

Financial Snapshot



As of April 30, 2023, tithes, offerings, and other gifts totaled \$218,393 against a budget of \$249,702. Our expenses through April were well-managed at \$232,053 resulting in a net operating loss of \$13,660 for the month. Our YTD net operating total is \$25,783. Thanks for your financial support of our ministries!

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.

Sunday

MORNING SCHEDULE

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



We are continuing the 3-month campaign to raise a goal of \$81,000 to fully renovate the current Preschool Playground (located in the center courtyard of the Preschool building). So far we have \$45,548 raised. The playground itself will bear the name “Patti’s Playground.” The Weekday Program and Preschool Ministry of First Baptist Church are marked by the legacy of Patti Fowler who is still a vital part of our preschool ministry. Gifts for the playground may be made to the church and designated for “Patti’s Playground.” Thank you all that have donated thus far!



Dear Church,

This edition of the Discovery is best summed up with one word. “Welcome”! As you will see in the columns that follow, May was a busy month for the First Baptist Church of Augusta.

Not only did we welcome two new staff members on our team, but we can now officially welcome the people of the First Baptist Church of Evans into the life of our congregation. This has been an incredible season in the life of our church and I can’t wait to see what God is going to do through the new people that are coming into our community.

Before I turn my attention to FBC Evans, I want to say a quick word about Mark Hampton and Carla Parker. If you have been a part of our church for any length of time, you almost certainly know Carla. She has played a significant role in almost every area of our church, from Assistant Director of the Weekday Ed program all the way to being a vital part of the Senior Pastor Search Committee that brought me to FBC in 2017! She values the vision of where our church is headed and I can’t wait to see how she helps our K-5 students become better followers of Jesus Christ.

While he hasn’t been a member of FBC for the entirety of his life, Mark Hampton has already become a familiar face to many in our congregation. If you usually worship in our Contemporary Service, you have seen Mark playing piano or bass with the band! If you are in the Traditional Service, then you have most likely seen him worshipping in the middle of the Sanctuary with his wonderful wife, Laura. Over the last few months, I have gotten to know Mark as a man of deep faith. Not only does he have the credentials that a church like ours values, more importantly he has a commitment to following Jesus and helping others to do the same in their lives. Over the coming months, you will begin to see more of Mark in our worship services. Like I did, you will find him to be a fast friend and an excellent leader for our Young Adult ministry.

Finally, I need to give an official welcome to our new friends from the First Baptist Church of Evans! It is hard to believe that it was almost five years ago when Philip and I first sat down to dream about what God might be up to with our communities. While the merger took longer than any of us ever imagined, we continued to see that God was faithful throughout the whole process. Over the next few months, you will begin to see the folks from Evans begin to integrate into the life of our church. I hope that each person from Evans will find FBC Augusta to be a warm and inviting place to call home for the years ahead! I need to take a moment and say “Thank You” to our



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The Discovery

JUNE 2023

Trustees, Jim Walls, and especially Larry Fletcher. Without their guidance and hard work, this merger would never have taken place.

It is truly a remarkable time to be at the First Baptist Church of Augusta. While I look forward to seeing where God leads us in the future, I sure am having a great time in the present moment.

I hope your summer is off to a great start. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Grace and Peace,
Will Dyer, Senior Pastor

Merger WITH FBC EVANS



After many months of prayer and discernment, the members of FBC Evans and FBC Augusta have voted to merge our congregations. This officially took effect near the end of May.

FBC Evans has a rich tradition of ministering to the people in and around Evans. We celebrate their legacy and welcome their members. Over the next few weeks, FBC Evans will continue to worship together, ministering to her people as they celebrate their legacy in ministry and grieve the closing of their campus. Please pray for them during these days. Once their campus is closed, be on the lookout for unfamiliar faces, that we might receive them well. We will create intentional opportunities in worship to acknowledge their participation.

Additionally, as part of the merger, we welcome Philip Hedgecoth to our ministerial team as a “Minister in Residence.” Initially, Philip’s role will focus on the closing ministry events for FBC Evans. Afterwards, Philip will transition more fully into ministry on the campus at FBC Augusta. He will continue to minister to the former members of Evans, while assisting us in a variety of needs. He will be teaching Bible study, leading Senior Adult Choir, and supporting in missional efforts. We are thankful for this added presence to our ministry team.

Stewardship

Churches, like other organizations, require funds to operate and are dependent on the tithes and offerings given by members. Tithing is the practice of giving one tenth of one’s income to the church to support the general operation and mission of the church while offerings are gifts of any amount made to the church. Giving, regardless of the amount, helps to remind us that everything we have comes from God and is made available to us through his grace. When we consider all he has done for us – his deep, immeasurable, sacrificial gift to us – the question becomes: How do we respond to a gift like that? The answer is that we worship Him and do what pleases him and brings him glory. Giving has always been a form of worship in the Bible and we are commanded to honor and glorify God in this way. The Old Testament requires us to bring the firstborn of our flock and the first fruits of the harvest, while in the New Testament, Jesus praises the widow for giving all she had. When we give generously and sacrificially, God is glorified and others may come to know him.

At FBC Augusta, we are blessed to have a generous and faithful congregation who support our ministry financially. However, we recognize many of you may have travel plans that will keep you away from church over the summer months. If that’s the case, I’d love to encourage you to consider establishing a recurring gift on SecureGive, our online giving portal. It’s simple – just follow these steps:

1. Visit our webpage – DiscoverFBC.org
2. Click on the Give Now button in the lower right corner of the homepage.
3. Click Give Now again on the Giving page.
4. Choose Donate or Purchase category. Donate is used for charitable giving while Purchase is used to purchase dinner or sign up for camp.
5. Enter the amount of your offering and choose either one-time gift or recurring.
6. If this is a recurring gift, choose the frequency, the date the gift should be charged to your account and the date that the recurring gift should end.
7. Click Next: Payment Details
8. Click the Sign In button and create your id and password.
9. Add a payment method.

That’s all it takes and your tithes and offerings will continue to support our ministry here in Augusta even if you’re away. If you have questions or need help with the process, please contact Jeff Miller at jmiller@fbcaugusta.org.

Upcoming FUTURE EVENTS

Wednesday Night Meals Resume
AUGUST 2

Promotion Sunday
AUGUST 6

Youth Kick Off
AUGUST 6

Kids Kick Off
AUGUST 9

Discipleship Leadership Training
Fellowship Hall
AUGUST 20 at 4:00 PM

Graduate RECOGNITION SUNDAY



Last Row (left to right):
Matt Hester (Minister to Students), Jackson Fortson, Caleb Messer, Judson Deal

Middle Row (left to right):
Kendrick Gaudinier, Max McKay, Luke Frain, Reagan Galey

Front Row (left to right):
Nadia Gaudinier, Martha Kate Morrison, Ella Cely, Meg Knight, Katelyn Owen, Anne Cathryn Pinson, Ann Marie Partl, Kevin Thompson

Welcome New Staff!

In the recent transitions of our Director of Young Adults and Director of Children’s Ministry, we are very fortunate and blessed that we have people among us who are invested in the life of our church and prepared to step into these roles, allowing us to continue with excellence in ministry. We are pleased to present Mark Hampton as our Director of Young Adults, and Carla Parker as our Interim Director of Children’s Ministry. Both officially began in these roles on June 1st.



Mark Hampton is a native Texan who came to Augusta in the summer of 2022 after spending several years in Durham, North Carolina. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies from Criswell College and a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity

School, with a focus on the Old Testament and Hebrew. Mark comes to FBC Augusta with a background serving on staff at churches, non-profits, and in education. In these roles, he has worked on the mission field, the college campus, and the classroom, always seeking to help others grow in their knowledge of the Bible and how it helps us shape and order our lives around Christ. He is a seasoned preacher, teacher, and writer and, in his spare time, enjoys golfing, hiking, reading, and cooking. He and his wife, Laura, have been married since May 2020 and are expecting their first child this coming October.



Carla Parker is a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Augusta. She has served in FBC Children’s Ministry for 19 years in various roles including Sunday School leader, Wednesday Night Leader, Children’s Advisory Council and VBS volunteer

and VBS Director. She has worked for FBC Weekday as the Assistant Director since 2020. Carla has been married to Bill for 15 years, who is the Director of Information Technology for US Bricks. They have 4 children Hazel 14, Will 12, Jacob 11, and Martha 6. She and her family enjoy camping, exploring historical sites, and visiting state and national parks. Carla loves watching her kids play baseball and perform in the theater.