

AUGUST 17, 2023

First Baptist Church of Eatonton *Messenger*

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Why do we read and study the Bible? I asked that last night as the adults began our fall Wednesday night study on the book of Galatians. My reasoning for doing so was a little ambiguous, but leaned toward trying to think about how we might best answer the question for God's beloved people outside the church. There were several good answers given. Like, "because it is the Bible." Or "it teaches us the path of life." And the Bible's own statement, "study to show yourself approved unto God."

But all of those answers assume a certain respect for the Bible. And it does exist among most people who attend church. But for those who don't attend, of whom there seem to be a growing majority, such a respect for the Bible is ceasing to exist. So, I wonder how we reason with people about why anyone should study the Bible? For us it is the Word of life, but for many it is now an ancient piece of religious literature among an even larger body of ancient religious literature.

I cherish the Bible. It is one of the loves of my life because of my knowledge of Jesus. However, I know such is no longer the majority opinion.

So, I found myself thinking back to how the Bible got its status among any of us in the beginning. As was referenced last night it came in part from our parents who read it to us and made it a holy book to us by the practice of reading it to us as children. That led me to think about the fact that for centuries we have read the Bible because our faith ancestors have been holding up this book to us, passing it along to us, teaching us how to read it – and because they have recommended it, we yet treasure it and seek to understand it, as well as stream its content into our hearts and minds. Ancient ancestors and those not so ancient have held up this book of readings to us saying, "take and read." We call it holy because they recommended it as the holy book. We read and study the Bible because of the centuries old witness it bears a divine word. That divine word is about a God that seeks us out to be in relationship and leads us to be in relationship with one another.

Indeed, and most unfortunately, the Bible has been used to terrorize people in various ways and to justify some of the worst human behavior. But that was never what our faith ancestors intended! And it takes rightly handling the Bible, as itself states, for the Bible to be the book of life. But that is what we at a church like FBC are about – loving the Bible because it is our faith ancestors' beloved book, they passed to us to keep us connected to God and to one another in the way of Christ. Thus, it is our goal to read and study the Bible in a life-giving way, never to terrorize, but always to lead us and others to love one another as God has loved us.

**May It Be So,
Craig**

P.O. Box 3400

115 N. Madison Ave

706-485-3331

firstbaptisteatonton.org

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

I am excited for our Children & Youth Activities to begin on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. I have been in contact with the Students earlier this week, to remind them personally as well. The building will be open at 5:30 PM and Youth will end at 7:15 PM. Starting NEXT WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, I will start back offering to pick the kids up from school to spend some extra time fellowshiping together at the Church. This is one way I am trying to connect more with the kids.

Our 2023 Scripture Theme is, John 3:30, "He must increase, and I must decrease." This will influence the teaching each month. I have been prayerfully considering restructuring our Wednesday night time together. I do not want to remove anything we currently have, but I do want to add in an additional element of Student Ministry & Discipleship, and that is Boys & Girls Small Group time. I also am prayerfully considering trying to start a Weekly Prayer Breakfast for Students. All of this will be further discussed in the next Parent & Volunteer meeting mentioned below.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Tuesday, August 22nd, there is a Children's Ministry meeting for all parents and volunteers at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a time for parents and volunteers to talk about our plans for the fall.**
- **On Wednesday, August 23rd, I am scheduling a Parent & Volunteer meeting at the END of Youth, at 7:15 PM in the Youth Room. PLEASE if you are able come and be a part of this meeting I would greatly appreciate it!** The kids will be dismissed to play games or go to the gym while we meet.

One of the key components of a growing and successful Student Ministry is Parent Involvement and input. Also, to be quite honest, I NEED your involvement and help. We need to look at the Fall calendar & discuss how dinner is done each week. I have currently on the calendar for Grades 6-12, a Fall Retreat in Dahlonega Nov. 3-5, and am trying to plan a Winter Retreat/Ski Trip as well, and would LOVE to add in some smaller events/outings on the weekends when possible. I want to do my best to work around everyone's Schedule as much as I can.

I am excited for sports to start back up at both Putnam County Schools and Gatewood, as I try attend as much as possible to see and support the kids.

I am confident and hopeful, that we will see both Spiritual growth, and growth in numbers in the '23-'24 year if we work together to provide the best possible experience for the students. Please join me in praying daily for our students, their families, and the ministries here at FBCE. If you have any questions please reach out to me directly, and I will be more than happy to help.

Blessings,
Dylan



MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

Our **Choir's** new semester is off to a great start, but it's not too late to get in on the ground floor. We rehearse on **Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in our Choir Room**, and once a month over at Eatonton United Methodist Church as we prepare for Christmas on the Avenue.

JuBELLation, our handbell ministry, will kick off a new season on **Sunday, August 27 at 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** This is both an Introduction and Refresher on the exciting fine art of ringing bells as a worship offering. No experience or commitment is yet required, so this is a great time to give it a try. Let John Cotten or the church office know you're coming, please.

We are taking a **Congregational Singing Survey**. It is intended to help us discover what factors either encourage or discourage participation in congregational study. It is being conducted mainly online, via our church's website, email, and Facebook page. We will also have printed Survey forms available in the office and narthex for those who prefer a hard copy. It is completely anonymous, with no information being collected beyond the answers to its 30 multiple-choice questions. For most folks, it will take 10-15 minutes. We need open and honest opinions, and you are free to skip questions or add comments. The greater the number of us who participate, the more helpful our Survey will be. The sooner, the better, though we will accept responses up until midnight on **Sunday, September 3**. One survey per person, please, though each person of a household is encouraged to respond. Our Survey was originally designed by John Cotten's friend, Dr. Will Bishop, who is Associate Professor of Music and Worship at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who customized it just for us. He is interested in our church's survey results, though it is primarily to help our particular church discover the best ways to encourage participation in worship through congregational singing. **Here is the link to our Survey:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc04ZGgUgIWfT9mra6K8X87TpkbnlqMrSmzGWOWPCC69osFUg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR2ZmTtOIqrg-3KUqvgPawFIV3dsGEnYnq4RjQMTVGfR5czK2uacb2ttCwA_aem_AXKqsSiOXUcuyLzlolw6leDxXRx_kzLYpz-XZkSlo2B07VkkjwbtCR6KSPojS414_bY

John

JUBELLATION HANDBELL GATHERING

**Sunday August 27
at 1:30pm**
Contact John for more information

Christmas on the Avenue

COMBINED REHEARSALS
BEGIN WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6TH
AT 7:15 PM AT FIRST BAPTIST

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING SURVEY

WE WANT

YOUR

FEEDBACK!

WE ARE TAKING A CONGREGATIONAL SINGING SURVEY, INTENDED TO HELP US DISCOVER WHAT FACTORS EITHER ENCOURAGE OR DISCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN CONGREGATIONAL SINGING. PLEASE FILL OUT THE SURVEY ONLINE OR PICK UP A HARDCOPY IN THE OFFICE OR THE NARTHEX.

SURVEYS ARE DUE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

CONTACT JOHN COTTEN OR THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR QUESTIONS.

CHOIR

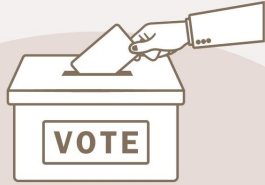
Rehearsals
Wednesdays
at 7:15pm

Contact
John Cotten for
more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEACON NOMINATIONS

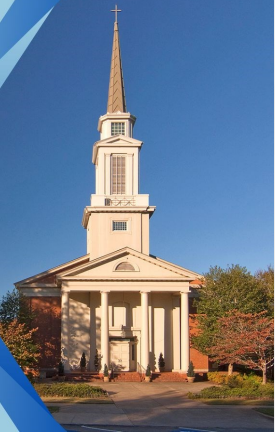
THE 2024 DEACON NOMINEE LIST IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE PICK UP A COPY TODAY.



THE VOTE WILL BE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 DURING THE CHURCH CONFERENCE YOU WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE FOR UP TO 12 NOMINEES.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
AT 10:50 AM
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON SEPTEMBER 4TH FOR LABOR DAY



JOIN US ON SUNDAYS
Small Groups at 9:45AM
Worship at 10:50AM



Prayer REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request or need, call the Church Office at 706-485-3331

STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

Parent's Night Out


LET YOUR FAVORITE CHILDCARE PROVIDERS SPEND SOME EXTRA TIME WITH THE KIDDO'S WHILE PARENTS ENJOY A NIGHT OUT. WE WILL PROVIDE DINNER AND PLENTY OF PLAYTIME:

\$40 FOR ONE CHILD
\$70 FOR TWO CHILDREN
\$90 FOR THREE OR MORE CHILDREN
*CASH IS PREFERRED

THIS PARENT'S NIGHT OUT IS PERFECT FOR PARENTS TO ENJOY THE TASTE OF EATONTON EVENT OR A DATE NIGHT:

9 SEPTEMBER 2023	3:30 PM - 8:30 PM
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RSVP USING THE LINK BELOW OR MESSAGE US ON HIMAMA



THIS IS AN AFTER-HOURS EVENT, NOT STATE REGULATED. SIBLINGS AND FRIENDS OF SSLC CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.



MEN'S PRAYER GROUP
Thursdays at 8:00AM in the Sanctuary

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR AUGUST

Charles and Shelia Patten

WELCOMING FOR SEPTEMBER

Scott and Amy Joris

USHERS FOR AUGUST

Mike Lyons, Howell Cardwell, Mike Faulk,
Brandon Cardwell, Frank Thompson

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Marvin Franklin, Gene Adams, Edge Farley,
Clayton Lancaster, Steve Tubbs

DEACON FOR AUGUST 20

Cary Walton

DEACON FAMILIES

Ronald Harley family, Randall McCook,
Betty Pinholster, Don Turney family,
Jerry Williams family, Craig Williamson family

DEACON FOR AUGUST 27

Charles Winslette

DEACON FAMILIES

Helen Benshoof, Mike Faulk family,
Hollis Harrison family, David Heath family,
Bill Kitchen family, Scott Sharp,
Patrice Underkofler family

DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 3

John Wojtas

DEACON FAMILIES

Gene Adams family, Don Baker family,
Tommy Copelan family, Sherri Farmer family,
Jim Hall family, Ben Leverette family,
James Ryan

BIRTHDAYS

08/23 - Roger Vining, Cheryl Williams

08/24 - Victor Stevens, Jill Vaughan

08/25 - Howell Cardwell

08/26 - Karen Harrison

08/31 - Bill Kitchen

09/01 - Terry Blanton

09/03 - Sheila Patten

09/07 - Joan Key

ANNIVERSARIES

08/20 - Brandon and McKenzie Cardwell

08/20 - Roger and Jeanne Vining

08/21 - Frank and Laura Thompson

08/23 - Bill and Judie Kitchen

08/31 - Jim and Margaret Howell

09/01 - Don and Rita Masson

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, August 6 112

Sunday, August 13 90

FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 6, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$17,615.00

Budget Needs YTD \$332,552.32

Budget Receipts YTD \$313,948.31

AUGUST 13, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$6,169.40

Budget Needs YTD \$342,944.58

Budget Receipts YTD \$320,117.71

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Stew and Ashley Rich upon the birth of their son Rhett Timothy Rich on August 6, 2023. The proud grandparents are Tim and Kim Camp and Marhsall and Patti Rich and the proud great-grandmother is Jo Ann Clay.

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



*Wednesday
Connections*

**CONNECT
GROW
SERVE**

JOIN US WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

5:30 PM - SUPPER

6:00 PM - AWANA

6:00 PM - YOUTH GROUP

6:15 PM - ADULT BIBLE STUDY

7:15 PM - CHOIR

