

JANUARY 18, 2024

First Baptist Church of Eatonton *Messenger*

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



FROM THE PASTOR

She has been practicing it for several years now – for over a decade. Her first lessons were on VHS tapes, so it has to be over a decade ago. She came to it before I did, and tried to drag me along. I should have listened. I was reluctant until other forces sent me off to the Ignatius House of Atlanta to practice forty-eight hours of silence. She tried to tell me more about it then, but I was stubbornly dismissive. And yes, there have been more than one person to say they cannot imagine me being silent for forty-eight hours. But that is not where I began, nor what I am suggesting you attempt.

It starts slow, in blips and pieces. For us it really started with her practices. I got into it by a different path, but cherish it just as much. Our practices are somewhat unique to each of us, but they achieve much the same.

What am I talking about? Centering Prayer. Catherine is the better practitioner of the two of us, though there really is no good, better, best practitioner. It follows a prayer practice many centuries old. It goes back beyond Jesus even. Jesus probably practiced it as he did because he had learned it in the synagogue, among his Jewish ancestry.

Catherine will be teaching two lessons on **Centering Prayer** and then I will continue some lessons during Lent. We will share with you some of our favorite sources, but of course ultimately it is simply a work of grace from the Spirit, passed down for centuries to any who chooses to practice.

Catherine describes the experience very simply:

“Centering Prayer is like holding hands with God or sitting in God’s lap with our heads tucked in the crook of his neck or sitting with God on the porch swing and just rocking, in silence. There is no need for words, our presence is enough. God’s presence is enough.

We sit in silence and open our hearts to God, commune with God.

There are many ways we can and do communicate with each other that do not require words; a grin, a wink, a burst of laughter, a tear, a hug, a kiss. We can communicate with God without words just by showing up, just by allowing our hearts and minds to be fully present. This is Centering Prayer.”

Catherine invites you to gather with her on **Wednesday nights January 24 and 31 at 6:15 in the sanctuary** – “I will be sharing with you my experience with Centering Prayer and how this wonderful, silent prayer time can change, nurture and grow you into closer communion with God.”

Centering,
Craig & Catherine

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.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Who do you think you are? You might define your identity by the things people see on the surface—like your style, your look, your abilities, or your reputation. Those things might have something to do with who you are, but they don't quite capture the whole picture, do they? For each of us, there is always so much more to who we are beneath the surface. But who are we, really? How can we discover who God made us to be? And how can following Jesus shape who we're becoming? In this four-week series, we'll look at four moments from the early years of Jesus' life. As we do, we'll see how God's Word helps us discover who we're becoming and how God's words help us discover who we are. We'll also learn how the right relationships help us discover how to grow and how Jesus helps us discover purpose.

I invite you to use the following devotionals which follow the outlines of the lessons our Youth are using on Wednesday night.

Week 1: Luke 2:40-52; Proverbs 2:1-6; 2 Corinthians 10:5

-Take a moment to read and meditate on these passages this week. What stands out to you in these passages and why?

PRAY: This week, ask God to help you discover who you are in Him.

GROW: Is there someone you can ask to share how they see God working in you? Do you need to have an honest conversation with God about your questions and your doubts? I challenge you to commit to a time throughout your week to do something that makes you feel connected to God.

Week 2: Mark 1:4-11; Psalm 139:13-18; Romans 12:3-8

-Take a moment to read and meditate on these passages this week. What stands out to you in these passages and why?

PRAY: This week, ask God to continue to speak into your heart and guide you.

GROW: Do you need to commit to reading the Bible to discover more about yourself? Can you talk with someone about what God has been speaking to you?

Dylan



**FIRST BAPTIST
KIDS**
SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM AND
TUESDAYS AT 3:00PM
JOIN US

Contact Dylan or the church office for more information



YOUTH
5TH GRADE - 12TH GRADE

Sundays at 9:45AM and Wednesdays at 6:00PM
Contact Dylan for more information.



PLEASE JOIN OUR
**Sweetheart
Ball**

FEBRUARY 10
3:00-5:00 PM
FBCE FELLOWSHIP HALL
PLEASE RSVP USING THE
FORM BELOW



TICKETS:
\$8- CHILDREN 11 YEARS AND OLDER
& ADULTS
\$5- CHILDREN 10 YEARS AND UNDER
THAT DO NOT ATTEND SSLC
FREE FOR ALL SSLC CHILDREN!
PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT
THE EVENT!



STEPPING STONES
LEARNING CENTER
**PARENT'S
NIGHT OUT**

Give your favorite childcare providers the chance to spend some extra time with the kiddos while you take a break. Dinner and exciting activities will be provided - fun for everyone!
This event will be immediately after our Sweetheart Ball, so enjoy a Valentine's date night and leave the kid's with us!

**FEB 10
5-9 PM**

RSVP USING THE
FORM BELOW!



\$40 FOR ONE CHILD
\$70 FOR TWO CHILDREN
\$90 FOR THREE CHILDREN
*CASH IS PREFERRED

THIS IS AN AFTER-HOURS EVENT, NOT STATE REGULATED. SIBLINGS AND FRIENDS OF SSLC CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

TUESDAYS

3:00PM - 4:30PM

Come and be a part of our new Children's Choir for children in K4-5th Grade.
A snack will be provided and we will offer a time for a Bible Story.

Register Today at www.firstbaptisteatonton.org

For More Information, Contact Dylan at 706-485-3331



We had a great start to our Children's Choir Program!

We have more than 20 children registered.

Please invite other children, K5 - 5th grade,
to join us on Tuesdays from 3:00pm - 4:30pm.

We would love to have you as we have fun
and worship together!

Register online at www.firstbaptisteatonton.org
or contact Dylan or the church office
for more information.



MESSAGE IN SONG - I SURRENDER ALL

Philippians 3 includes a repeated exhortation to rejoice in the Lord, always. Then he rattles off a few of his impressive credentials, but not just to brag. Instead, he's setting up his point for this part of his letter. He says, "*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...*"

Skipping a bit, he goes on. "*But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" This is a good lesson for us in the early days of 2024.

God has given each of us unique gifts, talents, training, experience, creativity, and the energy to use these in His kingdom. That's good, but we cannot afford to focus on who *we* are. We must surrender ourselves fully, all that we are or have, in order to focus on what lies ahead of us in Jesus.

We're not the first to come to this realization. In 1896, an artist named Judson Van DeVenter said that for some time he had been struggling between developing his talents in the field of art or going into full-time evangelistic work. "At last, a pivotal hour in my life came, and I surrendered everything. A new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist, and discovered down deep in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord, He caused me to sing."

*All to Jesus, I surrender; All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessèd Savior, I surrender all.*

God may not be calling us to full time ministry, but He is calling each of us to surrender everything He's given us - past, present, and future - so we can push ahead to what God has in store for us, as individuals and as a church. Let's surrender all!

John

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

HANDBELL CHOIR

**Sundays at 1:30pm
in the Handbell Room**
Contact John for more information

CHOIR

Rehearsals
Wednesdays
at 7:15pm

Contact
John Cotten for
more information.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR JANUARY

Kay Stevens

USHERS FOR JANUARY

Cary Walton, Head Usher

David Giddens

Scott Joris

Ben Leverette

Jesse McMillen

Charles Patten

CHIDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

January 21 - Heather Wojtas

January 28 - Marie Rainey

DEACON FOR JANUARY 21

Kim Camp

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Benton family

Brandon Cardwell family

Daryl Covington family

Jesse Covington

Frank Thompson family

Charles Winslette family

Warren Yates

DEACON FOR JANUARY 28

Barry Chambers

DEACON FAMILIES

Dylan Bowden

Lisa Herndon

Anne Marie Horton family

Leslie Peebles family

Jean Rich

Ronnie Williams family

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

01/31 - Mollie Harvey

02/01 - Jimmy Williams

ANNIVERSARIES

01/21 - Guerry and Joan Key

01/21 - Steven and Rebecca Prance

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, January 07 109

Sunday, January 14 102

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.48

Budget Receipts \$14,449.75

Budget Needs YTD \$550,790.00

Budget Receipts YTD \$533,341.54

JANUARY 7, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$11,876.00

Budget Needs YTD \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts YTD \$11,876.00

JANUARY 14, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$9,905.00

Budget Needs YTD \$20,401.12

Budget Receipts YTD \$21,781.00

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies Bible Study

Mondays beginning February 5th

at 6pm at host home of

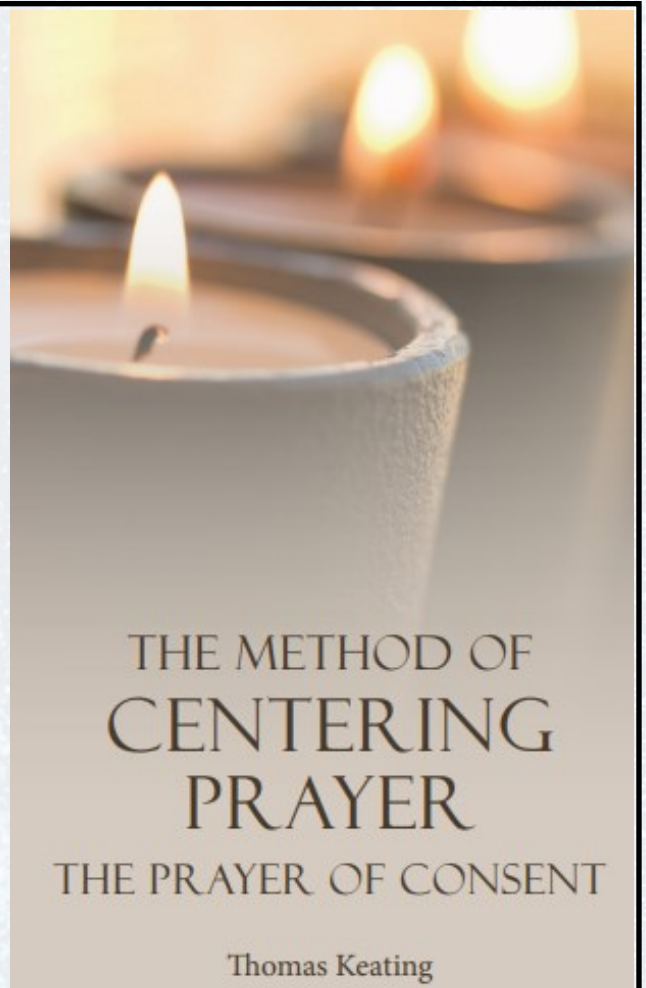
Pam Lancaster. Contact Kim Camp

to Sign Up Today!

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

**JOIN US WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 24 & JANUARY 31
AT 6:15PM
FOR A NEW SERIES CALLED
CENTERING PRAYER LED BY
CATHERINE WILLIAMSON**

Centering Prayer is a prayer of silence. In silence we can open our hearts and minds to be fully present to God. Picture sitting on the porch swing with God just swaying, breathing, being. Communion with God without all the questions, requests, angst; just being in God's presence is enough.



THE METHOD OF
**CENTERING
PRAYER**
THE PRAYER OF CONSENT

Thomas Keating