

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTON

Rev. R. Brady Henderson, Senior Pastor

Rev. Steve Kittrell, Interim-Associate Pastor

Sherrell Ott, Minister of Music

Velvet Lucas, Administrative Assistant

First Baptist Church
Gaston



Gather. Grow. Go.

APRIL 2025

Vol 51 ISSUE 4

April 2025	Brady Blog A Written Word from FBCG's Senior Pastor	Issue #50
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Greetings my beloved Church Family,

Long time, no see. By now, I know that most if not all of you are aware that during the month of March I took a 30-day sabbatical. The word 'Sabbatical' is generally defined as 'a paid leave of absence for the purpose of rest and renewal'. On Tuesday, February 25th I met with Mike Rollison, Allen Ott, and Duane Johnson for an emergency meeting. On the last Tuesday in February, I found myself 'burnt out'. I felt that I had hit a wall. For the last four years while serving First Baptist Church of Gaston in the role of Senior Pastor, I have neglected my family as well as my own personal relationship with God all under the 'banner' of 'the work of the ministry'. In reading and studying Exodus 18:13-27, the Lord revealed to me that this was not a sustainable approach to ministry nor was it Biblical. See, in Exodus 18:14, Jethro (Moses Father-in-law) asks Moses why he is doing EVERYTHING? Why is he trying to serve the people from sun up to sun down while neglecting his own family and relationship with the Lord. Church Family, as hard as it is for me to admit it, this is the trap that I had fallen into. I was tired, I was burnt out, and I got to a point where I just hit a wall that I couldn't break down. I do understand that the announcement of my sabbatical was abrupt and caught many of you 'off guard'. To tell you the truth, it caught me off guard. But, the Lord made it plain and clear to me that I needed to ask the Church leadership for time off in order to save my ministry, marriage, and be restored in my personal relationship with God.

What happened to me, can happen to any of us no matter what our vocation is. It's important that we truly rest when the Lord leads us to, something I had not been doing in the last four years. Statistics tell us that the Pastorate in the United States is the 2nd most stressful job that a person can have. Statistics also tell us that more Pastors commit suicide every year than any other vocation. I also know that only 10% of those who start in the ministry, will actually retire in the ministry. Church family, the Lord directed me to take a 30-day sabbatical during this season so that I don't become one of those statistics. Trust me, I love being your Pastor, and I love getting to do what I know God has called me to do by serving as your Pastor, but I also know that when God speaks, I must listen. I became depressed, exhausted, and to be completely honest, I lost who I was as a person by exerting too much energy in my work. And here's the thing, it wasn't your fault as a congregation. I don't want you to feel like you were too demanding or 'needy'. Because in all reality, I needed to learn how to say 'no', and I believe that's something I've learned in the last 30-days in my personal relationship with the Lord. It was my own personal fault as a Pastor and as the man of my household that I did not prioritize correctly and I did not set proper boundaries so that I could avoid burnout, despite the advice that many of you have given me over the last four years. In the future, I ask that you be understanding and offer Grace when I have to say 'no', or when I choose to delegate a specific task or home/hospital visit to a staff member or Deacon. While I won't apologize for taking a needed sabbatical, I will say that this could have been avoided had I listened to Jethro's warning to Moses in Exodus 18:13-27 One thing I want you to remember, is that I am just a human being. Just like you. I have fault and failures DAILY, just like you do. I appreciate and covet your prayers always.

I will be returning to the pulpit on Sunday, March 30th, as I deliver a 'special' sermon on what God has done in my life and taught me in the last 30 days. My first official day back in the office/study of FBCG will be on Monday, March 31st. Moving forward, you will see and find our Deacons even more involved in visitation and other duties (as assigned) as well as Pastor Steve.

While I will still spend time on Pastoral Care, it won't be the focus of my ministry moving forward. In other words, 'people pleasing' will not be my number one priority. Instead, I am going to focus on God pleasing. The Deacons and Pastor Steve, according to Scripture (Acts 6) are to fulfill the role of caring for the congregation while I devote the majority of my time to my personal walk with God, my family, study, and oversight/administration of the Church. In addition to this change moving forward, if you wish to make a personal appointment with me (counseling or something else), you will need to call Mrs. Velvet at the Church office phone number (803)-794-0377 to find out my availability and to schedule an appointment. This will help me to better prioritize my study time. I'm still going to meet and counsel with you based on the personal needs you have, but I just ask that you go through Velvet instead of me directly, as she knows my daily schedule and whereabouts.

Lastly, Holy Week is upon us! On Sunday, April 20th we will celebrate Easter Sunday. Join us at 7 AM for Sunrise Service inside the sanctuary, breakfast to follow in the fellowship hall, 9:45 AM Sunday School/Small Groups, and Worship at 11 AM. I have created a Holy Week devotional that you can access online or pick up a copy in the welcome center. I love you all and I'm happy to be back.

-Pastor Brady

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 2 Spiritual Warriors Luncheon at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall
Apr 4 Family Fun Night at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall it is an "EASTER" Celebration
Apr 6 Grief Gathering Group meeting at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Apr 6 Choir Practice at 4:00 pm
Apr 6 D Groups at 5:00 pm
Apr 9 Children's Easter Program at 7:00 pm
Apr 13 Choir Practice at 4:00 pm
Apr 13 D Groups at 5:00 pm
Apr 16 GA's Coffee Cart in the Fellowship Hall during Wednesday night supper
Apr 20 Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am, breakfast to follow sunrise service.
 Resurrection Celebration service at 11:00 am
Apr 20 Annie Armstrong Mission's March, goal is \$9,000
Apr 21 Women on Mission at 6:00 pm, items will be collected for Rapha & speaker is Mrs. Traci Rish
Apr 27 Church wide picnic at Camp Bethel at 3:00 pm
Apr 29 Brotherhood Meeting at 7:00 pm, speaker is Mr. Glenn Clark



APRIL DEACONS ON CALL

Apr 6 Noel Pound 803 467-0382
Apr 13 Troy Peele 803 673-5330
Apr 20 Heyward Kelly 803 794-0723
Apr 27 Keith Ray 423 823-2555

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Hall Liz Henderson Kyleigh Learn Crystal Pound ♥Stafford & Kaylyn	2 Jacob Lassiter Heather Schoolcraft Family Supper 6:00 pm Youth Supper & Bible Study @ 6:15 pm-8:00pm GA/RA Mission Friends 7 to 8pm	3 Colleen Burrows Beverly Kelly McKenzie Platt	4 Connor Hayes ♥Steven & McKenzie Kirkland	5 Mallory Deavers Jeremy Gleaton Carolyn Mann Adrian Moscato Angelo Moscato
6 Savannah Reynolds Melissa Vest Robbie Stabler Erik Painter	7 Robin Anderson Thomas Lewis Brandy Rampey Joel Dowd ♥Bobby & Pam Williamson	8 Ken Nelson Jessica Quarles	9 Family Supper 6:00 pm Youth Supper & Bible Study @ 6:15 pm-8:00pm GA/RA Mission Friends 7 to 8 pm	10 Kristin O'Stein	11	12 Amelia Sightler Erin Miller Taylor
13 Cynthia Bowman Jackie Caple Judy Johnson ♥Kyle & Savanna Reynolds	14 Tatum Cox	15 Dalton Bozard Britt Drawdy Carlie Reynolds Daniel Speares Vickie Vick	16 Cynthia Furtick Kayla Stabler Family Supper 6:00 pm Youth Supper & Bible Study @ 6:15 pm-8:00pm GA/RA Mission Friends 7 to 8 pm	17 Jaxon Barnett Mariah Ingals	18 Faith Cavarretta Jimmy Cox	19 Destiny Chavis Kaylyn Johnson
20 Cynthia Bowman Jackie Caple Judy Johnson ♥Kyle & Savanna Reynolds HAPPY Easter	21 Tatum Cox	22 Lenora Johnson Daniel Rabon	23 Eddie Jumper Emily Petrey Family Supper 6:00 pm Youth Supper & Bible Study @ 6:15 pm-8:00pm GA/RA Mission Friends 7 to 8 pm	24 William Guy	25 Linda Jackson ♥Henry & Paula Dowd	26 Sunnie Gail Pound Kylee Reynolds ♥L.H. & Amelia Sightler
27 Hannah Edwards Elders	28 Todd Ayer Raegan Woodward	29 ♥Shawn & Melissa Goff ♥Buddy & Jeannie Harley	30 Mallory Sproul Family Supper 6:00 pm Youth Supper & Bible Study @ 6:15 pm-8:00pm GA/RA Mission Friends 7 to 8 pm			



SPIRITUAL WARRIORS NEWS from Vicki Vidrine, Director

The monthly luncheon is Wednesday, April 2nd at 11:30 am. We will be having ham and we ask that you bring a side and/or dessert for the meal.



There are a number of children's books with stories about Easter on the display shelf. I hope you will share these with your children during this season.

Amazing Grace has inspiring stories with hymns for daily devotions and there is a book giving a chronological account of Jesus' life also on display. For the fiction readers, An Unlikely Match, by Beth Wiseman is available.

LIBRARY NEWS: Marilyn Hook (email: marilyn.hook1@gmail.com)

Brotherhood Meeting April 29 at 7:00 pm, a meal will be served and Mr. Glenn Clark will be speaking.



April Music Notes

Wow, the flowers and the pollen are both in full swing!
But I do love the beauty and warmth that comes from Spring!



We are looking forward to Easter at FBCG!!
Our children will be singing on Wednesday night, April 9th at the 7:00PM Worship Service!
They are always a treat, so mark your calendars to be there!

Then we will be having our annual Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 20th!
We will have the service in the sanctuary at 7:00 AM followed by breakfast (**remember to sign up**).
Then we will have Sunday School at 9:45 AM and our Resurrection Celebration service at 11:00AM!
What a blessing to be able to worship a Risen Savior, not only at Easter, but every day!
We are looking forward to lots of good music during the month and
I hope that you can join us in person for all our services!

Joyfully Serving,
Sherrell Ott

Spring is upon us and mission projects abound. Continue to pray for our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions that we reach our goal of \$9,000. Our Missions March will be April 20th.



The GA girls will be hosting an Annie Armstrong Coffee Cart on Wednesday, April 16th during supper. They will have drinks and desserts for purchase and all proceeds go to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. If you would like to contribute baked goods, see Savannah Peele.

The next ladies meeting will be April 21st at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are collecting items for Rapha nursing home. A list of items needed will be in the Welcome Center. Traci Rish will share her testimony and bring our devotional. For our meal we're having summer salads and dessert. A sign up sheet will be in the Welcome Center.

Women on Mission
Margie Rish,
Director

As always keep all our missionaries worldwide in your prayers.

Got Coffee?
WE DO!
April 16th 6-6:45pm
Come support the GA's and get some coffee, hot chocolate, bottled water, or snacks for a small donation towards
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS
PIC+COLLAGE

Family Fun Night!
April 4th at 6:00 pm
Food & Fun for Everyone!



Children's Church
meets on Sundays
in Room 203

Apr 6 Team 2 Shawn Goff, Melissa Goff, Ally Sanford
Apr 13 Team 3 Traci Rish, Bonita Mishoe, Faith Cavarretta
Apr 20 No Children's Worship, Happy Easter!
Apr 27 Team 4 Emily Petrey, Stafford Johnson, Liz Henderson

ATTENDANCE

March's Attendance

Sunday School Average: 157
 Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church: 206
 Wednesday Evening Worship: 133

DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY—2024-2025

Mike Rollison 803-269-3089 A-B	Keith Ray 423-823-2555 C-D	Troy Peele 803-673-5330 E-F	Tom Learn 803-429-1358 G-H
Dwain Smith 803-446-1595 I-J-K	Noel Pound 803-467-0382 L-M	Glenn Pound 803-238-7477 N-O-P	Chris Vidrine 803-513-4915 Q-R
Stafford Johnson 803-908-9090 Sa—Sm	Heyward Kelly 803-794-0723 Sn-T-U	Allen Ott 803-960-6820 V-W-X-Y-Z	

SERVICES

Sunday,

09:30 AM.....Men's Prayer Group
 09:45 AM.....Sunday School
 11:00 AM.....Morning Worship
 Children's Worship

Monday,

12:30 pm.....Motivational Mondays

Tuesday,

12:00 pm.....Intercessory Prayer Warriors

Wednesday,

06:00 PM.....Family Supper
 06:15-6:45 ...Youth & Acteens Supper
 06:45-8 PM.....Youth Bible Study
 07:00 PM.....Prayer Service, GAs, RAs,
 Mission Friends & Acteens

APRIL EXTENDED CARE SCHEDULE

Apr 6	Team 3	Sandy Poole, Bonita Mishoe, Aggie Sigh, Jim Thomas, Bailey Speares
Apr 13	Team 4	Olivia Speares, Daniel Speares, Melody Sanford, Donna Estep, Linda Sightler, Reese Speares
Apr 20	Team 5	Bonnie McBride, Stacy Learn, Sherri Kelly, Lauren Brann, Debra Ray, Beverly Kelly
Apr 27	Team 6	Traci Rish, Cheryl Reynolds, Matt Drawdy, Carla Sightler, Megan Spires

Contact Us

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 121 Oakey Springs Drive
 PO Box 309
 Gaston, SC 29053
 (803) 794-0377

Email: fbcg003@bellsouth.net
www.firstbaptistgaston.org

Volunteers Needed! If you would like to help in Extended Care please Contact Mrs. Lisa Pound 803-553-3004.

Thank you to our volunteers, for your smiling faces & service with a joyful attitude.



We will have a Summersalt meeting for youth/parents on Sunday, May 4 at 5pm. If your student is signed up or is interested in going, we highly encourage you to attend. We will begin handing out camp forms and permission slips, going over important information about the trip, and answer any questions you may have. As of this writing we have no spaces available but we do have a waiting list in case spaces open. Until then, we are looking forward to a great April with Upper Room as we approach the Easter season!



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