

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Heard a new poem the other day. Read slowly. Listen closely. And rejoice!

What You Won't Hear on Cable News

I want to tell you
What you won't hear on cable news.
About a young woman in the airport
Who was exhausted and harried
By hours of delay
And wrangling an overtired toddler
That when her little boy
Finally and completely
Melted down
And planted himself on the floor,
She sat down beside him
And started to cry.

I want to tell you about five random women
Who immediately flowed in from all
directions.
One pulled out a little toy from her purse,
One offered a snack or to go get something
to drink,
One who called the child "Honey"
Wiped his nose with a tissue
And offered another one to the grateful
mother.
And the one who asked if it was alright
To walk hand in hand with the child
Right there at the gate,
Close by and always, always in sight.
I want to tell you about a man

*Grace and Peace,
Craig*

Who makes soup and bread
And then gives it away.
And the nurse who held his hand
When he was breathless and afraid.
I want to tell you about my neighbor
Who drives around all winter
With snow chains in his car
Just in case someone needs help.

I want to tell you about all the people I meet
Who keep extending themselves,
And braving the risk
Of being told
It's none of their business
Who offer a hand,
Or a bit of encouragement,
Or a couple of bucks.
Who will walk a fussy child around the gate.
Because it is the kind thing to do.

I want to tell you the world still turns
Every single day
On an axis of goodness
And unexpected grace
That shows up without fanfare
And often where we least expect to find it.

By Carrie Newcomer
From *Until Now: New Poems*

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

I cannot believe that it is already November! This year is going by so fast, and I am not quite ready for all that the Holiday season is about to bring. Some of you may have heard me talk about how much I love Church History, it is my favorite subject to study. The following excerpt is from the “Medieval Church History” portion of a Church History class I have taken:

According to a medieval legend, God once sent two angels to the earth on a special mission, with each one of them carrying a basket. One angel was assigned to gather up all the prayers of petition, and the other was assigned to gather up all the prayers of thanksgiving.

The first angel returned very quickly, and her basket was filled to overflowing with requests. “Ah, yes,” reported this angel, “the people of God have remembered well the Bible’s counsel: ‘Ask, and you shall receive.’” Yet the second angel was gone a long time, and when she finally returned, her basket was nearly empty. “I had a hard time finding people who pray prayers of thanksgiving,” she said quietly.

Like most people, I have plenty of petitions to place in the first angel’s basket. Every time I turn on the tv, I see more devastation, fighting, hate, and division. I have a petition for peace with justice in Israel and all over this world. I have a petition that God will inspire and empower each of us to be not part of the problem but rather part of the answer, which I believe is achievable through the power of the Holy Spirit. I have a petition that all the aspects of hate and division will be both honestly recognized and courageously overcome. I have a petition that we will seek what Martin Luther King, Jr. once called a “double victory” of freedom for the oppressed and the oppressor, and that each protest, no matter where in the world, will always be ultimately rooted in that deep and divine love for all humanity which casts out human fear. And I have a petition that we will all recognize the truth the Franciscan monk Richard Rohr expressed when he wrote, *“If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it.”*

At the same time, I do not want to neglect the second angel’s basket, as we are all often tempted and guilty of doing. I want to give thanks for a God Who steadfastly refuses to give up on any of us—a God Who is forever and always at work for good: forming, reforming, and transforming the world, the church, and every human heart. I want to give thanks for the privilege of being called—along with all my sisters and brothers—to not be passive spectators but active participants in the craziness and the ongoing fight for peace in our personal relationships, our neighborhoods, and our world. I want to give thanks for the strength God graciously promises to us in these times of struggle. And I want to give thanks for a loving Church family and home, that seeks to be a place of peace and comfort for those who are hurting and lost. I give thanks to God for a Church that still offers the world a glimpse of people who keep humbly seeking to learn to live together in love.

Yes, I have my petitions, but I also have my prayers of thanksgiving ... and not just on the fourth Thursday in November. Join me this month of November, in not only casting prayers of petition, but also in casting prayers of Thanksgiving to a Holy and loving God.

Dylan

ATTENTION!

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
PARENT AND VOLUNTEER
MEETING**

**Tuesday, November 7
at 6PM**

in the Fellowship Hall

MUSICAL MINISTRY

Picture this: You have gathered with others around the great white throne in heaven. God the Father is on the throne, Jesus His Son is seated at His right hand, and the Holy Spirit's presence is stronger than anything you've ever experienced. The angels, elders, and saints are singing out His praise, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts."

How is that worship different from the worship we offer Him here? For one thing, no one is distracted. No one is worrying about the temperature or whether the song is one of our favorites. Nobody's sleepy, hungry, bored, or critical. Everyone is giving 100% of their hearts, souls, minds, and strength in total praise of our Great God.

Oh, that we could worship like that today! John 4:23 says that we are to worship in the Spirit and in truth. Yet if we are not careful, we let all kinds of lesser things sneak in and cloud our minds as we worship. We can get awfully close to the empty, going-through-the-motions kind of "worship" that God warned us about in Amos 5, where He said, "Take away from Me the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps."

As we move into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, may we lay aside every weight, every distraction which so easily besets us as Hebrews 12 puts it, and concentrate fully on worshipping Him. Lord, help us, amen!

John Cotten

O HOLY LIGHT

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS

by Mary McDonald

15th Annual

Christmas on the Avenue

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 6 p.m.

Presented by the Choirs & Orchestra of:

Eatonton First United Methodist Church

Eatonton First Baptist Church

Eatonton Presbyterian Church

Location:

Eatonton First United Methodist Church

103 W. Magnolia St.

Eatonton, GA 31024

Concert free and open to the public
Donations accepted

Jubilate
MUSIC

*Christmas
on the
Avenue*

REHEARSALS
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 PM

CONTACT JOHN COTTEN
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Invite Others to
Come with You to Our
15th Annual
*Christmas on the
Avenue*
Sunday, December 3
6:00 pm
**Eatonton First
Methodist Church**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FallBack

Don't Forget to Set Your Clocks
Sunday, November 5



Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please reserve your poinsettia by bringing or sending a check to the church office, along with the name of the donor and honoree by

Sunday, November 13.

The cost is \$7.



2024 Deacons

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING NEWLY-ELECTED DEACONS AS THEY BEGIN THEIR SERVICE TO THIS CHURCH IN 2024:

ROBIN BENTON
BARRY CHAMBERS
SUSAN DAVIS
MIKE FAULK
CLAYTON LANCASTER
JESSE MCMILLEN

1 GIVE BY MAIL

MAIL TO P.O. BOX 3400
EATONTON, GA 31024

2 GIVE ONLINE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
FIRSTBAPTISTEATONTON.ORG
AND CLICK ON THE DONATE
BUTTON AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE

3 GIVE IN PERSON

PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATES
OR BRING TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

WAYS TO GIVE

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

2024 BUDGET

BUDGET DISCUSSION
Wednesday, November 8

BUDGET VOTE
Sunday, November 19



DO WE HAVE
YOUR CORRECT
CONTACT
INFORMATION?

Contact the Church Office
with any updated contact
information, so we can
stay connected.

Prayer REQUESTS

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

FOUNDER'S DAY 2023

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH HERITAGE

Founder's Day Sunday, November 12

We will be honoring:

Tammy Lankford and Frank Thompson

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.



November 12

Founder's Day

Speaker – Rev. Tommy Temple

Many of you are familiar with Tommy Temple. Others may not be. A quick intro for those that need it – Rev. Temple has been a pastor for the past twenty-three years. Prior to serving as a pastor, he served as a Youth Minister. He served First Baptist Church of Eatonton as the Youth, Education and Activities Minister from 1990-1996. He is a native of Meridian, Mississippi, graduated from Mississippi State and Southern Seminary. He is married to Brenda with whom he has two children, Michael and Lauren. They also have two grandchildren, Blake and Reece.

THANKSGIVING ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thanksgiving **DINNER**

Wednesday, November 15
AT 5:30 PM

Menu: Baked Chicken, Dressing,
Gravy, Field Peas, Collard Greens,
Potato Salad, Sweet potatoes, Pie

RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13



Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20	8:30AM - 4:00PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21	8:30AM - 4:00PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22	8:30AM - 12:00NOON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23	CLOSED
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24	CLOSED



Happy Thanksgiving

No Wednesday Night Activities
November 22



NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Children 6:00pm Youth 6:15pm Budget Discussion & Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	2 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	3	4
5 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 9:45am Sunday School 8:30am Deacons Meeting 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells 5pm Youth Recreation and Devotional	6	7 6:00pm Children's Parents and Volunteers Meeting in the Fellowship Hall	8 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Children 6:00pm Youth 6:15pm Budget Discussion & Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	9 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	10	11 VETERANS DAY
12 FOUNDERS DAY 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 1:30pm Handbells 5pm Youth Recreation and Devotional	13	14	15 5:30pm Thanksgiving Dinner 6:00pm Children 6:00pm Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	16 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	17	18
19 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship & Church Conference 1:30pm Handbells 5pm Youth Recreation and Devotional	20	21	22 Church Office Closes at 12 Noon	23 THANKSGIVING Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship, 1:30pm Handbells 5pm Youth Recreation and Devotional	27	28	29 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Children 6:00pm Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	30 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary		

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR NOVEMBER

Cary Walton

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Steve Benton
Randall McCook
Charles Winslette
Steven Prance
Cooper Rainey

DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 5

Steven Prance

DEACON FAMILIES

Howell Cardwell family
Jo Ann Clay
David Giddens family
Janice Knowles family
Harris McCollum family
Gary McElhenney
Karen Ricketson family
Luke Harvey family

DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 12

Cooper Rainey

DEACON FAMILIES

David Dixon family
Pam Douglas
Jim Howell family
Mike Lyons family
Charles Patten family
Glenda Ridley
Jene Welch family

BIRTHDAYS

11/03 - Isabelle Rocker
11/05 - Caroline Lankford
11/08 - Lyla Davis, Jeffrey Knowles, Wyatt Prance
11/09 - Kim Camp, Luke Harvey
11/11 - Annette Franklin
11/15 - Denise Carmichael

ANNIVERSARY

11/04 - Charles and Shelia Patten
11/10 - Joseph and Mallory Rainey

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, October 22</u>	<u>121</u>
<u>Sunday, October 29</u>	<u>115</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 22, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,392.26</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$3,634.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$446,867.18</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$413,077.19</u>

OCTOBER 29, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,392.26</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$18,420.01</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$457,259.44</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$431,497.20</u>

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

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

**SHOEBOXES
ARE DUE
WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 8**



View solicitation disclosure information for Samaritan's Purse online at samaritanspurse.org/disclosure.