



OCC 2020

NATIONAL  
COLLECTION  
W E E K

NOV 16-23

Operation Christmas Child will be here in just a few weeks! Bring your shoe box Nov. 16-23 (by noon on the 23rd) Everyone please pack a shoe box for a child in need of God's love! Please bring donations of ink pens, erasers, tablets and small toys for our church wide packing party.

The Witness (USPS 689-040) is published monthly by First Baptist Church, 200 Zebulon Street, Barnesville, GA. Second Class postage is paid at Barnesville, Georgia, 30204. Postmaster send change of address to The Witness, 200 Zebulon Street, Barnesville, GA 30204.

CHURCH STAFF

- Garth Forster** | Pastor
- Greg Burrell** | Minister of Music
- Russ Jenkins** | Assoc. Pastor of Ed/Adm.
- Jason Teal** | Student/Young Adult Pastor
- Josh Adams** | Middle School Minister
- Jennifer Zeager** | Children's Minister
- Melinda Merritt** | Financial Director
- Mary Sanders** | Pastor's Secretary
- Cara Grobbelaar** | Admin. Assistant

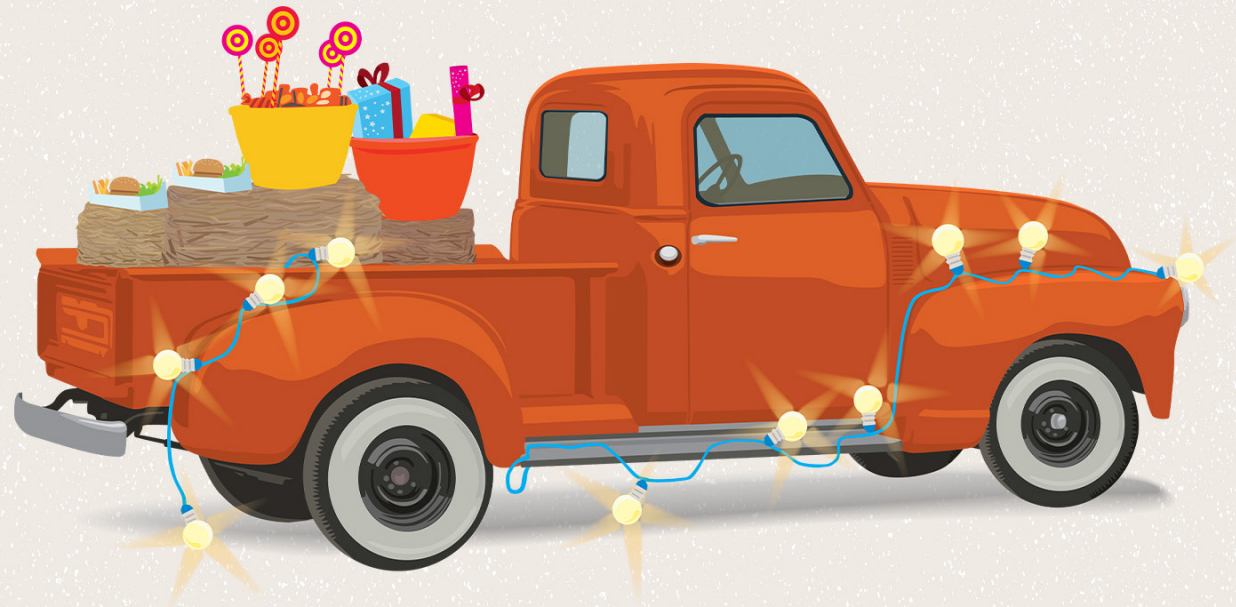
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THE WITNESS

VOL 54 | OCT 20 | NO. 10

DRIVE THROUGH  
TRUNK OR TREAT



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 | MORE INFO TO COME!



# FROM THE SHEPHERD'S HEART

with Pastor Garth Forster

By the time you receive this, I will have announced to our church family that I will retire as the pastor of First Baptist Church in Barnesville effective December 31, 2020. It is with mixed emotions that I shared this news with our congregation on Sunday, September 27th. Suzanne



and I look forward to starting a new and more relaxed phase of our life together, but to step away from leadership in such a wonderful church has made this a bitter/sweet decision for us.

Knowing this decision was coming, I have been meeting with a **TRANSITION TEAM** since last March. Much like the "church council" of my early days here in Barnesville, this team is made up of eight members who occupy key positions in our church. They are **Denise Cox** (Women's Missions Director), **Kathy Selph** (Sunday School Director), **Joe Andrews** (Mission Action Team Chairman), **Steven Bacon**



(Generations Following Building Chairman), **Ken Chambless** (Sunday School Class Teacher), **Bill Lindsey** (Church Treasurer), **Stephen Smith** (Deacon Chairman 2019-2020) and **Scott Turner** (Personnel Team Chairman).

We read and discussed together the book **Next: Pastoral Succession that Works** by two leading church life



researchers. My goal has been to prepare a team of leaders who will, in turn, be able to help our church through this transition time between my pastorate and your next pastor. During the three months in which I will continue to be your pastor, I look forward to sharing with you good memories from our years together as well as what I hope is sound, biblical advice for your future.

According to our Constitution and Bylaws, **"A pulpit (pastor search) committee will be nominated by the chairman of the deacon body and elected by the church to seek out a prospective pastor..."** (page 5). Stephen Smith, our outgoing Deacon Chairman, and Harold Blevins, our incoming Deacon Chairman, have been working on putting together that pastor search team and will be ready to make a presentation soon, first to the Deacon Body and then to the entire congregation. That team will then begin the search for your new pastor. Please be much in prayer for this entire process that it might be done in a **"proper and orderly way."** (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Our church has enjoyed almost 200 fruitful years with 34 pastors that were privileged to **"shepherd the flock of God."** (1 Peter 5:2) As I think about the future, I am excited about what God is going to do in and through this church family! You blessed me with a wonderful, dedicated and talented church staff. You blessed me with deacons who "deak" and teachers who teach. You were always cooperative in every endeavor we undertook for the advancement of the Gospel of Christ. You made it easy to be your pastor. Thank you!

We are in **PHASE 4** of our re-opening and it's good to see the church filling back up again, even though we must remain in simultaneous services at 9:00 and 11:00 to socially distance ourselves. **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is going well, too. Our teachers and class members are to be commended for their creativity and faithfulness to their task during this unprecedented time. We began our **PARTIAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT** reopening on September 16th. This will continue through the end of the year. Beginning in 2021, we look forward to bringing back our choir programs on Wednesdays at 5:00 P.M. with our Wednesday Night Supper at 5:45.

My 28 ½ years with you have passed so quickly. Thank you for making First Baptist Church of Barnesville the best church any minister could hope to be blessed to pastor! And, **ALWAYS REMEMBER...**

I Love You, Garth



Bring your own coffee and snacks!



# COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Tuesday, October 6 at 10:30a at Summer's Field

Discover how you can get involved in upcoming mission projects.

WMU God's mission. Our passion.

# STRENGTH TO STAND 2021!

JANUARY 16-18, 2021  
\$100 DEPOSITS DUE ON OCTOBER 15TH!



### DIAGRAM OF OPEN ENTRANCE DOORS

The green circles refer to doors open from the outside. Temperatures will be checked at these green-marked doors. Red squares with X's refer to doors locked from the outside.

