

the BEACON

USPS 548-820

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

404 Love Avenue
Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 382-6063
FAX (229) 387-0523

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BEAUTIFUL CHAOS AND STEADY RHYTHMS

As summer comes to a close, I always feel a mixture of joy and a touch of sadness. The joy comes from looking back with gratitude on the memories made with family and friends during the slower pace of summer. Later bedtimes for the kids, quiet and reflective mornings, and those brief moments when a holy hush seems to settle over the house before the familiar rush of a new school year begins. It is a bittersweet farewell to the beautiful chaos of summer and a warm welcome to the steady rhythm of fall.

As we transition into a busier season and settle back into our routines, there are a few things I want to keep before you.

First, I want to mention the recent announcement regarding Matt Howell's transition from our staff. Matt leaves in good standing with our church, and he, Sarah, and their family will continue to worship with us and faithfully invest in our church family. By God's gracious providence, Matt has accepted the role of BCM Director at ABAC. We are thankful for this opportunity the Lord has given him and look forward to partnering together in gospel ministry for many years to come.

This Sunday, we will also conclude our study through the book of Titus. What a joy it has been to spend the summer with you on the island of Crete! My prayer is that the beauty and preciousness of the gospel have become even more real to us, that the privilege of multi-generational discipleship has become clearer, that our pursuit of holiness has been renewed, and that the fruit of this study will be a healthier church and many souls won to the Kingdom of God.

As we prepare our hearts for what is ahead, I want to invite you to pray over the next nine Sundays as we gather around God's Word. Together, we will walk through our mission statement and core values, reminding ourselves of what drives everything we do as a church and how we desire to live as people who **Love God, Love People, and Multiply Disciples**. My prayer is that these weeks will unify our hearts around the mission Christ has given us and renew our passion to make Him known in our homes, our community, and to the ends of the earth.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor. It is one of the greatest joys of my life.

Gratefully,



TJ MAULDIN
Lead Pastor

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



MATT HOWELL
Student Pastor

STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE

I wanted to take a moment to personally share an update with you. After much prayer, I recently stepped down as Student Pastor at First Baptist Tifton. This was not an easy decision, but I truly believe this is where God is leading my family in this season. While I have loved every opportunity to invest in students over the past several years, I also believe the Lord is calling me to be more intentional in leading and discipling my first ministry, my family. At the same time, I believe God has opened the door for me to serve as the Campus Minister at ABAC through the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM). College ministry holds a special place in my heart because it was during my college years that the Lord radically changed my life. I am excited to see how He uses this opportunity to reach and disciple the next generation.

I also want to reassure our church family that we are not leaving Tifton, and we are definitely not leaving First Baptist Tifton. This church has been our home, and we are grateful to continue worshiping, serving, and investing in the life of our church alongside you. I have complete confidence in the future of our Student Ministry. Our church leadership has been intentional throughout this transition, recognizing the importance of consistency and familiar faces for our students. I have full confidence in Mac Raley and Katelyn Murray as they continue serving and leading our students with faithfulness, humility, and a genuine love for Christ. I know God will continue to use them in incredible ways.

In the meantime, our leadership team is forming a search committee to begin the search for our next Student Pastor. We are prayerfully seeking the man God has already prepared for this role, and we are confident that, in His perfect timing, He will faithfully provide the right shepherd to lead the next generation at First Baptist Tifton.

As we begin the fall semester, our Wednesday night schedule will remain the same:

- Middle School: 6:00 to 7:00pm
- High School: 7:00 to 8:00pm

Serving as your Student Pastor has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and the trust you placed in my family and me. Please continue praying for our students, our small group leaders, and all that God has in store for First Baptist Tifton. I truly believe the Lord has wonderful things ahead for our church, and I am thankful that our family gets to continue being part of it.

The best is yet to come,

FIRST FACTS & FIGURES

JUNE 2026

BUDGET GIVING

Monthly Offering	\$211,064
Offering to Date	\$1,590,049
Expenses to Date	\$1,641,491
Budget to Date	\$1,701,002

SANCTUARY RENOVATION

Contributions to Date	\$1,435,854
Total Cost	\$2,300,000
Loan Balance Owed	\$987,163

**WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE**

1215
average

**SMALL GROUP
ATTENDANCE**

476
average



JENN GRAJKO
Music Ministry
Assistant

LADIES, IT'S TIME FOR WORTHY GROUPS AGAIN!

We had an exciting year, with our first year of Worthy Groups completed, mission-focused fellowship with Worthy on Mission, and an amazing message on Psalm 23 from Taylor Mauldin at Worthy Women's Night! God did some incredible things this past year, and I am so excited to see how He will continue to move throughout our Women's Ministry.

Last year we had 200 women meeting in 15 different groups throughout Tifton and our surrounding cities. We're hoping to add even more this year, so if you are interested in leading a group or opening up your home to host, or if you have any questions about hosting or leading, let me know! Remember, if you participated in a group last year, you will have to re-register this year.

Groups will launch with our kick-off party Saturday, August 22nd at 10:00am, in the Ministry Center, and then will meet once a month from September to April in host homes. Join us for the kick-off to spend some time in prayer, worship, and fellowship with your group members and the ladies of our church!

You can register for Worthy Groups at fbctifton.org/events or by reaching out to Jenn in the church office!

Jenn



MICHELLE HAMMOND
Accounts Payable
and CR Staff Liaison

THANK YOU FOR 17 YEARS!

What an incredible night we shared at our Celebrate Recovery Anniversary celebration with Bev Vance Aikins. The room was filled with worship, testimony, and the unmistakable presence of God as we celebrated another year of healing, freedom, and transformed lives. Thank you to every leader, volunteer, and participant who came out to support this ministry. Your faithfulness continues to make CR a place where people can find real hope and real change. Bev reminded us that recovery is a journey—one that none of us walk alone. And no one walks that journey alone. At Celebrate Recovery, we believe deeply in standing with one another, especially in seasons of struggle, uncertainty, or spiritual battle.

One of the most meaningful things we do (to me) at Tifton Celebrate Recovery is our "Stand in the Gap" chip. This chip isn't for the person who is struggling—it's for the person who chooses to stand in the gap on their behalf. When someone is walking through addiction, grief, a health battle, depression, or anything that is pulling them away from a close relationship with Jesus, we invite others to step forward and say: "I will stand in the gap between you and Jesus. I will intercede. I will pray. I will believe for you until you can believe and fight for yourself." This chip is simply a physical reminder of the commitment we make to pray over our people. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder, lifting those who are hurting and pointing them back to the One who heals, restores, and redeems. If you know someone who needs that kind of support, we invite you to take a pledge to stand in the gap for them. As Christians, it's one of the most powerful acts of love we can offer.

OUR 6TH ANNUAL RECOVERYFEST

We are excited to announce our upcoming 6th Annual RecoveryFest, a free community event in honor of National Recovery Month. RecoveryFest is our opportunity to celebrate stories of freedom, connect people with resources, and shine a light on the hope found in recovery. This year's event will include music, games with prizes, testimonies of God's transforming power, food and family activities, and community and recovery resources. RecoveryFest is open to everyone—those in recovery, those supporting loved ones, and anyone who wants to celebrate what God is doing in our community. It's a day filled with joy, connection, and purpose. Mark your calendar, invite your friends, and be part of a movement that is changing lives in South Georgia. We would also like to invite you to begin praying over the event and the people who will attend. We never know what people are walking through. Thank you so much for letting me be part of this God Movement!

Michelle

• SYMPATHY •
The family of **Jackie Ferrell Cooper**.

The family of **Frank Matulich**.

Barbara Johnson in the death of her brother, **Billy Sandifer**.

• NEW MEMBERS •

Sharon Bennett
Allison Gaskins
Hunter Gaskins
Jerry Nance
Mary Nance
Justine Sims
Sam Sims

• BAPTISMS •

Ava Ziegler
Eliza Thompson

• APPRECIATION •

From **Lisa, Brian, John David, and James Marchant**

From **the Family of Ellen Eaton**.

From **the Family of Jan Sheppard**.

LOVE GOD.

LOVE PEOPLE.

MULTIPLY DISCIPLES.

**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
AUGUST 3-9, 2026

MON	10:30am	Staff Meeting (MSH)
	1:00pm	Game Day for Senior Adults (Concourse)
TUE	9:00am	Facilities Team Meeting (Conference Room)
	10:45am	Joyful Sound Choir (Choir Room)
	6:00pm	PAL - Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (S.S. Annex)
WED	4:30pm	War Room (C105)
THU	6:30pm	Celebrate Recovery (Chapel/MSH)
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

AUG 2&9 Starting Point - New Member Class

AUG 14 ONE Night of Worship

AUG 20 Men's Life Lunch

SEP 5 RecoveryFest 2026

OCT 12-15 Suwannee River Retreat for Senior Adults

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS,
MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, VISIT
[FBCTIFTON.ORG/EVENTS](https://fbctifton.org/events)

CONNECT
WITH US!



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PERIODICAL
POSTAGE PAID
at TIFTON, GA

TJ Mauldin, *Lead Pastor*
Kenny Miller, *Executive & Groups Pastor*
Mark Myers, *Minister of Recreation & Sr. Adults*
Marcia Staub, *Kids Ministry Director*
Jose Lopez, *Hispanic Pastor*
Barry Cook, *Minister of Facilities & Worship Support*
Daniel Gibson, *Worship Pastor*
Kiet Le, *Vietnamese Pastor*