

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

Once again, your generosity blesses me immensely! I avoid personal thank you notes for fear I will miss someone and for the fact not everyone who shared was identified. But my my, what a joy to be honored as your pastor! The kind words and the gifts land upon me to bless and heal. Bless, because you are so kind and caring. Heal, because as with any chosen profession there are scars. Your words are so good for me, and for Catherine, as well as our children. Especially our children, to see the church be so loving toward their Mom and Dad. *Thank you* are too few words to speak, but hopefully you trust their magnitude for your Pastor Appreciation gifts. *Thank you!*

I've been reading Howard Thurman's *Meditations of the Heart* as a part of my devotions recently. I share with you one titled "How Wonderful" that is apropos for your kindness, especially the line about being "able to feel things so deeply." Thurman wrote:

I lay bare before God my enthusiasms.  
How wonderful it is to be able to feel things deeply!  
The sheer delight of fresh air when you have been indoors all day;  
The never-ending wonder of sunrise and sunset;  
The sound of wind through the trees and the utter wetness of the rain;  
The excitement of finding something that was lost and is found:

My fountain pen,  
A beautiful word forgotten,  
The return of an old book,  
The reconciliation after estrangement,  
The first step after months of illness.

How moving is the sheer wonder of being necessary to the life of another!  
The source of food for a dog, a cat;  
The giving of a gentle word when you did not know that such a word was desperately needed;  
The sharing of so little at the crucial point of acute urgency;  
The invasion of the mind and heart with a sense of Presence in which all of  
one's being suddenly becomes God's dwelling place.

I lay bare before God my enthusiasms of this day.

***Thanks be to God!***

***Craig***



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

November 10th is the date to mark on your calendars to bring your Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to First Baptist Church Eatonton.

Operation Christmas Child is a very special outreach to bring the gospel to families around the world at Christmas time, and to bless children with their own gift box filled with toys, books, hygiene supplies, school supplies, socks, sandals and more - as well as a tract that shares the story of Jesus.

The ministry began in 1990 when British businessman, Dave Cooke and his wife, Gill, collected shoe boxes filled with presents to give to the children in Romania after learning about the plight of Romanian orphans at the end of the Cold War. By the summer of 1993, they contacted Franklin Graham asking if he would be willing to help fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia.

Franklin Graham then asked his pastor-friend, Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte, to help with the task. Pastor Rhoads demonstrated to his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple and helpful gifts for children, encouraging them to include a personal letter in each box they filled.

Within weeks, the church had filled 11,000 shoeboxes to send to the children of Bosnia, and through the generosity of Canadians hearing about this incredible initiative to share the love of Jesus to children overseas, Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse sent a total of 28,000 shoeboxes to children in the Balkans that Christmas!

Truly a miracle of sharing God's love in a most tangible way to children and families in third world, and oftentimes, desperate conditions.

Since 1993, more than 198 million children in over 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox delivered to their town or village. More than 10.5 million shoebox gifts were collected in 2023. Through this ministry, more than 14.9 million children have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior around the world.

Below are some pictures of our children packing shoe boxes.

*Dylan*



# PRAYING WITH JOY BECAUSE OF YOU!

Paul's greeting to the church at Philippi accurately expresses my gratitude to you and to our Lord. Please forgive this personalized version of it from me to you, taken from the NIV translation of Philippians 1.

*"I, John Cotten, servant of Christ Jesus, to all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at First Baptist Church of Eatonton, together with the pastors and deacons:*

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

Your words of love, encouragement, and support, together with your generous gifts during Pastor Appreciation Month, warm my heart and strengthen my step. You are a gracious and kind people. I am blessed to be serving our Lord together with you. Thank you!

You stand in 180-degree opposition to so much of what is going on around us. It's clear that your hearts have *"no desire to stay where doubts arise and fears dismay; Though some may dwell where these abound, (your) prayer, (your) aim is Higher Ground."* That hymn from 1898 resonates perfectly with Heather Sorenson's arrangement of our Choir's anthem from this past Sunday, written in 2018, which puts it this way:

*"Do you feel the world is broken? We do.*

*Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do.*

*But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? We do.*

*Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.*

*Is all creation groaning? It is.*

*Is a new creation coming? It is.*

*Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? It is.*

*Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is!*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?*

*Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll...?*

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?*

*Is He worthy of this?*

**HE IS!**



# STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

Please spread the word. SSLC is now offering a Mother's Day Out program, for families that do not need five day a week care, but would be interested in two days a week. This is something that has been lacking in our community for the last few years.

Also, we still covet volunteers to partner with us in reading to our children, praying with them, and loving on them. Contact our office if you are interested. This can be a small or large investment of time. It's up to you.

To God Be the Glory.

*Denise Carmichael*

*SSLC Director*



STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

## MOTHER'S Day Out




Are you seeking a way for your child to interact with peers without committing to a full-time preschool? Do you want them to grow in their understanding of God while mastering their ABCs and 123s? The dedicated team at Stepping Stones Learning Center is here to assist you!

**What's Included?**

- ✓ Two full days a week of your choice.
- ✓ Or Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 12 PM.

**Tuition Fees**

Program for Children Aged 1-3:

- Enrollment Fee: \$130 (nonrefundable)
- Monthly Payment: \$500 (4 weeks)
- Monthly Payment: \$625 (5 weeks)

*\*Payments due by the first of each month NOT applicable with GaCaps benefits.\**



According to the handbook, tuition is required to be paid monthly, irrespective of your child's attendance, whether due to vacations, MDO closure days, or missed regular MDO days. To formally withdraw your child from the program, a written notice of two weeks is needed.

Tuition payments can be made in person using cash, check, or a Square terminal. Additionally, for your convenience, we also provide the option for online payments through Square!

Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis, so contact us today.  
We look forward to hearing from you!  
706-485-0690



STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

## KRISPY KREME FUNDRAISER

We will be fundraising through digital dozens!  
Up to 50% of your purchase will be donated to our center.

Tickets will be available for purchase on the following dates:

**OCTOBER 14TH- NOVEMBER 8TH**

**\$14.00 for a dozen**

**The funds raised from this will be allocated to enhancing resources for our children's classrooms and playgrounds.**

We invite you to visit our office or speak with your child's teacher to purchase your coupon today!

No wait time for the donuts to come in, a digital coupon will be sent to your email for redemption at any Krispy Kreme location that day!

For any questions, feel free to contact our office at  
706-485-0690



## VOTE FOR OUR SCARECROW!

Please stop by and vote for our scarecrow!  
Our children helped out with every part of the scene.

*You have a friend in Him!*

*- John 15:13*





# FBC 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.

## FBC MISSIONS DISASTER RELIEF



### Let's Help Those in Need

The Missions Committee is working for our church to help with disaster relief. You can help by making a donation to the church for Disaster Relief.

We will use these donations to help individuals and groups who need help due to disaster; to support relief programs through organizations such as Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Samaritan's Purse; and to send a team or teams to help with rebuilding projects.

For More Information Contact the church office at 706-485-3331



## PACK A SHOEBOX!

SHOEBOXES ARE DUE:  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10



samaritanspurse.org/occ



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Christmas TOY DRIVE

Please Give a Little Joy to Our Local Children

Begins Friday, November 1  
Please bring new toys unwrapped to the Narthex by Sunday, December 1



## STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER LOVE OFFERINGS

We are thrilled to share that there is now an online option to make a love offering to our church's ministry, Stepping Stones Learning Center. Since 1999, we have been dedicated to serving the community by providing a nurturing Christian environment, and we look forward to continuing this mission for many more years to come. Please consider making a love offering to ensure we are able to continue our ministry!

<https://square.link/u/BA6hEupt>

To utilize the QR code, follow these steps:

1. Launch the camera app on your smartphone.
2. Position the camera over the QR code.
3. Tap the link that appears on your screen.
4. Follow the instructions provided once the link is opened.




## ANGEL TREE

OUR ANGEL TREE WILL BE SUPPORTING  
STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER.  
PICK UP AN ANGEL IN THE NARTHEX  
BEGINNING DECEMBER 1.  
GIFTS WILL BE DUE DECEMBER 22.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FALL Festival

# CANCELLED

**DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES  
BEYOND OUR CONTROL,  
WE HAVE CANCELED OUR  
FALL FESTIVAL FOR  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26.**

## CHURCH CONFERENCE



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27**

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

There will be a Church Conference on  
Sunday, October 27 to elect Deacons and to  
approve the 2025 Nominating Committee Report.

Prayerfully consider the following nominees  
as you prepare for Deacon Election:

Chad Davis	Bill Sharp
Joni Dixon	Don Turney
David Giddens	Roger Vining
Mollie Harvey	Charles Winslette
Cherry Leverette	

You will vote for up to six names Oct. 27, 2024.

## Founder's Day

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Guest Preacher

**REV. DR. BOB PATTERSON**

First Baptist Church Warm Springs, GA  
HONORING THE ORIGINAL 10 MEMBERS WHO  
STARTED THE CHURCH ON NOV. 17, 1818.

**NOVEMBER 10, 2024  
10:50 AM**

Following the morning worship, a meal will be provided in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide the meat, bread, and tea. Please bring large casseroles, vegetables, salads, and desserts.

## Ladies Paint Night

Monday, November 18  
at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall  
Dinner will be provided  
The cost is \$20 per person

We will be painting a Christmas Doorhanger.  
All kits will include directions, paint and brushes.  
Lots of fun and laughter we will share.  
Photo of the project to be announced soon.

Please contact Kim Camp at 706 318-9438 to reserve your spot.

## Thanksgiving Dinner

November 20 at 6:00 PM

Cost: \$9 Adults \$5 Children

RSVP to the church office at 706-485-3331  
by November 18

# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR OCTOBER

Jim and Vicki Hall

## WELCOMING FOR NOVEMBER

Cary Walton

## USHERS FOR OCTOBER

David Stickley, Jarred Camp, Jim Hall,  
Walt Rocker, John Wojtas

## USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Steve Benton, Randall McCook, Steven Prance,  
Cooper Rainey, Charles Winslette

## DEACON FOR OCTOBER 20

Edge Farley

## DEACON FAMILIES

Jene Etheridge Family, Don Masson Family,  
Karen McGinnis, Steven Prance Family,  
Cooper Rainey Family, Mac Rainey Family,  
Andrea Welch

## DEACON FOR OCTOBER 27

Mike Faulk

## DEACON FAMILIES

Russell Davis Family, Julia Davis,  
Clyde Harper Family, Julie Harper,  
Gaye Lankford, Bill Sharp Family,  
Jill Vaughan

## DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 3

Jim Hall

## DEACON FAMILIES

Barry Chambers Family, Jeff Davis Family,  
Chad Davis Family, David Stickley Family,  
Jimmy Williams

# BIRTHDAYS

10/19 - Lynda Walker, Warren Yates

10/20 - Ennis Lankford

10/21 - Lauren Brown, Ashley Rich

10/23 - Karen Willis

10/25 - Piper Rainey

10/27 - Connie Covington, Maura Carmichael

10/31 - Sug Walton, Gail Harley

11/01 - Jeff Davis

11/03 - Isabelle Rocker

11/05 - Caroline Lankford

# ANNIVERSARIES

10/20 - Clayton and Pam Lancaster

10/21 - Scott and Amy Joris

10/23 - Steve and Mary Culberson

10/24 - Ed and Alyssa Self

10/24 - Tom and Pam Thompson

11/04 - Charles and Shelia Patten

# WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, October 06 108

Sunday, October 13 118

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## OCTOBER 6, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$11,089.00

Budget Needs YTD \$408,022.40

Budget Receipts YTD \$404,891.20

## OCTOBER 13, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$8,840.00

Budget Needs YTD \$418,222.96

Budget Receipts YTD \$413,731.20



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

# PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Join us for our Community Health Fair on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at the Plaza Arts Center.  
8:00am - Fun Run • 8:30am - Steeple Chase 5K • 10:00am - Health Fair • 12:30pm - Gospel Concert

**Putnam County Day of Health**



**Steeple Chase  
5K &  
FUN RUN  
11.2.24**

**Eatonton First Methodist Church  
103 W. Magnolia St., Eatonton, GA**

**Fun Run at 8 a.m. | Steeple Chase 5K at 8:30 a.m.**

**EARLY REGISTRATION: \$30  
LATE REGISTRATION: \$35  
STUDENT REGISTRATION: \$20**

As part of **Putnam County's Day of Health**, Eatonton will host its 9th annual **Steeple Chase 5K and Fun Run**. This year's proceeds will be donated to the Putnam Christian Outreach's Weekend Backpack Ministry.



**REGISTER TODAY**  
[garuralhealth.link/steeple-chase](http://garuralhealth.link/steeple-chase)



**ENJOY A FULL DAY OF EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN EATONTON!**  
Fun Run/5K: 7-9:30AM | Gospel Sing & Fall Festival: 12:30-2PM



**Putnam County  
HEALTH  
FAIR**

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 2  
10 AM - NOON**

The Plaza Arts Center  
305 N Madison Ave  
Eatonton, GA

**FREE Community Event**  
Health screenings, education, resources, and more!

- Blood Pressure Checks
- Glucose Screenings
- Flu and Covid Shots
- Teddy Bear Clinic
- Drug Misuse Assistance
- Aging/Disability Resources
- Insurance/Medicare Help
- Organ Donor Resources

