

FROM THE PASTOR

The Absolute Wonder of New Life

For the months leading up to the birth of my first grandchild, I was told on numerous occasions: "There's nothing like grandchildren!" Having been a grandparent now for all of 17 days, I've been trying to find the words to express what makes a grandchild so special. There is, of course, the pleasing continuation of the family into another generation. There is the pure delight of seeing, holding, and watching a baby to which one is related - a child that came from your child. There is also the mutual love relationship one anticipates with a grandchild.

I think, however, what makes a grandchild so special is the awareness of mystery that simply cannot be put into words. We have a word for that wordless experience. It's called "wonder." Wonder is what we feel in those encounters too deep for words, moments beyond our comprehension. Who among us, certainly not I, can look into the face a child and not be filled with astonishing wonder! When I held my grandson for the first time in the hospital, when he first looked me in the eyes, and when I just watched him sleep for an hour this past Friday - to describe those sacred moments would be like trying to describe resurrection or a sunrise above the ocean or what it felt like the first time you fell in love.

We are often frustrated or uncomfortable with what we cannot comprehend. Perhaps that's why we often try to explain God in doctrines we can grasp. However, the God of creation can never be fully comprehended. The world God has made is full of wonder. And the love God holds for each of us is beyond words. Jesus could only describe it in stories. God is a shepherd who always searches for lost sheep. God is a woman who will turn the world upside down for a lost coin. God is a father who waits for prodigals to return home, and when they do God runs to meet them.

So don't try to understand or put into words everything you experience. Just open your eyes and let your life be filled with wonder!

Prayers for Our People

We are praying for you, your family, your caretakers, and all that God will do for you.

Let us pray for: Rachel Bishop, Denise Bowen, Linda Braun, Carolyn Brown, Prentiss Brown, Lynn Bryant, Shirley Coxen, Polly Davis, Wendy Dix, Joni Wiggins Fox, Johnny Giddens, Kay Hannon, Ed Hill, Trish Herlovich, Claudette Mahan, David Malcolm, Shirley Malcolm, Billy McEachern, Don Morris, June Morris, Mildred Pigg, Betty Redus, Debbie Sherret, Kelly Sumner, Sarah Stevens, Lee Taylor, Joyce Vaughn, Katrina Vaughn, Van Waters, Brenda Wiggins, Donald Wiggins, Debra Weil, Nancy Yeager, Jason Youmans

Members in Care Facilities

Pruitt Health (Ocilla): Drew Fountain

Homebound Members – Fitzgerald and Out of Town/State

June and Don Morris – Fitzgerald and Lois Eppes – Middleburg, FL

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 28, 2024, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of Horace and Kathryn Finley by Lamar, Kathy and Jeremy Stone.



YOUTH NEWS



Graduates don't forget to turn in your Graduate picture, Baby Picture and the TOTAL number attending the Graduate luncheon. Don't forget that Graduates will decorate their own tables for the banquet the same morning as the Jr. Class parents

meet to prepare for the meal, Saturday, May 18th.

We will continue to have WNL through May 15th. Our summer youth schedule will be announced soon and all rising 6th graders can join us for all our events. For those going to the Summer Youth Mission Project, you will receive a letter in the next two weeks with important information including your MEDICAL RELEASE FORM that must be filled out and turned in before we go to camp. See You at WNL and Sunday School!



The handbells and orchestra will play with the hymns this Sunday morning and the choir will sing *Trusting God* as our special. Our next choir rehearsal will be May 26th when we present our annual Memorial Day Service.



CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST! We have aquired a Living Christmas Tree we will use for our Christmas Music Presentation this year. It is a smaller tree than the one used here over 30 years ago. This tree holds 32 singers and we need folks singing *in and AROUND* the tree.

Please consider singing with us as we celebrate Christmas this year in a way that was adored here at FBC for years. Our orientation and information meal for all interested in singing will be on Sunday, August 4th at Coastal Plain BBQ! Let me know if you plan to attend the meeting. We had almost 50 voices last Christmas, let's try for 60 voices this Christmas! I can't wait to share this with our community!



RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES!

We would like to recognize all college and technical college graduates who are members of FBC Fitzgerald in the May 28th newsletter. **Please submit no later than May 16th your graduate's information and graduation picture to the church office or email us at fbcfitz.com. Information needed: graduate's name, school name, degree, and career plans.**

What's Going on at FBC in May

May Deacons of the Month: Scott Sheppard & Shane Sapp

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

- Sun May 5 Second Round of Deacon Selection (11am Sanctuary)
- Sun May 5 Deacon's Meeting (1:30 Mann Hall *Note the change of date)
- Mon May 6 55+ Club/Young at Heart Luncheon (12pm Burch Hall)
- Sun May 12 Children's Sunday/Mother's Day (11am Sanctuary)
- Sun May 15 Children's Last Day of Mission Friends, GAs and RAs
- Sun May 19 Graduate's Sunday with meal following service (11am Sanctuary)
- Tue May 21 Women on Mission Bible Study (10am Library)
- Sun May 26 Memorial Day Service (11am Sanctuary)



Ms. Carly's Corner For Kids

April 28th will be our next *Fourth Sunday* for 1st-5th graders. Make plans to join us!

Summer camp letters are going out this week.

THANKS to all those who came to the Children's Ice Cream Party! We raised \$643 for Called to Care and made 21 Goody Bags for case workers who work with Called to Care.



FBC CHILDREN'S EVENTS
Spring/Summer 2024

May 12	Children's Sunday
June 9th	Game/Bike Afternoon
July 10	Water Wars
July 14-17	Passport Kids Camp
July 27-28	VBS

April/May Children's Church Volunteers

- April 28...Ross and Kristin Campbell
- May 5...Trista and Ryan Clemons
- May 12..Children Sunday (No Children's Church)
- May 19...Mollie and Trent Taylor



BEN HILL/IRWIN BAPTIST CAMPGROUNDS

Kids's Fishing Rodeo
Saturday, April 27th

451 Old Whitley Crossing Rd, Fitzgerald, GA 31750
Registration starts at 7am. Fishing starts at 7am and ends at 12pm. You must be between the ages of 3 to 15 years old to fish.
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

CHURCH CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Daily Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24, Psalm 23

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Daily Scripture: John 10:11-18, Psalm 23

11:00 AM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)

12:00 PM.....Staff Meeting

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, APRIL 25

Daily Scripture: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Daily Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21, Psalm 22:25-31

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Daily Scripture: John 15:1-8, Psalm 22:25-31

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

11:00 AM.....Worship*

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

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Daily Scripture: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Daily Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21, Psalm 22:25-31

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Daily Scripture: John 15:1-8, Psalm 22:25-31

11:00 AM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)

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 2

Daily Scripture: Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98

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

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Daily Scripture: 1 John 5:1-6, Psalm 98

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Daily Scripture: John 15:9-17, Psalm 98

SUNDAY, MAY 5

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

11:00 AM.....Worship*

Second Round of Deacon Selection – Ballots will be inside your bulletin. All ballots will be turned in by the end of worship

1:30 PM.....Note the change of date.....Deacons Meeting (Mann Hall)

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

MONDAY, MAY 6

Daily Scripture: Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98

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

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Daily Scripture: 1 John 5:1-6, Psalm 98

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Daily Scripture: John 15:9-17, Psalm 98

11:00 AM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)

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 9

Daily Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1

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

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Daily Scripture: 1 John 5:9-13, Psalm 1

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Daily Scripture: John 17:6-19, Psalm 1

*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

April Deacons of the Month: Stan Bryant and David Herlovich

April Ushers: *Jimmy Davis, *Bobby Tharp, Ronnie Clemons, Greg Brown, Tony Sheffield, Scott Sheppard, Mark Turner, Eric Stone, Brian Gunter, and Tyler Clemons

First Baptist Church

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First Baptist Church
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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

11:00am and 6:00pm Burch Hall

April 24 – May 22 The Letters of First, Second, and Third John

Sunday School 10:00am
Worship 11:00am

- April 28** **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**
The Jesus Creed (III): The Cobbler's Gift
Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8
Baby Dedication: Emma Cate Calhoun
- May 5** **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**
The Jesus Creed (IV): A World-Conquering Love
Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17
Baptism: Kayla Sheppard
The Election of Deacons.
- May 12** **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY**
- May 19** **GRADUATE SUNDAY**
- May 26** **MEMORIAL SUNDAY**
- June 2** **Pentecost Sunday**
Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b.
Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
(Lunch and Conference to follow worship in Burch Hall)

Final Deacon Selection
Sunday, May 5, 2024

Names are not available at this time.

Printed April 23, 2024

Our Stewardship Review

Budget Report through 4/14/24 – 4/20/24

Weekly Budget Required.....	\$12,992.33
Weekly Budget Received for 4/14/24 – 4/20/24.....	\$6,841.58
Monthly Budget Required.....	\$56,300.08
MTD Budget Received.....	\$41,179.38
YTD Budget Requirement.....	\$194,884.87
YTD Budget Giving Received.....	\$166,705.59
YTD Budget Expenses.....	\$181,119.80
Special Gifts (Non-Budget) for the week of 4/14/24 – 4/20/24.....	\$376.50

April 14, 2024 - Sunday School Attendance – 153 Worship Attendance – 155

Church Staff

- Pastor.....Greg Pope
- Minister of Music & Youth.....Blane Jacobs
- Administrative Assistant.....Dana Luckie
- Director of Children's Activities.....Carly Harper
- Church Administrator.....Byron Smith
- 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.

