

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

First Baptist Church of Eatonton *Messenger*

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



FROM THE PASTOR

"The Church and Healing" was the name of the series I led for a half dozen Sunday nights back when churches insisted on having a meeting on Sunday night for the faithful few. It asked the church to take seriously the command of Jesus to "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and throw out the demons (Matthew. 10:8)." Several guests were invited to make presentations. A well-known cardiologist of the community took time to present. A recovering addict shared one evening. Others joined us to talk about how the church might heal the sick.

Healing per se, has never been an emphasis of the churches I've served. I've never held a healing service, and I'm wary of doing so, mostly because of the abuse the sick often suffer at such services. A young man with a debilitating disease which eventually paralyzed him from his neck down painfully shared with me a few experiences he had attending church. More than once the service degenerated into a healing service meant to miraculously cure him. Those same people failed to ever visit him in his home. He died from his disease, but also from the heartbreak of loneliness. Peoples' dis-ease around him was as devastating as his disease. Few people took upon themselves the healing relationship he so needed.

"The Church and Healing" series emphasized the significant role of the church in healing. However, it had its resistance. I and the deacons received a castigating letter from a young lady who informed us we were letting people die and go to hell for not preaching evangelistic sermons on those Sunday nights when we studied "The Church and Healing." How unfortunate!

The church's ministry of healing is so vast and so much more genuine than having a stereotypical TV evangelist's healing service. The church does heal the sick and is called to keep doing so.

On **October 28** we will share in a specific act of healing as we support, assist, participate and lead a **day of Community Health and Well-being** through a morning fun run, a mid-day health fair and an afternoon fall festival. You will hear more of the details as schedules tighten for the day over the next couple of weeks. It will be held along and behind the Barrell 118 building, downtown Eatonton and at First Methodist Church Eatonton. Pam Douglas is unofficially the medical liaison with the local medical community. The Mercer Medical School and the Morehouse School of Medicine, along with Mercer's School of Pharmacy will be present in a variety of ways to serve. Minister Cecil Kilgore and Pastor Simone Jones as well as others are liaisons to the church community.

I hope FBC will have a tent along with our friends from other churches, to serve the afternoon Community Fall Festival. We can give out cold water if nothing else, but maybe someone will volunteer to do some face painting and/or crafts with the children. So let me know the way you'd like to volunteer for the day!

In the midst of all of this, healing will take place within people's bodies and people's hearts. As our friend Cecil Kilgore says, "We will save lives in Putnam County." Set the date and make plans to participate for a couple of hours or more.

**Heal the Sick,
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

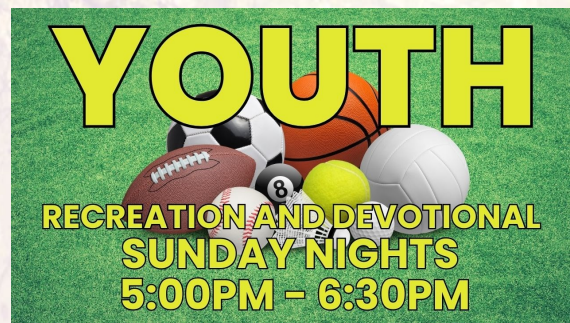
In our Youth Meetings, we have started a new series in the book of Joshua, “Strong and Courageous Faith.” The first two weeks we will look at Joshua 1:1-9, “After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

When do we need courageous Faith? We see from this text that we need strong and courageous Faith, in times of transition. Moses has just died, and the people are under the direction of a new leader, Joshua. We need strong and courageous Faith in times of uncertainty. Not only were the Israelites following a new leader, but they were following Joshua into a new land, with many unknown challenges ahead, all while working with an untrained army. Lastly, we see that we need strong and courageous Faith in times of warfare. For Joshua and the Israelites it was combat and fighting. The book of Joshua is full of battles. They were to go into the promised land and conquer it. For us today, it is a daily spiritual battle. If we are striving and choosing to serve and live for God daily, then we must also know that Satan will fight us daily as well. The Puritan, Thomas Watson, said “It must not be expected that the devil will let those rest who are laboring to destroy his kingdom.”

We all will face times of transition, uncertainty, and warfare. These are the times we need to have a strong and courageous Faith. It will not always be easy, but we are told and reminded by God, just as Joshua was, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Dylan



ANNOUNCEMENTS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STEPPING STONES WORSHIP

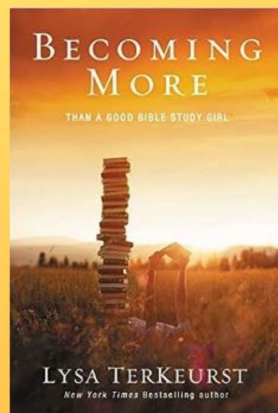
If you are musically talented, want to share a Bible story, pray with our children, craft time, missionary work, etc. we would love to have you!

WORSHIP TIMES: 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS

WEE WORSHIP: 10-10:30 AM FOR OUR 3-4 YEAR OLDS

SWAG WORKSHOP: 4:00-4:30 PM FOR OUR PREK- 10YR OLDS

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL DENISE OR BRENDA AT 706-485-0690



Ladies 6-Week Bible Study

“Becoming More Than a Good Bible Study Girl” by Lysa Terkeurst

**Monday, September 25
from 6PM - 8PM**

At the home of Kim Camp

Contact Kim Camp for more information.



PUMPKIN PATCH



OUR PUMPKIN PATCH WILL BE RETURNING THIS FALL!

The proceeds will be divided between Stepping Stones Learning Center and First Baptist Church Children and Youth Ministries.

DISASTER RELIEF

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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.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR SEPTEMBER

Scott and Amy Joris

WELCOMING FOR OCTOBER

Jim and Vicki Hall

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Marvin Franklin
Gene Adams
Edge Farley
Clayton Lancaster
Steve Tubbs

USHERS FOR OCTOBER

David Stickley
Jarred Camp
John Wojtas
Walt Rocker
Jim Hall

DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 24

Joni Dixon

DEACON FAMILIES

Sean Bennett and family
Carl Haizlip family
Clayton Lancaster family
Ennis Lankford family
Thomas Ralston family
Joann Smith family
Tom Thompson family

DEACON FOR OCTOBER 1

Edge Farley

DEACON FAMILIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

09/24 - Charles Patten
09/25 - Lesa Adams, Gary McElhenney
09/27 - Hudson Rainey
09/28 - Pat McDade
09/29 - Clyde Harper, Don Turney
09/30 - Celia Camp
10/01 - Mallory Rainey
10/02 - Faith Thomas
10/03 - Heather Wojtas
10/05 - Esther Farley

ANNIVERSARY

10/04 - Ralph and Joan Barclay

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, September 10</u>	<u>101</u>
<u>Sunday, September 17</u>	<u>97</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,392.26</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$10,999.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$374,121.36</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$345,413.94</u>

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,392.26</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$15,550.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$384,513.62</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$360,963.94</u>

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FALL
Festival

OCTOBER 21

DETAILS COMING SOON