

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

I found myself wanting to affirm what was being said, but wanting to challenge the words at the same time. As often happens, talking to a preacher, people confess their theological convictions. Most people are peaceful. And wanting to be peaceful, some pretty generic statements are often made. “So the one thing we can agree on, regardless of church or denomination, is Christians agree all guilty of sin and in need of the forgiving graces of God found so vividly in Christ,” was said.

I do agree. I just wonder why we insist on leading with that line. I love the logic of pointing out the creation story in the very opening of the Bible. Each day after working to craft a world, God said, “it is good.” On the last day in the story God says, “it is very good.” In other words we have it on good authority God’s led with the line, “What a beautiful world this is! What good people!”

I know we’ve preached sin so long we are uncomfortable embracing a more loving view of ourselves and one another. I’ve met a few people in my life, a few real narcissists who needed the sin story. More often, I’ve met people who felt bad enough about themselves that the real struggle, even for some very good people was to embrace how beloved they are to God, so much so that God gave God’s life for them through Jesus. So I’ve found myself relieved to hear leading people in my life inviting me to lead with the creation story. “How good life is. How good, gifted and beautiful people are!” It’s hard to believe? Maybe? But the graces of God are definitely leading us in that direction – to forgive, love and cherish ourselves and one another.

Henri Nouwen has been one of those voices leading me to do so. He writes in *Finding My Way Home*

“In this world when you are chosen, you know that somebody else is not chosen. When you are the best, you know that somebody is not the best. When you win and receive a prize, you know there is somebody who lost. But this is not so in the heart of God. If you are chosen in the heart of God, you have eyes to see the chosenness of others. If the Love of God blesses you, you have eyes to see the blessedness of others.”

**Thanks be to God!**

*Craig*

# "I AM RESOLVED"

I thought I would share some of the background information on a Hymn we are singing in Worship this Sunday. This hymn is an "oldie" but one that has a great message. In *"I Am Resolved"* Hartsough penned these words following a profound spiritual experience where he felt called to deeper commitment in his Christian walk. The hymn emerged from a place of personal wrestling with God's call, making it particularly meaningful for anyone facing crossroads in their faith journey.

In our current cultural climate, the concept of being "resolved" feels almost countercultural. We live in a world of constant change and shifting opinions, yet this hymn calls us to plant our feet firmly on the solid ground of Christ's love and teachings. It challenges us to move beyond wishy-washy faith into bold, decisive discipleship.

The melody, composed by James H. Fillmore, carries an almost military cadence that perfectly complements the hymn's message of spiritual determination. When I hear this hymn sung, I hear voices growing stronger with each verse, as if the very act of singing these words builds our collective resolve.

## Chancel & Bell Choir Update

Our Fall Choir season is in full swing with some amazing and dedicated members. We're currently working on our Christmas musical presentation, "Hope Has Dawned, Noel," which will be presented alongside EFMC & EPC on Sunday, December 7th at EFMC. As well we are working on additional pieces for Fall Worship Services. Bell choir rehearsals continue every Wednesday at 6:15 PM followed by Chancel Choir rehearsal at 7:15 PM.

## Children's Choir

We are ready to go! We have over 20 children registered for our Fall Semester of Children's Choir. We will meet on Tuesdays at 3:00PM in the FBCE Fellowship Hall. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dylan through the Church Office.

## Personal Reflection

As your Minister of Music, I find myself continually challenged by the words we sing each Sunday. "I Am Resolved" asks the hard questions: Am I truly committed to following Jesus wherever He leads? Does my daily life reflect the resolutions I make in song?

I encourage each of you to carry this hymn's message with you throughout the week. Let it be a reminder that our faith calls for decision, commitment, and follow-through.

*Blessings,  
Dylan*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS





# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR AUGUST

Charles and Shelia Patten

## USHERS FOR AUGUST

Mike Lyons, Howell Cardwell, Mike Faulk

## DEACON FOR AUGUST 24

Tracy Stickley

## DEACON FAMILIES

Jarred Camp Family, Tim Camp Family,  
Jo Ann Clay, Christian Keiser Family,  
Andrea Paugh, Stew Rich Family,  
Lauren Wooten Family

## DEACON FOR AUGUST 31

Cary Walton

## DEACON FAMILIES

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

## WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, August 10 124

Sunday, August 17 105

## FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 31, 2025

<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$326,301.50</u>
<u>Total Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$310,544.05</u>
<u>Budget Expenditures YTD</u>	<u>\$375,828.86</u>

## BIRTHDAYS

08/23 - Roger Vining, Cheryl Williams

08/24 - Jill Vaughan, Victor Stevens

08/25 - Howell Cardwell

08/26 - Karen Harrison

08/27 - Tasha Cannon

08/29 - Billy Peebles

08/31 - Bill Kitchen

09/01 - Terry Blanton, Andrea Paugh

09/03 - Shelia Patten

## ANNIVERSARY

08/21 - Frank and Laura Thompson

08/23 - Bill and Judie Kitchen

08/31 - Jim and Margaret Howell

09/01 - Don and Rita Masson

## PRAYER MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to call the church office if you have prayer requests or updates to the prayer list. An urgent prayer request can always be sent out to the church by way of email.

**Men's Prayer Group**  
**Thursdays at 8:00AM**  
**In the Sanctuary**

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

## JOIN US FOR OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES

**5:30 PM - Supper (with reservation)**

**6:15 PM - Bible Study, Youth Group, & Handbells**

**7:15 PM - Chancel Choir**



**Come midweek to refuel, reconnect, and grow in faith.  
Everyone is welcome — Invite a friend!**