

OCTOBER 19, 2023

*First Baptist Church
of Eatonton*
Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

I was talking to a colorful bird the other day. Said his name was Henry, named after his Great Granddaddy.

He was singing boldly, joyfully. I asked him how come he sings so much. Said he was free. "Free from what," I asked him. He said, "Oh you know. All the stuff people said he was supposed to be and could have been. Were it not for him being born with wings and such skinny legs, as well as no real arms and hands, he could have been a beauty!"

We talked on about the expectations people place upon themselves, and similarly place on other people, other creatures. All because someone else suggested they should be such and such. It seems to make people crazy sometimes, or just plain dumb.

Henry said he was given a faith that expected so much of him. It sounded good, just and right. How did he know to question any of it? He swallowed it like he did the food given to him. He thought about trimming his feathers in the shape of hands. But he didn't have the hands to do such a thing, so they grew just as they were. People tried to teach him to talk. "Polly want a cracker?" they kept saying to him. Then they would poke food at him as if everything was about food and some kind of instant gratification – a reward for every good behavior, of which talking was a priority. He sang to them, but he never got a cracker for singing. He found himself imprisoned by those demands to perform as requested.

Until one day, he doesn't know how, but he got free. His unclipped feathers came in handy and his little skinny short legs were perfect for flying and then holding on to things when he didn't want to fly. They weren't a handicap as some would have thought. His legs and his wings turned out to be uniquely fitting parts of his body. "Who said you had to have long, toned pretty legs to be attractive?"

So, he said he sings because he's free. Free of the silly things he heard at times about how he looked, and what he'd never do. He just sings and sings now. Oh, and he flies. Miss the crackers? They were nothing compared to what he found in the trees, among the grasses. And in some of the nicest people's feeders.

Free. Why would he ever go back to being restrained by such foolish thoughts? Or demanding expectations? Or hideous comparisons to other creatures? Once you get free you've got to fly and sing. And you know it's for what you were made.

Sounds like Henry had been reading Galatians, particularly 5:13-26, and gotten free! May we be so lucky.

*Singing,
Craig*

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

Wow! What an amazing start we have had to this Fall season. It is always wonderful and a little bit amazing at how quickly things seem to move in Church life. October is shaping up to be another wonderful ministry filled month and we hope that whether it is in Sunday School, Youth Group, Children's Ministry, and of course Sunday worship that you will be a part of it all.

There is a seasonal aspect to life that closely mirrors this season of the year. We are in the middle of a wonderful season of busyness here at the church, but just because we are busy we do not need to be burdened. Jesus says many wonderful things, and one of my favorite Jesus sayings is: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30 NRSV) For a while as a young Christian, I had a tendency to think this meant Jesus wanted us to take it easy, or to live a life of leisure. I always wondered why that never seemed to manifest itself. Of course, that is not what Jesus is saying at all. Jesus is telling us in this moment that if we ground the work we do, whether for the church, or our families, and even our community, in God that what we will find is not necessarily a life of ease, but a life that is joyous.

We are not called to live easy lives; we are called to faithful living. That faithful living includes not only being a part of a Faith Community and being actively involved in the life of FBCE but also recognizing that we all belong first to God, that all we have and all we are is God's to begin with. Faithful living includes giving thanks to God at the end of a busy day for the places where you saw his grace shining through. Jesus reminds us in this passage from Matthew that there will be work to do but you do not need to be overwhelmed by it because Jesus is with us every step of the way and as much as we desire to lead lives of faith for Jesus, Jesus will always be faithful to us.

Dylan L. Bowden



JOIN US

CBFGA
Youth Fall Retreat
November 3-5, 2023
Camp Glisson, Dahlonega, GA

**CONTACT DYLAN TO SIGN UP
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION**

MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

Thank you, church, for your thoughtful, generous card and gift for Pastor Appreciation Month. I am reminded of the songs I shared with our children on the 15th: “*We’ve Got So Much, So Much to Be Thankful For*” and “*Rejoice in the Lord Always*.”

I talked with them about whining and complaining, and mentioned how contagious that dis-ease can be. Once it starts, it can be difficult to stem. I asked them what was the best way to stop whining, and was delighted with little Eleanor Rocker’s answer. “*Be happy with what you have*.” Perfect!

My friend RG Huff, a noted hymn writer, put a fun twist on it recently. (Try singing it aloud to the tune of “*There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*,” remembering to sing the chorus after each stanza.)



1. *Joyful is better than grumpy!
Take it from someone who knows.
We've seen enough of your stern face;
Your negativity shows.*

Chorus: *Come on, be joyful!
Life is too short to be dour.
Your attitude is a downer.
Sweet is much better than sour!*

2. *One of the dwarves was named Happy.
Happy was everyone's fave.
Grumpy was nobody's cohort
'Cause of the way he behaved.
Repeat the Chorus*

3. *Snarling, complaining and griping --
We've had enough of your kind.
Get off your self-righteous high horse!
You like it there? Never mind.
Repeat the Chorus*



I laugh when I sing that, but I’m seriously thankful that our church is sweet and joyful, not sour or dour. I am glad that we follow God’s instructions in Philippians 4 to rejoice in the Lord always, and focus our thoughts on things that are good and praiseworthy. This gives us God’s peace that goes beyond understanding no matter our circumstances, and allows us to sing, serve, and grow in our faith unselfconsciously.

It is a joy and blessing to serve our Lord with you!

John Cotten

*Christmas
on the
Avenue*
REHEARSALS
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 PM
CONTACT JOHN COTTEN
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

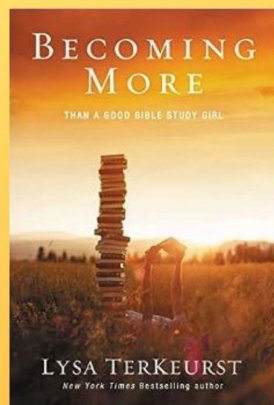
CHRISTMAS ON
THE AVENUE
O Holy Light
Sunday, December 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISASTER RELIEF



IF YOU WISH TO GIVE TO THE DISASTER RELIEF OFFERING, PLEASE USE THE DESIGNATED OFFERING ENVELOPE IN THE PEW RACK OR DROP YOUR OFFERING OFF BY THE CHURCH OFFICE THIS WEEK. ALL DESIGNATED OFFERINGS WILL BE SHARED WITH OUR PARTNERS AT THE COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF GA.



Ladies 6-Week Bible Study

"Becoming More Than a Good Bible Study Girl" by Lysa Terkeurst

Monday, October 23
from 6PM - 8PM

At the home of Christine Winslette

Contact Kim Camp for more information.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
AT 10:50 AM
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

WE WILL BE VOTING ON THE 2024 DEACONS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEES



DEACON VOTE

Prayerfully consider the following nominees as you vote for our 2024 Deacons on Sunday, October 22:

**Robin Benton, Barry Chambers,
Susan Davis, Mike Faulk,
Clayton Lancaster, Jesse McMillen,
James Ryan, Bill Sharp**

You may vote for up to 6 nominees.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT VOTE

Be in prayer for our Nominating Committee as they are reviewing and enlisting people to serve in the variety of ways needed for our church. Prayerfully consider the requests of these leaders as they approach you and courageously ask and enlist.

ENJOY A FULL DAY OF EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN EATONTON!
Fun Run/5K: 7:30-11AM | Gospel Sing & Fall Festival: 2-6PM



Putnam County HEALTH FAIR

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 28
10 AM — 2 PM

MAIN STREET STAGE
DOWNTOWN EATONTON

*Blood Drive @ Eatonton FUMC

FREE Community Event

Health screenings, education, resources, and more!

- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Health Insurance Help
- Overdose Prevention
- Mental Health
- Seizure First Aid Training
- Nutrition Assistance
- Blood Sugar Screening
- Hospice Care
- Hearing Screening
- Flu and Covid Vaccines



COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 29



5th Sunday Lunch
OCTOBER 29
FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP

The church will provide meat, tea and bread.

Please bring casseroles, vegetables, salads, AND desserts.

JOIN US THIS FALL



FALL festival

SATURDAY
21st October 2023
5-8 pm

Covington Farm Eatonton

Photo opp, games, hayride
Bounce house, pumpkin painting
Hotdogs, s'mores, candy scavenger hunt



Stepping Stones Learning Center

PARENT'S Night out

**28TH
OCTOBER**

4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

\$40 PER ONE CHILD
\$70 FOR TWO CHILDREN
\$90 FOR 3 OR MORE

CASH PREFERRED



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH HERITAGE

Founder's Day

Sunday, November 12

Following the service, there will be a meal in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide the meat, bread and tea. Please bring **LARGE** casseroles, vegetables, salads and desserts.



Thanksgiving DINNER

Wednesday, November 15
AT 5:30 PM

RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

PUMPKIN PATCH

FALL IS HERE AND SO IS OUR
PUMPKIN PATCH! COME OUT TODAY
AND PICK OUT A PUMPKIN!

Our Pumpkin Patch is open:
Mondays - Fridays from 3pm - 8pm
and Saturdays from 10am - 8pm.



Volunteers needed!
Contact Stepping Stones
at 706-485-0690 to sign up or
for more information.

Our pumpkin patch helps support
Stepping Stones Learning Center and
First Baptist Church children and
youth ministries.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR OCTOBER

Jim and Vicki Hall

USHERS FOR OCTOBER

David Stickley
Jarred Camp
John Wojtas
Walt Rocker
Jim Hall

DEACON FOR OCTOBER 22

Cary Walton

DEACON FAMILIES

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

DEACON FOR OCTOBER 29

Cherry Leverette

DEACON FAMILIES

Dylan Bowden
Barry Chambers family
Lisa Herndon
Anne Marie Horton family
Jim Kauffmann family
Jean Rich
Ronnie Williams family

WELCOME

We welcome Chris and Danielle Hewette to the membership of First Baptist Church by transfer of letter and Wyatt Hewette by profession of faith.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your cards, prayers, and visits during this time of loss. They meant a lot to us and we love and appreciate you all.

God Bless,
The Strube Family

BIRTHDAYS

10/19 - Lynda Walker, Warren Yates
10/20 - Ennis Lankford
10/21 - Lauren Brown, Ashley Rich
10/25 - Piper Rainey
10/27 - Maura Carmichael, Connie Covington
10/31 - Gail Harley, Sug Walton
11/01 - Jeff Davis

ANNIVERSARY

10/20 - Clayton and Pam Lancaster
10/21 - Scott and Amy Joris
10/23 - Steve and Mary Culberson
10/24 - Tom and Pam Thompson

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, October 08</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Sunday, October 15</u>	<u>92</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,392.26</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$9,595.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$415,690.40</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$389,332.19</u>

OCTOBER 8, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,392.26</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$10,730.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$426,082.66</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$400,062.19</u>

OCTOBER 15, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,392.26</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$9,381.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$436,471.92</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$409,443.19</u>

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

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES



Shoeboxes have arrived
and are ready to be packed!
Pick up your shoeboxes in
the Narthex. Directions for
packing are included in the
boxes. Please return boxes
to the Narthex by
Wednesday, November 8.

