

June 2, 2022

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



VBS



June 20 - 23

6pm - 8pm

Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Register at firstbaptisteatonton.org

"Whoever believes in me...
rivers of living water
will flow from within them."
John 7:38, NIV

JOIN US FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us this summer
as we dive into God's
Word through games,
crafts, music, snacks,
and Bible stories

Join us for Dinner at
5:15 pm - 6:00 pm.

Childcare will be
provided for
volunteers.

If you are interested in
volunteering, or have
any questions, contact
Cindy Williams or the
Church Office.

FROM THE PASTOR,

I wish I didn't have to write the following, but I feel somewhat responsible to respond to the report that was released by Guidepost Solutions last Sunday, May 29. The report is officially titled **Report of the Independent Investigation**, subtitled The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's Response to Sexual Abuse Allegations and an Audit of the Procedures and Actions of the Credentials Committee. The report is produced by a Guidepost Solutions, an organization contracted by the Southern Baptist Convention's executive committee. You can find the full text of the report online.

Perhaps you have not heard of the report, nor are you interested in reading any part of the report. First Baptist Church Eatonton is no longer affiliated with the SBC, but we cannot deny our roots in the SBC. Therefore, in response I'd like to make a few brief statements.

First, my heart continues to break for the women and men who have been assaulted and abused by SBC clergy and SBC leaders. The victims have been further abused by being neglected. You need only to read the details of the report to see the abuse and neglect have been present. The facts reveal a refusal of the leadership to deal with sexual abuse claims in a redemptive manner. How disappointing and heartbreaking!

Second, First Baptist Church Eatonton is not a Southern Baptist church. It has not been since decisions made a little over twenty years ago, in response to the SBC leadership's decisions of that time. Those SBC decisions in 2001 continued a movement that began in 1979 that discounted the voice and leadership of women in the SBC and SBC churches. The SBC intentionally chose to let itself be led by the very men that would promote an institutional system and theological beliefs that would protect and even promote men such as those named in the current abuse report. In response FBC Eatonton made an intentional decision to disaffiliate with the SBC in 2001.

Third, the current abuse report is not a win for anyone. It is another sad report illustrating the further disintegration of the Church's institutional life. The lack of integrity leads to a further mistrust of clergy. We must learn to practice just actions for victims and abusers.

Finally, I love the Lord because I believe the Lord speaks and works for the oppressed. Mercy and forgiveness do not mean foolishly forgiving an offender while also allowing the fox to continue to roam freely in the hen house. Victims' voices must be welcomed and cherished. Victims' healing and restoration must be given a priority! Abusers must be removed from places of leadership and forbidden opportunities for further abuse.

A better Biblical theology of women must be taught. Tabitha, Lydia, Miriam, Mary, Rebecca, Tamar, Bathsheba and their sisters must be put on a level playing field with men. Mutual, equal relationships between women and men must be championed!

Practice Resurrection,
Craig

MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

Summer Choir invites you to come sing with us! Beginning May 29 through Labor Day, our Summer Choir will rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:00, finishing before Sunday School. The music will be sound theologically, but familiar and fun, with an occasional bit of Southern Gospel flavor. You don't have to read music or sing "parts," just be able to carry a tune. We'll not wear robes, and we will not stay in the choir loft after we sing. There's no long term commitment, just come when you can. Open to all ages willing to give it a shot. Come sing with us!

Summer Handbells - We'll be ringing this Summer! This is the perfect time for people who have never rung bells before to learn how. Since our Choir rehearsals are moving to Sunday mornings, our Summer Handbells will rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:15 pm. If you can count to 4 with a steady beat, you're in! We'll teach you the rest. We'll begin on June 8, with the goal of playing in worship 2-3 times before Labor Day. Open to all ages. Please call the church office, 706-485-3331, to let John Cotten know you're coming.



JOIN OUR SUMMER CHOIR

Beginning May 29
through Labor Day

Rehearsals are
Sunday Mornings
at 9:00 AM

Contact John Cotten
for more information.



JOIN OUR JUBELLATION SUMMER HANDBELL CHOIR

Rehearsals are Wednesday
Nights at 7:15 PM

Contact John Cotten
for more information

FISH FRY



ANNOUNCEMENTS

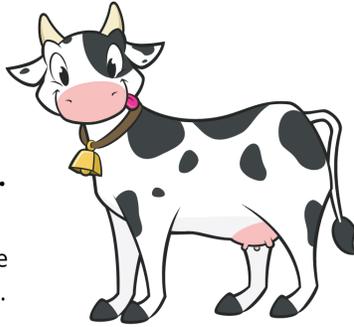
Dairy Festival Parade

Saturday, June 4th

Meet us at 9:30 AM at the
Elementary School.

The parade begins at 10 a.m.

If you are interested in riding on the church float contact Cindy Williams.



Juliet Women's Group
JOIN US ON JUNE 7 FOR LUNCH
AT MYSTIC GRILL IN COVINGTON

THE BUS WILL LEAVE AT 10:30 AM

CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE
TO SIGN UP!

ROMEO MEN'S GROUP

JOIN US ON JUNE 14 FOR LUNCH
AT OLD CLINTON BBQ IN GRAY

THE BUS WILL LEAVE THE CHURCH AT 11:30 AM

CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE
TO SIGN UP!



Ladies Summer Bible Study

MONDAYS AT 6PM

WE WILL BE STUDYING WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
JUMP IN ON ANY WEEK
NO HOMEWORK OR STUDY MATERIALS
BRING APPETIZERS TO SHARE

BEGINS JUNE 27 AT THE HOME OF PAM LANCASTER
CONTACT KIM CAMP 7063189438 FOR MORE INFO

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to call the church office if you have prayer requests or updates to the prayer list. An urgent prayer request can always be sent out to the church by way of email.



NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER BREAK...
WE'LL SEE YOU ON AUG. 17

STAY UP TO DATE WITH EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES
WE ARE OFFERING THIS SUMMER
BY SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER



Ways to Give



In Person



During Worship



Mail



Online

CONNECT WITH US



PRAYER LIST

Our Church: Personnel Committee searching for an Associate Pastor.

Our Members:

Terry Blanton, JoAnn Clay, Esther Farley, Marvin Franklin, Jim Hall, Tom Hicks, Gary McElhenney, Marie Rainey, Scott Sharp, Nell Wright, Unspoken

Friends and Family:

Nancy Banister, Jim Branam, Mary Camp, Angela Deeds, Joan Haws, Harry Joiner, Patti Joiner, Ron Kauffman, Linda Keith, Everett Marsh, Dana Meeks, Kay Parker, Larry Pearce, David Ralston, Walt Rocker Jr., Mary Shurling, Linda Stowe, Hannah Sweet, John Wood, Amanda Wooten

Assisted Living/Nursing & Homebound:

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

Missionary Families:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY 22 AND MAY 29, 2022

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$21,040.00</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$12,238.50</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$231,140.00</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$201,296.25</u>

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, May 22</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>Sunday, May 29</u>	<u>93</u>

BIRTHDAYS

6/02 - Blake McDaniel
6/04 - George Dissmeyer
6/07 - Barry Chambers, Wade Odum
6/08 - Barbara Giddens
6/10 - Harrison Harper
6/14 - Peggy McMillen
6/16 - Pam Thompson, Tom Thompson

ANNIVERSARY

6/02 - Mark and Joann Smith
6/07 - Tom and Mabel Hicks
6/09 - Don and Pat Turney
6/15 - Phyllis and Terry Blanton
6/15 - Victor and Kay Stevens
6/16 - Cooper and Marie Rainey

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR JUNE:

David Dixon

USHERS FOR JUNE:

Ennis Lankford, Don Baker, Tim Camp, Hollis Harrison, Mike Reagin

DEACON JUNE 5:

Edge Farley

DEACON FAMILIES:

Don Masson family, Steven Prance family, Cooper Rainey family, Mac Rainey family, Paula Rossee family, Hunter Willis family

DEACON JUNE 12:

Mike Faulk

DEACON FAMILIES:

Steve Benton family, Brandon Cardwell family, Daryl Covington family, Frank Thompson family, Charles Winslette family, Warren Yates

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

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Janice Turner, our beloved Organist for the past 15 years, is retiring at the end of June, though she and Sonny will remain in our church. Janice has been a keyboard minister since she was 15. We would like to honor her long, faithful service, and invite you to give toward a love offering for her.

Also, let the church office or John Cotten know of any well qualified organists who might be interested in this ministry position.



If you wish to give a love offering to Janice Turner, please place checks made out to Janice or cash in an envelope marked for Janice in the offering plate.

