



The Discovery

MAY 2021

Lavinia Polatty has served as our Financial Director since March 17, 1977. So you don't have to pull out your calculator—that's 44 years! Our auditors regularly describe Lavinia as the best when it comes to managing the church's finances. And for us in the office, she is our resource for institutional knowledge. That is, if you have a question about people or the history of the church, start with Lavinia.

Lavinia married Calvin, who is now deceased. She has two sons, Mike and Mills; one daughter, Anna Kim Fletcher; and 5 grand children and 3 great grand children. Growing up in South Carolina, she is a fan of the Clemson Tigers. Some of her favorite things include: movie—Gone with the Wind; food—shrimp; and hobbies—reading, sewing, and shopping.

Her favorite Bible verse is John 3:16.



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF AUGUSTA

3500 WALTON WAY, AUGUSTA, GA 30909
706.733.2236 | DiscoverFBC.org



Friends,

I recently finished a biography of Eugene Peterson that was written by my friend, Winn Collier. This book is absolutely incredible and I recommend it to all of you who are reading this letter. For those who might not be aware, Peterson is most famous for his translation of the Bible, *The Message*. This was his attempt to translate the Bible into common everyday English, in a way that deeply connected them to the Story of God. It has been a God send for millions of Christians across the world. What many do not know is that Eugene was also a pastor, who spent the majority of his working life as the leader of Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Maryland. A great deal of this biography centers on his life's work as a pastor.

There are, literally, hundreds of sections in this biography that I underlined, but there is one in particular that made me stop after reading it so that I could pause and reflect. I want to share it with you in this letter. Eugene had been working so incredibly hard as a pastor, growing the church budget and increasing attendance, yet deep in his soul he couldn't help but wonder if something wasn't quite right with his life. Here is the quote that got me,

“Eugene felt adrift. He felt disconnected from the physical stuff of his life: the family he loved, the land that he loved, the physical labor and exertion that he loved. He felt that he'd become a successful pastor but not a very good human.”

It's the last sentence that got me. Everything in his life was going well! By all outward appearances, Eugene was living the dream! Yet...he felt that he wasn't a very good human being. I can't help but wonder how many of us feel that way. Don't focus on the word pastor in that final sentence. Because the reality is that it could just as easily be banker, doctor, mother, or a thousand other careers. We live in a world that defines success so narrowly. I have known far too many people in my life who have been successful in their careers, only to wake up one day and realize that they aren't very good human beings.

The biography goes on to talk about how Peterson makes changes in his life. Those changes reinvigorated his ministry, his family, and his life in general. His biography is a testimony to how people can make changes in their lives that will reawaken your soul to the good in this world. It inspired me. I hope that it inspires you.

As we emerge on the backside of this pandemic, I want to ask you a question. Do you feel like you are a good human being? Are you alive to the possibility of joy that is all around us? I want you to know that Jesus calls us to a better way, a way where you can be alive to all that is good and true in this world.

Much Love,

Will Dyer, Senior Pastor

Sunday

MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00AM—Contemporary Worship

10:00AM—Bible Study

11:00AM—Traditional Worship

Children's worship available at 9am & 11am



VBS is June 7-11 9:30am-11:30am

Registration for K-5th grades is **OPEN and filling up fast!**

Go to DiscoverFBC.org to register.

WE NEED YOU to help make this a great year at First Baptist Kids VBS- Knights of North Castle.

Registrations are filling up and we still need leaders!!

All activities will be outside (weather permitting)

Volunteers are needed to help as Round Table Guides for K-5th grade Knights.

- Crafts
- Snacks
- Bible Story
- Recreation
- Discovery

If you cannot help in person we need to borrow 19 canopy easy up tents (tailgating tents). We will get them back to you on Friday June 11th. We will also need help with set up and decoration of our tents. We will do the set up after church on Sunday June 6th from 12 pm-4 pm.

We look forward to having you join our quest to find and put on **THE ARMOR OF GOD**.

Please contact Melissa (mwillis@fbcaugusta.org) or Leah Galey (lgaley@fbcaugusta.org) to sign up as a volunteer.



This summer for Rise Youth Ministry is going to be amazing! We will be getting started with a bang with Youth Camp! The dates for camp are June 13 - 18 and our location is Camp Lakeside at Clark's Hill. This location was selected for its amazing amenities, the beautiful scenery, and several features that will help us in having the safest experience possible given the ongoing pandemic. All to say, we believe this location gives everyone the best opportunity to participate in one of the best events on the student ministry calendar! Here are a few important things to remember for camp!

- Parents, sign your student up now at www.discoverfbc.org/students in order to get the best rate possible. The price goes up as the event nears. Please also note important information regarding COVID and Transportation protocols.
- Youth, invite friends to come and be a part of this experience. This is a great opportunity to invite others to come and participate in the life of our church addition to hearing about Jesus.
- Adults, we need camp counselors to make camp possible. If you are interested in serving as an adult leader, please contact me at dhughes@fbcaugusta.org to get the conversation started! I can promise you that this is one of the most rewarding service opportunities out there!

Youth Camp is a week full of wonderful memories that will last a lifetime as youth enjoy fellowship, recreation, and meaningful worship that will draw them deeper in relationship with Jesus Christ. I cannot wait to see what God will do in the lives of our students at Youth Camp this summer!

WE'VE GOT BIG NEWS

Ryan, David, and Melissa have been dreaming about and discussing our new year start in August 2021. We are so excited to let you know that we are planning and recruiting leaders for a great year of choir, Bible Study, fellowship fun, and more for all families who have children 3 years old through 12th grade. We have had lengthy discussions with our ministerial staff and each of our Advisory Councils about how this year offers a great opportunity for our church to be creative and think outside the box. We want to offer a fun and focused experience for our families on Sunday evenings beginning in August. We believe this change will benefit our current families, especially those with children and youth, and allow greater opportunity to invite our neighbors and community so that they can get to know us in a fun and innovative atmosphere.

Sunday nights will consist of youth and kid friendly dinner, choir, and spiritual formation for all ages. Our youth will continue with their dinners, Worship services, and other special events in the MAC on Sunday evenings. Youth choir will begin at 4:30pm. Dinner for Children and their families will be in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00pm. Preschool and Children will begin at 5:30pm in the Children's building with choir and then move to their spiritual formation classes. Activities for all ages will end by 7pm. We will have more detailed information throughout the summer as we continue to fine tune this exciting opportunity for families.

You may be wondering about Wednesday evenings. There will still be a meal that is adult friendly, and Will's Bible study will continue. Adult choir will continue to rehearse but there will be no rush for our leaders of preschool and children's choirs any longer. Our other small group Wednesday night Bible studies will continue as well. Moving our midweek family events to Sunday will allow for us to offer targeted Bible studies and book discussions for adults. This will also allow our volunteer leaders the opportunity to participate in these special studies. We will also provide childcare for birth through 5th grade on Wednesday evenings.

We look forward to sharing more exciting news with you as the summer progresses...Stay Tuned!!!



Easter Sunday Worship on the Lawn

Financial Snapshot



As of February 28, 2021, tithes, offerings, and other income for the year totaled \$499,274 towards our 2021 budget of \$2,868,357. Our expenses through February 28th, totaled \$430,810 leaving a balance of \$68,464 of income over expenses.

For ways to support the mission and ministry of the church, visit us at DiscoverFBC.org/give