

July 2023

# FIRST EXPRESSIONS

## First Baptist Church of Warner Robins

1135 Watson Blvd., Warner Robins, GA 31093

478.922.8152 or 478.922.8148

[www.fbcwr.org](http://www.fbcwr.org)



***"We Seek to Glorify God By Making Disciples of ALL Nations"***

### Our Ministerial Staff:

Casey Matthews

Pastor

Nick Prieto

Worship & Youth Pastor

As we cross over the halfway point of 2023, I want to pause and do a "pulse check." What I mean by that is an evaluation on how you are doing spiritually this year. So, how are you? Are you growing in your knowledge and love of the Lord? Are you obeying Him as He leads you by His Spirit? Are you demonstrating trust in Him alone?

The letter to Ephesus, in Revelation 2:1-7, was a "pulse check" moment. The letter written to them commends them on their works, labor, and endurance. They didn't tolerate evil and tested those claiming to be apostles but really weren't. They endured hardship for the sake of Jesus' name and didn't grow weary. To read the first three verses you'd think this church had it all together. They were rockin' it in ministry at first glance.

But it all changes in 2:4 where Jesus says, "But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first." The church of Ephesus was commended by Paul, in Ephesians 1:15, for their love of God and others. At some point, they lost this love for God. They were a very busy church, ministering to their members and the community, but were acting out of wrong motives. How do you know they were acting out of the wrong motives?

***The only motive that matters, in obedience to God, is LOVE. Love of God and love of others.***

Any other motive is wrong and self-serving. This is a reminder for us to regularly do a "pulse check" lest we be found to have lost our first love! So, how are you? Are you growing in your knowledge and love of the Lord? Are you obeying Him as He leads you by His Spirit? Are you demonstrating trust in Him alone?

I love you,

Pastor Casey

JULY 2023

**\*Birthdays**

## Sundays

9:15 am Small Group Bible Study  
10:30 am Morning Worship

### Wednesdays

5:30 pm Youth Connect  
6:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal  
8:15 pm Band Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  *Alison Warstler	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 NO CHOIR	6 Youth Six Flags Trip	7	8
9 Flag Football— 3pm	10	11  *Amelia Witherspoon	12 Youth Slip n’ Slide kickball—5:30pm NO CHOIR	13	14	15
16 Communion	17  *Penney Lockett	18 Deacon Meeting—7pm	19 NO CONNECT NO CHOIR	20 WMU—10am	21 Choir cookout @ Prieto’s—6:30pm	22
23 All Church Serve Day	24 <div>Youth Summer Serve 24th-28th</div>	25  *Bonwell Lipsey	26 Block Party 6-8pm  NO CHOIR	27	28 Youth to Rigby’s—9am  *Jana Shugart *David Peck	29  *Dale Evans Smith
30 Joint Bfast/Bible Study—9:15am Family Worship—10:30am Pajama Jam! Church Council—3:30pm	31  *Carolyn Pauley					

## From the Worship/Youth Pastor

If someone were to ask you the purpose of worshipping the Lord through singing and music in church, what would you say? Take a minute and think through the different elements of our service each week. Why do we do what we do? Why do we not do certain things during our gatherings each week. There are many reasons why we corporately sing to the Lord, but sometimes it is easy to lose sight of the significance throughout the monotony of the week to week. To me, it can be easy to question a lot of basic routine things we do in life. Obviously, the answers to why we do some things daily can easily be purposefully answered.

I believe the same is true in thinking of our corporate, musical worship weekly. We have reasons that include: God's command for us to sing to Him (Psalm 95), God's command to thank the Lord (Psalm 100), He alone is most worthy of our songs and devotion (Psalm 97, Isaiah 6), Jesus has brought redemption to our lost souls (Ephesians 2:1-10), and the Lord is working right now in believers to bring us to perfection (Philippians 1:6). However, there is one reason I would like to highlight. I planned to highlight two reasons, but it took too much space. You can thank me later.

First, our weekly worship through singing is designed to teach our hearts. I desperately need to be consistently reminded of who God is and to gain a deeper understanding of His character, majesty, greatness, worth, holiness, grace, mercy, forgiveness, goodness, etc. Think about the Israelites in the Old Testament. They were constantly guilty of forgetting the wonderful acts of the Lord on their behalf and would turn to other gods even though they saw God do some amazing things right before their eyes. We need to be reminded of God's truth, and music is a very powerful way to connect with these truths in the depths of our souls. We strategically select songs with theological depth that we can carry with us through our weeks. There is a lot of music out there, but much of it is not what I want to sing through the harder days in life. In teaching our hearts, we also encourage one another with our singing. Someone's full surrender to the Lord with their hands lifted high or them bowing on their knees before the Lord encourages a more heartfelt pursuit of the Lord in my own life. There are many times that I need encouragement to seek the Lord or to focus on Him, and seeing God work in the brother or sister in Christ close by is tremendous encouragement. When we also rightly worship the Lord, it is instructive for growing believers and our children. How do my children know I value the reading of God's Word, they see me reading every single day (not to my glory or credit). How do they learn how to pray, worship, and grow around the Word of God, they see us doing it each week.

My hope is for this to help remind and encourage you in our corporate worship gatherings to be focused on the Lord and fully engaged and present. Above all, remember that we worship Him because He is worthy!

Nick



*Let's celebrate what the Lord has done!*  
**WE HAVE SIGNED A CONTRACT TO  
COMPLETE OUR FINAL ROOF AND  
WILL NO LONGER NEED  
NEHEMIAH PROJECT!**

## FIGURES

### GIVEN TO REACH OUR WORLD FOR CHRIST

#### BUDGET REPORT FOR June 1-18

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDED .....	\$38,613.42
<u>June 1-18</u> Receipts .....	\$23,943.25
<u>June 1-18</u> Expenses.....	\$17,813.21
SHORT AS OF <u>May 1-21</u> .....	\$6,130.04

#### FINAL BUDGET REPORT FOR May 2023

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDED .....	\$38,613.42
<u>May</u> Receipts.....	\$19,357.24
<u>May</u> Expenses.....	\$37,226.55
ACTUAL SHORT/SURPLUS FOR <u>May</u> .....	\$ -17,813.20

#### \*JULY LIST FOR DEACON OF THE WEEK\*

2—Ben Bryant	9—Mark Burquest
16—David Peck	23—Mark Warstler
30—Jon Huguley	

# FACTS & FELLOWSHIP

## "God at Work"

Woodfins in Wyoming: Our church has partnered with the Woodfin family for the next 3 years as they plant a church in Wyoming. The first phase, internship with another church planter, has begun! We give thanks to the Lord for what He has done in and through the Woodfins. We also pray for more!

Hollingsheds & Disc Golf: Marty Hollingshed is a ministry partner of ours who uses disc golf as a tool to share the gospel with what some have labeled an unreached affinity group in the United States. This past month, Nick and I had the privilege of partnering with Marty in a local event geared towards kids. Nick led worship at a chapel prior to the event and I had the opportunity to share the gospel with several children and their parents. God is at work through the Hollingshed family. Pray for more!

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