

the BEACON

USPS 548-820

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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HAPPY SUMMER, FBC!

I hope you and your families are enjoying a break from school and the regular routine. Personally, I have a bit of a love-hate relationship with summer because I love routine, and summer doesn't lend itself to that very well. Camps, later bedtimes, vacations, and so many fun opportunities that seem to pop up out of nowhere keep me on my toes, and I'm sure they do the same for you.

In all of the busy, schedule-undermining excitement that summer brings, I am incredibly grateful that our church family has continued to share the good news of Jesus with our neighbors. It has been a great reminder to me, as I watch the number on my shirt increase every week, that our church is serious about Kingdom work and seeing the gospel reach every corner of our community and the world.

When we began this endeavor, I wasn't sure exactly how it would go. I knew you would buy in and share Jesus, but I have been genuinely blessed, and honestly overwhelmed, by how many of you have gone all in on evangelism. I couldn't be more thrilled.

There will never be a more important conversation that you or I have with another person on this side of heaven. We have been entrusted with telling the one-of-a-kind true story that Jesus came and lived the life we could never live, died the death we deserved, was buried in a grave, and three days later rose victoriously over sin, death, hell, and the grave. Praise be to God that the gospel is powerful, available to all who will believe, and worthy of continual proclamation.

As I sit here typing, we are at **1,775 gospel conversations**. We are just one away from **1,776**, which has caused several chuckles around the office with our nation's birthday just around the corner. By the time you read this, I'm certain we've already surpassed that number and are continuing our pursuit of **2,026 gospel conversations** this year.

So pray with me, faith family. Continue to share the good news of Jesus, and remember that we are the instruments in the hands of God that He has chosen to use to push back the darkness in our city and around the world.

Speak it. Preach it. Write it. Pray it. Sing it. Shout it. Email it. Text it. Just find a way to share the good news of Jesus.

Let's, by God's grace, reach our goal of **2,026 gospel conversations** this year, and may every one of them point someone to the hope that is found in Christ alone.



TJ MAULDIN
Lead Pastor

TJ

WATCH SUNDAY SERVICES LIVE AT [YOUTUBE.COM/FBCTIFTON](https://www.youtube.com/fbctifton)



KENNY MILLER
Executive & Groups
Pastor

SHARPENING ONE ANOTHER

We Men, no matter your age, we want to see you thrive in biblical community. More importantly, we want to see you become a disciple who makes disciples. That happens as we intentionally create environments where men can build meaningful relationships, take their next step of faith, and follow Jesus together. It's often said in ministry that when the men of a church are growing closer to Jesus, the entire church grows stronger. As men called by God to lead in our homes, workplaces, and communities, we have a responsibility to pursue Christ wholeheartedly. That's why we offer two opportunities each month for men to connect, grow, and be encouraged here at FBC Tifton.

The first is **2717**, named after Proverbs 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." The men of 2717 are committed to sharpening one another as they pursue to be the men God has called them to be. The group meets **every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm** in the Red Door Building on Central Avenue. Whether you've been walking with Christ for years or you're just beginning your journey, we'd love for you to join us.



The second opportunity is our monthly **Men's Life Lunch**. This is a relaxed, encouraging time for men to gather around the table, enjoy a great meal, and hear a personal testimony of how God is at work in someone's life. It's also one of the easiest events at which to invite a neighbor, coworker, friend, or someone who doesn't regularly attend church to experience authentic fellowship and hear the hope of the gospel. The Men's Life Lunch meets on the **third Thursday of every month at 12:00pm**. We value your schedule and are committed to starting and ending on time so those who are

working can get back to their day. I'd love to personally invite you to join us for our next Men's Life Lunch on July 16. You can register online at fbctifton.org/events, or simply show up at the door. The cost is just \$10, which includes a hot meal, dessert, and a drink. We hope you'll join us. Whether you come by yourself or bring another man with you, we believe God uses these intentional moments of fellowship to strengthen men, families, and ultimately His church.

Kenny

FIRST FACTS & FIGURES

MAY 2026

BUDGET GIVING

Monthly Offering	\$249,967
Offering to Date	\$1,378,138
Expenses to Date	\$1,384,400
Budget to Date	\$1,417,746

SANCTUARY RENOVATION

Contributions to Date	\$1,420,963
Total Cost	\$2,300,000
Loan Balance Owed	\$995,163

**WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE**

1589
average

**SMALL GROUP
ATTENDANCE**

572
average



**MICHELLE
HAMMOND**
*Accounts Payable
and CR Staff Liaison*

CELEBRATE RECOVERY TIFTON – EXCITING UPDATES

We have a couple of exciting things happening in the coming weeks at Celebrate Recovery Tifton, and we want our church family to be part of it.

1. Celebrate Recovery Tifton’s 17-Year Anniversary with Bev Vance Aikins

We are thrilled to celebrate 17 years of ministry, healing, and hope. Bev Vance Aikins will be joining us for this special night, and her testimony is sure to encourage anyone walking through a difficult season. We will meet in the Ministry Center to accommodate a larger crowd. Please RSVP if you plan to bring a group, and help us spread the word by inviting friends, neighbors, and anyone who could use a message of hope.

2. Leadership Team Traveling to the National CR Summit

Several members of our leadership team will be traveling to Tennessee for the National Celebrate Recovery Summit. This is an incredible opportunity for us to learn, grow, and connect with other CR ministries from across the country. Please pray for safe travels and for God to use this time to strengthen our team and our ministry here at home.

Michelle



ANSLEY GRINER
*Communications,
Print Media & Graphic
Design Director*

HE WAS ALREADY THERE

Today marks 10 years since I joined the staff at First Baptist Tifton. I'm usually the one putting everyone else's words on these pages, so writing in this month's issue is a little different. But as I reflected on the past 10 years, I couldn't help but share what our family just experienced.

We spent an incredible week scuba diving in the Red Sea, making memories we'll never forget. Then, as we began our journey home, everything changed. My husband, Rob, became seriously ill. What began as food poisoning quickly became a medical emergency, and instead of boarding our flight home, we found ourselves in a hospital in Cairo, Egypt, where Rob underwent emergency surgery on June 23 for a bowel obstruction caused by scar tissue from a previous surgery (his liver split in half in 2016, but that's a story for another day).

There were moments when I felt completely helpless. We were thousands of miles from home, navigating a language barrier, dealing with canceled flights, and facing a situation we never imagined. Yet in the middle of all that uncertainty, God kept reminding me of something simple:

He was already there.

He was there in the doctors whose skill gave us confidence. He was there in the nurses whose compassion brought comfort. He was there through the translators, drivers, and hotel staff who became friends. And He was there through every text message, phone call, and prayer from our friends and family back home.

Joshua 1:9 says, *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Standing in a hospital room overlooking the Pyramids gave those words new meaning. "Wherever you go" really does mean wherever.

As I celebrate 10 years of serving at FBC, my heart is simply grateful. Grateful for a church that prayed faithfully for us, grateful for a staff that checked on us, and grateful for a God whose presence isn't limited by distance, language, or circumstances. Thank you for allowing me to serve this church family for the past decade. It has been one of the greatest blessings of my life, and I'm excited to see where God leads in the years ahead.

Ansley



MARK MYERS
*Minister of Recreation
& Senior Adults*

CAUGHT UP IN A NAME

I told you that in this issue of *The Beacon* I'd announce the new name for our Senior Adult ministry. Well... you caught me! I've received some great feedback, but two names have clearly risen to the top:

- **Legacy Builders**
- **Seasoned Warriors**

I could make the decision myself, but I want this to be your ministry. If it's going to be *your* ministry, then you need to name it! We'll have a ballot box at Senior Adult VBS in September, and on **Sunday, September 20**, we'll reveal the winning name during a special kickoff celebration. You've got two months to rally behind your favorite and make your vote count!

CO-ED SOFTBALL WRAPS UP... BASKETBALL TIPS OFF!

Our Co-Ed Softball season is winding down, with the final event scheduled for **July 18**. Thanks to everyone who played and supported another great season! If you're looking for one more opportunity to compete—or just enjoy some great fellowship—the Men's Summer Basketball League is back for its second year. Games are held **Monday and Thursday evenings from 5:30–8:30pm** throughout July in the Family Life Center. Come enjoy some competitive basketball, grab some popcorn, cheer on your favorite team, and encourage these men with your prayers and support. For more information, contact Mark at the FLC.

PICKLEBALL ANYONE?

Whether you're an experienced pickleball player or have never picked up a paddle, there's a place for you! Our beginner-friendly group meets **Tuesday evenings from 5:00–8:00pm**, while morning groups play **Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00–11:00am or 10:00am–12:00pm**. There's always room for another player, so come join us for fun, fellowship, and a little friendly competition at the Family Life Center.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SENIOR ADULT VBS

Planning is underway for **Senior Adult VBS, September 14–18**, and we'd love for you to be part of the team! We currently need volunteers in the following areas:

- **Devotion Leaders** (4 needed)
- **Craft Leaders** (4–8 needed)
- **Mission Activity Leaders** (4 needed)
- **Collectors, Traders, or Hobbyists** (12 needed) to teach and share their collections, skills, or special interests

We'll meet on two Monday evenings in August to pray, plan, exchange ideas, and prepare for a great week together. If you'd like to serve, contact **Mark Myers** at **(229) 386-1643** to add your name to the volunteer list. We had a blessed blast last year, and we can't wait to see how God works in, through, and around us again this September!

Mark



OUR GOAL: 2,026
REC'D-TO-DATE:
1775



• CONGRATULATIONS •

Samuel & Sarah Norris on the birth of their son, **Luke Benjamin**, on June 1. Proud grandparents are Edward & Ila Rooks.

Adam & Gracee Dukes on the birth of their daughter, **Emmee Lou**, on June 2. Proud grandparents are Michael & April Dukes.

• SYMPATHY •

Lisa Marchant in the passing of her mother, **Linda Flourney**.

The Walker family in the passing of their dad, **Larry Walker**.

The Buckley family in the loss of their sister, **Kimberly (Kim) Dawn Johnson**.

Kathy & Tim Mitcham in the passing of their nephew, **Chris Crews**.

The Matthews family in the passing of **Wayne Matthews**.

The Smallwood family in the passing of **Tommy Smallwood**.

The Eaton family in the passing of **Ellen Eaton**.

• NEW MEMBERS •

Heather Crumley; Sy Crumley; Laura Gay; Will Gay; Maria Hill; Katie Madray; Mark Madray; Amanda Perry; Michael Perry

• BAPTISMS •

Alaya Roland; Emmanuel Gonzalez; Haylie Linsley; Marleigh Benton; Anderson Grajko; Carlee Wood; Gabbie Saucedo; Kris Dunn; Felix Folds; Kai Folds; Zechariah Ledl

• APPRECIATION •

From **Debra Wright**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR BEACON VIA EMAIL ONLY?

Let us know by calling the church office at 229-382-6063 or emailing Ansley Griner at agriner@fbctifton.org

THIS WEEK AT FBC

JULY 6-12, 2026

MON	10:30am	Staff Meeting (MSH)
TUE	9:00am	Facilities Team Meeting (Conference Room)
	9:30am	FUSE Field Trip (Rigby's)
	6:00pm	PAL - Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (S.S. Annex)
WED	4:30pm	War Room (C105)
	6:00pm	Summer Family Pop-Up (GA Museum of Agriculture)
THU	6:30pm	CR Anniversary Celebration (Ministry Center)
FRI	12:00pm	Church Office/FLC Closed
SUN	8:30am	Connection Worship I Service (Ministry Center)
	9:50am	Small Groups for all ages
	11:00am	Cornerstone Service (Sanctuary)
		Connection Worship II Service (Ministry Center)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUL 12-16** Camp Generate (Middle School Camp)
- JUL 23** FBC Students - Wild Adventures Trip
- JUL 26-28** High School Guys - White Water Rafting Trip
- AUG 2&9** Starting Point - New Member Class
- SEP 5** RecoveryFest 2026

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, VISIT **FBCTIFTON.ORG/EVENTS**

CONNECT WITH US!



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