

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

The magazine *Christian Century* asked several of its writers, authors, contributors, etc. to respond to the question, “What is the Bible for?” – with seven words or less. They were also invited to expand on their seven words in a few sentences. Of course some, if not all, wanted to critique the question itself – like how dare one think the Bible is solely for our utilitarian purposes as the question suggests – but in the end they promised to simply give an answer.

It's a challenge to reduce our confession about the Bible to seven words. Someone suggests we preachers should translate our sermon into a simple haiku. You can imagine the challenge it is for a preacher to do so. But a good challenge I sometimes attempt.

Listen to these examples and try it yourself – to be succinct about what you believe the Bible is for – in seven words and a few sentences.

Window into God, mirror to the soul - One of the oldest metaphors for the Bible is book and mirror, liber et speculum. The Bible is the book of God's works and words. It displays the saga of ancient Israel and the revelation of Jesus Christ. But if we look more closely, perhaps squint a little, we also see a reflection of ourselves—in the psalmist's joy, the disciple's doubt, the widow's trust—just as we are and as we hope to be. The book never lies. Neither does the mirror. — Richard Lischer, professor emeritus of preaching at Duke Divinity School

Awakening us to God's insistent call – For many of us, it is a voice that is difficult – and sometimes seemingly impossible – to hear: God asking us, as God asks Adam, “Where are you?” Through the words of the Bible, God reminds us to open ourselves to God's loving presence, to observe God's commandments, to heed God's summons to be holy as God is holy, to pursue justice, and to respond to the cries of the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. The Bible is an invitation to listen. – Shai Held, president and dean of the Hadar Institute

A library of human encounters with divinity – ... the varied human temperaments, experiences, cultures, literary gifts, and divine purposes of the authors in this library have captivated me for most of my life – helped me find my own place in the giddy, inspired family of God. – Barbara Brown Taylor, minister, professor and author

An invitation to live as God's love – The Bible is a love story. God's love drives the plot—a love revealed in stories and laws, in poems and prayers, in prophecies about God's embrace of all life. The Bible testifies to God's desire for us, to be near us—closer to us than we are to ourselves, as Augustine of Hippo put it. This drama includes us as we become living words, Christ's love for the world written with our lives. — Isaac S. Villegas, PhD student in religion at Duke University

A rip-roaring library to inspire ongoing conversation – Many of us were taught to read the Bible as a law code or constitution. We interpreted it and argued about it like lawyers. We saw that it could be weaponized to cause great harm and used to prove almost anything. Many of us are coming to see the Bible as a library: a collection of artifacts that record argument, struggle breakthrough, discover, and more. It doesn't end conversation but keep us grappling with important questions. – Brian McLaren, author

**Keep Reading the Bible and Practice Resurrection,
Craig**

FINDING STRENGTH "DAY BY DAY"

Caroline Sandell-Berg, often called the "Fanny Crosby of Sweden," penned this beloved hymn during a period of personal trial. Born in 1832, she experienced profound loss early in life, including the tragic death of her father. It was through these deep valleys that she discovered the sustaining power of daily dependence on God's grace—a theme that would become central to her most famous work. The hymn's central message revolves around the profound truth that we need not carry tomorrow's burdens today. Instead, we can find strength and peace by focusing on God's provision for this moment, this day, this present need. This concept speaks directly to our modern struggles with anxiety, worry, and the overwhelming pace of contemporary life.

From a musical perspective, "Day by Day" presents a wonderful opportunity for congregational singing. The melody, typically set to the tune "Blott en Dag," flows naturally and remains accessible to singers of all abilities. The hymn works beautifully as a gentle opening to worship, a reflective offertory piece, or a comforting closing hymn. When leading this hymn, I often encourage our congregation to sing it meditatively rather than triumphantly. The text calls for introspection and quiet trust rather than bold declaration. A slightly slower tempo allows the words to settle into hearts and minds, creating space for personal reflection and prayer.

I've found "Day by Day" particularly meaningful during seasons of congregational difficulty—times of loss, economic uncertainty, or community crisis. The hymn doesn't promise easy answers but offers something more valuable: the assurance that God's grace is sufficient for today's challenges. For those struggling with addiction recovery, mental health challenges, or chronic illness, this hymn provides a framework for living one day at a time. It transforms what might feel like limitation into spiritual discipline, reminding us that God's mercies are indeed new every morning.

One of the hymns greatest strengths is its ability to bridge generational divides within the church. Older members often know it by heart, while younger congregants discover its relevance to contemporary struggles with burnout, anxiety, and the pressure to constantly plan for the future. The hymn's simple yet profound message transcends cultural barriers as well. In our increasingly globalized world, the universal human experience of daily dependence on divine grace creates common ground for worship that spans nationalities and backgrounds.

Caroline Sandell-Berg's "Day by Day" continues to minister to God's people more than a century after its composition because it addresses the fundamental human need for daily grace. As ministers of music, we serve as stewards of these timeless treasures, helping new generations discover the comfort and strength found in trusting God one day at a time. In our role as worship leaders, we have the privilege of introducing congregations to hymns that can sustain them through life's inevitable challenges. "Day by Day" stands as a testament to the enduring power of simple, biblical truth expressed through beautiful poetry and melody—a combination that continues to draw hearts toward the God who provides for us day by day.

Dylan

COMING THIS FALL TO FBC

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES BEGIN AUGUST 13

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!

CHURCH CONFERENCE



SUNDAY, AUGUST 17
10:50AM DURING
MORNING WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Begins August 19 at 3pm • Register Today



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY MISSION PROJECT

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Collection Dates: July 6–27

Drop-off: Bins in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall

Delivery: July 31

- PRIMARY (PRE-K–2): UNDERWEAR & SOCKS (SIZES 3–12)
- ELEMENTARY (3–5): MECHANICAL PENCILS, COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS (WHITE/BLACK), COLORED PENCILS, ZIPLOCK BAGS (ASSORTED SIZES)
- MIDDLE (6–8): HYGIENE ITEMS FOR GIRLS, SOCKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
- HIGH (9–12): HYGIENE ITEMS FOR GIRLS, SOCKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Help us bless students with a strong start to the school year!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EATONTON ~ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EATONTON ~ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



FBCE YOUTH

SUMMER 2025 SCHEDULE

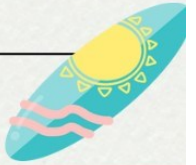
JULY 23

MACON BACON GAME NIGHT

JULY 30

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

FOLLOW US ON IG @YOUTH_FBCE
FOR MORE DETAILS



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EATONTON ~ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EATONTON ~ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CHILDREN'S CHOIR MEETING



Tuesday, July 29 at 6:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall

Volunteers needed to lead a Bible Story



SCHOOL PRAYER RIDE JULY 31 AT 9AM

JOIN US FOR OUR SCHOOL PRAYER DRIVE.
TOGETHER WE'LL VISIT AND PRAY OVER EACH
SCHOOL AS THEY BEGIN A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH

JULY 30
6PM–8PM

LET'S KICK OFF THE SCHOOL
YEAR WITH SOME FUN,
FELLOWSHIP, AND FOOD!

WE WILL HAVE FREE
SCHOOL SUPPLIES,
ICE CREAM BAR, HOTDOGS
WATERSLIDES,
BOUNCE HOUSE, AND MORE!



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR JULY

Guerry and Joan Key

WELCOMING FOR AUGUST

Charles and Shelia Patten

USHERS FOR JULY

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

USHERS FOR AUGUST

Mike Lyons, Howell Cardwell, Mike Faulk

DEACON FOR JULY 20

Jesse McMillen

DEACON FAMILIES

Helen Benshoof, Kent Duffey Family,
Mike Faulk Family, Hollis Harrison Family,
David Heath Family, Scott Sharp,
Patrice Underkofler

DEACON FOR JULY 27

Cooper Rainey

DEACON FAMILIES

Pam Douglas, Jim Howell Family,
Mike Lyons Family, Charles Patten Family,
Glenda Ridley, Ed Self Family,
Bill Sharp Family

DEACON FOR AUGUST 3

Jim Ryan

DEACON FAMILIES

Sherri Farmer Family, David Giddens Family,
Luke Harvey Family, Harris McCollum Family,
Karen Ricketson Family, John Wojtas Family

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, July 06 118

Sunday, July 13 110

FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 30, 2025

Budget Needs YTD \$279,687.00

Total Receipts YTD \$272,546.05

Budget Expenditures YTD \$333,264.44

BIRTHDAYS

07/17 - Stew Rich

07/20 - Dylan Bowden

07/22 - Lanier Harvey

07/30 - Steven Prance, Jesse McMillen

07/31 - Tripp Rich

08/01 - Jack Cardwell, Lisa Herndon,
Joan Barclay

08/03 - Cary Walton

08/04 - Brandon Cardwell

08/05 - Mark Smith

08/06 - Rhett Rich

08/07 - Marsha Lutz

ANNIVERSARY

08/04 - David and Joni Dixon

WELCOME

We welcome Jan Long to the
membership of First Baptist Church!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

SYMPATHY:

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family
of Ted Sills in his passing.

OUR MEMBERS:

Terry Blanton, George Dissmeyer, Norman Holle,
Gwen Ralston, Kyle Ralston, Scott Sharp, Jimmy Williams,
Nell Wright, Unspoken

FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

Nancy Banister, Martha Benner, Lynn Butterworth,
Warren Camp, Neile Chambers, Gloria Covington,
Michael Homiere, Nancy Joiner, Cathy Ledford,
Zellie Marbury, Everett Marsh, Lisa Morgan,
Eleanor Moye, Sheryl Murphy, Owen Nauert,
Walt Rocker Jr., Earnest Rogers, Steven Sharp,
Linda Stowe, Kristy Trice, Emmett Vining,
Wayne Waddell, Katherine Warner, 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 FRIENDS:

Trey and Kaitlyn Lancaster in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe &
Matt and Michelle Norman Family in Catalunya, Spain

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

SPONSORED BY R2T AND PARTNERS FOR ALL
AGES WHO HAVE NEEDS TO PREPARE TO EDUCATE IN 2025/26!



Back To School
**HEALTH
FAIR**

SATURDAY July 19th
10 AM -2 PM

New Life Outreach
Christian Center
206 Agnes Drive

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| + Free School Supplies | + Nutrition Assistance |
| + Overdose Prevention | + Blood Pressure Checks |
| + Education Literacy | + Free Hot Meals |
| + Hygiene Care Packages | + Free Games |
| + Senior Life Literacy | + Vaccine Literacy |

COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, July 19
10am -2pm

Join us for a fun-filled,
family-friendly day
dedicated to health,
wellness, and back-to-school
excitement!