

July 7, 2022

First Baptist Church of Eatonton

Messenger

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



From the Pastor,

How grateful I am to the children who attended VBS, for the parents who brought their children to VBS and for the people who served so ably in VBS. It was late evenings, but it was worth it all for the sake of the children. I'm glad I live with people where children are so loved! I pray the seeds planted take root in the lives of the children and their families.

A poem from Billy Collins has been walking around with me for several weeks. It lies silently on my desk, but occasionally it rises up to assert itself. It's about reading poetry, but also about reading Holy Scripture.

Introduction to Poetry

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.

I wonder sometimes if that is what we do to Holy Scripture. We take something holy and we beat it to death with our analyses, questions and speculations in an attempt to "find out what it really means." Perhaps I, as the preacher, am most guilty. What if we just let it fall upon us like rain and soak into our being like the rain does into the soil, doing its work as it goes? What if we laid aside our questions to believe it is a living word that will awaken our souls precisely as God intended? To do this surely takes an additional practice beyond the one we call the *study* of Holy Scripture. Study is significant. Study of the rain is necessary to better understand how to respect, understand and use the rain. At the same time, there is nothing like just playing in the rain.

I've spent years studying the Word. I yet feel the necessity to study so as to "rightly divide the word of truth (I Timothy 2:15)." But I also wonder if I need to waterski across the surface of Holy Scripture, waving at the author on the shore. What will I hear if I press my ear against its hives? Perhaps, I need to walk inside the holy space of scripture and feel the walls for a light switch. What blessing it is for Holy Scripture to work on us, instead of us working on it. May such blessing be ours!

Peace, Craig

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.



PRAYER LIST

Our Christian Love and Sympathy are extended to:

Zandla Wright in the passing of her mother - Zandla is a current employee of Stepping Stones.

Helga Cox in the passing of her husband - Helga served many years as an employee of Stepping Stones.

Our Church: Personnel Committee searching for an Associate Pastor.

Our Members: JoAnn Clay, Esther Farley, Marvin Franklin, Jim Hall, Tom Hicks, Joan Key, Gary McElhenney, Marie Rainey, Linda Reagin, Scott Sharp, Nell Wright, Unspoken

Friends and Family:

Nancy Banister, Jim Branam, Mary Camp, Angela Deeds, Joan Haws, Harry Joiner, Patti Joiner, Ron Kauffman, Linda Keith, Everett Marsh, Dana Meeks, Molly Mullis, Kay Parker, Larry Pearce, David Ralston, Walt Rocker Jr., Mary Shurling, Linda Stowe, Hannah Sweet, John Wood, Amanda Wooten

Assisted Living/Nursing & Homebound:

Mary Jo Balas, Luceil Harrison, Mary Ann Heath, Gaye Lankford, Hilda Marshall, Grace Resseau, Martha Strube, Sug Walton

Missionary Families:

Trey and Kaitlyn Lancaster in Gwera, Zimbabwe
Matt and Michelle Norman in Catalunya, Spain

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

**THANK YOU
TO ALL THE VBS
WORKERS!**



ANNOUNCEMENTS



BAPTISM SUNDAY

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JULY 10
AS WE BAPTIZE
DAVIS MCMILLEN.**



**CHURCH
CONFERENCE**

SUNDAY, JULY 17
AT 10:50 AM
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

If any committee wishes to share a printed conference report with the congregation, please turn into the church office by Monday, July 11.



*Ladies Summer
Bible Study*

MONDAYS AT 6PM

WE WILL BE STUDYING WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
JUMP IN ON ANY WEEK
NO HOMEWORK OR STUDY MATERIALS
BRING APPETIZERS TO SHARE

JULY 11 AT THE HOME OF KIM CAMP

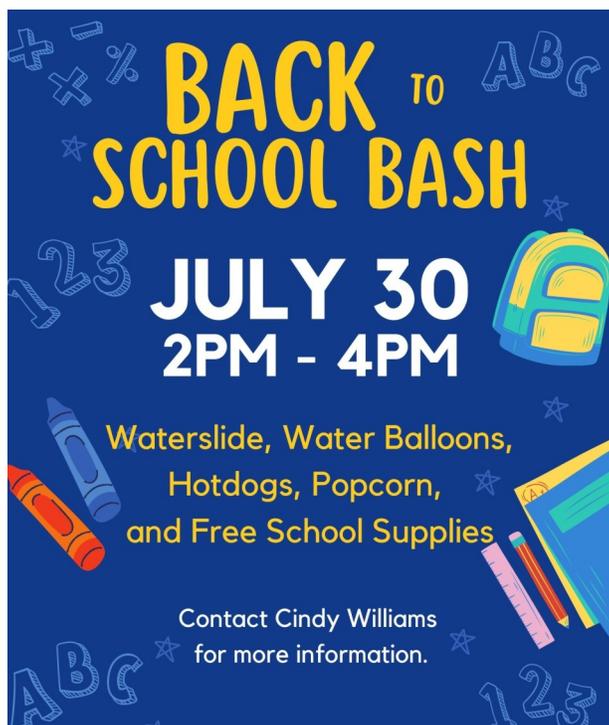
JULY 18 AT THE HOME OF TRACY STICKLEY
CONTACT KIM CAMP 706-318-9438 FOR MORE INFO



**Back to School
Supply Drive**

Donations Needed:
Composition Notebooks,
Crayons, Pencils, Pens

**PLEASE BRING SCHOOL
SUPPLIES TO THE
NARTHEX BY JULY 24.**



**BACK TO
SCHOOL BASH**

JULY 30
2PM - 4PM

**Waterslide, Water Balloons,
Hotdogs, Popcorn,
and Free School Supplies**

Contact Cindy Williams
for more information.



**Fifth Sunday Lunch
JULY 31**

THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT, TEA AND BREAD.

PLEASE BRING CASSEROLES, VEGETABLES,
SALADS, AND DESSERTS.

WELCOME

We welcome Davis McMillen to First Baptist upon his profession of faith.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and thanks to Ellen Trice on her 28 year anniversary as Administrative Assistant at First Baptist on July 5, 2022.

THANK YOU

I am at a loss for words to express my thanks to my congregation for the generosity and kindness shown to me upon my retirement.

It has all been extremely overwhelming. Since we joined the fellowship here fifteen years ago, I have known this is where God wanted me to be. I am thankful for the opportunity to have served as your organist. Please know how much I love and appreciate you.

Sincerely,
Janice Turner

FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 19, JUNE 26, AND JULY 3, 2022

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$32,136.00</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$28,658.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$289,224.00</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$256,002.20</u>

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, June 19</u>	<u>75</u>
<u>Sunday, June 26</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>Sunday, July 03</u>	<u>92</u>

BIRTHDAYS

7/07 - JoAnn Clay, Alanna Davis
7/08 - Ellen Trice
7/12 - Beth Walton
7/17 - Stew Rich

ANNIVERSARY

7/10 - Wade and Lanette Odum
7/14 - Edge and Esther Farley

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR JULY:

Clayton Lancaster

USHERS FOR JULY:

Cary Walton, David Giddens, Scott Joris,
Ben Leverette, Jesse McMillen, Charles Patten

DEACON JULY 10:

Cherry Leverette

DEACON FAMILIES:

Barry Chambers family, Anne Marie Horton family,
Jim Kauffmann family, John Patient,
Ronnie Williams family

DEACON JULY 17:

Harris McCollum

DEACON FAMILIES:

Ralph Barclay family, Grady Strube family,
Sharon Haney, Lynda Walker family,
Cary Walton family, Sug Walton

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



*Wednesday
Connections*

CONNECT
GROW
SERVE

SAVE THE DATE

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTIONS
WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 17**

DETAILS COMING SOON!