

FROM THE PASTOR

The Reconvening of the Church Council

This past Monday night, thirteen leaders from various areas of ministry within our church met as The Church Council reconvened for the first time in several years. I think the work of this Council will be a wonderful thing for our church. This is a wise group of people who dearly love our church and want to see it flourish.

After some good pizza, I began the 90-minute meeting sharing a summary of my vision based on my two years of preaching here at FBC. I called it VISION 12345: Making ONE Promise to help people become the most loving version of ourselves, rooted in the TWO Virtues of compassionate conviction and reverent kindness, asking each member to make THREE Promises: 1) to be faithful in worship, 2) to participate in some form of small group in order to build relationships, and 3) to engage in one ministry within the church and one ministry in our community. To claim our Baptist identity of FOUR Freedoms: soul freedom, Bible freedom, church freedom, and religious freedom. And to focus our life together on FIVE Practices of faithful congregations: radical welcome, intentional discipleship, transforming worship, risk-taking service, and sacrificial generosity.

We sought to come to terms with the fact that church and culture have drastically changed over the past 50 years and began to consider ways to adapt to our new reality without comparing ourselves to the past.

We spent most of our time reviewing the survey results from a couple of months ago. While acknowledging all ideas and thoughts could not be addressed, we did talk about ways to look into certain possibilities. We all agreed that in order make some of these ideas a reality, we need to get more people connected in service within the life of our church. As the Nominating Committee begins its work of recruiting people to serve, prayerfully consider what God might be calling you to do.

One survey suggestion had to do with making known opportunities for service. Since many of our ministries spring from our Sunday School classes, we are asking for a point person to gather these opportunities so that we can post them on our website and publish them in our newsletter. The staff will be following up on the suggestion for a visitor's brochure that will introduce people to our church. We are also looking into the cost of repairing the floor of our gymnasium to make it more functional and to perhaps set up a Pickleball Court as was suggested in the survey.

We will follow up on other suggestions in future gatherings. In addition to maintaining a master church calendar of events, we will be evaluating our present ministries, seeking to strengthen those things we do well, asking whether other things need to continue, and discerning what new things God might be wanting to do among us and through us. Our next scheduled meeting is the first week of August.

As a wonderful example of servants, I want to extend a big "Thank You" to the Sportsman's Sunday School Class for preparing and serving some marvelous hamburgers and hot dogs this past Sunday after worship!

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, John Donahue, Caroline Kate Eckles, Joni Wiggins Fox, Stephen Martin, Gene Mason, Billy McEachern, Don Morris, June Morris, Buddy Prescott, Troy Roberts, Gage Stubbs, Kelly Sumner, Farise Taylor, Brenda Wiggins, Donald Wiggins, Debra Weil



SUMMER YOUTH CALENDAR IN THE WORKS!

The youth council continues to meet and work on details for the Summer Youth Calendar. If you are not on the youth council but would like to suggest activities, please let me know. We continue to have WNL and Sunday School each week along with Worship. I hope you can make those events a priority EVERY WEEK! If you are going to Youth Mission Camp, you will receive a letter from me with all the details very soon. It will include your medical release form as well as a schedule for the camp and your remaining balance. If you are a GRADUATE and have not turned in your pictures or total participating in the graduate meal, please contact me ASAP.



We will have CHOIR PRACTICE this Sunday morning at 9:15am. ALL CHOIR MEMBERS are urged to attend as we will run through our anthem for this Sunday, "Make Us One With You". We will also be looking ahead at our Memorial Day Service music. If you don't make it to practice, join us at 10:45am in the choir room for our time of rehearsal. Handbells and orchestra will also play with the hymns this Sunday morning. I appreciate everyone who serves in the music ministry of FBC!

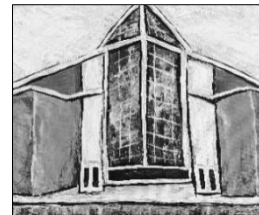


Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday, May 7, 2023, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving honor of the Bridge Sunday School Class.

What's Going on at FBC in May

May Ushers: Billy McEachern, Mike Ellis, Hank Cook, Jim Burke, Stewart Carswell, Nathan Carswell, Logan Carswell, Tommy Roberts, Donnie Hopkins, Jason Dunn, and Taylor Spivey



- Sun May 7 Final Round of Deacon Selection (11am Sanctuary)
- Sun May 7 Deacon's Meeting (1:30 Mann Hall)
- Sun May 14 Children's Sunday/Mother's Day (11am Sanctuary)
- Tue May 16 Women on Mission Bible Study (10am Library)
- Sun May 21 Graduate's Sunday (11am Sanctuary)
Graduate's family meal following service
- Sun May 28 Memorial Day Service (11am Sanctuary)



Pictures for Our Memorial Day Service

On May 28th, we will have our annual Memorial Day Service. As a part of that special service, we will once again present our "Faces of Freedom" video. If you have a family member that you would like included, please turn the picture into the Church office NO LATER THAN MAY 15th or you can email the picture to blane@fbcfitz.com.

Ms. Carly's Corner for KIDS

Children's Sunday will be May 14th (Mother's Day). Participation signup sheets are now available in the children's department. If your child wants to participate but has not signed up please let me know.

Children's Choir will be singing on Mother's Day, May 14.



PASSPORTkids Camp is July 16-19 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. (3rd-6th Grade)
Deposit of \$150 is PAST due
Final camp payment of \$225 is due by April 28th.

HELP WANTED: We are looking for a GA leader and helpers for the next school year. Leaders and helpers would begin in August. Please let me know if you are interested or know anyone who is.

→There will be a Children's Activities Committee Meeting on Saturday May 6th at 1pm in Burch Hall.



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!



May Sunday Children's Church Volunteer

- May 7th.....Justin & Elizabeth Phillips
- May 14th.....Jane Szoke, Kate Phillips & Caroline Spivey
- May 21st.....Carla and Clint Revels
- May 28th.....Kevin and Nan Phillips



UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 14 - Children's Sunday
- July 16-19 - Children's Passport Camp (3rd-6th grade)



CHURCH CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MAY 2
Daily Scripture: 1 Peter 2.19-25. Psalm 23
 10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
Daily Scripture: John 10-1-10. Psalm 23
 5:30 PM.....Children's Choir*
 6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*
 6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*
 6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)*

THURSDAY, MAY 4
Daily Scripture: Acts 7.55-60. Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16
 10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

FRIDAY, MAY 5
Daily Scripture: 1 Peter 2.1-10. Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16

SATURDAY, MAY 6
Daily Scripture: John 14.1-14. Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16

SUNDAY, MAY 7 (Second Round of Deacon Selection)
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 9:15 AM.....Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal*
 10:00 AM.....Sunday School*
 11:00 AM.....Worship (Sanctuary)*
 1:30 PM.....Deacons Meeting (Mann Hall)
 5:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

MONDAY, MAY 8
Daily Scripture: Acts 7.55-60. Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16

TUESDAY, MAY 9
Daily Scripture: 1 Peter 2.1-10. Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16
 10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10
Daily Scripture: John 14.1-14. Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16
 5:30 PM.....Children's Choir*
 6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*
 6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*
 6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)*

THURSDAY, MAY 11
Daily Scripture: Acts 17.22-31. Psalm 66.8-20
 10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

FRIDAY, MAY 12
Daily Scripture: 1 Peter 3.13-22. Psalm 66.8-20

SATURDAY, MAY 13
Daily Scripture: John 14.15-21. Psalm 66.8-20

SUNDAY, MAY 14 Mother's Day
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 10:00 AM.....Sunday School*
 11:00 AM.....Children's Sunday (Sanctuary)*

MONDAY, MAY 15
Daily Scripture: Acts 17.22-31. Psalm 66.8-20

TUESDAY, MAY 16
Daily Scripture: 1 Peter 3.13-22. Psalm 66.8-20
 10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)
 10:00 AM.....Women on Mission Bible Study (Library)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17
Daily Scripture: John 14.15-21. Psalm 66.8-20
 6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*
 6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*
 6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)*

THURSDAY, MAY 18
Daily Scripture: Acts 1.1-11. Psalm 47 and 93
 10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

FRIDAY, MAY 19
Daily Scripture: Ephesians 1.15-23. Psalm 47 and 93

SATURDAY, MAY 20
Daily Scripture: Luke 24.44-53. Psalm 47 and 93

SUNDAY, MAY 21
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 10:00 AM.....Sunday School*
 11:00 AM.....Graduate's Sunday (Sanctuary)*
 12:00 PM.....Graduate's Family Luncheon (Burch Hall)
 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 through 4/29/23

Weekly Budget Required.....	\$12,574.13
Weekly Budget Received for 4/23/23 – 4/29/23.....	\$18,312.86
Monthly Budget Required.....	\$54,487.90
MTD Budget Received through 4/25/23.....	\$55,344.78
YTD Budget Requirement through 4/29/23.....	\$217,951.67
YTD Budget Giving Received through 4/29/23.....	\$187,733.91
YTD Budget Expenses.....	\$200,743.62
Prayer Garden Budget Requirement	\$38,000.00
Prayer Garden Budget Giving Received.....	\$36,527.00
Special Gifts (Non-Budget) for the week of 4/23/23 – 4/29/23.....	\$950.00



EXTRA DISHES & SERVING ITEMS MUST GO FROM BURCH HALL

May 3 and May 10 at 5pm
 Mrs. Jane Stuart will be in Burch Hall for you to stop by and see if you left any of your dishes behind in Burch Hall kitchen.

Church Staff

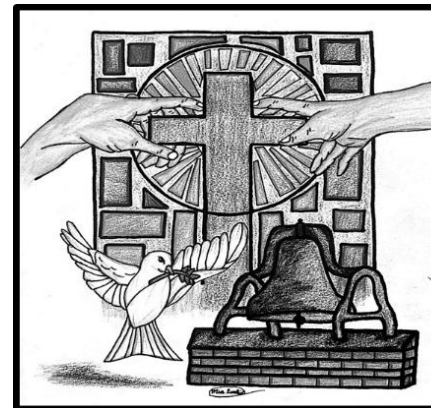
Pastor..... Greg Pope
 Minister of Music & Youth.....Blane Jacobs
 Administrative Assistant..... Dana Luckie
 Director of Children's Activities.....Carly Harper
 Custodian.....Jeffrey Morgan
 Housekeeping..... Antoinette Hill
 Church Organist..... Barbara Jacobs
 Church Pianist..... Susan Spivey

Contact us at 229-423-4367 or by email at fbc@fbcfitz.com. You can also check out church information and activities on our website www.fbcfitz.com.

First Baptist Church
 P. O. Box 367
 (402 S. Merrimac Drive)
 Fitzgerald, GA 31750
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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.

Wednesday Vespers 6pm Burch Hall
Sunday School 10am
Worship Service 11am Sanctuary

Wednesday May 3
 Bible Study Through the Book of Philippians (3.1-11)
Sunday May 7 Easter 5
The Hank Inside Us All
 Acts 7:55-60. Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16. 1 Peter 2:1-10. John 14:1-14
 Baptism: Sawyer Campbell

Wednesday May 10
 Bible Study Through the Book of Philippians (3.12-4.3)
Sunday May 14 Easter 6 / Children's Sunday
 A Celebration of our Children's Ministry
 The Dedication of Bo Matthew Dixon
 son of Jad and Erin Dixon

Wednesday May 17
 Bible Study Through the Book of Philippians (4.4-9)
Sunday May 21 Easter 7 / Graduate Sunday
 The Recognition of Graduates who will also lead in worship

Wednesday May 24
 Bible Study Through the Book of Philippians (4.10-23)

Final Deacon Selection
Sunday, May 7, 2023

Below are the twelve eligible for the Final Selection.
 You will be asked to select seven.

Brent Brown, Stewart Carswell, III, David Evans, Ed Hill, Sr., Trey Luckie, Lee Renfroe, David Roberts, Tommy Roberts, Shane Sapp, Zach Sheppard, Eric Stone, and Bobby Tharp