

JANUARY 7, 2021



Messenger

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE WITH ALL



From the Pastor's Desk

Writing for a church newsletter on Thursday, the day after disturbing conflicts in the nation's capitol can be a precarious thing for a Baptist preacher. We preachers are not accustomed to remaining silent. Our work is the use of words. It is the nature of our calling to say something.

However, in a time of such volatile, vitriolic rhetoric from every corner what does a 'longing for peace' peacemaker say? What can one say that will be redemptive? How can one avoid adding to the vitriol? The prophets were said to have afflicted the comfortable and comforted the afflicted. But who is so skilled as to do so in today's arena? I wonder if such is possible anymore?

I am more frustrated than ever about speaking. No matter what is said some will be offended, which is so different from being afflicted; and none may be comforted.

But something has to be said, doesn't it? I would be derelict of my duty if I said nothing?

So I adapt the words of Cooperative Baptist leader Paul Baxley, as well as a statement from all the CBF state and regional leaders to speak:

I encourage people to join together in praying for an end to the riotous behaviors that have overtaken our protestations; to put feet to those prayers with deeds and words that nurture peace, justice and righteousness for all. Riotous violence is sinful and destructive toward all people. It must be named as such, stopped and replaced with Christ like achievements, such as liberty and justice for all. Hateful speech has no place among us! Bitter partisanship that has brought us to this place must cease. Civility must be championed. As followers of Christ we must examine ourselves. Speak, give and act to nurture Micah's vision to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God."

As every new day dawns set aside your fears, ask the soul-searching questions and seek the better way forward. Begin every morning with genuine lament and honest repentance that searches for the heart of God. Work for a unity rooted in respect, good will and trust.

Christians serve a God who in Jesus Christ calls us to embody true reconciliation and hope in a broken world. "Blessed are the peacemakers" who stand with courage and embrace Christ's calling at such defining moments.

***Grace and Peace,
Craig***

Nursery Update



January usually signifies new beginnings and changes to improve upon ourselves and the people around us. Some decide to make new year's resolutions; others look to the new year to improve on something in their life. Regardless of your practice on new year's resolutions, the new year always signals potential and change for the better.

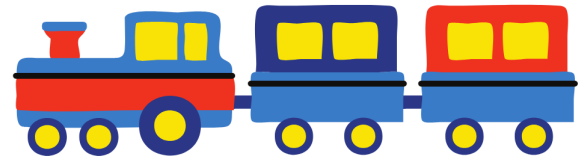
With that in mind, we are thrilled about the new changes coming in 2021 here at church in the form of a new nursery. The nursery committee and volunteers are going to be updating First Baptist Nursery. The plan is to improve and accommodate our growing church family by providing better accommodations and safety to our expecting mothers and current nursery children.

We ask our church family to pray and celebrate this exciting time in the life of our church. Seeing the nursery and these young families grow brings joy to our church and church family. It is a blessing to have an impact on the lives of our children. Therefore, we pray that these updates will be that for our church.



"On our own, we each make waves. Together we form an ocean too vast and strong to be separated."

Rev. Jacob Roberts



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR NEEDED

First Baptist Church is looking for a Children's Director. Please help us spread the word.

The Children's Director is responsible for leading the church's children's ministry which includes Sunday's Children's Church and Wednesday children's programs.

The Director is responsible for envisioning, leading and planning with volunteers a children's ministry that leads to the development and formation of Christian faith among children from nursery through elementary school age.

The Children's Director works in partnership with the leadership of the Associate Pastor, the Music Minister and the Senior Pastor. Additional information can be obtained from the Associate Pastor, the Senior Pastor or the Personnel Committee Chair, or the church office.

STEPPING STONES IS HIRING

We are looking for a couple of awesome individuals that have the qualities below to join our Stepping Stones family. Please help spread the word if you know anyone who might make a good team player. They won't get rich, but we certainly have fun!!!

Assistant Teacher Qualification/After School

- Love for children and teaching- TCA/CDA preferred
- Love of sharing Christ with others
- Must be a team player and flexible
- Ability to work with age groups 6 weeks-10 years of age
- 18 years and older
- Self motivated/ Quick learner

We thank you for your help in our search for a new applicant. If you know anyone that might fit the description, please have them email their resume to steppingstones@firstbaptisteatonton.org attention Denise Carmichael or Brenda Harper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacons Meeting – Sunday, January 10 at 8:30a.m. in the choir room

Deacon Ordination – Sunday, January 10. We will be ordaining Rob Brown and Walt Rucker.

Committee Chairperson Deadline: If you served as a Committee Chair or contact person on a committee in 2020, please call a committee meeting (via email, zoom, or in person) for the purpose of designating the 2021 Chairperson/contact. These names are requested to be in by January 14.

Join us for a Family Bonfire on Saturday, January 16 at 5p.m. at Daryl and Connie Covington's House (152 Kilpatrick Rd.). Please bring your own chair.

Congregational Song List: John Cotten is compiling a 2021 Congregation Song List and wants your input! What are some songs you would like for us to sing this year? Old or New favorites are fine, they just need to be congregation friendly. Please email them to the church office. (We also welcome suggestions for soloists, choirs, and other groups, but right now we're focusing on music for our congregation to sing in worship.) We look forward to receiving and singing your suggestions!

Join us on Wednesday Nights: Everyone will gather in the sanctuary at 6:30p.m. for music, prayer, Bible Study and games. Everyone will be dismissed at 7:15p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2020

<u>Budget Needs Weekly</u>	18,790.00
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	20,223.00
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	488,540.00
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	504,951.41

January 3, 2021

<u>Budget Needs Weekly</u>	10,071.88
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	7,130.00
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	10,071.88
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	7,130.00

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, December 20, 2020	86
Sunday, December 27, 2020	56
Sunday, January 03, 2021	80

BIRTHDAYS

1-2 Elaine Haizlip
1-3 Vicki Hall
1-3 Gaye Lankford
1-3 T. J. McElhenney
1-4 Jean Rich
1-4 Betty Sills
1-7 Robin Benton
1-7 Harris McCollum
1-8 Mac Rainey
1-9 Mike Faulk
1-9 Steve Tubbs
1-10 Jarred Camp
1-10 Pam Lancaster
1-13 Wyatt Wojtas
1-14 Brooke McMillen
1-14 Fleta Ney
1-14 Gale Prince



ANNIVERSARIES

1-8 Mike and Linda Reagin

THANK YOU

Thank you for honoring my volunteer service with the children of our church. The many blessings I received were much more than I gave. Humbly, I thank all of you again and Thanks be to God.
Pat Turney

COVID-19

We assume you are following the ongoing story of the spread of the COVID-19. We are doing everything we can to provide a safe, healthy environment here at our church. We want you to know we are taking the following proactive steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. We will appreciate your help in doing your part.

- Wear a mask
- Socially distance yourself at least 6 feet from others
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20-30 seconds.
- Utilize the hand sanitizer stations conveniently placed throughout our building.
- Our cleaning team is working diligently to keep all surfaces clean.

If you have been exposed to Covid-19 or have symptoms, like a fever, cough, sneezing, shortness of breath, we respectfully ask you stay home.

First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3400
Eatonton, GA 31024
Return Service Requested

FAMILY BONFIRE

Saturday, January 16 at 5:00 p.m.

Daryl and Connie's House

152 Kilpatrick Rd, Eatonton, GA

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR!

