

JULY 20, 2023

First Baptist Church of Eatonton *Messenger*

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



FROM THE PASTOR

It may be known to a few as the parable of the wheat and the tares. In recent decades it has come to be known as the parable of weeds among the wheat. The word translated tares is now most often translated weeds.

And as with any parable there are many layers to be addressed. I've learned it is hardly advantageous to try to include everything that could be said in a Sunday sermon. My Mother was often enamored by the knowledge some of her ministers possessed, but she did grow weary when it seemed like they wanted to tell it all in one sermon. So, she often counseled me, "Don't tell it all. Save some for next time." I've tried to listen to her counsel.

Part of what might never make it into a sermon about this parable in Matthew 13:24-30 are some thoughts provoked by David Ewart's writing about the parable. After naming several things worthy of note in the parable, he notes that the parable is also about the field. We are akin the field where both wheat and weeds grow. Our hearts, our souls are a field. As we live various things grow within us. As much as we might like to be a field where only the finest wheat is cultivated, the truth is weeds also find their way into our lives. There is often a lot of anxiety about those weeds.

The parable clearly is not filled with such anxiety. The parable actually seeks to absolve one of those weeds and any anxiety associated with the weeds. How? The parable is telling of an eschatological certainty that in the end God will act to clean the fields of the weeds and collect a harvest of wheat. So don't be so anxious about your purity. You can trust God is graciously working toward your redemption. Even among the weeds it will surprise you the wheat God will harvest. Such is the way of God.

David Lose concludes from this parable, "... we don't live in an ideal world and each week we're faced with a myriad of challenging decisions, some small and others large, to which there is no clear answer. Some decisions we'll get right, others wrong, and still others we won't know whether we were right or wrong for months or years to come. But we still need to make them. And then, each week, no matter how we fared, we can come back to church on Sunday morning to be reminded that God loves us anyway and promises that, in the end, God will hold all of our choices and all of our lives together in love."

Held together in love. Imagine that!

Thanks be to God,
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 AND YOUTH NEWS

As Summer is winding down, I cannot help but to be excited for the Fall and starting back with our Wednesday night Student Ministries! There will be some changes coming to the Youth Ministry of FBCE this Fall Semester.

Jeremiah 43:19a says, "See, I am doing a new thing!" I won't preach in this article, but I firmly believe that there is something amazing coming to the Student Ministry here. I pray you all would be encouraged, and want to be an active part of the ministry opportunities. If you are willing and able, and feel led to be a leader in the Youth Ministry, please let me know. I am in need of a Sunday School teacher, and small group leaders as we are moving forward in launching some new ministry opportunities this year. As always, I ask for your support in prayer as we seek to follow the Lord together into what He has prepared for us.

Dylan

UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Join Us For Our

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

GIVEAWAYS
Bookbags,
School Supplies,
Haircuts and
More!

FRIDAY, JULY 28
6 PM - 8:30 PM

Kona Ice, Hotdogs, Popcorn,
Dunkin' Booth, Waterslides and More!

Hosted By
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND
STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER**

706-485-3331 115 N. Madison Ave. Eatonton, GA 31024

BACK TO SCHOOL

SUPPLY DRIVE

PLEASE BRING ITEMS TO
THE NARTEX OR THE
CHURCH OFFICE
JULY 9 - JULY 23

SUPPLIES NEEDED:
PENCILS, CRAYONS, ERASERS,
BOOKBAGS, COLORED PENCILS,
MARKERS, FOLDERS,
WIDE-RULED NOTEBOOK PAPER,
COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS,
GLUE, RULERS, SCISSORS,
KLEENEX, PAPER TOWELS

WE'RE RE-CHOIR-ING!

Two things dawned on me this week. First, it was seven years ago Sunday that I began filling in as your musical worship leader. What a blessing it has been to serve with you in ways I had never expected. Thank you for your love and support.

Second, though our Choir has taken a break this summer, we are about to kick off a new semester of proclamation and praise. **We are *Re-Choir-ing* on Wednesday, August 2, at 6:00 p.m., at the home of Tom and Pam Thompson.** We need all present, former, and potential Choir members to come join us! We'll eat, we'll laugh, we'll sing, and we'll talk about our plans for this Fall, including our 15th annual *Christmas on the Avenue* concert on the first Sunday in December. There's no test or audition, just let the church office know you're coming.

Studies have shown that people who sing live longer, happier, more fulfilled lives. Singing in a choir produces endorphins, the "happiness hormone," more than a box of chocolates but without all the calories. It creates oxytocin that reduces the effects of stress. It strengthens cardiac rhythms, reducing the risk of heart disease. It trains stomach muscles and the diaphragm, encouraging the deep, breathing that fosters better sleep. The immunoglobulin A produced strengthens the immune system. Countless studies have shown that music, especially singing, develops brain function and memory.

Singing in a *church* choir multiplies those benefits exponentially. Scripture sung is scripture remembered. We sing unified prayers repeatedly in both worship and rehearsals. Psalm 22:3 reminds us that "*God inhabits the praises of His people,*" and a church choir praises Him better than most anybody!

Yes, church choirs have weaknesses. Like riding a bicycle, no one is born knowing how to sing, though everyone can learn. Everyone is an amateur, yet a starter. There are no pinch hitters or subs waiting on the bench. Training is available and ongoing. When believers sing together in choir, God weaves the unified sound into something far greater than just the sum of the individual voices.

The most frequently repeated command in all the Bible is to sing, and our church has long believed that a choir was an important part of worship. But the truth is that without new singers, our choir may well evaporate this fall the way choirs have in so many other churches. Let's not let that happen. Come join us as we *Re-Choir!* (*JuBELLation*, our handbell choir, will kick off after Labor Day, and they too are looking for new members.)

John Cotten

JOIN OUR CHOIR

Contact
John Cotten
for more
information.



KICK OFF CHOIR PARTY

Tom Thompsons' Home
Wednesday, August 2
6:00 pm.



PRAYER NEEDS

Our Members:

Tom Hicks, Margaret Howell, Brian Neukam,
Scott Sharp, Janice Turner, Nell Wright, Unspoken

Friends and Family:

Mattelyn Atkinson, Nancy Banister, Jim Branam,
Tommy Callaway, Mary Camp, Rick Cogdell,
Quita Edwards, Karen Henry-Garrett, Joan Haws,
Cami Jackson, Leo Jasinski, Jeffrey Knowles,
Pam Lacey, Everett Marsh, Red Marshall,
Eleanor Moyer, David Ralston, Walt Rocker Jr.,
Stephen Sharp, Mary Shurling, Linda Stowe,
Leigh Ann Willis, Amanda Wooten, Johnny Wojtas

Assisted Living/Nursing & Homebound:

Mary Jo Balas, Maxine Godin, Luceil Harrison,
Mary Ann Heath, Gaye Lankford, Hilda Marshall,
Grace Resseau, Martha Strube, Sug Walton

Missionary Families:

Trey and Kaitlyn Lancaster in Gweru, Zimbabwe,
Matt and Michelle Norman in Catalunya, Spain



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Fifth Sunday Lunch JULY 30

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



Men's Weekly Prayer Group

Thursdays at 8:00AM
In the Sanctuary

STAY CONNECTED WITH US THIS SUMMER

THROUGH FACEBOOK,
MAILCHIMP, EMAILS,
TEXTS AND OUR WEBSITE

CALL THE OFFICE TO SIGN UP FOR THESE TODAY!



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR JULY

Clayton and Pam Lancaster

USHERS FOR JULY

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

DEACON FOR JULY 23

Tracy Stickley

DEACON FAMILIES

Lauren Brown family
Jarred Camp family
Tim Camp family
Ryan Carmichael family
Ashley Rich family

DEACON FOR JULY 30

Laura Thompson

DEACON FAMILIES

Mary Jo Balas
George Dissmeyer family
David Lutz family
Kay Stevens family
Faith Thomas
Beth Willis
John Wojtas family

BIRTHDAYS

07/20 - Dylan Bowden

07/30 - Jesse McMillen, Steven Prance

07/31 - Tripp Rich

08/01 - Joan Barlcay, Jack Cardwell,
Lisa Herndon

08/03 - Cary Walton

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, July 09</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Sunday, July 16</u>	<u>92</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 2 & JULY 9, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$20,784.52</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$18,379.60</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$290,983.28</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$270,108.70</u>

WELCOME

We welcome Lisa Herndon as
a new member of First Baptist Church.

THANK YOU

First Baptist Church,

We gratefully appreciate your kind expression
of sympathy in the passing of Zandla Wright.

Thank you for your acts of kindness.

I pray God continues to bless you.

Bettye S. Mitchell,
Zandla's Aunt

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



*Wednesday
Connections*

**CONNECT
GROW
SERVE**

SAVE THE DATE

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTIONS
WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 16
DETAILS COMING SOON!**