



The Discovery

OCTOBER 2022

Financial Snapshot



At the end of August, the year-to-date total of tithes, offerings, and other income was \$1,755,301 toward our budget of \$3,000,005. Our expenses through August were \$1,897,626 leaving a negative balance for the year of \$142,325.

Please visit us at DiscoverFBC.org/give to learn about the various ways to financially support the on-going ministries and mission activities of the church.

GUIDE FOR Grief

Grief Ministry Workshop led by Dr. Rodger Murchison

Sundays, October 16, 23, & 30
4:00-6:00 PM
Daniel Building, Room 202

RSVP to 706-733-2236

Sunday

MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00AM—Contemporary Worship
10:00AM—Bible Study
11:00AM—Traditional Worship

Service of Remembrance

Sunday, November 13



Dear Church,

I have found myself wondering quite a bit lately about what it means to be “be the Church.” It is not unusual for me to remind us on Sunday morning that Church is not a building or a place where we go on Sunday morning. Church is not simply a thing you do once a week on Sunday morning. No, when we talk about the Church (both in the local sense “c” and in the “C” global sense) we need to remember that we are talking about a collection of people who have a shared and common commitment to Jesus Christ. The Church consists of men and women who have, as Paul said, “confessed with their mouth that ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believed in their heart that God raised him from the dead” (Romans 10:9). When we talk about the Church, what we are referencing are people who have decided that Jesus Christ is Lord, in other words, He is the most important thing in their lives. Their commitment to Jesus and his community is unmatched by anything else in their lives.

Part of the reason I have been thinking so much about the nature of the Church recently is because of the new report that was released by the Pew Research Group. According to their data, the Christian faith is set to become a minority religion in the United States within the next few decades. This is a watershed moment in the history of Christianity in America. By the time my girls are raising their kids, being a follower of Jesus will be a foreign concept to a majority of the people around them. It’s a shocking idea to realize that this is where our country is probably headed. A reasonable question to ask is “How did we get to this place?”

Having worked in the church long enough, I know that most people will quickly point to anything other than themselves. We can blame a secularizing political culture. People will point the finger at the influence of media and rapidly evolving technological trends. But I want to suggest to you, my friends, that the reason the Christian faith is poised to become a minority in the United States has much less to do with “them” and far more to do with “us.”

It is a fact that people are walking away from the church in record numbers and I am convinced that the reason this is happening is because WE have forgotten what it means to be the church. For far too

many of us (and yes, I mean First Baptist Church too) our love for Christ has taken a backseat to a thousand other things ranging from work, children, money, sports, etc. The faith of Jesus Christ has ceased to shape and mold the lives of those who claim to follow him, so it shouldn’t surprise us when people walk away from the Church.

My letter to you this month is heavy, but I still believe the future of the church can be bright. That being said, the hard work begins by taking a look in the mirror and asking about the state of our own lives. May you be bold enough to begin the hard work this month.

Grace and Peace,
Will Dyer, Senior Pastor

STUDENT UPDATE

Because of your giving, our students at First Baptist Augusta are not only given opportunities to grow in their faith, but they’re able to experience God beyond their own context. Your giving provides avenues for our students to engage in service to their own community as well as the world at large. Through various service projects and mission trips, our students gain a well-rounded perspective on what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Your giving supports our students to gain a healthier understanding of what it means to follow Christ. We invest in relevant, Bible-based curriculum that provides our students with approaches to Scripture to help them not only learn from it but to apply it to their daily lives as well. We encourage our students to turn to Scripture daily as a source of growth, understanding, and truth, and we’re confident in the materials used that match this approach.

Your giving provides avenues for our students to participate in programs and events put on by our youth ministry. Whether it is a mission trip, retreat, or a fun fellowship event, your giving contributes to a scholarship fund that helps make sure cost isn’t a reason a student cannot participate in an event with us. We hope that all students will be given the opportunity to participate in these life-changing events, and your contributions play a significant role in making that become a reality.

Our ministries here at First Baptist benefit greatly because of your generous giving, and on behalf of our student ministry, thank you for all that you do for these students! We thank God for you and pray that God will bless you and your family!

Thank You!
Matt Hester

Because You Give...

As Minister to Senior Adults and Missions here at FBC Augusta, I am amazed by all the good we pour into our community in so many ways. Because you give sacrificially to our Green Envelope Fund, here is a quick snapshot of what we do missionally in our community.

On our campus we provide a food pantry every Tuesday morning from 9:30-11:30 am and provide financial assistance to our neighbors who are struggling to keep their utilities on. Our co-directors Lisa Jones and Terrie Bennett and their team, work weekly to provide over 1000 lbs. of food and financial assistance to our neighbors. More importantly though, they create a place for people to feel welcomed, cared for, and loved by God.

Our Men on Mission through the leadership of Allen Hardin and Cone Underwood, provide ministry to our community and beyond, through helping with rebuilding a home for Veterans, building wheelchair ramps, and sending truckloads of drinkable water to friends struggling after a flood in North Georgia. They are ready to help and serve when they are called.

We support and serve with The Bridge Ministry. Under the leadership of Hugh Hollar we serve twice a month on Saturdays to feed and worship with the homeless down under the 15th Street Bridge. We also help through the distribution of comfort bags for the homeless twice a month under the leadership of Marcia Buck.

We partner with Family Promise and provide shelter and food for families experiencing homelessness. Anita Aguirre, Pam Thomas and their team, coordinate our 3-4 weeks during the year making sure our neighbors feel at home, safe, and know that God is with them as they work through the Family Promise program.

We are a community partner with Copeland Elementary School. Ann Taylor and her team support and encourage the staff and students at Copeland elementary every month.

This was just a quick glance at only a portion of things we can do because you give to the Green Envelope Fund. There are many other ways you can serve and impact the mission ministry of FBC Augusta and I look forward to telling you more about those opportunities too. Remember because you give and serve you are living out your faith in Jesus and living into our mission to, "connect people with Jesus and our community of faith."

With Joy,
Melissa



Yep, that's my ride. It's a 1994 Toyota Camry with only 178,000 miles on it. For some of you FBC folks, you may feel a little embarrassed seeing one of your ministers pull up and park in such a unique, and junky, automobile. Just think how I feel every time I fold up my 6'6" frame to head home from work. But there is a reason I drive the old car....

...Susan and I tithe. Since we have been married, some 32 years, Susan and I have tithed to the church. We do our best to live into what we believe the biblical guidelines to be. Those guidelines encourage us to tithe 10% of our income. But perhaps the best biblical standard is that we believe tithing should change how we live—that it should be sacrificial. For what we tithe, we could have a nice new truck. Actually, we could afford two; or we could live in a larger house; or we would not have taken out loans to help pay for our kid's college education. The list goes on, but I think you get the point.

We tithe not because we simply believe it is what the Bible guides us to do. We tithe because we feel called to support the work of God's Kingdom. We tithe because we believe our gifts help those in need, and that our gifts may help lead someone into an eternal and life-changing relationship with Christ.

We don't tithe because we feel like we get something in return. However, we have been blessed. Yes, we have had moments where we were down to our last penny. But we always had that last penny. And at a much deeper level, we believe tithing reflects our relationship with God. We hope and pray we have our priorities in the right order.

So I continue to drive the old Camry. And I hope it lasts for a couple more years. I might even try to buy a hubcap soon.

Embarrassed by my car? No!

Grateful? Absolutely!

With Gratitude,
Jim Walls

SENIOR ADULT TRIP

Yellow Daisy Festival at Stone Mountain



STAFF TRANSITIONS

& your needs

On September 1st, Jeff Miller began as our Interim Administrator. Jeff and his wife, Margie, moved to the Augusta area for her work at Augusta University. Jeff is the former administrator at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, bringing nine years of experience in church work.

As always, we have assistants supporting the administrator in a variety of ways. When it comes to questions regarding your financial gifts, Lara Fort can assist you. David Keel is supporting us for all our payables. Shirley Lescantz will continue to be your contact when it comes to scheduling and other set-up needs for events and programs.

Thank you for your patience as we settle into some new staffing and support. We have a great ministry team assembled, and we look forward to working alongside you to be the light of Christ in our community!

Senior Adult Lunch
Thursday, Oct. 27 | \$15 per person
Program 11:30AM
Lunch served at 12:00PM

Please contact Elizabeth to make your reservations by Thursday, October 20th.
echao@fbcaugusta.org | 706-733-2236 ext. 204



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF AUGUSTA

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