

the BEACON

USPS 548-820

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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VOLUME 65, NO.7: AUGUST 28, 2025

CHANGE. CHANGING. CHANGED.

As a pastor, I have found ministry to be a unique and beautiful journey—sprinkled with everyday challenges. We live in an ever-changing world. Seasons change, people change, and even the smallest details of life change. Just yesterday, we were moving from carburetors to fuel injection, and now cars can practically drive themselves. Previous generations would have said much of what we experience today was impossible.

Some of these changes are exciting and beneficial, while others are deeper, more transformative, and sometimes more difficult. Cities change. Beloved restaurants and stores close, while new ones open. Families change. Babies grow up and lose their sweet little accents, becoming articulate young adults with strong opinions. Loved ones we cherish go on to spend eternity with Jesus. Children grow up and leave the nest. Even family schedules shift with each season of life.

As a parent, I sometimes feel daunted by the pace of change and wonder how my children will navigate the future. Will they thrive? Will the things we cherish endure? In these moments, I realize how often fear and preference can win out over faith. Reflecting on this has helped me see our church's own changing nature more clearly—and to appreciate its beauty as well as its struggles.

Our church is changing. At FBC, it feels like we've walked through a whirlwind of transitions in just a few years. I want to reassure you—that is okay. Our styles, methods, programs, service times, technology, and even how we carry the gospel to the nations may change. And that is okay. We cannot let fear, the unknown, or our personal preferences fuel discontent. Instead, we must ask the Lord to awaken fresh faith, pour fresh oil upon our heads, and light the fire of His Spirit within our hearts.

But this we know: **the gospel will never change.** That is where our hope lies. Our building can change, our staff can change, our styles can change—but the good news of Jesus Christ remains forever. If we cling to the gospel with everything we have, we will be more than okay. We will be the kind of church Jesus describes in Revelation—centered on our first love, devoted to our King, and desperate to see the gospel transform our city—the kind of church Jesus desires.

As your pastor, I want you to hear my heart. I am laying everything on the altar so that any might be saved. I am unafraid of discomfort if it grows the kingdom, and criticism has lost its sting. The gospel is all that matters. Until it matters most, we will always be distracted by things that change. So let us cling together to the Rock of our salvation—the unchanging, precious Christ.

The Bible reminds us in Hebrews 13:8: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

So cling with me to the message of hope that shatters darkness, breaks chains, and heals the broken. Cling with me to the unwavering power of Christ, and let us lay everything else on the altar as an offering of prayer:

My Prayer Is Simple:

Jesus, change our style if it saves a soul.
Change our structure if it brings them home.
Change the method if it makes one whole.
Change our time and take control.
Loosen my grip and help me grow.
Change my mind to think like You.
Change my heart to be made new.
Change it all—or leave it be.
Reign it tight or set it free.
Whatever idol You find in my hand, pry it loose while You can.
Make Your Word my first delight,
Your heart, Your will my one desire.
Jesus, You can have my church—
After all, You died to make it Yours.



TJ MAULDIN
Lead Pastor

In his service,

TJ

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE!

Beginning Sunday, September 14th

8:30AM - CONNECTION SERVICE - MINISTRY CENTER

11:00AM - CONNECTION SERVICE II - MINISTRY CENTER

11:00AM - CORNERSTONE SERVICE - SANCTUARY



MATT HOWELL
Student Pastor

THE GATHERING IS BACK!!!

The Gathering is officially back for another incredible year of student ministry! This has been the biggest start we've ever had, and we can't wait to see what God will continue to do in the lives of our students.

Our schedule each Wednesday and Sunday morning is designed to give every student a place to belong and grow:

Wednesday Evening:

- Middle School meets from 6:00–7:15pm in the Gathering Room
- High School meets from 7:00–8:15pm in the Ministry Center

Sunday Morning:

- Middle School meets from 9:45–10:45am in G30
- High School meets from 9:45–10:45am in the Gathering Room

This new format allows each group to have a space tailored just for them making room for deeper community, worship, and discipleship.

As we begin this year, we ask for your partnership in prayer. Please pray for our 37 small group leaders who faithfully show up each week to pour into the next generation. Most importantly, pray that God would continue to transform the hearts of students through the power of the gospel.

We believe the best is yet to come, and we are trusting God for a year of life change in our student ministry!

Matt



MARCIA STAUB
Kids Ministry Director

STARTING POINT KIDS

We're so excited to share that we now offer Starting Point Kids! This class is designed for children who have been baptized or whose families have recently joined our church. It's a kid-friendly version of our adult Starting Point class, helping kids understand our church's mission, vision, and values in ways that make sense to them through fun activities and simple language. It's especially geared toward children who already have a relationship with Jesus, but kids who are still asking questions will also find it helpful and encouraging. Our next Starting Point Kids classes will be on September 14 & 21 at 10:00am in the Elementary Kids Hall. We'd love to see your child there!

SECURITY UPDATE

At FBC Kids, one of our biggest priorities is keeping your children safe. We've recently made some updates to our check-in and check-out process, especially for WNK Elementary, to make things even more secure.

- **1st–5th grade parents:** Please come into the gym to pick up your child, then head out together through the front door.
- **Preschool parents:** You'll need to show your pick-up tag right at your child's classroom door on both Sundays and Wednesdays.

We know keeping track of that little tag isn't always easy, but it's so important—especially for our Kindergarten and younger kiddos. Thank you for helping us keep things safe and smooth!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Sept. 14 & 21** – Starting Point Kids, 10:00am, Kids Hall
- **Sept. 24** – Kindergarten–5th Grade Father-Son Night, 6:00pm, Ministry Center
- **Oct. 15** – Family Night at Rutland Farms

Marcia



MICHELLE HAMMOND
Accounts Payable
and CR Staff Liaison

JOIN US FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL TIFTON RECOVERYFEST!

In honor of **National Recovery Month**, Celebrate Recovery Tifton is proud to host the **5th Annual Tifton RecoveryFest** on **Saturday, September 6th**, at **Fulwood Park**, from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

This **free, family-friendly community event** is designed to raise awareness, celebrate recovery, and connect families with valuable local resources. Discover how rich Tifton is in support and services, and enjoy a fun afternoon with:

- Free lunch
- Inspiring testimonies
- Games and activities for all ages
- Community resource booths
- And more!!!



NEW THIS YEAR: A PRAYER TENT

We invite you to take a moment to drive through the park and pray over the upcoming event. If you're willing to invest 30 minutes of your Saturday to pray with others, we'd love for you to **sign up by scanning the QR code above** and be part of this meaningful addition.

Let's come together to support, celebrate, and strengthen our community. We can't wait to see you there!

Michelle



MARK MYERS
Minister or Recreation
and Senior Adults

SENIOR ADULT VBS - SEPT. 8-12, 9AM-12NOON

Come worship and participate in missions, crafts, devotionals, and recreation sessions each day, with lunch offered for all attendees. Twelve excited VBS staffers met to start praying and preparing for VBS. We hope YOU will join us for a great week on Monday, September 8th from 9:00am until noon. Register in your Sunday School/Small Group room or online at fbctifton.org/events.

RETREAT WITH US TO THE SUWANNEE RIVER RETREAT CENTER

Living Life to the Fullest - Encouraging Joy, Adventure, and Purpose in every Stage of Life.

Who and What: Senior Adults looking for adventure and fun!

Where: Advent Christian Village - Dowling Park, Florida

When: Tuesday, October 21st - Friday, October 24th

Why: Fellowship, fun, strengthen community, and be encouraged to grow stronger with God and others in a beautiful retreat environment.

Price: \$125 Double/\$200 Single Occupancy (most meals included)

Activities include: Teaching and devotions, guided kayak and canoe trips, prayer walking, and nature trails, campfire worship and creative workshops. **LIMITED SPACING!** Reserve your spot at fbctifton.org/events or sign up at the Family Life Center.

Mark

FIRST FACTS & FIGURES

JULY 2025

BUDGET GIVING

Monthly Offering	\$236,460
Offering to Date	\$1,857,420
Expenses to Date	\$2,010,712
Budget to Date	\$2,033,884

SANCTUARY RENOVATION

Contributions to Date	\$1,214,697
Total Cost	\$2,300,000
Loan Balance Owed	\$1,025,000

**WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE**

1341
average

**SMALL GROUP
ATTENDANCE**

428
average

• SYMPATHY •
The family of **Dr. Joe Turner**.

The family of **John Patten**.

Ann Marie Atkinson in the death of her dad, **Jerry Goodman**.

• CONGRATULATIONS •

Mark & Venita Sandifer in the birth of their granddaughter,
Frances Mae, daughter of Brant & Abbey Sandifer of Athens.

The birth of **Emerson Louise Lee**, daughter of Jackson and Bree Lee.
Proud grandparents are Bob and Becky Lee, great-grandparents
are Jan and Kenny Brownlee.

• NEW MEMBERS •

Nikki Pridgen; Shane Pridgen; Leslie Stone; Wayne Stone;
Avery Weaver; Markevious White

• BAPTISMS •

Frances Nelson; Hudson Marquess; Julianna Ray;
Jessica Pittman; Aria Pittman; Marilyn Carr;
Jessica Richardson; Michelle Jacobs;
Sabrina Carpenter; Destiny Goetzman

• APPRECIATION •
The family of W.E. "Gene" Seigler

Andy and Jill Cross

LOVE GOD.

LOVE PEOPLE.

MULTIPLY DISCIPLES.

THIS WEEK AT FBC

SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2025

MON		Labor Day (<i>Office Closed</i>)
TUE	10:00am	Facilities Team Meeting (<i>Room 117</i>)
	2:00pm	Staff Meeting (<i>MSH</i>)
	3:00pm	FUSE Preteen Ministry (<i>Red Door</i>)
	6:30pm	PAL - Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (<i>S.S. Annex</i>)
	7:15pm	Red Door College Ministry (<i>Ministry Center</i>)
WED	4:00pm	Elementary Choirs
	4:30pm	War Room (<i>C105</i>)
	5:00pm	Kids Choir Dinner
	5:30pm	Kids Open Gym
	5:45pm	Kids Recreation or Art
	6:00pm	Middle School Gathering (<i>Gathering Room</i>)
	6:15pm	Kids Mission Classes
	6:45pm	Adult Choir (<i>Choir Room</i>)
	7:00pm	High School Gathering (<i>Gathering Room</i>)
THU	6:30pm	Celebrate Recovery (<i>MSH/Chapel</i>)
FRI	12:00pm	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
SAT	12:00pm	RecoveryFest at Fulwood Park
SUN	8:30am	Connection Worship I Service (<i>Ministry Center</i>)
	9:45am	Small Groups for all ages
	11:00am	Connection Worship II Service (<i>Ministry Center</i>)
	6:00pm	Sanctuary Dedication Service

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS,
MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, VISIT
FBCTIFTON.ORG/EVENTS

CONNECT
WITH US!



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*
Kenny Miller, *Pastor of Small Groups & Assimilation*
Mark Myers, *Minister of Recreation & Sr. Adults*
Matt Howell, *Student Pastor*
Marcia Staub, *Kids Ministry Director*
Jose Lopez, *Hispanic Pastor*
Barry Cook, *Minister of Music/Worship*
Daniel Gibson, *Connection Worship Pastor*
Kiet Le, *Vietnamese Pastor*