

## Ministers

**Paul Baxley**  
**Frank Granger**  
**Randy Brittain**  
**Janet Cleland**  
**Emily Harbin**  
**Brandon Pendry**  
**Anne Brittain**  
**Alan McArthur**

*Senior Minister*  
*Minister of Christian Community*  
*Minister of Music*  
*Minister of Children, Families, and Outreach*  
*Minister of College Students*  
*Minister of Youth and Mission*  
*Organist and Music Associate*  
*Pianist*



**First Baptist Church**

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# *First Baptist Church*

*Athens, Georgia*

September 24, 2017

11:00 a.m.

*The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

# Creative Brooding

This morning, as we continue to prepare for our series on *Reforming Questions*, consider Frederic Buechner’s insights on the importance of questions:

*Don’t start looking at the Bible for the answers it gives. Start by listening for the questions it asks. We are much involved, all of us, with questions about things that matter a good bit today but will be forgotten by this time tomorrow—the immediate wheres and whens and hows that face us daily at home and at work—but at the same time we tend to lose track of the questions about things that matter always, life and death questions about meaning, purpose and value. To lose track of such deep questions as these is to risk losing track of who we really are in our own depths and where we are really going. There is perhaps no stronger reason for reading the Bible than that somewhere among all those India-paper pages there awaits each reader whoever he is the one question which, though for years he may have been pretending not to hear it, is the central question of his own life.*

-Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*

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*First Baptist Church is a thriving community in Christ  
where we all participate in worship  
and are transformed by mission.*

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Until we return to the renovated Sanctuary, worship will be offered at 8:30 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided for children birth – 3 years old during our 8:30 a.m service. PreK – 6<sup>th</sup> grade children will attend the early worship service with their families. At the 11:00 am service there will be childcare for children birth – 3 year olds and Children’s Worship for children PreK through Second Grade.

## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday, September 24

8:30 a.m..... Worship — Fellowship Hall  
9:00 a.m..... Childcare Worker Mtg. — E-112  
9:15 a.m. .... Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — Fanning Foyer  
9:45—10:45 a.m. .... Sunday School and Bible Study — throughout the building  
11:00 a.m. .... Worship Service — Fellowship Hall  
5:00 p.m. .... Walking Group — Oconee Veterans Park  
5:15 p.m. .... Youth Choir — Choir Rm.  
6:00 p.m. .... Youth Choir shuttle to Goggin’s Home— FBC Parking Lot  
6:30 p.m. .... Youth Group at Goggin’s Home

### Monday, September 25

10:00 a.m..... Embroiderer’s Guild —  
2:00 p.m. .... Staff Meeting— S-104

### Tuesday, September 26

12:00 noon ..... Tuesday Noon Bible Study — S-103  
7:00 p.m. .... Boy Scout Troop #22 — Joe Callaway Class

### Wednesday, September 27

7:00 p.m. .... Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Choir Rm.

### Sunday, October 1

8:30 a.m..... Worship — Fellowship Hall  
9:15 a.m. .... Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — Fanning Foyer  
9:45—10:45 a.m. .... Sunday School and Bible Study — throughout the building  
11:00 a.m. .... Worship Service — Fellowship Hall  
4:30 p.m. .... Children’s Choirs —  
4:30 p.m. .... Reforming Questions Small Groups —  
5:15 p.m. .... Mission Kids —  
5:00 p.m. .... Walking Group — FBC Parking Lot  
5:15 p.m. .... Youth Choir — Choir Rm.  
6:00 p.m. .... Youth Choir shuttle to Goggin’s Home— FBC Parking Lot  
6:30 p.m. .... Youth Group at Goggin’s Home

## Serving Together

### Co-Deacons of the Week

September 24– 30: Alan Reddish, Jeff Randa  
October 1-6: Shaun O’Rear, Ray Noblet

### Welcome Center Team

September 24: Tom & Debbie Brown  
October 1: Beth Sanders, Janice Love

### Fellowship Team

**September:** Sallyanne Barrow, Steve Barton,  
Phil & Marcia Caskey

**October:** Kathy Coleman, Mary Conley, Jill Dawson,  
Pam Dillard

### Counting Committee

September 24: Roy Segars, Steve Barton  
October 1: Dallas Cannady, Ray Noblet

### Usher Team

**September:** Brad Lastinger, Doug Dillard, Ches  
Smith, Kevin Price, Bill Horton, Wes Hogan

**October:** Jerry Gouge, Carl Hedrick, Jimmy  
Thomason, Milton Mills, Randan Ashmore,  
Steve Smith

# The Sunday Messenger

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**FBC WALKING GROUP** gathers each Sunday for a moderate-paced walk. Tonight's walk is from Oconee Veterans Park. On the 1st and 3rd Sunday, we walk from the FBC Parking Lot. All are welcome to join us!

The **REFORMING QUESTIONS SERIES** is our fall preaching series that will extend into small group discussions during the following week. Small group opportunities are being offered on Wednesday evenings (during the season when we will be out of the fellowship hall), and Sunday afternoons.

### Brief Overview for Discussion Groups in the Reforming Questions Series

- 7 Week Series in October and November
- 2 Options for Meeting Times for Discussion Groups:
  - Wednesday Evenings 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.
  - Sunday afternoons 4:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Everyone will need to register for a session of their choice on the FBC website (under Wednesday Fellowship) or by contacting the church office. Childcare will be offered upon request for children from birth through age 3. The Wednesday option will include a meal. More details can be found online or on page 7 of the September **FBC News**.

The Seekers are hosting a **SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON** on Sunday, October 8 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The main dish and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and RSVP to the church office by October 4.

Please note that there will be no **WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES** this week. The Reforming Question Series begins the week of October 1.

## OUR CHURCH ON MISSION

### Emergency Food Bank Needs:

Canned Soup, Canned Pasta, Peanut Butter  
Please place your donations in the marked bins in the Fanning Foyer.

Individuals are encouraged to provide financial support for **HURRICANE RELIEF** so that funds can be used in the most effective way. Financial gifts may be made online through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship online ([www.cbf.net](http://www.cbf.net)) or by donating a check payable to FBC with Hurricane relief in the memo line. We also encourage you to continue to pray for the first responders and victims. Interested in joining a future mission team? Contact Brandon Pendry ([Brandon@firstbaptistathens.org](mailto:Brandon@firstbaptistathens.org)).

The Seekers are sponsoring a **FOOD DRIVE** in October to benefit the Athens Emergency Food Bank. Please bring donations of non-perishable items (peanut butter, jelly, canned meat, etc.) to church at any time in October and place the donations in the marked bins.

## Prayer Concerns

We extend our Christian love and sympathy

- to the family of Maxine Davis, who passed away on Wednesday, September 20.
- the family of Nancy Eason, close friend of Linda Moon. Nancy was one of the two victims of Hurricane Irma in Georgia and passed away on Monday, September 10.

Kathy Barrow	Larry Cutshaw
Harriett Dwyer	J. Don Edwards
Jim Hall	Rob Harris
June Robertson	

# The Worship of God

Invitation to Worship

Paul Baxley

Prelude

Invocation

Emily Harbin

\*Hymn

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

NICAEA

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!*

*Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;*

*Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,*

*Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;*

*Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,*

*Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,*

*Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;*

*Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,*

*Perfect in power, in love, and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!*

*All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;*

*Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!*

*God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

Reginald Heber, 1826

Lessons from the Old Testament

Joshua 4: 1-7

Janet Cleland

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Brandon Pendry

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*God of the Deep*

Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

*Each time I stand and wonder at the vastness of the sea,*

*I know that there are mysteries too great and deep for me.*

*The wide expanse of water reaches far beyond my sight,*

*And yet I know the One to whom its depths are full of light.*

*The mighty waves roll in to shore and break upon the sand,*

*Compelled by unseen forces that I cannot understand.*

*The currents run beneath the waves in perfect, charted paths;*

*A skillful hand directs their courses, as it ever has.*

*The ocean teems with living things who never see the sun,  
And yet there is an eye who sees and knows them, every one;  
And that same eye has fathomed all the mysteries of my days;  
When tears have dimmed my sight, a heart of Love still charts my ways.*

*When simple explanations lie too deep for me to find.  
I rest in God who holds the whole creation in His mind.  
I hope in Him whose skill and wisdom far exceed my own.  
The secrets of the hidden depths belong to God alone.*

Eileen Berry

### Silent Prayers

### Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Paul Baxley

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### \*Hymn

Speak, O Lord

SPEAK, O LORD

*Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us, shape and fashion us in Your likeness;  
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.*

*Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.*

*Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glory.*

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2005

>>During the hymn, children in Pre-K 4, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2 are invited to depart for Children's Worship and Extended Session in E-110. **Please pick up your children immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service.**<<

### New Testament Lesson

Matthew 16: 13-20

Frank Granger

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

### Sermon

Reforming Questions

Paul Baxley

### \*Hymn

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

### Chorus

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my Word to them. Whom shall I send? (Chorus)*

*I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Chorus)*

Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

### \*Prayer of Stewardship

Jeff Randa, Deacon

### Offertory

### \*Response of the People

Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

### Recognition of Commitments

Paul Baxley

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

*\*Please stand, if able.*

### Worship Flowers

The flowers in worship this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joan Cannady on the occasion of her October 4 birthday. They are given by Dallas, Karen, Ashley, Jim, Shelley and Noelle.

### Foyer Flowers

The flowers in the Fanning Foyer are given in memory of Helen Long McArthur, on the anniversary of her heavenly birthday on September 24, by her husband Mac and children Malcolm, Jim, Sarah, Alan and Edward.