

THE SPIRE

Volume 70 • No. 11 • June 2, 2023



FROM OUR PASTOR

I am a lifelong Baptist. I don't know any different, and I plan to remain a Baptist for as long as I live. I know that the Baptist label comes with lots of baggage, but I still believe in Baptist ways of believing, worshiping, serving, and relating to the culture around us. I am firmly committed to what we say in our covenant here at First Baptist: *We shall hold dear the [Baptist] principles of soul competency, the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local church, and the Bible as our trusted and authoritative guide in matters of faith and practice.*

How about you? Have you always been Baptist? If so, how do you respond when someone asks, "What does it mean to be Baptist?" Do you need to be refreshed in your Baptist distinctives? Or perhaps you have been welcomed into the fold of First Baptist Church from another denomination, and you want to learn more about Baptist beliefs and practices. Well, let's take a few weeks to focus on our identity as Baptists. Borrowing from Walter B. Shurden's helpful little book, *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*, we'll take four Sundays to focus on **Baptist Freedoms**:

June 11 – *Bible Freedom*

June 25 – *Church Freedom*

June 18 – *Soul Freedom*

July 2 – *Religious Freedom*

I hope that our intentional focus on these Baptist freedoms will help you to more clearly identify who you are as a Baptist and who we are as members together of a Baptist church.

Your Baptist pastor and friend,

David



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES!

JUNE 12 – 15
9:00–11:30 A.M.
AGES 3 THROUGH 4TH GRADE

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR SENIOR MISSION IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

1. PRAY for the health, safety, and travel of our mission team.
2. PRAY for the mission work we will be participating in and for God to use it all for His glory and to make a lasting impact on the lives and communities we will be serving.
3. PRAY for the spiritual development and growth of our mission team.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

SUMMER CALENDARS

Summer calendars have been released for both Children's Ministry (birth-4th grade) and the new Collide Ministry (5th-7th grade) that Kristen & Nick are leading together. These schedules can be found on our social media or picked up on the preschool hall at the front desk. Grab one & stick it on your fridge at home!

VBS WORK NIGHT

We will have a very important work night on June 7 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. This is when we get a LOT of our decorations put up, so please consider joining us even if you can only drop in for an hour. Pizza dinner will be provided, so let Karen Foss or Kristen Mathis know if you will be attending.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We could still use a few more adults to help us lead our Hero Hotline VBS! These positions are group leaders, so there is no prep or teaching, just leading kids from station to station. Please contact Kristen Mathis if you are interested in helping.

STUDENT NEWS

CANVAS & CLAY SUMMER CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE!

You will be receiving a copy in the mail. Also, extra calendars are available in the Student Room and in Nick Georgian's office. Please make plans to participate and get involved as often as you can this summer!

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 1 - Canvas & Clay Summer Kick Off

Earthworks Pottery

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

\$25 per student

JUNE 3-9 - Senior Mission Immersion - Bahamas

Leave FBC parking lot at 7:00 am

JUNE 11 - Diving into the WORD

The Sumners

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

FREE!

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

We celebrate with these members of our staff and give thanks for all they do in service to God and our congregation:

- **KEITH REAVES**, SENIOR ASSOCIATE,
MINISTER OF WORSHIP – 24 years on June 8
- **JAN DANDRIDGE**, CUSTODIAN – 22 years on June 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our final meeting of the summer at noon:

JUNE 7 – Karen, Our Doris White Recipient

The time frame offers a perfect opportunity for those who take a break for lunch. Lunch costs \$7.



MID-WEEK

Prayers and Reflections

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

The Holy Land Pilgrimage is set for April 25-May 10, 2024. Join our pastor David Brooks and Tamara Smathers on this pilgrimage. We will begin in Amman, Jordan (ancient Philadelphia), visit cities of the Decapolis, Mt. Nebo, Bethany Beyond the Jordan where John was baptizing, the Dead Sea, Petra, and the desert of Wadi Rum (where Moses wandered). In Israel we will visit stay in Jericho, Galilee, and Jerusalem—walking many of the same paths that Jesus and his first disciples walked. The experience of walking where much of the Old Testament and Gospel stories are set transforms the way we read and understand scripture. Please contact Tamara Smathers for more information.

To view all of the details visit: <https://aitsatl.com/login.php>

Enter Group name: FirstBaptistRome2024; Password: pilgrimage

MISSIONS MARKETPLACE

The culture of the Middle East and North Africa is based on relationships and hospitality.

In local bazaars, people gather, drink tea, tell stories, and pass time together. In the *souq* (bazaar) one senses the heartbeat of the community. We have been invited to experience the heartbeat of North Africa as Karen (one of CBF's Field Personnel) joins us for Prayers and Reflections on Wednesday, June 7. Prior to her arrival, a bazaar filled with treasures from her local market, will invite us to experience her surroundings.

You will be introduced to the stories of those with whom Karen serves and ways we can pray for the relationship they share together. The Marketplace will be open after Worship on Sunday, June 4 and on Wednesday, June 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room.

DORIS WHITE: BEAUTICIAN AND HER LEGACY

Doris White was a single business woman who operated a beauty shop out of her home on Avenue A. At her death in 1971, Doris instructed that her home be given to the church. Missionaries on furlough could stay there free of charge. However, the house wasn't well suited for this purpose and was sold and the income used to establish the Memorial Gifts Fund (now the FBC Foundation). The income from this gift provided a "missionary apartment" in Rome and since 2004 the Doris White Grant has paid housing expenses while CBF missions personnel are in the US. Join us on Wednesday, June 7, to welcome Karen, our current Doris White Grant recipient. Karen serves in North Africa.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME

100 East 4th Avenue Rome, GA 30161 706.291.6850 www.fbcrome.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.



Our ministerial staff is interested in developing a Stephen Ministry at First Baptist. If you have already been trained as a Stephen Minister or Stephen Ministry Leader at another church, OR if you would like more information about this ministry opportunity, contact Gwen Stephens.

MISSIONS

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY VOLUNTEERS

The success of Bridges depends on volunteers to provide childcare, meals and transportation Thursday evenings. If you want to support Bridges, please use the QR code to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Keith Phillips or Nick Georgian. We continue to be grateful for your ongoing support and generosity to this important mission in the life of FBC Rome!



JANE TUCKER'S LIFE VERSE:

“He who watches over you
will not slumber.”

Psalm 121:3b

SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, June 4, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Byron Reeves by Sue Reeves and family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, June 4, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Bosworth and Mr. and Mrs. J. Walter Ransom by George and Bess Bosworth.

The flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, June 11, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane and Hobart Hortman by their family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, June 11, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Richard Gray by Edith Gray and family.

seeking His heart | Being His hands

June 3 – June 16

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, June 3

Minister on Call Gwen Stephens, 706.766.5074

Saturday, June 3 – Friday, June 9

High School Senior Mission Immersion Trip to Bahamas

Sunday, June 4

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410) 9:00 am

Bible Study (all ages) 9:45 am

Worship - Comcast Channel 44 11:00 am

Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel

Downtown Summer Kickoff – Collide Summer 5:00 pm

Wednesday, June 7

Prayers and Reflections, F.H. 12:00 pm

VBS Work Night and

Ice Cream Social, Drop in, F.H. 5:00-8:00 pm

Thursday, June 8

Bridges Out of Poverty Class, F.H. & Comm. Rm. 6:00 pm

Saturday, June 10

Minister on Call Tamara Smathers 706.266.7141

Sunday, June 11

Finance Committee, Conf. Rm. 8:30 am

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410) 9:00 am

Bible Study (all ages) 9:45 am

Worship - Comcast Channel 44 11:00 am

Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel

Diving Into the Word, Sumners' home 6:00 pm

Monday, June 12 – Thursday, June 15

Vacation Bible School 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Monday, June 12

Deacons' Meeting, D.R. 5:30 pm

Thursday, June 15

Bridges Out of Poverty, F.H. & Comm. Rm. 6:00 pm

THIS WEEK: JUNE 4

SUNDAY WORSHIP

TRINITY SUNDAY

SERMON: "Summer is Here: Let's Go"

PREACHER: David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:16-20

ANTHEM: In God's Name...arr Brian Bailey/
Jerome Williams

ORDINANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER OBSERVED

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

JUNE 7 AT NOON IN

THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

DEVOTION BY KAREN, OUR DORIS
WHITE GRANT RECIPIENT

Menu:

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, French Fries, Baked
Beans, Pickles, Fresh Fruit Salad

MINISTER ON CALL:

Gwen Stephens 706.766.5074

NEXT WEEK: JUNE 11

SUNDAY WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERIES: Baptist Freedoms

SERMON: "Bible Freedom"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

ANTHEM: Yes, My Jesus Loves Me...
arr. Mary McDonald

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

MINISTER ON CALL:

Tamara Smathers 706.266.7141

THE SPIRE

SUNDAY SERVICES

BROADCAST LIVE ON
COMCAST CHANNEL 44 AND
VIA WWW.FBCROME.ORG

FLOWER OPENINGS

The following dates are open for providing flowers in the Narthex/Sanctuary. Please contact Karen Garrett in the church office at kgarrett@fbcrome.org if you would like to fill one of these dates.

JULY 2 – Narthex and Sanctuary

JULY 9 – Narthex

SEPTEMBER 24 – Narthex

NOVEMBER 12 – Narthex

NOVEMBER 19 – Sanctuary

Please visit us for more information:
www.fbcrome.org

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