

# GIVE



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Hello FBC Augusta Family,  
As chair of our capital campaign steering committee, I'd like to thank you all for your participation in Moving Our Mission Forward. With your advanced commitments, as of April 17th, we have received 260 commitment cards and raised \$3,082,504! As you're reading this, we've since had our commitment Sunday and Picnic Celebration lunch marking the end of the official campaign, and we're now entering the three-year period of receiving those pledges to pay off our debt. My prayer was that through the campaign, we would not only raise the funds to Move Our Mission Forward, but that we would grow closer as a congregation and celebrate God's faithfulness individually and to our church. I can say that on all accounts, this campaign has been a tremendous success. Thank you to the members of our steering committee, to the volunteers who worked on a campaign team or event, and most importantly, to you for giving of your resources. Together, we have advanced our mission, and I look forward to seeing how God will use these freed-up resources in the future.

Best regards,  
**Alex Griffin**



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# CONNECT

## Summer Calendar

**MAY 8:**  
Last night of M3

**MAY 17:**  
Augusta GreenJackets Game

**MAY 29:**  
Last Wednesday Night Dinner

**JUNE 3-7:**  
Vacation Bible School

**JUNE 2:**  
Senior Adult Luncheon

**JUNE 10:**  
Lunch and Learn for Senior Adults

**JUNE 12:**  
Preschool Play Day

**JUNE 23:**  
Church in Conference

**JUNE 23-28:**  
Youth Camp

**JUNE 24-27:**  
Camp KidJam

**\*MONTH OF JULY:**  
No Children's Worship

**JULY 12-19:**  
High School Mission Trip

**JULY 19:**  
Braves Baseball Game

**JULY 17:**  
Preschool Play Day

**AUGUST 4:**  
Promotion Sunday

**AUGUST 7:**  
Wednesday Night Programs Resume



## Sunday

MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00AM—Contemporary Worship

10:00AM—Bible Study

11:00AM—Traditional Worship



## Dear Church,

It was over a year ago when I heard Jim Walls, our former Associate Pastor, say the words “capital campaign” for

the first time. At that point, I had served as a pastor in a variety of churches for over fifteen years and had never been a part of a mass fundraising effort. All I knew was that the amount of time, energy, and effort that it took to pull off a campaign was nothing short of all-encompassing. Needless to say, when he mentioned the idea to me for the first time, I was less than thrilled! However, as I listened to Jim lay out the case for why it was so important for us to eliminate our debt, I began to feel an openness to the idea of a campaign. As Jim told me, freeing up the resources of our church would have an immediate impact and benefit for our ministry, particularly our efforts to reach people in their twenties and thirties. Remember that we currently pay our debt directly from the operating budget to the amount of \$360,000 per year!

Our church officially began the campaign, “Moving Our Mission Forward” on February 25th. As you are aware, we hosted small group meetings, large group gatherings, and I also preached four sermons that were all focused on how essential it was that we have a vibrant and successful campaign. While I was confident that God would work in and through our people, I have to tell you that I could never have imagined just how successful our efforts would ultimately be! I am thrilled to tell you that at the conclusion of our campaign, two hundred and sixty families made pledges to the campaign and the final amount was an incredible \$3,082,504! If you are anything like me, your jaw hit the floor when you heard this final number!

Last month marked my seventh-year anniversary as the Pastor of our church and I have to tell you that I have never been more excited about the future of our community! I absolutely believe that God is going to do incredible things in the life of our church over the next few years. A large part of how this is going to happen will be a direct result of how faithful you have been in responding to this campaign. From the bottom of my heart, I need to say “Thank You!”

I hope that this letter finds all of you doing well. As always, I am proud to be your friend and pastor.

*Grace and Peace*  
Will Dyer, Senior Pastor

## GROW



### The Liturgy of Politics

Is The Liturgy of Politics a book title too daunting to discuss in church? At FBC Augusta in early 2024, 25 people gave it a try in two groups over 11 weekly sessions. No injuries were reported. Instead, we shared new insights and biblical wisdom, and we made some new friends. And I, for one, learned more deeply how the church is here in the world today to help make things right for our neighbors—all the people God loves.

In one chapter we explored the power of four “false gospels”—the prosperity gospel (the belief that God—and the free market—rewards those who work hard), the patriotic gospel (requiring uncritical allegiance to one’s country), the security gospel (which promises that we can ensure our own safety), and the supremacy gospel (failing to acknowledge that we live in a system of oppression based on race). We may not know that “these gospels have infiltrated not just our thinking but also our loving and living.” But the gospel of Christ is greater and truer than all.

In the section on the security gospel, the author relates this story:

South African theologian and antiapartheid activist Rev. Dr. Allan A. Boesak said, “When we go before Him, God will ask, ‘Where are your wounds?’ And we will say, ‘I have no wounds.’ And God will ask ‘Was there nothing worth fighting for?’” In a broken world, the work of the kingdom of God will require suffering, and our unwillingness to be exposed to danger keeps us from this righteous work.

In the final section of the book, the author reminds us: “We can be formed toward any number of political realities, or we can be formed toward the ultimate political reality: the kingdom of God.”

I’m grateful for all the folks who, with grace and courage, participated in these discussions.

**Philip Hedgecoth,**  
Minister of Community Engagement



Join us as we celebrate the good news at Vacation Bible School!

**JUNE 3RD-7TH | 9:30AM TO 12:30PM**

For children who turned 3 by 9/1/23 (and are potty trained) through students who have completed 5th grade.

[Register for VBS here](#)



If you are interested in volunteering during the week please contact **Leah Galey** at [lgaley@fbcAugusta.org](mailto:lgaley@fbcAugusta.org)

### 1st Grade Bible Presentations

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST | 8:45AM & 11:00AM**

Our First Grade Bible Presentation is a time when our newest readers are presented with their very own Bibles. Throughout the year our children learn to navigate their Bibles and look up scripture through activities on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We hope that by having their own Bible, our children will use it to develop their own everyday faith.

### Youth May Graduation Recognition

**SUNDAY, MAY 19TH | 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

we will recognize and celebrate our graduating high school seniors during our 11:00am worship service. We have a designated segment during the service for students to share more about themselves and their future plans following graduation. After the service, we will hold a special luncheon for our graduates and their families to celebrate their achievements and reflect on their favorite moments at First Baptist Church. We hope you’ll make plans to celebrate with us on May 19!

## SERVE Holy Week events

