

# the BEACON

USPS 548-820

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

404 Love Avenue

Tifton, GA 31794

(229) 382-6063

FAX (229) 387-0523

VOLUME 63, NO. 6: JUNE 29, 2023

## WHAT WILL BE WRITTEN OF US?

I have always been a fan of history because history has a unique way of reminding us of where we have been and how we got to where we are, and if we listen and look long enough history can tell us how to make a better future. History can give you a sense, in part, of the people, the culture, the beauty, or the brokenness of an era. For instance, you can read Fitzgerald, or Hemmingway and gather a sense of the season in which they lived. Even through their fictional characters, their historical perspective is incredibly beneficial. You can hear the wine glasses clinking, the beads chattering on dresses, and Gene Austin singing "Bye Bye Blackbird" at some upscale party in the 1920's though it was long before our time. In the same respect, you can read the Diary of Anne Frank or Elie Wiesel's "Night" and feel the weight of human depravity in the Holocaust. I still remember the feelings of despair and disbelief as I read "Night" and wondered how anyone could visit such horrors on another human. Needless to say, history shaped me, moved me, and caused me to look to the future with a fresh perspective. My goal today is to take you on a similar journey. I have been reading about our church's history, our members' culture over the years, and the incredible things God has done with FBC. I like to ponder the "how." God, how did this church build an FLC? How did this church launch a Celebrate Recovery program, build a sanctuary, buy and enclose an alley, build yet another worship space, launch Vida Abundante, and the list goes on and on? With these thoughts in mind and looking to the future I have been asking how, and I believe I found an answer while examining the past.

A bit of warning. This next paragraph or so may challenge you, unsettle your comfort, and make you more like Jesus if you'll go open-minded with me.

In 1961, when Charles Standridge was writing to our church body, he made two statements that stopped me in my tracks. The sanctuary had just been constructed, and the city and congregation were in a happy frenzy to see the newness and freshness of what God was doing. It was clear that God was doing something unstoppable and remarkable. I feel we are in a similar season now, and we would be remiss to not look back on Brother Standridge's two encouragements to gain insight into what brought us to this point and what will be necessary to take us onward.

*"You have been a patient people. Never have I known a people to accommodate themselves to greater inconveniences for so long a time with so little said about it."*

*"You are a gracious people. It never occurred to you to suggest we build only what we could get by with; instead, you have poured out your wealth and your love for the glory of God."*

**Continued on next page.**



**TJ MAULDIN**  
Lead Pastor

WATCH SUNDAY SERVICES LIVE AT [YOUTUBE.COM/FBCTIFTON](https://www.youtube.com/FBCTIFTON)

These quotes from Charles have caused me great pause and contemplation. They have spurred me to be prayerful and even more hopeful. These two statements have forced me to ask difficult questions of myself and our church. Could I honestly write these things about you? Are you a patient people? Do you willingly embrace discomfort for the sake of the gospel and for the good of others? Can I write these of myself? Am I willing to put myself aside for the glory of Jesus and for your good? Am I a patient pastor and are we a patient people? In some regard, I feel I can and yet in others, I feel we are still entrenched in silly divisions, costly gossip, affluent entitlement, and distracted from the main thing. Many have told me, many of you even, that this "is how church is" "part of it" and a myriad of similar estimations, but what if it could be different? What if we could be that unusually unified church? If our goal is to Love God, Love People, and Multiply Disciples then we should be self-effacing, Christ-honoring, and hard-working in our pursuit of unity and togetherness. We should outdo one another in showing honor. This is my dream for our church as we move forward into future projects, strategies, and changes, and as we look at the scripture, I know this dream comes from the word and directly from the heart of God.

I've written enough for you, so I will leave you with this final question. When we come upon the next opportunity what will be written of us? Will I be the patient and gracious pastor that God requires? Will you be the gracious and patient church that he desires? I know what and where we have been faith-family and if we submit fully to Christ it's truly unimaginable where we could be going.

With Love,  
JD



**JOHN HUGHES**  
Care Pastor

## **CAMP GRACE**

*"When you are known as a servant, you will never lack opportunities to Multiply Disciples."*

Six years ago, Jason Womack's daddy, Roger, was asked to come up to Camp Grace in Roberta, Georgia to donate sod and grading services for athletic fields. He went, Jason learned about it, shared with our men, and we began to sponsor at-risk children and teenagers to attend a week of summer camp where they would have the time of their lives and hear and respond to the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

This year there are 14 teenagers and 14 children, whose families could never afford to send them to camp, who will be attending Camp Grace!

That act of love and mercy that Roger showed 6 years ago is paying an eternal dividend in the lives of these young men and women who will have the opportunity to not only have so much fun, but will also have the incredible privilege of meeting Jesus Christ personally as their Savior and Lord!

God is doing so many wonderful things in and through our church family! I just wanted to let you know of one more! Please pray for the teenagers during the week of July 3-7, and for the children July 10-14.

Yours for multiplying disciples,  
John

Love  
**GOD**

Love  
**PEOPLE**

Multiply  
**DISCIPLES**



**MARK MYERS**  
Minister of Recreation  
and Senior Adults

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH SENIOR ADULTS

### JULY

**July 22** – Valdosta Peach State Summer Theater – Mahalia (\$35/person)

10:30am-5:00pm Lunch at Cheddars before (dutch treat). First 15 registered at the FLC will be assured a seat!

**July 24** - Game Day with dinner out 2:00-4:30pm (Cracker Barrel)

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### Tuesday Mornings

House of Prayer from 6:00-8:30am in the Ministry Center – Self Guided Prayer time

#### Wednesday Nights

War Room weekly at 5:00pm - Prayer in the Memorial Social Hall

### LOOKING AHEAD *(more information to come)*

**August 26** – Sightseeing, shopping and lunch on the road. A tour of historic Andersonville with lunch at Yoder's.

**September 23** – Bible Museum in Lagrange, Georgia

**October 16-19** – Fall Mountain Retreat – Amicolola Falls State Park

**November 16** – Lunch on the Road - FISH

**December 7** – Extension Luncheon in the Ministry Center

\*Please sign-up at the FLC to reserve YOUR Spot! MOST trips will require a van seat reservation!\* Also, watch for our End of Summer Senior Adult Blitz. Someone's looking for you!

Mark



**KENNY MILLER**  
Pastor of Small Groups  
and Assimilation

## LET'S GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Have you ever been on a road trip, but not knowing the route needed to arrive at the final destination? Along the way, you will find yourself off course heading in the wrong direction. It wastes time, it wastes resources, and people get weary. We believe it's important that you know the mission here at FBC so we can be most effective at Loving God, Loving People, and Multiplying Disciples. Our strategy to accomplish the mission is to equip believers to make disciples who make disciples; our vision is to develop disciples through intentional relational environments. This means so much for us. It means we have a mission that we believe the scriptures call us to as believers in Jesus. Jesus tells us to love big and make disciples. This is going to require much of us. It will require us to get uncomfortable. It will require us at times to let go of our preferences. It will require having hard conversations. It will require us to be honest about where we are individually and collectively. It will require us to be obedient about making disciples if we believe the call of Jesus on our lives to be true. James writes in his letter that we should not only be hearers of the word but doers. I want to end with a few questions. Will we be doers or only hearers of truth? Will we love people that don't think or look like us? Will we be uncomfortable for the glory of God? Will we lay aside preferences to reach the lost and see others discipled? I look forward to all that is to come for the community of Tifton and beyond.

Matthew 22:37-39 *"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. [38] This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Matthew 28:19-20 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Kenny

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR BEACON VIA EMAIL ONLY?

Let us know by calling the church office at 382.6063  
or emailing Ansley Griner at [acotton@fbctifton.org](mailto:acotton@fbctifton.org)

### • SYMPATHY •

The Family of Allyson Barry in the loss of her father,  
**Steve "Sonny" Godwin**, of Moultrie.

The family of Rita Hepburn in the loss of her brother,  
**Peter Harris**.

The Family of Irene Tronnes in the loss of her son,  
**Dale Arthur "Butch" Tronnes**.

The Family of Bettye Carson in the death of her brother,  
**Jay Davis**, of Tifton.

The Family of Patsy Cannon in the loss of her brother-in-law,  
**Ray Pendley**, of Warwick.

The Family of Bettye Carson in the death of her brother,  
**Jay Davis**, of Tifton.

The Family of Rita Hepburn in the loss of her husband,  
**Desmond Hepburn**, of the Bahamas.

### • APPRECIATION •

From **the FBC Staff to our faithful Beacon Volunteers** who serve to  
get the Beacon birthday lists inserted, seals placed, and addresses  
labeled each month.

From **John and Wanne Dina** of the International Mission Board.

From **Ann Paulk**.

From **Hillary Luker**.

### • BAPTISMS •

Carson Mychal Reichert

### • NEW MEMBERS •

Tina Watkins

CONNECT  
WITH US!



## THIS WEEK AT FBC JULY 3-9, 2023

MON	10:30am	Staff Meeting (MSH)
TUE		<b>Independence Day</b> (Church Office Closed)
WED	5:00pm	Wednesday Night War Room (MSH)
THU	6:30pm	Celebrate Recovery (MSH/Chapel)
FRI	12:00pm	Church Office Closed
SUN	9:00am	Cornerstone Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	10:00am	Small Groups for all ages
	11:00am	Connection Worship Service (Ministry Center)



## FIRST FACTS & FIGURES JUNE 2023

CAMPUS WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE

**1072**  
average

IN DISCIPLESHIP  
ATTENDANCE

**452**  
average

THE BEACON (USPS 548-820) is published  
monthly by First Baptist Church, Tifton  
404 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
THE BEACON, 404 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE PAID  
at TIFTON, GA

TJ Mauldin, *Lead Pastor*  
Barry Cook, *Minister of Music/Worship*  
John Hughes, *Care Pastor*  
Mark Myers, *Minister of Recreation and Senior Adults*  
Marcia Staub, *Kids Ministry Director*  
Kenny Miller, *Pastor of Small Groups and Assimilation*  
Matt Howell, *Interim Student Pastor*  
Jose Lopez, *Hispanic Pastor*  
Kiet Le, *Vietnamese Pastor*