

JULY 6, 2023

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Sheenagh Pugh says she didn't intend for the poem *Sometimes* to be as popular as it is. She is not near as proud of it as others are. The poem itself is a surprise of how sometimes ... contrary as to how things are reported -

Sometimes things don't go, after all,
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadel
faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail.
Sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war,
elect an honest man, decide they care
enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best intentions do not go
amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
that seemed hard frozen; may it happen for you.

It reminds me of the words I've cherished through years of preaching from Isaiah 55. They promise the word that is sent out will accomplish the purposes for which it is intended and succeed, contrary to what the contrarian my suggest. Sometimes ...

Thanks be to God,
Craig

CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

I cannot believe that Summer break is already halfway over! We are going to finish out the Summer strong with the last few events on the Youth calendar. On Wednesday, July 12th we will be going to TopGolf and on Wednesday, July 26 we will go to a Water Park. Please let Dylan know if you will be attending either of these events. To end our summer break we are having a Back to School Bash on Friday, July 28. Please continue watching your text messages, emails, and the Church Facebook page for updates and information. If you are not receiving the Youth Text Messages, please contact the Office to get signed up. Looking ahead, I am excited for this Fall! We will be making some changes to our Wednesday night schedule and setup. I look forward to seeing you all!

Dylan

UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES



**YOUTH TRIP TO
TOPGOLF**
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

CONTACT DYLAN TO SIGN UP!



YOUTH WATER PARK TRIP
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26
CONTACT DYLAN TO SIGN UP

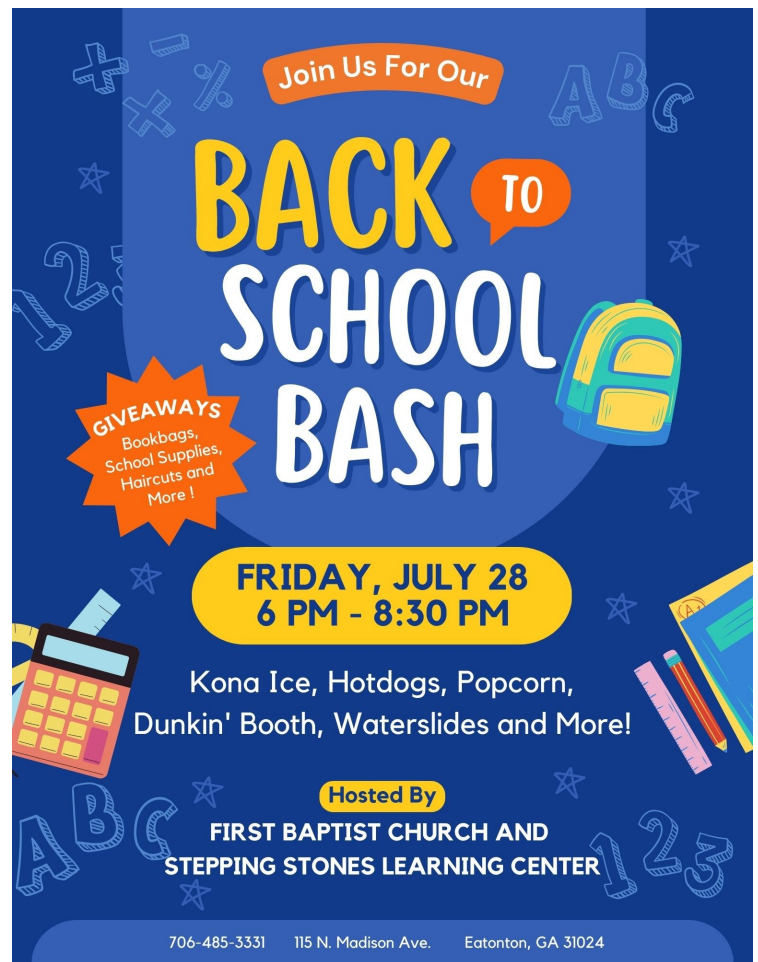


**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

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



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

WE'RE RE-CHOIR-ING!

Our Choir is kicking off anew on Wednesday, August 2, with a Big Bang. We invite all present, former, and potential Choir members to meet with us at the home of Tom and Pam Thompson that evening at 6:00. 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.

An article in the June 26, 2023 issue of *Washington Post* features the benefits of church choirs, the physical and mental health benefits of singing with others. Choirs are like families, said the paper. Singing in them promotes social bonding and joy. Choir members are more optimistic, less lonely, more likely to contribute positively to their community.

A sense of achievement comes from creating notes with the body and working together. Mid-week rehearsals are like a refreshing oasis for body, mind, soul, and strength. The lyrics being sung are inspiring and beautiful, so despite the day's travails, choir members leave rehearsals renewed, feeling "this is a very positive thing that I can be a part of." The Bible knew that all along. Choirs are a biblical part of God's plan for worship!

However, folks in too many churches see musical worship, and choirs in particular, as if they are on a cruise ship – they're there to simply enjoy while the crew serves their every desire. The Bible paints a very different picture. We're not on a cruise ship but a battleship, with all hands on deck at their battle stations.

Don't let your battle station go unmanned, your blessings go unreceived. Join the Choir! (If possible, call the church office or let John Cotten know you're coming to our Kickoff so we can have everything ready for you. If not, come on anyway. John will be happy to share!)

John

JOIN OUR CHOIR

Contact
John Cotten
for more
information.



KICK OFF CHOIR PARTY

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



AN UPDATE FROM THE NORMANS

Dear Church Family,

Greetings from the Normans in Barcelona! Thank you for your continued financial support! We are so happy to be able to partner with you in ministry here in the Barcelona area and look forward to the impact your support will make here in 2023.

Ministry here is growing! The feeding ministry Espai Sopem continues into its 6th year and is serving over 400 people a month. Mamaventura, our project with immigrant and refugee mothers and their babies continues and the impact in these women's lives is overwhelming. We are working closely with the local city hall for both of these ministries. Please pray that God will bless efforts, and the ministries will be a witness to God's love. Pray for funding from local grants and supporters. Additionally, our church ministry, Mosaic, continues into its 4th year. Pray that God will lead people to Mosaic who need a safe space in which to ask questions about God and what it means to be a Christian.

We appreciate your friendship and partnership. It's a joy to serve God in this ministry with you. We can't serve without you! Thank you.

Thank you for being such a blessing to our family and the ministry here in Spain.

Matt and Michelle Norman



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

The first part of 2023 has flown by! We can hardly believe the calendar already displays the month of July.

There are so many things to celebrate from the past few months. Here are just a few:

- Our daughter, Cayden, graduated from university and was accepted into a graduate program at NC State.
- Our son, Aaron, graduated from high school in Spain and was accepted into the Physics program at NC State.
- We celebrated 6 years of ministry with Espai Sopem.
- Eight children "graduated" from the Mamáventura program in June.
- First Baptist Church, Sabadell has begun renovations of a space that we will be able to use for Mosaic in the fall.



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, Pam Lacey,
Everett Marsh, Red Marshall, Eleanor Moye,
David Ralston, Walt Rocker Jr., Stephen Sharp,
Mary Shurling, Linda Stowe, Leigh Ann Willis,
Amanda Wooten, Johnny Wojtas

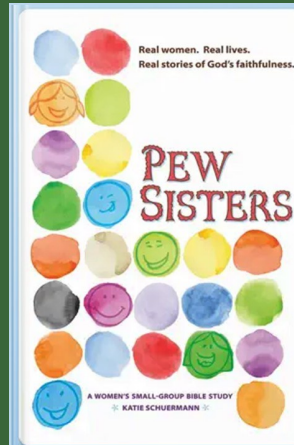
Assisted Living/Nursing & Homebound:

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



Ladies Bible Study
Mondays at 6pm
At a Host Home

Contact Kim Camp
for more information.



Fifth Sunday Lunch JULY 30

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

Prayer
REQUESTS

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

**STAY CONNECTED
WITH US THIS SUMMER**

THROUGH FACEBOOK,
MAILCHIMP, EMAILS,
TEXTS AND OUR WEBSITE

CALL THE OFFICE TO SIGN UP FOR THESE TODAY!

JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship Youth Trip to Stone Mountain	3	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 No Youth Activities	6	7	8
9 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	10 6pm Ladies Bible Study	11	12 Youth Trip to TopGolf	13	14	15
16 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	17 6pm Ladies Bible Study	18	19 No Youth Activities	20	21	22
23 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship	24	25	26 Youth Trip to the Water Park	27	28 Back to School Bash 6pm - 8:30pm	29
30 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 12pm 5th Sunday Lunch	31					

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 9

Roger Vining

DEACON FAMILIES

Terry Blanton family

Maxine Godin

Grace Resseau

Walt Rocker family

Lois Schell

Ellen Trice

Nell Wright

DEACON FOR JULY 16

Walt Rocker

DEACON FAMILIES

Russell Davis family

Julia Davis

Clyde Harper

Julie Harper

Gaye Lankford

Bill Sharp family

Jill Vaughan

BIRTHDAYS

07/06 - Karen Ricketson

07/07 - JoAnn Clay, Alanna Davis

07/08 - Ellen Trice

07/12 - Beth Walton

07/17 - Stew Rich

07/20 - Dylan Bowden

ANNIVERSARY

07/14 - Edge and Esther Farley

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, June 18 130

Sunday, June 25 93

Sunday, July 02 96

FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 18, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$11,116.00

Budget Needs YTD \$259,806.50

Budget Receipts YTD \$243,091.40

JUNE 25, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$8,637.00

Budget Needs YTD \$270,198.76

Budget Receipts YTD \$251,728.40

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Maxine Godin resides at Savannah Court
61 Marshall Road
Milledgeville, GA 31061

She would appreciate any cards or visits.

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!