

# OUTLOOK

MAY 2024

## **Jesus, Joy and Justice**

Pastor David Jordan

## **Zach Mason, New Pastor for Youth and Young Adults**

Pastor David Jordan

## **Wednesday Nights In May**

Pastor David Jordan

## **DFAA Inaugural Concert Series**

May 4 at 2 pm

## **Blue Zones Lunch & Learn**

May 14 at 10:30 am

## **Grief Support Group**

Wednesdays, May 15 - June 19

10:00 am - 11:30 am

## **Register Now for Summer Camps!**

DFAA, DACC, and First Camp  
Summer Camps

## **Youth Nights**

May 5 and 19, 6 - 8 pm

**A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DECATUR**

**David Jordan**  
Senior Pastor



## JESUS, JOY AND JUSTICE

In 1930, Dietrich Bonhoeffer began his fellowship at Union Theological Seminary. While there, he became friends with a fellow student named Frank Fisher. As their friendship grew, Frank invited Dietrich to go to church with him at his congregation, Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. Through his friendship with Frank, Bonhoeffer witnessed first-hand the hostile environment of racial attitudes against African-Americans in New York City and beyond.

He saw how Frank Fisher and others in the church had to deal with this constant discrimination. Many of these instances were profoundly troubling and some even life-threatening. And yet, in spite of that, Bonhoeffer witnessed Frank Fisher and members of that church continue to be joyful and thankful, hopeful and resilient. They openly, clearly shared in the life-giving gospel of Jesus. Modeling him, they were further motivated to live out God's love and to work consistently for justice.

**Joy, Gratitude, Hope, Resiliency:** Bonhoeffer also experienced joy, gratitude, hope and resiliency himself during those days. Inspired through the singing and energetic praises of the people at Abyssinian Baptist Church, encouraged by their lives, and deeply challenged by the preaching, he began to teach a Bible Study class there. He assisted with Sunday School, participated in the broader life of the church and became profoundly influenced by the inspiring leadership of pastor and politician, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

When Bonhoeffer returned to Germany in 1931, Hitler had not yet come to power. But when he did in 1933, and the dangerous tides of his influence began to sweep over the nation, Bonhoeffer was ready. His experience in Harlem, the exuberant combination of Christian joy and commitment to justice for all people he witnessed at Abyssinian Baptist Church, prepared him for what he needed to do in the difficult days he faced.

The lessons of those hard days for Frank Fisher and his congregation, and the transformative impact on that young pastoral student from Germany, must not be lost on us for our own days. These, too, are hard times. So far, thankfully, our social fabric is not yet torn beyond healing. But we do have similar issues. We have growing prejudices; we are experiencing increasing polarization; we are buffeted by divided perspectives, and we strongly differ on our responses to very public, oversized personalities. These are troubling parallels to Bonhoeffer's expansive dilemmas.

Let us pray; let us also work tirelessly, emulating those who have gone before us. Let us give ourselves similarly to this hopeful gospel, discovering again the difficult and delicate balance between the joy of Jesus and his passion for justice.

Love,

David

## OUR WORKING GROUPS FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

We have begun. Our working groups began this new journey crafting together a vision for the future and strategies for getting there. We have no magic pills. We do have broad experience and good participation. We also have wise leadership.

We want to be realistic. We also want to be bold, to give ourselves fully to this important moment in the life of our church, of Decatur and of our world. We

# MINISTRY UPDATES

cannot do everything that everyone participating in these working groups would want. Yet we are called to do several things of significance, and we are called to do them significantly well. Meeting the many challenges of our time is the constant call people like us over the years have faced.

We have many to thank and many to lean on for the good work we expect. But I especially want to thank **Phil Wise** for his continued strong leadership and passion for moving us forward in this planning process.

We are truly blessed to have him guiding us during these formative times.

I look forward to sharing in these good days with you; and I am encouraged already by the progress being made. Let's keep it up!

Love,

David

## ZACH MASON UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED NEW PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS!

A hearty and heartfelt congratulations goes to our current Youth Associate Minister, Zach Mason. On April 24, at our Quarterly Family Church Conference, Zach was recommended to the church following unanimous votes from the Personnel Committee and then our Deacons. As a congregation, we then had the honor of electing him enthusiastically to become our new **Pastor for Youth and Young Adults**. Zach will begin this permanent, full time position officially on June 1.

He graduates from Mercer's McAfee School of Theology on Mother's Day Sunday, May 12th. So be sure to congratulate him on that fine accomplishment as well! His family will be with us in our Sanctuary Worship Service that day, while we will also have the pleasure (along with them) to hear him offer our sermon for that service.

We have so appreciated Zach's devoted work as our Youth Ministry Associate. His good ministry and positive spirit have made a difference. We hear it from our youth, we see it in their interactions, we hear it

from his sermons and worship leadership and community interactions. So we are very grateful that we can now share future days together building on what has already been begun.

In addition, while working well with us and our youth, Zach has been a full time student. While at McAfee, he has done outstanding work, and he gets rave reviews from the administrators, from his professors, and from his fellow students. He also recently presented an important paper on current events and Romans 7 in Charleston, South Carolina to the American Academy of Religion. Hopefully this will soon be published (it's excellent). He is a fine writer along with everything else.

Bless you Zach, congratulations, and welcome officially as our newest colleague in full time pastoral ministry!

With love and gratitude,

David

# MAY SERMON TITLES

---

## **May 5**

(Sanctuary & Fresh Start)

### **Love One Another**

John 15:9-17

I John 5-1-6

Preacher: David Jordan

---

## **May 12** (Sanctuary Service)

### **Do You Want To Be Made Well?**

John 5:1-9a

Preacher: Zach Mason

Jewel Cannon will be present with her family. Zach and Jewel will be graduating.

## **May 12** (Fresh Start Service)

Preacher: Keith Pierce

---

## **May 19** (Sanctuary Service)

### **Shake, Rattle and Roll!**

Acts 2:1-21

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Preacher: David Jordan

### **Pentecost**

**Graduates Recognition:**

**Charles Wu, Zach Mason.**

**Bread for the Journey for**

**Keith and Kristen Pierce.**

## **May 19** (Fresh Start Service)

### **Shake, Rattle and Roll!**

Acts 2:1-21

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Preacher: David Jordan

---

## **May 26**

(Sanctuary & Fresh Start)

Preacher: Shelley Woodruff

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS**

---

### **Wednesday, May 1st**

Homestyle Chicken Tenders

Potato Salad

Lima Beans

Salad Bar

Yeast Rolls

Dessert of the Week

### **Wednesday, May 8th**

Salisbury Steak

Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans

Salad Bar

Yeast Rolls

Dessert of the Week

### **Wednesday, May 15th**

Pot Roast w/ Carrots

White Rice

Lima Beans

Salad Bar

Yeast Roll

Dessert of the Week

### **Wednesday, May 22nd**

Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce

Three Cheese Tortellini

Salad Bar

Texas Toast

Dessert of the Week

### **Wednesday, May 29th**

No Evening Meal

Happy Summer Break

FBCD

# Important Dates

- May 1**      **Working Groups Meet**  
5:00 pm dinner  
5:30 pm Working Group Session #2
- May 12**      **Mother's Day**  
8:45 am (Fresh Start)  
11:15 am (Sanctuary)
- May 14**      **Lunch & Learn: Blue Zones**  
10:30 am program  
11:30 am lunch
- May 19**      **Pentecost Sunday & Graduate Recognition**  
8:45 am (Fresh Start)  
11:45 am (Sanctuary)
- May 22**      **Working Groups Meet (Last Wednesday Night Dinner of the Season)**  
5:00 pm dinner  
5:30 pm Working Group Session #3
- May 27**      **Memorial Day**  
Offices Closed

Learn more at  
[fbcdeatur.com/news-and-events](http://fbcdeatur.com/news-and-events)



Photo by R. Mark Green

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN MAY

---

Wednesday nights together are another hidden gem here at First Baptist Decatur. If you haven't had the opportunity to join us, let me share briefly what we have coming up over the next few weeks before end for the summer.

First of all, we get to enjoy good food and stimulating fellowship around the tables. Dinner begins at 5:00 and the serving line (buffer style with salad bar!) continues until 6:00. We have a time of prayer when Pastor Mark updates us on the latest needs and concerns of our congregation and beyond (from 5:50-6:00). We then share in a thirty minute program, either a Bible Study that I lead (along with historical background and key elements of biblical context), or a special program highlighting a particular guest or a pertinent theme (Mental Health, Creation Care, Strategic Planning sessions, etc.)

For this month, we will be sharing in the following:

May 1, **Strategic Planning, Session #2:** Our first session was well-attended and enthusiastically shared in. Our eight working groups did an excellent job of brainstorming, bringing focus and measurable reality to our work. Session #2 will take us deeper in and more clearly focused (we hope!). You are invited to join us, even if you haven't yet been part of the process!

May 8, **"Journeying with God through Ignatian Spiritual Exercises"** Special guest Susan Trawick and

others from her study group will share experiences from their eight month journey using the life and principals of St. Ignatius. I will be interviewing Susan for this and we will highlight others from the group as well to hear of the excellent experience they shared together this year.

May 15, **An Interview with Paul Wallace:** Paul's reputation as a Scientist and a Christian, a deep thinker, a scholar of history and of the Bible will make this interview highly compelling. Bring a friend!

May 22, **Strategic Planning, Session #3:** Our final Working Group session, we hope to wrap up our group brainstorming and begin to narrow our focus and prepare our three year plan. The findings from this session will be passed along to our Strategic Plan working group ultimately tasked with drafting our plan by mid-July. Join us and stay tuned!

Please join us for any or all of these valuable opportunities to share in our life together as the glad congregation of First Baptist Decatur!

Love,

David

*For the summer, we will take a break from our Wednesday evenings and invite all of you back to join us when we reconvene in the fall!*

# OTHER FBCD NEWS

## KATE DICAMILLO



**DECATUR CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL**  
Keynote Address

**MAY 3, 5:00 PM**



**CONVERSATIONS**  
AT FIRST BAPTIST DECATUR  
*Engaging the minds and connecting the spirits of our community*



[fbcdecatur.com/  
conversations](https://fbcdecatur.com/conversations)

**DECATUR CIVIC CHORUS**  
**PRESENTS:**

# Forever Diamonds

**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SINGING!**

**SUNDAY, MAY 5 @ 3:00 PM**  
**FBCD SANCTUARY | FREE TO ATTEND!**

THE DECATUR FINE ARTS ACADEMY PRESENTS:  
2024 INAUGURAL CONCERT SERIES

# ROBERT CUSHING, PIANIST & COMPOSER

featuring

Saxophonist **Scott Brown**

Soprano **Casey Margerum**

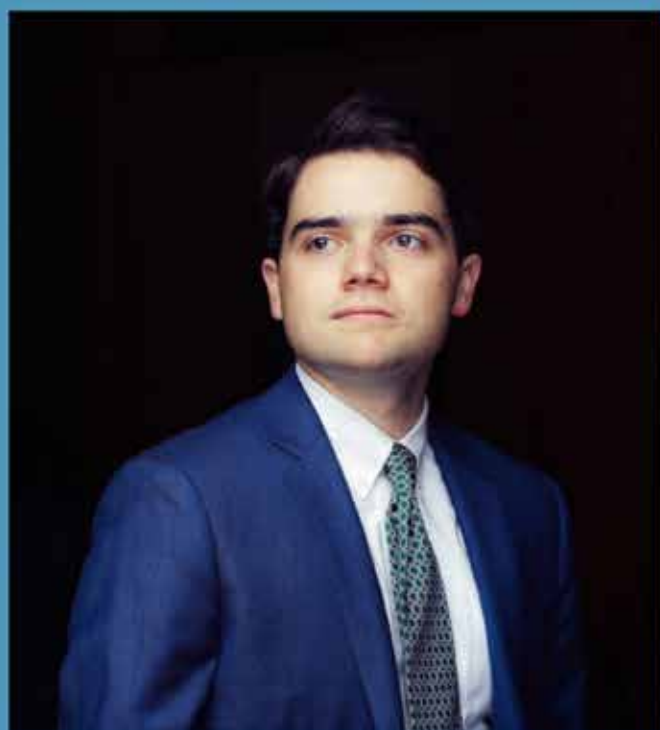
Violinist **Julie Saxton**

**4 MAY**

**2:00 PM**

**Sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Decatur**

308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur GA 30030



**DFAA**





# Blue Zones

## Lunch & Learn

**How are people in the “Blue Zone”  
communities living to be 100?**

Come learn about the five places on Earth where people live longer, happier, and healthier from Dilshad Premji, and enjoy some fabulous music from Mark Green!

**Tuesday, May 14 at 10:30 am**

\$10/person. Sign up by May 12 through your Sunday Small Group  
or by calling (404) 373-1653.

## OTHER FBCD NEWS

# Grief Support Group

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 am  
May 15-June 19

FBCD Parlor

Call the FBCD Welcome Center  
(404.373.1653) to sign up.



## CLOTHING ROOM SPRING NEEDS



### Men's sizes:

- Jeans (all sizes, esp. 32-35 & 42-48)
- Sneakers (sizes 10-12)
- Long sleeve shirts & golf shirts (sizes L-5XL)
- Dress shirts (sizes 3X-5X only)

### Women's sizes:

- Tops, pants, dresses, blouses, t-shirts, etc. (sizes 2X-4X or 22-25)
- Sneakers

**GRADES  
6-12**

# MUSICAL THEATER SUMMER INTENSIVE

**\$175/  
WEEK**

**JUNE 10-14  
& JULY 8-12**

**9:00 AM -  
12:30 PM**

[www.fbcdecaturn.com/decaturn-fine-arts-academy](http://www.fbcdecaturn.com/decaturn-fine-arts-academy)



# SUMMER ART CAMP

DRAWING, PAINTING,  
FIBER AND METAL ARTS,  
AND MORE!

For rising 1st-5th graders



[fbcdecaturn.com/decaturn-fine-arts-academy](http://fbcdecaturn.com/decaturn-fine-arts-academy)

**\$200/  
WEEK**

JUNE 3-7  
JUNE 17-21  
JUNE 24-28

# FBCD First Camp Summer



Join First Camp for  
a summer packed with fun!

## Weekly Programs

 <b>May 28 - 31</b> Aqua World	 <b>June 3 - 7</b> Animal Kingdom	 <b>June 10 - 14</b> Young Artist	 <b>June 17 - 21</b> Science Discovery
 <b>June 24 - 28</b> Sports	 <b>July 8 - 12</b> Fairy Tales	 <b>July 15 - 19</b> Young Chef	 <b>July 22 - 26</b> Magic Tree House

### Hours

8:30 am-5:30 pm

### Ages

5-12

### Cost\*

\$300/5 days

\$180/3 days

\*some weeks have an extra charge for an additional (optional) field trip

### Register Now!



[fbcdecatur.com/first-camp](http://fbcdecatur.com/first-camp)

MR. MARK'S

# SUMMER



AGES  
6-12

**JUNE 10-14 & JULY 8-12**  
**9:00 AM - 12:30 PM\***



## REGISTER NOW!

\$150 per camper  
with a sibling discount of \$25

\*Add on afternoon camp until  
5:30 PM with First Camp for  
\$130/ week!

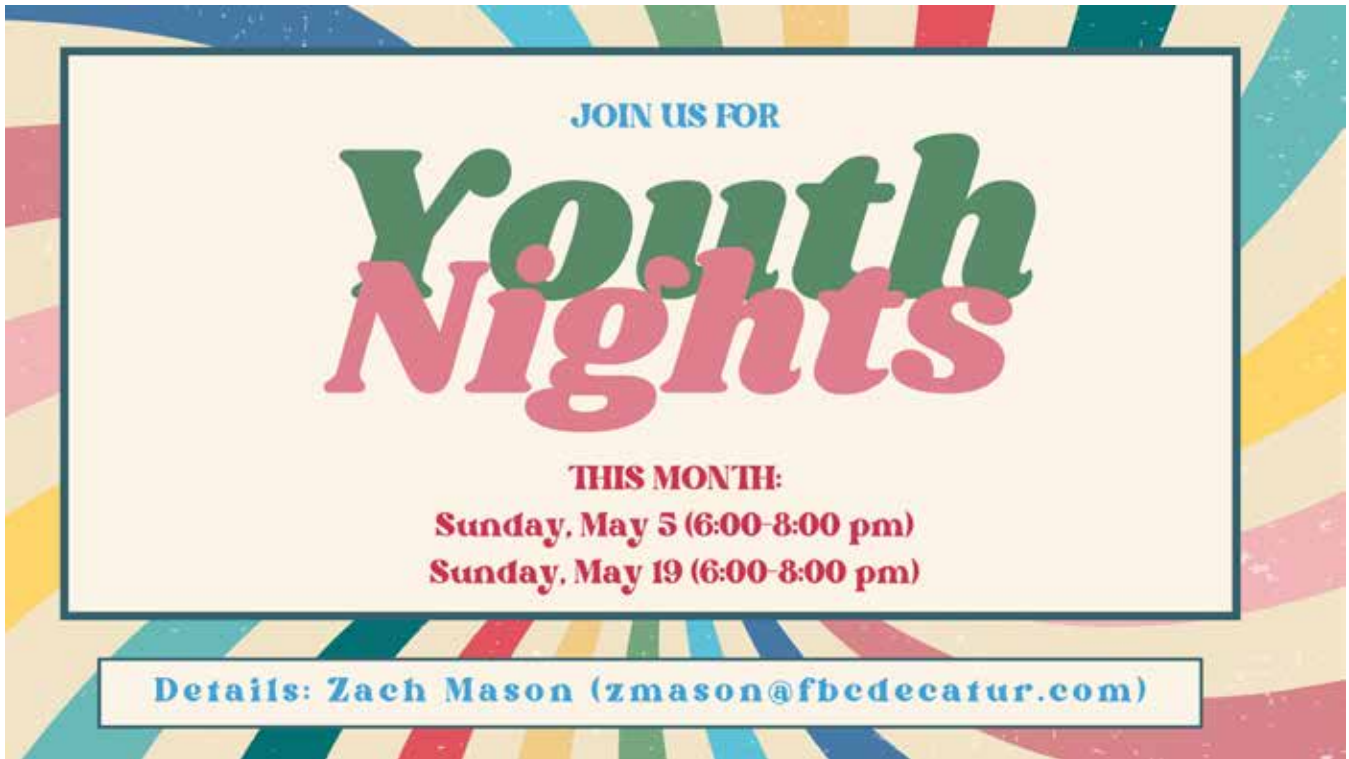
## ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Singing
- ✓ Creative Movement
- ✓ Recorders
- ✓ Recreation time
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ Percussion
- ✓ Music Games
- ✓ Music Theory
- ✓ Handbells
- ✓ And More!

FOR MORE INFO:

**INFO@DECATURAVONDALECC.COM**  
**OR FBCDECATUR.COM/DACC**





JOIN US FOR

# Youth Nights

THIS MONTH:  
Sunday, May 5 (6:00-8:00 pm)  
Sunday, May 19 (6:00-8:00 pm)

Details: Zach Mason ([zmason@fbcddecatur.com](mailto:zmason@fbcddecatur.com))

Join us for Youth Nights. Youth Nights meet two Sundays a month. All youth grades 6-12 are invited to gather in the Activities Center for a pizza dinner, snacks, sodas, study, fellowship, and fun! The gym will also be open for basketball. We hope to see you there (and don't forget: invite your friends)! For more information, contact Zach Mason: [zmason@fbcddecatur.com](mailto:zmason@fbcddecatur.com)



DECATUR

# FARMERS MARKET

FBCD FRONT LAWN  
RAIN OR SHINE!

WEDNESDAYS, 4-7 PM

[CFMATL.ORG/DECATUR/](http://CFMATL.ORG/DECATUR/)

# OTHER FBBCD NEWS



## A NOTE FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN

What a beautiful spring Atlanta had this year! I was truly grateful that our winter was not too winter! It is so nice to go out and about without coats, scarfs, hats and on and on.

Now—on to summer! It will be hot, but I will always feel blessed by the guy that invented air conditioning. But I do love the warmth and sunshine.

This means things to do and places to go. It also means that parents and grandparents will be making plans that involve children out of school for summer break.

While they are home and have more free time, it would be a worthwhile endeavor to train and teach. Giving children and teens age appropriate responsibilities builds habits that down the road will build the character of a good citizen.

Finding ways to educate that are interesting is a challenge but can also be a fun experience. Hiking and treasure hunts are fun ways to learn about plants, bugs and nature. Travel is a great teacher for science and history. Vacations can also be just fun to share and enjoy as a family.

Between all of these activities, trips to the library can open doors that will stay with your children for a lifetime. Learning to read and learning to enjoy it contribute to better grades in school and also to a better understanding of the world around us.

Consider spending an hour a week with your children, and bring them to the library. Teach them how to pick out a book and how to check it out. It will be a fun experience for them and they will pay big dividends down the road.

*Marie Shepley - Librarian*

## BETH'S BOOKS

### PICTURE BOOK

#### *Just Because*

by Matthew McConaughey

Yes, that Matthew McConaughey, the Academy Award-winning actor and #1 New York Times bestselling author who has crafted a humorous and wise collection of life lessons that will empower readers, both big and small, to celebrate every day because each day is a gift and a new surprise.

### JUVENILE FICTION

#### *The Lost Library*

by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass

Readers won't want to miss this story of a little free library guarded by an eleven year old boy who takes on the mystery that it keeps. This exciting tale is "about owning your truth, choosing the life you want and the power of a good book (and, of course, the librarian who gave it to you)".

### ADULT FICTION

#### *The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose

Molly Gray, head hotel maid, (first seen in *The Maid*) is bright, slightly odd, socially awkward, but has a warm heart. She is soon caught up in the murder of one of the hotel's guest speakers, J. D. Grimthorpe, best-selling author of over 20 mysteries. This will be perfect for fans of Agatha Christie, *Knives Out* and clever whodunits.

### ADULT NON-FICTION

#### *Fortune & Folly: the Weird and Wonderful Life of the South's Most Eccentric Millionaire*

by Sara A. H. Butler

Nestled in the suburb of Atlanta called Druid Hills is the Briarcliff Mansion, built by the second son of Asa Griggs Candler, Asa Griggs Candler, Jr. This is a well written and engaging look at one of the most colorful and important figures in Atlanta's history and the mansion that he built to display "maximum grandeur".

Donated by Linda and Freddy Bailey.

# GIVING

## AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DECATUR

### GIVE ONLINE

If you call FBCD your faith community, we ask that you pray about giving financially to support, strengthen, and grow our ministries. You can give online by visiting:  
[fbcdecatur.com/giving](http://fbcdecatur.com/giving)  
or [paypal.me/fbcdecatur](https://paypal.me/fbcdecatur)



### BUDGET OFFERINGS

Through April 21, 2024

Offerings Received MTD.....	\$59,294
Offerings YTD.....	\$304,740
Budget YTD.....	\$310,310
Budget YTD Ahead/(Behind).....	(\$5,569)
Global Missions Offering.....	\$3,134
Benevolence Offerings.....	\$19,766

**Your gift is meaningful to us. If you would like to mail in your tithes and offerings, you can send it in an envelope addressed to:**

First Baptist Church of Decatur  
308 Clairemont Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30030

**If you would like to hand-deliver your offerings or need help setting up online giving, please contact Dilshad Premji using the information below to arrange a drop-off time or to request assistance:**

Dilshad Premji • 404-373-1653 ex. 2276 • [dpremji@fbcdecatur.com](mailto:dpremji@fbcdecatur.com)

**We appreciate your support and dedication to the ministry of First Baptist Church of Decatur. Thank you so much!**



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
OF DECATUR

#### GENERAL CONTACT

**Main Office:** 404-373-1653  
**First School:** 404-373-1653 ext. 2232  
**Website:** [fbcdecatur.com](http://fbcdecatur.com)  
**Email:** [fbcd@fbcdecatur.com](mailto:fbcd@fbcdecatur.com)

308 Clairemont Avenue  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

#### OFFICE SCHEDULE

**Regular Office Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm  
Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

#### PASTOR ON CALL

**Weekdays:** 404-373-1653  
**Weekends:** 470-202-8622