

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
729 Ocean Boulevard
St. Simons Island, GA 31522-5018
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Michael Jennings, Minister of Worship
Michael@fbcssi.org 912-230-6954
Rev. Justin Moser, Associate and Youth Minister
Justin@fbcssi.org 912-580-2008
Ms. Rachel Assaf, Preschool Director
Preschool@fbcssi.org
Ms. Melissa Wright, Childcare Coordinator
mwright24@windstream.net
Ms. Lynn Bowman, Administrator
admin@fbcssi.org
Ms. Brianna Spaulding, Administrative Assistant
adminassist@fbcssi.org
Ms. Alix McHale, Audio/Media Specialist
Ms. Faith Hamilton-Trent, Pianist
Dr. Lois Gurney, Organist
Mr. Greg Quinn, Custodian



Volume 70 Number 3

March 2023

First Baptist Church of St. Simons Island

729 Ocean Boulevard | St. Simons Island, GA 31522 | www.fbcssi.org

*Our vision is to be a family of believers
sharing God's love and grace with all people.*

From Our Associate and Youth Minister, Justin Moser

Welcome to Lent! Before we know it we will be on Easter's doorstep, celebrating the great hope of abundant life found in the resurrection of Jesus. Until we get there, we have this season where our attention turns to the cross. We get to acknowledge our own sinfulness, our own mortality, and the gift of grace that each new day brings. Christians around the world are practicing the discipline of fasting and turning their attention to the cross. On Sundays throughout Lent, we will be going through a series on "The Cross-Shaped Life." Together we will turn our attention to the cross and explore what it has to say about who we are and how we are to live. I hope that you will join us. Our prayer is that as we focus on the cross, God's Spirit would pour out on each of us to change and transform us. After all, God is in the business of transforming people's lives.

Speaking of transforming people's lives, I've been so encouraged by the outpouring of God's power most recently on display at Asbury College and Seminary. If you haven't heard about it, please take the time to Google "Asbury Revival" to read about what happened there. The services recently ended after over two weeks of round the clock services of worship, prayer, confession, and repentance. The beginnings of this two week long revival was driven by college students who just lingered after a college chapel service. Some fully embraced the movement. Some quickly critiqued it. I neither experienced it firsthand, nor have I spoken to anyone who has. So, I will reserve full judgement on it. Regardless, I do have a couple reflections.

1. Our young people are hungry for authentic expressions of faith and worship. This was driven by young people, not seasoned adults. We often hear stereotypes about young people; they are screenagers, unable to connect with real people, averse to hard work, and that they don't seem to care about church. But, I believe our young people are hungry. Hungry for a God who transforms and heals. Hungry for a Jesus who meets them along their journey. Hungry for fresh expressions of the Spirit's power. They are ready for it. Are we?
2. What I have heard is that the beginning of this began with people lingering to confess and repent. It was young people, recognizing their sin and brokenness, being moved by God's grace to confess and repent. Revival always begins with recognizing sin and repenting from it. What do you need to repent of? There is no better time than Lent to reflect upon that question. Maybe, just maybe, if we all do that then God will begin a revival in our lives and in our church.

A Few Things to Keep in Mind:

-April 2nd will be our Easter Egg hunt in front of the Lighthouse. Beginning March 19th, we will be accepting donations of filled Easter eggs. Please consider picking some up or packing your own with non-meltable candy.

-We will be hosting the community Holy Week service on April 4th. We would love to see you there, as well as at the other Holy Week services around the Island.

-Our Easter Sunrise service is at the Pier on Easter Sunday.

-We are looking for a summer intern. If someone you know loves Jesus and is interested in exploring a call into church ministry, please let me know. We can explore how we can use this summer to further discern God's call and allow God to use their gifts to serve Christ's church.

We are pleased to now offer weekly digital bulletins. Be on the lookout for our QR codes located at both the Welcome Center and the Sanctuary entrances!

You're Invited! Activities for All Ages

<p>High Tide Fellowship Wednesdays Fellowship Supper: 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. (Adults \$6; Kids 5-12 \$4; Families \$20 max). Please RSVP to the office by Tuesday.</p>	<p>J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) Adults 55+ gather for fun & fellowship. Contact Rev. Michael Jennings for info</p>	<p>Our Sunday Worship Schedule</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>
<p>Adult Activities 5:45 p.m.: Prayer Meeting 6:00 pm. : Adult Bible Study 6:50 p.m. : Sanctuary Choir Practice</p>	<p>WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study & Fellowship . 2nd Tues at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Supporting Our Ministry Together As of February 28, 2023</p>
<p>Children & Youth Activities 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. ◇ Nursery: in Preschool Wing ◇ Children 4 & Under: Music and Movement ◇ Children Pre-K - 1st Grade: Music Makers Choir & Bible Story ◇ Children 2nd Grade - 5th Grade: Young Musicians Choir & Missions ◇ Youth 6th - 12th Grade: Youth High Tide</p>	<p>SIT AND GET FIT Tuesdays & Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Flexer Rm. Just show up in exercise clothes!</p>	<p>Tithes & Offerings 2023 YTD Goal: \$144,225 2023 YTD Given: \$107,802.42</p>
	<p>DORCAS Group Use your sewing/knitting/creativity to help with missions needs. 2nd/4th Thurs. at 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Capital Campaign Goal: \$450,000 Contributions: \$288,162</p>
	<p>McGregor Group Meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on 2nd Tuesday of each month.</p>	
	<p>Mission House We had no guests in our Mission House during the month of February.</p>	

Save the Dates! Upcoming Events & Activities

March 10th: Registration begins for the '23-'24 School Year- FBP

March 16th: J.O.Y. St. Patrick's Day Luncheon with Annie Akins

March 24th: Kid's Night In; Sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center

Mission House

This month we extend a warm welcome to our visitors staying in the Mission House!

March 5th-10th: Dianne McNary

Dianne is a CBF field personnel serving in Slovakia among the Romani people alongside her husband since 2004.

March 26th-31st: Daryl and Glenda Cox

Daryl and Glenda are retired IBM missionaries who served in West Africa for 30+ years. They are currently caring for Glenda's father in Midville, Ga and serving as interim pastor at Midville Baptist Church.

Children and Families Ministry

A message from our former Children and Families Minister:

"Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the gorgeous watercolor of the lighthouse. I was speechless, touched, and humbled today during the services. Thank you all for your kind words, well wishes, prayers, and generosity. I will look back and treasure our memories. Blessings, grace, and peace of God be with you!"

Much love,

Rachel Sherron

Upcoming in March and Save the Dates!

- * March 24: Kid's Night In; 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- * April 2: Palm Sunday Processional 10:30 a.m. Service, Easter Egg Hunt, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Lighthouse Lawn
- * June 5-8: Worship Arts Camp, 9 a.m.-Noon, completed K-5th graders
- * July 24-28 Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.-Noon

From the Boys & Girls Club Unit Director, Annie Poore



During February at the Boys & Girls Club, our members really embraced doing a new behavior reward system and doing a lot of work in our IXL online learning platform. For our new behavior system, our members all received punch cards that they bring to Ms. Annie at check out every day. If they had a good day, their card gets punched. They can also earn extra punches for helping out a peer with homework, doing something very thoughtful and kind, or helping out a little extra with cleaning during the afternoon. Our members are loving it! They can also earn Star Student for the day, which they love because they get to pick an activity during free time. We are so impressed with how well the students are doing keeping up with their punch cards, and they love the new prizes that they can earn from the treasure box! As far as IXL goes, our members (especially our PreK and Kindergartners) love learning Math and Language Arts on our Chromebooks in the afternoons. They are even requesting additional time to work in IXL. We went on field trips to the movie theater and to Brunswick Adventures. The students also had fun doing candy heart science experiments and making cards for our friends for Valentines Day. Additionally, we learned about African-American History Month, and the histories of Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, and Mardi Gras. Our 4th graders from St. Simons Elementary also participated in a movies-inspired play where so many of our students had speaking parts! Lastly, we had our Co-ed Basketball league kick off - even winning our first game!



From Our Preschool Director, Rachel Assaf



We Can Show Jesus' Love in our Families

For February in Chapel we explored the theme of LOVE!



Pastor Rachel shared the story of 'Joseph's Dreams' from the scripture passage of Genesis 37:1-11. Our Lil' Fish learned that Jacob had many sons, Joseph had 11 brothers, and we even counted the 'oh so many brothers!' Joseph was the favorite, and his father gave him a coat of many colors just like the one Pastor Rachel brought to Chapel! The main truth learned that week was that 'We can Show Jesus' Love in our families.' To implement this truth, our classes were given tools to reinforce the lesson learned. Our classes were given a "God Gives Us Families" book to create and make. It reinforced to our friends that God gives us families to help us, protect us, and teach us. Sometimes we don't get along, but we can learn from our mistakes and learn how to love like God wants us to love through our families. "Father, we want to thank you for our families today. Help us get along, respect each other, and forgive each other when we do things that hurt each other. Amen."



God Loves Us



Our Pre-K class helped Ms. Rachel with our memory verse in Chapel. They showed the rest of our friends their hand motions as they shared, "Do everything in LOVE." 1 Corinthians 16:14

Our Lil' Fish this month also learned the story of 'The Prodigal Son: God loves us' from the Bible in Luke 15:11-32. The teaching concept was to learn that God is a loving and forgiving God. This main truth was implemented in our classrooms via a group Chapel kit of a play "Feed the Pigs" Game. Each class fed the pigs a pea pod card with words of our memory verse on it. What a fun and interactive way to review the story!



I Can Be a Friend No Matter What



Another Chapel lesson this month was on the story 'Ruth is Faithful; We can Love our Friends no Matter What' from the Bible in Ruth 1:1-22. We learned that friends stick together in bad times and good times. To implement our main truth and Bible story from this week, our friends were given a 'Ruth' to make as a puppet character on a popsicle stick and a 'Gleaning Wheat' Bible verse review game.



Thank You for Helping Us Grow in God's Love

It was Pastor Rachel's last Chapel month with us. We surprised her with a few gifts, including the canvas we made her. Each of our Lil' Fish's fingerprints were added to a tree for remembrance and appreciation for all that Pastor Rachel has done for us. We wanted to make sure we thanked her for helping us grow in God's love! We are sad for us, but excited for her!



We are the Leaders of the Future



In the spirit of Presidents' Day, when asking our friends about "What Makes a Good President?" and "If they Were President, What Would They Do and What Rules Would You Make?" They responded with: "George Washington, because when they were fighting, he dunked off their sweet tea." "A good person." "Someone who is nice." "Have to be smart and help people and pray to God always." "I would say no lines on the roads." "No fighting." "No hurting people." Maybe one of our FBP students will become President one day :)



Jesus Loves Everyone



Another week in Chapel this month, our Lil' Fish were taught the Bible story, from John 4, on 'Jesus Talks with the Samaritan Woman: Jesus Loves Everyone.' Our friends learned that Jesus wants a relationship with us no matter what, even when we make sad choices. And just like how Jesus still loved the woman at the well, even though she made big-sad choices in life. Prayer "Father, help us to be more like you, to love people because you love them. Help us not to judge others by the way they look or act. Thank you for loving us so we can show others Your love. Amen." To implement our main truth that week, our classes were given the tools to a 'Woman at the Well Paper Plate Water Scoop Craft and Game.' "...he who believes in Me will never be thirsty." John 6:35b.



We Love Our Teeth (and Al the Alligator)

The month of February was Dental Health awareness month, so our friends had a special visit by local Dentist, Dr. Sasser. He even brought a special friend along, Al the Alligator, who sprayed water! Our friends learned how to brush their teeth, and that we should brush our teeth twice a day for 2 minutes. Candy is great but when you eat candy, it gets sticky, so we must brush our teeth, so we don't get sugar bugs! We must brush sugar out and keep our mouth and teeth healthy and clean!



'Toothfully', You Make Me Smile

Our friends were gifted a bag full of dental goodies. They each received their own travel bag with a two-minute timer, floss, toothpaste, toothbrush, and a tooth sticker! Thank you to Dr. Sasser for your time and for the big smiles! Al the Alligator was a huge hit!



Send FBP Some Love

"WOW" has been supporting our preschool team with small gifts each month (devotionals, planners, yummy treats) and requested a wish list for our school. A QR code for a wish list has been made from our teachers and staff, as items they would love to have in addition to the supplies, we provide for them. If you would like to purchase any of the items as a gift for future fun and learning, it would be greatly appreciated by all!



To Volunteer is to Love and Care



Our school is in the beginning stages of creating a Spring fundraiser event. It will be called "Spring into the Arts", where our little friend's and their classroom's special art will be auctioned off at a dinner, to raise funds for a playground upgrade, as we are wanting to eliminate all mulch and replace it with turf. It is our hope that with this fundraiser's proceeds raised, we will reach our goal! If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity during this process, please reach out to Rachel or Hannah in the preschool office. We are excited for all the wonderful things in store for our school soon!



UPCOMING SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 28th: FBP's 'Spring into the Arts' Fundraiser Event, 6pm

