

FROM THE PASTOR

**From a House of Prayer to a Garden of Prayer**

In the Spring of 2021, our chapel, soured by mold and mildew and having become an unhealthy place to spend time, was taken down. In the Fall of that year, the idea was born of taking the sacred space where a *house of prayer* once stood and planting in its place a beautiful *garden of prayer*. What a lovely idea, I thought. A committee was formed and plans were drawn up for the shaping of a Prayer Garden with plants and flowers, tiles colored by our children, memorial benches, and a covering for shade - all of which would require an investment of \$38,000 by members of our church. Donations began to come in but have recently slowed down. I would like to see us complete this project and enjoy a space of sacred beauty in which to pray and reflect. We are fast approaching the perfect time to begin planting!

Gardens have a rich biblical history. The biblical story of our lives begins in a Garden where God walks with us in the cool of the day as we tend to God's creation. Many of you find work in your own gardens a spiritual endeavor where you often feel God's presence.

In the center of the biblical story we find Jesus in a Garden called Gethsemane, a place of suffering, struggle, and prayer. Every person at one time or another shares that experience with Jesus. A prayer garden on our campus would be a place where we could go when we find ourselves heavy of heart.

The end of the biblical story finds us once again in a Garden City, paradise restored, beauty all around. In the center of this garden paradise grows a Tree of Life where all will gather and enjoy the bounty of God's beauty and provision forever.

What a rich blessing it would be to have on our church campus a place to remind us of the Garden from which we came and the Garden that awaits us all! We are \$17,000 away from our goal. I am asking you all to make a contribution that will beautify our grounds and comfort our souls. This is an opportunity to transform the same plot of sacred ground that once held a house of prayer into a home for a garden of prayer. Let's create a space that celebrates God's beauty.

I will be leaving after worship this Sunday, March 5 and returning Friday evening, March 10 for my Sermon Planning Study Week I share with my good friend and pastor Rusty Brock. I will be planning my preaching for the Summer and Fall. I would very much appreciate your prayers.

On Souper Bowl Sunday we gathered \$1,965.50 for the Gideon's and \$767.00 along with three shopping carts full of canned goods for the Christian Kitchen. We are feeding hungry bodies with food from God's good earth and feeding hungry souls with the bread of the word of God!

**Members in Care Facilities**

Maple Court (Tifton): Virginia Hughes & Pruitt Health (Ocilla): Drew Fountain

**Homebound Members – Fitzgerald**

June & Don Morris

**Homebound Members – Out of Town & State**

Lois Eppes – Middleburg, FL & Lois Freeman – Newnan, GA

**Prayers for Our People**

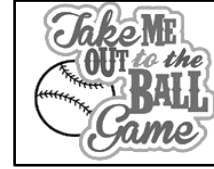
*We are praying for you and all that God will do for you.*

Let us pray for: Denise Bowen, Carolyn Brown, Prentiss Brown, Lynn Bryant, Polly Davis, Wendy Dix, Joni Wiggins Fox, Gene Mason, Allen Maye, Don Morris, June Morris, Heather Pigg, Gage Stubbs, Kelly Sumner, Brenda Wiggins, Donald Wiggins, Debra Weil



Rehearsals for Youth Sunday will be again THIS Sunday afternoon, March 5th. Youth Puppets will meet at 2:00pm followed by Youth Handbells. We will have ice cream in the youth room after rehearsals. Remember Youth Sunday is on March 12th.

THIS Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Youth will meet at the High School Baseball Field for WNL! We will go support some of our youth who are on the baseball team. The game begins at 5:30pm and I will be at the gate to pay for your ticket until 5:45pm. BRING MONEY FOR YOUR SNACKS if you plan to eat. You can leave anytime you want but you MUST let your parents know that you are leaving. ALSO REMEMBER to Sign up for our Summer Youth Mission Camp which will be June 11-14. A \$50 deposit for Summer Youth Camp is due on March 12th. I hope to see you at Sunday School this Week!!



The choir will sing *You Are My Song* as our special music this Sunday morning. **SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL** is this Sunday morning at 9:15am in the Sanctuary. Please attend if you can. The Orchestra and handbells will play with the hymns this week. **LOOKING AHEAD:** There will be NO Choir, Handbells or Orchestra on Youth Sunday which is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanctuary Flowers**

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday, March 5, 2023, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of Brad Bryant, Charlie Beall, David McCranie, Johnny Whidden, Alan "Snake" Dixon, Dr. Bill Hammond, Ted Cowan, Gary "Bull" Giddens, Ronnie Phillips, Ron Hannon, Arthur Hill, Jerry "Flop" Fletcher, and Bill Liles who were members of The Sportsman's Sunday School Class.



Sunday, February 26, **Gordon and Sharon Layton** joined our church by transfer of letter. We welcome them as our newest members and brother and sister in Christ.

**Ms. Carly's Corner for KIDS**

We're going to **PASSPORTkids Camp!**



**When:** Sun-Wed, July 16-19  
**Where:** Rock Eagle 4-H Center  
**Age:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**If your child wants to attend, and you have not let me know, please contact me ASAP.**  
\*Scholarships are available for those who need them financially.  
Any other questions, please let me know.  
Deposits of \$150 are now due.

**Children's Choir Updates:**

- Children's Choir will be singing Easter Sunday and Mother's Day.
- There will be no Children's Choir March 8, April 5 & April 12.

**WHAT'S GOING ON EACH WEEK**

- Children's Choir:** Every Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Children's Choir room above the Breezeway.
- Mission Friends, GAs and RAs:** 6pm every Wednesday!
- Sunday School:** 10am every Sunday!

**March Sunday Children's Church Volunteers**

- March 5.....Kevin and Nan Phillips
- March 12.....Melissa Cowan and Christa Garner
- \*New rotation letters are going out this week.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- April 8 - Easter Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt
- May 14 - Children's Sunday
- July 16-19 - Children's Passport Camp (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)

**LOOKING AHEAD INTO MARCH**



**March Ushers:** Gene Mason, Bryan Griffin, Mike Sherret, Brent Brown, Paul Dawson, David Herlovich, Ken Thames, Michael Baxter, and Edward Hill, Jr.

- Mon Mar 6** 55+ Club Luncheon (12pm Burch Hall)
- Sun Mar 12** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Sun Mar 12** Youth Sunday (11am Sanctuary)
- Sun Mar 12** Deacons' Meeting (1:30pm Mann Hall)
- Wed Mar 15** "Love Box" (Last day for orders and to turn in money)
- Sun Mar 19** Prayer Garden Spaghetti Lunch & Cake Auction (12pm Burch Hall)
- Mon Mar 20** First Day of Spring
- Tue Mar 21** Women On Mission Bible Study (10am Library)
- Sat Mar 25** "Love Box" Packing & Distribution Day (7am Gym)

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

Daily Scripture: *Romans 5.12-19. Psalm 32*

3:45 PM.....Staff Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1**

Daily Scripture: *Matthew 4.1-11. Psalm 32*

5:30 PM.....Children's Choir\*

6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs\*

5:30 PM.....Youth WNL WILL MEET AT THE BASEBALL FIELD

6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)\*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2**

Daily Scripture: *Genesis 12.1-4a. Psalm 121*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3**

Daily Scripture: *Romans 4.1-5, 13-17. Psalm 121*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4**

Daily Scripture: *John 3.1-17. Psalm 121*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

9:15 AM.....Sanctuary Choir rehearsal\*

10:00 AM.....Sunday School\*

11:00 AM.....Worship Service\*

2:00 PM.....Youth Puppet rehearsal followed by Youth Handbells

5:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

**MONDAY, MARCH 6**

Daily Scripture: *Genesis 12.1-4a. Psalm 121*

12:00 PM.....55+Club/Young at Heart Luncheon (Burch Hall)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7**

Daily Scripture: *Romans 4.1-5, 13-17. Psalm 121*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8**

Daily Scripture: *John 3.1-17. Psalm 121*

6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs\*

6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)\*

6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)\*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9**

Daily Scripture: *Exodus 17.1-7. Psalm 95*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 10**

Daily Scripture: *Romans 5.1-11. Psalm 95*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11**

Daily Scripture: *John 4.5-42. Psalm 95*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12 (Daylight Savings Time Begins)**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

10:00 AM.....Sunday School\*

11:00 AM.....Youth Sunday Worship Service\*

1:30 PM.....Deacons' Meeting (Mann Hall)

5:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

**MONDAY, MARCH 13**

Daily Scripture: *Exodus 17.1-7. Psalm 95*

3:45 PM.....Staff Meeting

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14**

Daily Scripture: *Romans 5.1-11. Psalm 95*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**

Daily Scripture: *John 4.5-42. Psalm 95*

6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs\*

6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)\*

6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)\*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16**

Daily Scripture: *1 Samuel 16.1-13. Psalm 23*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17 (St. Patrick's Day)**

Daily Scripture: *Ephesians 5.8-14. Psalm 23*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18**

Daily Scripture: *John 9.1-41. Psalm 23*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

10:00 AM.....Sunday School\*

11:00 AM.....Worship Service\*

12:00....."A Prayer Garden from a Prayer Chapel" Spaghetti Lunch

and Cake Auction – following worship service, Meal Cost \$10 per plate

5:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

\*Nursery Staff available for these events.

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, closed all day Friday

8:30am-12:15pm (12:15-1:30 closed for lunch & office errands) 1:30pm-5pm

**Our Stewardship Review**

**Budget Report for 2/28/23:**

Weekly Budget Required.....	\$12,574.13
Weekly Budget Received for 2/19/23 – 2/25/23.....	\$7,218.59
Monthly Budget Required.....	\$54,487.90
MTD Budget Received.....	\$31,985.07
YTD Budget Requirement.....	\$108,975.80
YTD Budget Giving Received.....	\$76,774.78
YTD Budget Expenses.....	\$87,400.75
Prayer Garden Budget Requirement.....	\$38,000.00
Prayer Garden Budget Giving Received.....	\$21,125.00
Special Gifts (Non-Budget) for the week of 2/19/23 – 2/25/23.....	\$715.00



**Ben Hill-Irwin Baptist Association Meeting**

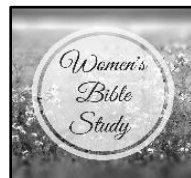
**Thursday, March 16, 2023**

**6:00pm (Executive Committee)**

**7:00pm (Regular Annual Meeting)**

**Irwinville Baptist Church in Irwinville, GA**

Campground insurance changes will be discussed. The SCAMP Evangelism Trailer will be there for all to see and how each member church might use this tool in sharing the Gospel. We encourage all of FBC members to attend. Please call the church office so you can be registered as a messenger from our church for attendance at the meeting.



**The Women's Bible Study Group** is starting a new book called *Easter*. Now is a great time to join them. Meeting every Sunday afternoon at their new time, 5:00pm in Mann Hall. All ladies of the church are invited to come.

**Church Staff**

Pastor.....	Greg Pope
Minister of Music & Youth.....	Blane Jacobs
Administrative Assistant.....	Dana Luckie
Director of Children's Activities.....	Carly Harper
Custodian.....	Jeffrey Morgan
Housekeeping.....	Antoinette Hill
Church Organist.....	Barbara Jacobs
Church Pianist.....	Susan Spivey

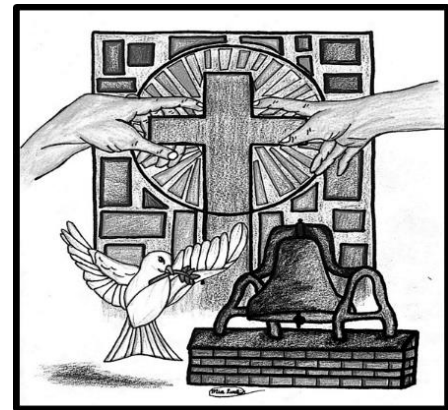
Contact us at 229-423-4367 or by email at [fbc@fbcfitz.com](mailto:fbc@fbcfitz.com). You can also check out church information and activities on our website [www.fbcbcfitz.com](http://www.fbcbcfitz.com).

**First Baptist Church**

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**First Baptist Church**

OF FITZGERALD, GA.

*First Baptist Church is a loving and caring Christian community seeking to extend the open hand of God's grace to meet physical and spiritual needs through worship, education, ministry, fellowship, and spiritual nurturing.*

**Sunday School 10am  
 Worship Service 11am Sanctuary**

**Wednesday March 1**

**6:00 Burch Hall**

Bible Study Through Paul's Letter to the Philippians  
 Philippians 1.22-26

**Sunday March 5 - The Second Sunday in Lent**

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a. Psalm 121  
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17. John 3:1-17

Sermon: *The Struggle to Believe:  
 Nicodemus Shares His Story*

**Wednesday March 8**

**6:00 Burch Hall**

Bible Study led by Charlie Solomon

**Sunday March 12 - The Third Sunday in Lent**

Youth Sunday  
 The Celebration of Blane Jacobs' 30th Anniversary

**55+ Club/YOUNG AT HEART**

**LUNCHEON**

**MONDAY, MARCH 6**

**12PM in BURCH HALL**

Hosts: Susan Griffin, Gail Giddens, Jim Womack,  
 Brenda Womack, and Jane Ellen Phillips