering today’s political interactions. Ronald Reagan was invited by Tip O’Neal to speak at O’Neal’s retirement dinner in 1986. After a number of jokes, Reagan gave thanks that he and O’Neal called one another friends. Reagan attributed their ability to be friends to the fact two Irishmen were always able **“to have it out on the issues, rather than on each other, or their country.”**

We could yet have it out on the issues and not on each other or our country! Thereby kindness might yet remain?

*May it be so,
Craig*

P.O. Box 3400

115 N. Madison Ave

706-485-3331

firstbaptisteatonton.org

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

A DESIGNATED TIME

As we step into this new season, let's carry the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 3:1 in our hearts. This profound scripture reminds us of the divinely orchestrated rhythm of life, where each moment and each activity has a designated time in God's grand design.

Life is a beautiful mix of seasons - times of joy and sorrow, times of growth and rest, times of silence and celebration. Each season has its purpose and its lessons. In seasons of joy and prosperity, we are reminded of God's abundant blessings and the joy of living in His grace. In seasons of adversity and sorrow, we have the opportunity to lean into God's unfailing strength and to experience His comfort in a deeper way.

In every season, God is with us, guiding and shaping us. Even when we can't see the purpose of the season we're in, we can trust that God is at work, using each moment to shape us into the people He wants us to be.

So today, I challenge you to ask yourself: What season am I in right now? How is God using this season to shape me? Can I trust God's timing and purpose, even if I don't understand it?

Dear Lord,

As I step into this new season, I understand that there's a time for everything under Your divine plan. Guide me, Father, to recognize the season I am in and to embrace it with faith and courage.

In times of joy, fill my heart with gratitude. In challenging times, provide me with the strength to rely on You. In times of transition, bestow upon me the patience to trust in Your perfect timing.

Help me to see Your guiding hand in every season of my life, knowing that all is part of Your grand design. May I find peace and comfort in this knowledge as I navigate my day.

In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

Dylan

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 raffle will run through the end of September.

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



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!!



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.

YET NOT I, BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

My newsletter articles don't normally include a lot of Attaboys, but I need to make an exception here. Dylan Bowden did a beautiful, prayerful job last Sunday on "The Lord's Prayer." Monday, a worship leader from another denomination told me privately, "You may have had only 9 in your Choir, but they sang this "Holy Is He" with joy, conviction, and strong musicality. Then your congregation joined enthusiastically on 'Holy, Holy, Holy.'" He asked me for information so they could use this Call to Worship at his church. That's both a high compliment and an answer to our prayers that God will receive, bless, and multiply our musical offerings each week!

In 2018, *CityAlight*, the music ministry of St Paul's Castle Hill Church in Sydney, Australia, recorded a new hymn that expresses the believer's hope, joy, and freedom in Christ, even in hard times. It was inspired by a sermon on Colossians 1:29, "For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." The writers asked each other, "What does it mean? That it is not us, but Christ who works in us?"

You see, at that time the group's leader was struggling with his mental health, and several friends were also going through other difficulties. His rising anxiety led to insomnia. "There was just this weight," he said. "It was part of my journey to learn that, no, this is not mine to carry – it is the Lord's. But those nights were very long and very dark."

Then in another Bible study on Psalm 23, he realized that he'd always read the phrases "green pastures" and "quiet waters" as if they were separated from "valley of the shadow of death," unrelated to each other. Actually they are coupled together! "It was extraordinarily wonderful to know that it wasn't some sort of weird accident that I was in the valley. This brought such peace – even without knowing how long I'm going to be in here or that I may never get out of it. For me, that was the biggest message in this song."

Our Choir will sing this song Sunday. We see this background most clearly in its second and fourth stanzas:

*The night is dark, but I am not forsaken.
For by my side, the Savior He will stay,
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

*With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat,
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me!"*

John

JUBAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*Jubal Symphony
Orchestra*

Sunday, Sept. 22
6:00 pm
First Baptist Church,
Social Circle (free)



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 22

Steve Benton

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Culberson Family, Charlotte Green,
Luceil Harrison, Joseph Rainey Family,
Mike Reagin Family, Steve Tubbs Family,
Sonny Turner Family

DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 29

Kim Camp

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Benton Family, Brandon Cardwell Family,
Daryl Covington Family, Jesse Covington,
Frank Thompson Family, Charles Winslette Family,
Warren Yates

FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Budget Needs</u> | <u>\$10,200.56</u> |
| <u>Budget Receipts</u> | <u>\$11,830.41</u> |
| <u>Budget Needs YTD</u> | <u>\$357,019.60</u> |
| <u>Budget Receipts YTD</u> | <u>\$361,218.45</u> |

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Budget Needs</u> | <u>\$10,200.56</u> |
| <u>Budget Receipts</u> | <u>\$12,133.00</u> |
| <u>Budget Needs YTD</u> | <u>\$367,220.16</u> |
| <u>Budget Receipts YTD</u> | <u>\$373,351.45</u> |

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Budget Needs</u> | <u>\$10,200.56</u> |
| <u>Budget Receipts</u> | <u>\$3,782.00</u> |
| <u>Budget Needs YTD</u> | <u>\$377,420.72</u> |
| <u>Budget Receipts YTD</u> | <u>\$377,133.45</u> |

BIRTHDAYS

09/20 - Mike Reagin, Jackson Rossee, Jim Howell
09/22 - Kent Duffey
09/24 - Charles Patten
09/25 - Lesa Adams
09/27 - Hudson Rainey
09/28 - Pat McDade
09/29 - Clyde Harper, Don Turney
09/30 - Celia Camp
10/01 - Mallory Rainey
10/02 - Faith Thomas
10/03 - Heather Wojtas

WORSHIP REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| <u>Sunday, September 01</u> | <u>106</u> |
| <u>Sunday, September 08</u> | <u>86</u> |
| <u>Sunday, September 15</u> | <u>111</u> |

THANK YOU

Dear Members & Staff of the Baptist Church,

Thank you for all of the prayers you have sent to me and my family. The love and support has really brought my spirits up. Thank you for the prayers & love you all have sent me. It has really helped.

Sincerely,

Ford Rocker

Dear Member of FBC,

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, phone calls, emails, and texts regarding Ford and his chest surgery. You brought a comfort and peace to us and to Ford that we will always remember. He is doing well and is back on the football field. We thank God for healing him and providing skilled surgeons and nurses in his recovery. We are thankful to be members of this wonderful church family.

Sincerely,


Tara and Walt Rocker III

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KATHY WIDENHOUSE

just take a step

A devotional Bible study for the busy and overwhelmed



Ladies
BIBLE STUDY
MONDAYS
6:00 PM

Contact Kim Camp for more information.

COMMUNION
SUNDAY

OCTOBER 6



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FALL
Festival

OCTOBER 26

DETAILS COMING SOON



**CHURCH
CONFERENCE**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

We will be voting on
the 2025 Deacons and
Nominating Report.



JOIN US ON SUNDAYS

Small Groups at 9:45AM

Worship at 10:50AM

Handbells at 1:30PM



**WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS
ARE BACK!**

5:30pm - Supper & Fellowship

5:30pm - Youth Group

6:15pm - Adult Bible Study

Reading the Book of Revelation Sensibly

7:15pm - Choir



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

**FIRST CALL
PREGNANCY CENTER
SHOE DRIVE**

Clean out your closets for a shoe drive to raise funds for First Call Pregnancy Center. Donations of gently worn, used and new shoes will be accepted through Sunday, October 27. The amount of money raised is determined by the total weight of shoes collected.



**PACK A
SHOEBOX!**

SHOEBOXES ARE DUE:
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10



samaritanspur.org/occ

NEW COLLECTION INCLUDES INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCCLINK



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

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.