

A Letter From Pastor Greg Pope

Dear First Baptist Church of Fitzgerald,

It is with great sadness that I submit to you my resignation as Pastor of First Baptist Fitzgerald, effective Wednesday, September 18, 2024. This hard decision comes after conversations with the deacons over the past few weeks. From what they have heard from the congregation, they feel this is the best course of action moving forward. Sudden resignations usually come on the heels of misconduct. I can assure you that this is not the case here. While I would prefer one last Sunday and one final sermon, it has been decided that this may prove too difficult for the congregation.

Over the past three years, you have been an incredibly loving congregation to our family: seeing Cindy and I through the death of our fathers, celebrating the weddings of our daughters with generous showers for them both, praying with us through Cindy's health concerns, and helping us joyfully enter grandparenthood! We will always be grateful to you for your love and kindness. I have enjoyed serving together with Blane, Carly, Dana, Byron, and Jeff. You are in very capable hands as they lead you from here. You will certainly be in my prayers as you move forward.

Grace and Peace,

W. Gregory Pope

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, Nancy Brinson, Carolyn Brown, Prentiss Brown, Lynn Bryant, Dawn Clements, Shirley Coxen, Wendy Dix, Joni Wiggins Fox, Chase Giddens, Johnny Giddens, Ed Hill, Trish Herlovich, Peggy Justice, Claudette Mahan, David Malcolm, Shirley Malcolm, Andy Mason, Thomas Mayo, Billy McEachern, Don Morris, June Morris, Mildred Pigg, Betty Redus, Troy Roberts, Debbie Sherret, Kelly Sumner, Sarah Stevens, Lee Taylor, Katrina Vaughn, Van Waters, Brenda Wiggins, Donald Wiggins, Debra Weil, Louise Whelchel, Nancy Yeager

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



Thank you all so much for the outpouring of love shown to us with the passing of my mother, Polly Davis. We all appreciate the visits, cards, meals, and especially the prayers covering us during this sad time. A special thank you to Greg for all the support during the passing of both of my parents and for delivering such Wonderful services that we will all treasure. Also, thank you to Barbara for the beautiful music and to those who organized, hosted, and prepared a delicious meal for our family. We are blessed to have gotten to meet and loved so many special people. First Baptist will always hold a special place in our hearts. Love, Ann and Pete Waller and the entire family

YOUTH NEWS



Fall Break is just around the corner. It is hard to believe that the school year is moving so quickly. REMEMBER that there will be NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE on October 9th because of Fall Break.

ALSO... Sign up now for our One Day Winter Trip to Macon for Shopping, Bible Study, Trampoline Park and More. I hope you plan to join us! I also want to thank you for inviting your friends to church. Let's work on worship attendance. I hope you will consider staying for worship each week. Sit together as a group or with your family! See You Soon!



Sanctuary Choir practice is every week (unless announced) at 9am in the sanctuary followed by Living Christmas Tree rehearsal at 9:20am.



We will be finished around 9:45am to give you enough time to make it to Sunday school. THANKS to all who have signed up to participate with us this year! Our definite performance date will be December 15th. There may be additional dates added if the community interest mandates. I can't wait to share this Christmas music with our congregation and community!

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 29, 2024, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in honor of David and Jennifer Herlovich with love from the Bridge Sunday School Class.

The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 6, 2024, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Wiley Hill, Hal and Kay Adams, and Arthur Hill by Ed, Becky, and Judy Hill & families.



Dear Church Family, Thank you for the meals, the flowers, the visits and phone calls, and most of all the prayers and support after my recent surgery. Lew and I have felt every prayer. As I continue to heal, I will always be grateful to you. First Baptist members create a loving, caring place to belong and we are grateful to be a part of you. Love to everyone, Nancy and Lew Brinson

Adult Sunday School Teachers

With the rising costs of Bible study literature, we want to order only what we need. Please use the order sheet given to you this past Sunday to make your order adjustments for Winter literature. We appreciate all that you do to help us save where we can.

Ms. Carly's Corner For Kids

September/October 2024

Upcoming Events

- September Fourth Sunday - 9/29/24
- Children's Choir Sing - 10/6/24
- October Fourth Sunday - 10/27/24
- Fall Festival 10/27/24 4-6pm
- Halloween Nursing Home Parade - 10/30/24 6pm

September/October Children's Church Volunteers



September 29 - Jane Szoke, Kate Phillips, and Caroline Spivey
October 6 - Kevin and Nan Phillips
October 13 - Rebecca Dawson and Jennifer Wiley

PAID NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

First Baptist Church, Fitzgerald. Sundays (9:30 am - 12:15 pm). Wednesdays (5:30-7:00 pm - paid for two hours). \$15 per hour. Minimum age of 18. Please send a letter of interest to fbc@fbcfitz.com or First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 367, Fitzgerald, GA 31750. Please share this with your family and friends.

55+ Club
Young at Heart
COVERED DISH LUNCHEON
October 7, 2024 | 12 PM
Burch Hall
Hosts: Mike & Donna Norman, JoAnn Tucker, Tommy & Linda Hatcher

Abundance Ministry



Thank you so much to everyone who helps to keep this important ministry going. If you also would like to contribute, these are the items needed and can be dropped off by the church office anytime: individually wrapped snack cakes, chips, crackers, Vienna Sausage, candy (with sugar or sugar-free) drinks (diet & regular), packs of peanuts, etc. You can also give money to this ministry which will be used to buy what is needed. Our Life Care brothers and sisters are so appreciative of their ability to have these special treats. Thank you for your generosity.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry

TUESDAY, AUG 24

Newsletter Printing and Mail-out

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

WEDNESDAY, SEP 25

5:30 PM.....Children's Choir Practice (Children's Choir Room)*

6:00 PM.....Adult Bible Study (Adult III Assembly Rm)*

6:00 PM.....WNL, Missions Friends, RAs, and GAs*

THURSDAY, SEP 26

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

SUNDAY, SEP 29

9:00 AM.....Sanctuary Choir Practice (Sanctuary)*

9:20 AM.....Christmas Choir Practice (Sanctuary)*

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

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

5:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study Group (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

September Deacons of the Month: Stan Bryant and Mike Ellis

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



Coming Up in October at FBC

Oct Deacons of the Month: Hank Cook and David Evans

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



- Sun Oct 6 Operation Christmas Child Kick-off
Children's Choir will be singing (11am Sanctuary)
- Mon Oct 7 55+ Club/Young at Heart Luncheon (12pm Burch Hall)
- Tue Oct 8 Newsletter Printing and Mail-out
- Wed Oct 9 No Wednesday Night Activities (Fall Break Week)
- Tue Oct 15 Women on Mission Bible Study (10am Library)
- Fri Oct 17 RAs Hiking Trip (see Mr. Larry or Carly for more details)
- Sun Oct 20 Deacon's Meeting (1:30pm Mann Hall)
- Tue Oct 22 Newsletter Printing and Mail-out
- Sun Oct 27 Family Fall Festival (4-6pm Breezeway/Courtyard)
- Wed Oct 30 Children's Halloween Nursing Home Parade (see Carly for more details)

First Baptist Church
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Glad Tidings

WE DECLARE UNTO
YOU GLAD TIDINGS

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, September 29th

Ordination Service for Brad Keaton
Dr. Mike Ruffin Guest Preacher

Sunday, October 6th

Children's Choir Sings
Kick off to Operation Christmas Child
Dr. Jerry Mahan

***No Wednesday Night Activities on October 9th**
(Fall Break Week)

Sunday, October 13th

Dr. Jerry Mahan

Attention Church Members

We are in the process of making some slight changes, and we ask you to please contact the church office if you no longer need the printed version of the Glad Tidings (church newsletter) mailed to you. We will still email you the version if you wish. If you are not on the email list, please contact the church office at 229-423-4367 or by email at fbcf@fbcfitz.com and we will be glad to add you. A printed version can be picked up in the office or narthex anytime.

Printed September 24, 2024 (Two-week Newsletter)

Our Stewardship Review

Budget Report through 9/15/24 – 9/21/24

Weekly Budget Required.....	\$12,992.33
Weekly Budget Received for 9/15/24 – 9/21/24.....	\$8,906.59
Monthly Budget Required.....	\$56,300.08
MTD Budget Received	\$32,438.00
YTD Budget Requirement	\$489,377.55
YTD Budget Giving Received.....	\$402,004.04
YTD Budget Expenses.....	\$476,754.70
Special Gifts (Non-Budget) for the week of 9/15/24 – 9/21/24.....	\$2,444.84

September 15, 2024 - Sunday School Attendance – 160 Worship Attendance – 224

Church Staff

- Interim Pastor.....Dr. Jerry Mahan
- Minister of Music & Youth.....Rev. Blane Jacobs
- Administrative Assistant.....Mrs. Dana Luckie
- Director of Children's Activities.....Mrs. Carly Harper
- Church Administrator.....Mr. Byron Smith
- Custodian.....Mr. Jeffrey Morgan
- Housekeeping.....Ms. Antoinette Hill
- Church Organist.....Mrs. Barbara Jacobs
- Church Pianist.....Mrs. Susan Spivey
- Nursery Staff.....Mrs. Dana Luckie, Ms. Candy Herod, and Miss Megan McLeod

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

