

JANUARY 20, 2023

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

He liked to drive fast, too fast. He found himself with three tickets in one year, a personal record. And he found himself mandated to one of those driving classes for such offenders who wished to keep their driver's license. He wasn't quite sure what to expect. He surely wasn't expecting a teacher who would ask him such a question. "Why are you here?"

He tried the simple answer. "Because I got three speeding tickets."

"No, really, why are you here?" Was this simple driving instructor asking him what he learned in seminary was an existential question. As you might have suspected the student was a pastor. He wasn't sure how to answer.

The questions continued. "Where are you going in such a hurry?"

Pastor Mike said, "Well, the first time I was going to . . ."

The instructor interrupted, "No, where are you going in such a hurry?"

Was the instructor asking another existential question?

And before he could decide how to answer, the instructor continued again, "Life is short. Take your time and enjoy it."

The student knew a sermon when he saw one.

The instructor quipped once again, "There is just a grave waiting for you down that road."

And then Pastor Mike heard the instructor ask, "What are you looking for?"

Now that struck a chord! He had preached on it. He asked himself, "What was I looking for in life that caused me to move so frantically through the world?"

He reflected on all these things as he wrote his reflection for *The Christian Century* on that very question from the Gospel text, John 1:29-42.

Indeed, what a question, maybe *the* question.

He continued to write, "When someone shows up in church for the first time, what are they looking for? Direction? Meaning? Hope? Something spiritual? Will they find it? When an unchurched couple asks to be married in the church, what are they looking for? A reminder of the sacred? A blessing for a long journey? To start out on the right foot? When someone is trying to decide on a job change or a career change, what are they looking for?"

In John's Gospel, Jesus always shifts from small talk to the deeper questions. . . .

What are you looking for in life? Indeed, what makes life worth living? We audaciously claim that it's about relationships, with God and one another. Love of God and love of neighbor. When we come to the end of our earthly journey, there are few if any possessions that we will say made life worth living. It will be the relationships: the love we gave and received. . . . Like the disciples in John 1, perhaps we hope following Christ might keep us focused on what matters."

The gracious invitation from Jesus is to "come and see." Come and see what he teaches about relationships, love and meaning, among other things. Explore with him such existential questions like, "Why do we barrel through life at such speeds or have such obsessions?"

*Grace and Peace,*  
*Craig*

## YOUTH NEWS

What a great two weeks we have had so far this year! We have started back with our evening Youth Worship & Fellowship each Wednesday at 6:00 pm. We started a series on our Identity being rooted and found in Christ, and will continue with this theme for the next few weeks and end with a series finale on February 8th. We are in the planning stages of adding a weekly Sunday afternoon time of fellowship for our youth, as well as implementing small groups for our students too. We have a place here for you to be loved, and to serve the Lord as part of this great community of believers.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”—Romans 12:6–8 (NIV)

*Rev. Dylan Bowden*

## STEPPING STONES EVENT

# Spaghetti for Zandla

FEBRUARY 11TH FROM  
4 PM TO 6:30 PM

Ms. Zandla has been with us for 16 years and is one of our most beloved members of our staff. She is dedicated to our Center and we want to give back to her and help her through these tough times since she has give us so much over the years.

Please pick up plates from  
Fellowship Hall at FBCE  
All proceeds from sales will  
go to offset Zandla's medical  
bills

## MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### JUBELLATION HANDBELLS

Rehearsals  
Sundays at 1:30pm

### JOIN OUR CHOIR

Rehearsals  
Wednesdays  
at 7:15pm

# DIY WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29  
FOLLOWING OUR 5TH SUNDAY LUNCH  
CONTACT JOHN COTTEN OR THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP!

### 5th Sunday DIY Worship

Our next 5th Sunday celebration is January 29. Following our meal, we will go back to the sanctuary for Do It Yourself Worship. For this we invite folks to come and share their own worship expressions, including but not limited to vocal and instrumental music. Every creative art form is encouraged, especially if it's not something included very often in our usual worship. The more variety and generations we can include, the better. Dance, poetry, short skit drama, visual art, family groups, friends, brief testimonies or story telling - we have an hour to include all kinds of creative "acts" of worship. To be put on the list that John Cotten will coordinate, call the church office. Sooner is better than later.

# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR JANUARY

Steve and Lisa Tubbs

## USHERS FOR JANUARY

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

## DEACON FOR JANUARY 22

Edge Farley

## DEACON FAMILIES

Don Masson family  
Steven Prance family  
Cooper Rainey family  
Mac Rainey family

## DEACON FOR JANUARY 29

Jim Hall

## DEACON FAMILIES

Jeff Davis family  
Chad Davis family  
Hilda Marshall  
David Stickley family  
Jimmy Williams

# MISSION OPPORTUNITY

## FOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, February 5 - Sunday, March 5**

**BRING FOOD TO THE CHURCH SANCTUARY**

Please help us collect non-perishable foods  
for Putnam Christian Outreach.

This food drive serves many families  
in need within our community.



# BIRTHDAYS

01/21 - Tatum Camp, Judie Kitchen, Glenda Ridley

01/23 - McKenzie Cardwell, Carl Haizlip,  
Reagan Prance

01/24 - Ronald Harley

01/27 - Janice Turner

01/29 - Davis McMillen, Gwen Ralston

01/30 - David Giddens

02/01 - Jimmy Williams

02/03 - Steve Culberson

# ANNIVERSARIES

01/21 - Guerry and Joan Key

01/21 - Steven and Rebecca Prance

# WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, January 08 130

Sunday, January 15 110

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## JANUARY 1, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$6,835.00

Budget Needs YTD \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts YTD \$6,835.00

## JANUARY 8, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$9,712.00

Budget Needs YTD \$20,784.52

Budget Receipts YTD \$16,547.00

## JANUARY 15, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$6,715.00

Budget Needs YTD \$31,176.78

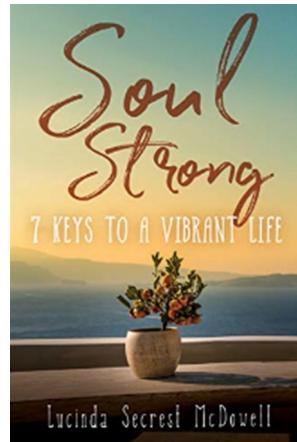
Budget Receipts YTD \$23,262.00

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Youth Parents & Volunteers Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 22  
4:00 PM  
In the Sanctuary



### Ladies Bible Study

MONDAY, JANUARY 23  
AT 6:00 PM  
AT THE HOME OF LESA ADAMS

Contact Kim Camp to sign up  
or for more information

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 24, 2023  
6:00 PM

Sunday School Room off the Fellowship Hall

The following people are on the Church Council by direction of the by-laws: Pastor, Minister of Music, Associate Pastor, Administrative Assistant, Sunday School Director, Deacon Chair, Trustee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, Personnel Committee Chair, Property Committee Chair, Missions Committee Chair, Children's Director.

## 5th Sunday Lunch



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT, BREAD AND DRINKS.  
PLEASE BRING CASSEROLES, VEGETABLES, SALADS AND DESSERTS.