

FROM THE PASTOR

September 19

Better Together #2:

Commissioned to Reach out Together

Reach out and welcome one another for the glory of God. Jesus did it, now you do it! (Romans 15.7). Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions (1 John 3.18). Let us work together, struggling side by side to get others to believe the Good News (Philippians 1.27b)

In week one of Better Together, we heard the compelling call to love one another *within* the church. In week two we heard of our commissioning to reach those *outside* the church.

Everything begins in the church with how we understand our mission. Our Mission Statement on the front page of our bulletin each week says that: *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.* When we "extend the open hand of God's grace" we are Reaching Out.

We have to be intentional about reaching out, inviting people to church, showing acceptance, building friendships with those who do not know Christ, offering hospitality and welcome through small groups of people like Sunday School classes, and seeking to address the real needs of our community through meaningful acts of service.

We need to value impact and influence in the community more than church attendance. The effectiveness of our worship and Bible Study and fellowship is measured not by attendance but by the impact the people of our church have on our community. *Internally* focused churches concentrate on getting people into the church and generating activity inside the church. *Externally* focused churches concentrate on getting members out into the community and engaging in service outside the church. Church "success" depends on getting involved in the community, creating authentic relationships, and being truly helpful. We need to be the kind of place that would be greatly missed if we were not here.

An externally focused church moves toward those on the margins. God has a special place in his heart for those on the margins of society. In scripture we are commissioned to minister to broken people. There are nearly 400 biblical passages demonstrating God's concern for orphans, prisoners, and immigrants, the homeless, the poor, and the hungry, the sick, and the disabled. An externally focused church seeks the well-being of their cities, blessing their cities by offering classes to the community at banks and hospitals and libraries, teaching job skills and life skills, helping others to thrive.

A critical question every church must ask themselves is this: Do we want to *impress* others or *influence* others?

One pastor says, "Most churches are about 'Serve us!' rather than 'service.'" The first perspective reflects an internal focus: "Meet my needs and make me happy." The second perspective is directed outwardly: "Help me make this world a better place." There are many Christians who need to change the question from "What can the church do for me?" to "What can we as the church do for the community?" The church must always ask ourselves: "Are we enhancing our community?" Most of the time when people ask each other about their church they want to know about its size and worship attendance. Maybe the conversation needs to change to: "Tell me about the difference your church is making in your community."

So think about it: What is happening in our community because of our church? What do we want to happen in our community because of our church?

Prayers for Our People

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

Let us pray for: Rachel Bishop, Denise Bowen, Carolyn Brown, Prentiss Brown, Lynn Bryant, Kathleen Cook, Jim Davis, Polly Davis, Brittini Ellington Deal, Wendy Dix, Caroline Kate Eckles, Joni Wiggins Fox, Trish Herlovich, Claudette Mahan, David Malcolm, Shirley Malcolm, Billy McEachern, Don Morris, June Morris, Mildred Pigg, Buddy Prescott, Troy Roberts, Kelly Sumner, Sarah Stevens, Farise Taylor, Lee Taylor, Katrina Vaughn, Brenda Wiggins, Donald Wiggins, Debra Weil

Members in Care Facilities

Pruitt Health (Ocilla): Drew Fountain

Homebound Members – Fitzgerald

June and Don Morris

Homebound Members – Out of Town & State

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



"Inside Out" Movie Devotional Continues

We had some technical difficulties last Wednesday night, so we didn't get to continue with our study based on the movie *Inside Out*. Join us this week as we continue to share our discussions about our journey of faith together with our friends. Final Winter Retreat details will be announced soon!

SOMETHING NEW THIS SUNDAY NIGHT!

All the youth are invited to come "*Hang Out*" at Blane & Barbara's home (111 Wendy Ln) from 5:30pm-7pm. You can hang out & just talk, play UNO, watch football, or even play some games outside. We just want to HANG OUT together. PLEASE RESPOND TO THE SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEXT IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO WE WILL KNOW HOW MUCH SUPPER TO PREPARE!! Invite a friend!

CHOIR PRACTICE THIS SUNDAY!

Join us for sanctuary choir practice THIS Sunday morning at 9:15am. If you are in town, please plan to sing with us. Always remember, if you don't make choir practice, join us at 10:45am in the choir room to run through the anthem. This week we will sing *Peace Like a River* with *Amazing Grace* as our special. Handbells and Orchestra will also play. See you Sunday!

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday, September 24, 2023, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of Madge and Mickey Paulk from their children.

Guatemala Christmas Project

Thank you all for contributing items for this ministry. Anyone that is still interested in contributing, please see the list of items needed on the collection boxes located in your Sunday school classrooms or in the Narthex. You may drop your items off at the church office or in the collection boxes. The deadline is Thursday, September 28.

Dear FBC and the Benevolence Committee, We can't thank you enough for your role at our precious Gage's funeral. Thank you for the delicious food provided to our family. Each one of you were instrumental and it didn't go unnoticed. More than the food, we felt your prayers at such a difficult time. About the moon pies, Gage would have smiled from ear to ear about those! It's truly just the little things at such a big hurdle in our lives. Thank you, The Aaron Gage Stubbs Family P.S. The tear stains on this letter are a reminder that while our hearts ache for him, we have a church family that love us unconditionally. We know that you do.



GOODY BAGS AND GAMES

Join us immediately following worship **THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th** from 12-2PM in the gym for lunch, games, and goody bags. Children will be putting together goody bags for Called to Care

Caseworkers. All children are encouraged to bring a monetary donation to go towards gift cards to go with the goody bags!

Children's Choir Updates

Children's Choir is planning to sing October 1st, December 3rd, and December 17th.

There will be NO Children's Choir Wednesday, September 20th.



We're starting a **Children's GROUP TEXT** with updates and reminders for all children's activities. Let me know if you want me to add you to the group! (229-425-2099)



Ladies of the Church,

The GAs are needing donations of embroidery hoops (7in.-10in.). If you have any you no longer want or could just loan them to the girls for a while, please either drop them by the church office or contact Cheryl Luckie at 229-425-2119. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

DON'T MISS OUT ON WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

→**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!



September/October Sunday Children's Church Volunteers

September 24th – Trista and Ryan Clemons

October 1st – Zach and Kayla Sheppard

October 8th – Carly and TJ Harper

October 15th – Ross and Kristin Campbell

*If you would like to be added to the rotation, please let me know!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 24th – Games and Goody Bags (Gym) 12-2PM

October 25th – Halloween Nursing Home Parade 6PM

October 29th – Fall Festival 4-6PM (Sign up now in the narthex)

CHURCH CALENDAR

TUESDAY, SEPT 19

Daily Scripture: Romans 14.1-12. Psalm 114

10:00 AM.....Women on Mission Bible Study (Library)
10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 20

Daily Scripture: Matthew 18.21-35. Psalm 114

6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*
6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*
6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Mann Hall)*

THURSDAY, SEPT 21

Daily Scripture: Exodus 16.2-15. Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

FRIDAY, SEPT 22

Daily Scripture: Philippians 1.21-30. Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

SATURDAY, SEPT 23

Daily Scripture: Matthew 20.1-16. Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

SUNDAY, SEPT 24

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

9:15 AM.....Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal*
10:00 AM.....Sunday School*
11:00 AM.....Worship Service (Sanctuary)*
12:00-2:00 PM.....Children's Goody Bags & Games Day (Gym)
5:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)
5:30 PM.....Youth Hang Out at Blane and Barbara's Home

MONDAY, SEPT 25

Daily Scripture: Exodus 16.2-15. Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

4:15 PM.....Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPT 26

Daily Scripture: Philippians 1.21-30. Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27

Daily Scripture: Matthew 20.1-16. Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

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, SEPT 28

Daily Scripture: Exodus 17.1-7. Psalm 78.1-4, 12-16

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

FRIDAY, SEPT 29

Daily Scripture: Philippians 2.1-13. Psalm 78.1-4, 12-16

SATURDAY, SEPT 30

Daily Scripture: Matthew 21.23-32. Psalm 78.1-4, 12-16

SUNDAY, OCT 1

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

9:15 AM.....Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal*
10:00 AM.....Sunday School*
11:00 AM.....Worship Service (Sanctuary)*
5:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

MONDAY, OCT 2

Daily Scripture: Exodus 17.1-7. Psalm 78.1-4, 12-16

TUESDAY, OCT 3

Daily Scripture: Philippians 2.1-13. Psalm 78.1-4, 12-16

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

WEDNESDAY, OCT 4

Daily Scripture: Matthew 21.23-32. Psalm 78.1-4, 12-16

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, OCT 5

Daily Scripture: Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20. Psalm 19

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

FRIDAY, OCT 6

Daily Scripture: Philippians 3.4b-14. Psalm 19

SATURDAY, OCT 7

Daily Scripture: Matthew 21.33-46. Psalm 19

*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 9/10/23 – 9/16/23

Weekly Budget Required.....	\$12,574.13
Weekly Budget Received for 9/10/23 – 9/16/23.....	\$14,888.00
Monthly Budget Required.....	\$54,487.90
MTD Budget Received	\$34,679.00
YTD Budget Requirement	\$463,147.06
YTD Budget Giving Received.....	\$469,929.75
YTD Budget Expenses.....	\$448,354.31
Prayer Garden Budget Requirement	\$38,000.00
Prayer Garden Budget Giving Received.....	\$41,883.00
Special Gifts (Non-Budget) for the week of 9/10/23 – 9/16/23.....	\$875.00

Lost & Found Items

We still have many things around the church that have been found but not claimed. If you have lost reading glasses, sunglasses, clothing items, jewelry (rings & bracelets) or even your Bible, please stop by the church office and see if it is yours.



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
Nursery Staff.....	Dana Luckie, Candy Herod, and Megan McLeod

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
Return Service Requested

Blank Blank
Blank
Blank, GA 55555

Presort Std.
Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
Permit No. 2
Fitzgerald, GA



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
Sunday School 10am
Worship Service 11am Sanctuary

Better Together: 40 Days of Community
September 6 – October 15

September 24	<i>Chosen to Fellowship Together</i>
October 1	<i>Connected to Grow Together</i>
October 8	<i>Called to Serve Together</i>
October 15	<i>Created to Worship Together</i>

Wednesday Night Vespers
6:00pm

September 20	Sheila Solomon: Lifehouse Ministries (Mann Hall)
September 27	What Does It Mean to be the Church? Session One (Burch Hall)
October 4	What Does It Mean to be the Church? Session Two (Burch Hall)