

OCTOBER 16, 2025

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

A preacher received the offerings from the ushers and stared into the limp, velvet collection bag. No open hardened plates were used by his church. Just beautiful velvet collection bags held by a wooden handle and a brass circular piece that held the bag open. So you could not easily see what was inside. That was intentional. However, the preacher had handled more than one offering bag. Seasoned as he was, when handed the bags he checked them out. Then he took time to clean his glasses and to look into the bag a second time.

He cleared his throat and announced with the little enthusiasm he could muster, “Our mission to invite the poor to join our congregation has been an outstanding success. I can assure you they are all here.”

I never receive FBC’s monthly financial reports with the disheartened reaction that minister once had to his offering bag on Sunday morning. Instead, I am consistently grateful and encouraged by the remarkable generosity of this congregation. Your faithful tithes and offerings continue to inspire both gratitude and hope. I would be remiss if I did not express my sincere thanks for your giving.

Your generosity enables the wide range of ministries and missions we carry out in this community and beyond. It also makes possible the service of our full-time and part-time ministers who live, serve, and lead here in Eatonton.

I have long believed that the entire church budget is, in truth, a *mission budget*. While one section may be labeled “missions,” every dollar supports our larger purpose—to lead people to worship God, teach the Bible, follow Jesus, and love others. This mission is distinctively ours as a church. Many institutions may address aspects of that mission, but only the church is charged with bearing the full witness of Christian worship, teaching the Bible and following the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am profoundly grateful to share in this work as FBC’s pastor, and for the generosity that sustains it. You are good people with whom to serve!

It is indeed costly to do what we do, and much of it is done in partnership with other vital organizations in our community. I am grateful for their work also. Yet our witness to Jesus remains unique — expressed through our unique buildings, events, ministries, services, gatherings, etc. May God grant us faithfulness and tenacity in all we undertake.

Thank you once again for your generous support that makes this church possible.

Grace and Peace,
Craig

"BE THOU MY VISION"

Dear Church Family,

As we sing "Be Thou My Vision" in worship this Sunday, I wanted to share some thoughts about this beautiful hymn that has strengthened believers for generations.

This ancient prayer song originated in Ireland, likely composed in the 6th or 7th century. The original Gaelic poem, attributed to Saint Dáallan Forgaill, was translated into English in the early 20th century by Mary Elizabeth Byrne and later versified by Eleanor Hull. The haunting Irish folk melody we know today, called SLANE, gives the text its distinctive character and has made this hymn a favorite across denominations.

What makes this hymn so enduring is its intimate plea for God's presence to infiltrate every aspect of our lives. Rather than asking for material blessings or specific outcomes, the writer seeks something far more profound: for God Himself to become our primary focus and guide. Each verse builds on this theme, asking the Lord to be our wisdom, our true Word, our shield, and our inheritance.

The hymn reminds us that our spiritual journey isn't about acquiring more knowledge about God, but about cultivating a relationship where He becomes our vision—our way of seeing everything else. When we sing this hymn, we're praying that God would so fill our hearts and minds that His perspective becomes our own.

I encourage you to pray through the words of this hymn this week. Consider what it might mean for Christ to truly be your vision—in your daily decisions, your relationships, and your understanding of what matters most.

May we sing with hearts fully engaged, allowing these ancient words to reshape our modern lives.

**Blessings,
Dylan**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

We will be voting on the 2026 Budget, Deacons, Nominating Report, and Bylaws Addendum.

There will be a Budget Discussion on Wednesday, October 22 at 6:15pm.



2025 DEACON NOMINEES

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

Steve Benton, Pam Douglas, Chris Hewette, Pam Lancaster, Cherry Leverette, Tommy McElhenney, Ed Self, Cheryl Williams, John Wojtas

You will vote for up to six names on Oct. 26, 2025.



PRAYER EVENING

"Lift a Light to Heaven"

Please join us for a Prayer Vigil at First Baptist Church. We will be praying for local, national and global concerns.

Sunday, November 9th at 5 PM

Location: Prayer Garden at FBCE

Welcome to bring your folding chair.



JOIN US FOR A PUMPKIN PAINTING AND KIDS CRAFT

**OCTOBER 26
4:00 PM**

FRONT LAWN

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



CHRISTMAS ON THE AVENUE

**Sunday, December 7
6:00 PM**

First Methodist Church

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR OCTOBER

Cary Walton

WELCOMING FOR NOVEMBER

Steve and Robin Benton

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 19

Joni Dixon

DEACON FAMILIES

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

DEACON FOR OCTOBER 26

Mike Faulk

DEACON FAMILIES

Ryan Carmichael Family, Julia Davis,
David Dixon Family, Clyde Harper Family,
Julie Harper, Gaye Lankford, Jill Vaughan

DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 2

Jim Hall

DEACON FAMILIES

Howell Cardwell Family, Barry Chambers Family,
Jeff Davis Family, Bill Kitchen Family,
Tommy McElhenney Family, Joseph Rainey Family,
Kay Stevens Family, Jimmy Williams

BIRTHDAYS

10/19 - Lynda Walker, Warren Yates
10/20 - Ennis Lankford
10/21 - Ashley Rich, Lauren Wooten
10/23 - Karen Willis
10/25 - Piper Rainey
10/27 - Connie Covington, Maura Carmichael
10/31 - Gail Harley, Sug Walton
11/01 - Jeff Davis
11/03 - Isabelle Rocker
11/05 - Caroline Lankford

ANNIVERSARIES

10/16 - 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

<u>Sunday, October 05</u>	<u>87</u>
<u>Sunday, October 12</u>	<u>101</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$419,530.50</u>
<u>Total Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$412,224.05</u>
<u>Budget Expenditures YTD</u>	<u>\$450,214.57</u>

THANK YOU

Dear Friends of First Baptist Eatonton,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the love and support you have shown me and my family during the time following my father's passing. Your kind words, thoughtful cards, emails, and phone calls have been a source of great comfort to me.

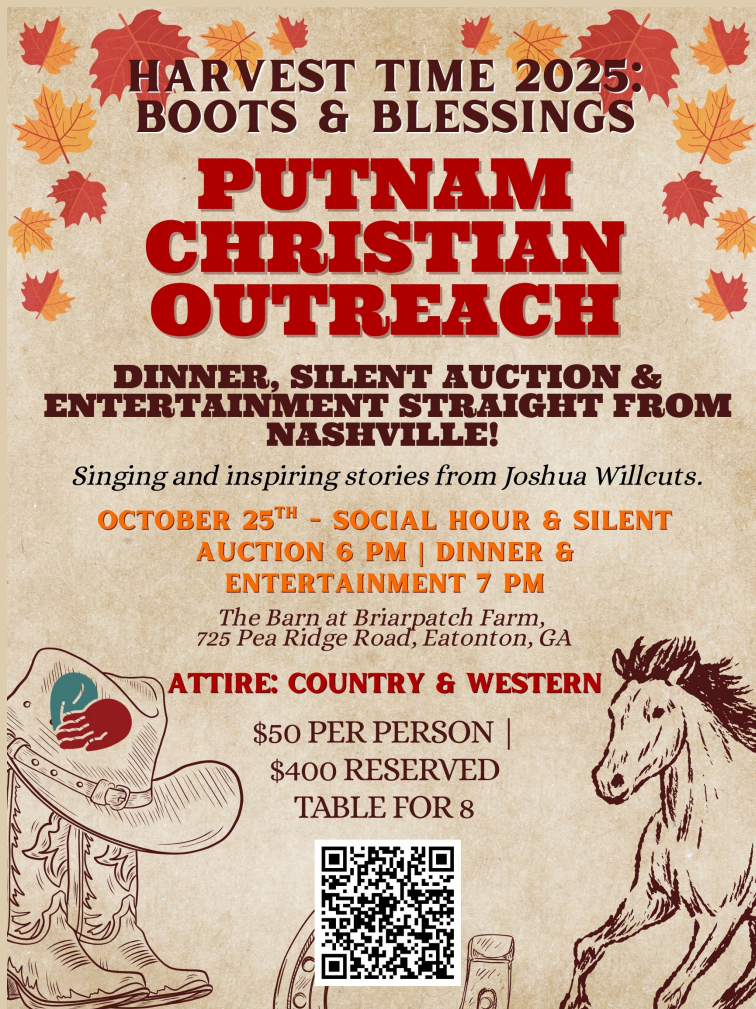
It meant so much to see so many of you at Dad's memorial service. Your presence there was a beautiful testimony to the caring community that First Baptist Eatonton is, and it brought me tremendous peace during the challenge of delivering Dad's eulogy.

Thank you for surrounding me with your prayers and compassion. I am truly blessed to be part of such a loving church family.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Dylan

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



**HARVEST TIME 2025:
BOOTS & BLESSINGS**

**PUTNAM
CHRISTIAN
OUTREACH**

**DINNER, SILENT AUCTION &
ENTERTAINMENT STRAIGHT FROM
NASHVILLE!**

Singing and inspiring stories from Joshua Willcuts.

**OCTOBER 25TH - SOCIAL HOUR & SILENT
AUCTION 6 PM | DINNER &
ENTERTAINMENT 7 PM**

*The Barn at Briarpatch Farm,
725 Pea Ridge Road, Eatonton, GA*

ATTIRE: COUNTRY & WESTERN

**\$50 PER PERSON |
\$400 RESERVED
TABLE FOR 8**



HARVEST TIME 2025: BOOTS & BLESSINGS

Join us for an inspiring evening supporting *Putnam Christian Outreach* on **Saturday, October 25, 2025** at The Barn at Briarpatch Farm. The night will feature a delicious dinner, a lively silent auction, and uplifting music and stories from Nashville singer-song writer **Joshua Willcuts**. Come be part of this special night of community, faith, and generosity as we celebrate blessings and give back together.

**Putnam Christian
OUTREACH**