

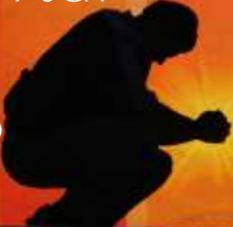


Shepard Community Blood Center
 Wednesday, January 10
 4:00-8:00 PM
 North Parking Lot

Donating blood is easy!
 You'll need a Picture ID or your Shepard Blood Card to donate.

Visit
www.shepardblood.org/HowtoPrepare
 for more information.

Night of Prayer
 for the New
 Year



**January 3
 Fellowship Hall
 6:00 PM**

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER
Wednesdays, 5:15 PM
 Fellowship Hall

January 3
 No Wed. Night Supper
 January 10
 Chick-Fil-A Night
 January 17
 Kent's Club Sandwiches
 January 24
 Fernanda's Pizza
 January 31
 TBA

\$5.50 adults - \$3.00 under age 12
 Please make your reservations by noon on Mondays

**January 7
 COMMITTEE
 WORKSHOP**
 5:30 PM
 Fellowship Hall

&
 Sunday Night
 Kick-Off for
 Youth & Children

young at heart



**Tuesday
 January 9
 11:00 AM**
 Fellowship Hall

Deadline to RSVP:
 Friday, January 5, noon

Sunday, January 14

9:00 AM:
 Sunday School Big Breakfast
 Fellowship Hall

5:30 PM:
 Quarterly Church
 Conference
 Fellowship Hall
 Followed by
 Cross Current
 Preview



**Youth Pancake
 Supper**



**Monday
 January 22
 Fellowship Hall
 5:00-7:00 PM**

Tickets: \$7.00

JANUARY

Monthly Ministry Donation Items:

HAIR PRODUCTS
*Shampoo, conditioner, brushes, combs,
 hair spray, hair gel, mousse, head bands,
 clips, barrettes, rubber bands*

Please bring your items and place them
 in the blue box in the atrium.

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CHURCH STAFF

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 Associate Pastor Dr. Matthew W. Ward
 Youth and Family Pastor Rev. Ben Tarver
 Pastor Emeritus Dr. Leonard L. Dupree
 Interim Music Ministries Associate Mr. Jerry Whitaker
 Ministry Assistant, Pastoral Office, Media & Publications Mrs. Summer McDonald
 Ministry Assistant, Financial Office Mrs. Sharon Pirkle
 Ministry Assistant Miss Kathy Hendrix
 Director of Church Operations Rev. David Harbeson
 Custodian Mrs. Genola Cobb
 Custodian Mr. Claude Robinson
 Director of Preschool Ministries Mrs. Alice Gary
 Youth Ministry Intern Mr. Jamie Petrie

YOUR CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN
 From 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
 Office (706) 595-4252
 Info Line: (706) 595-0706
 Fax: (706) 597-0668
 Website: www.fbcthomson.org



For a copy of the Sunday sermons, call
 Kathy Hendrix in the church office, at 706-
 595-4252. You can also listen to us on
 WTHO (101.7 FM) at 11:00 AM for a live
 Sunday Morning Worship Service, read our
 Wordpress Blogs, like us on Facebook and
 follow us on Twitter.




THE CORNERSTONE
First Baptist Church
Love God. Love People. Serve the World Together.
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 FACEBOOK/FirstBaptistThomson Website: www.fbcthomson.org

Vol. 54 January 2018 No. 1



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
 HAPPY NEW YEAR
 FROM YOUR CHURCH STAFF!**



**RE
 MEMBER**
 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

**JOIN US FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER ON SUNDAY,
 JANUARY 21, DURING MORNING WORSHIP.**

REV. BEN TARVER

One of my favorite days during Advent the past three years is taking all the Angel Tree Gifts to McDuffie County DFCS. This year the presents filled a mini bus and the back of a truck. DFCS told me stories last year that several of the children received Christmas presents for the first time ever because of this ministry. Thank you to all of the families, individuals and Sunday school classes for your generous and loving gifts, for the monumental task accomplished by our gift wrappers, and your prayers. Thirty-eight children will receive wonderful gifts and the love of Jesus from the generosity of our church members!

Please be in prayer for our Consumed Youth Choir and adult leaders in Gatlinburg over New Year's in Gatlinburg. We will attend Winter Xtreme with a huge lineup of Christian music artists and life changing messages from guest speakers! There will also be a New Year's party celebration with Grammy award winning contemporary Christian music artist, Chris Tomlin. This will be a wonderful, faith-growing experience for our youth choir as they go back to Gatlinburg with hundreds of other Christian youth again this year!

The Upward basketball season is staring up after the beginning of the year! Please be in prayer for our volunteer coaches and referees. One of the most important opportunities to share the faith with Upward families is during halftime of each game. Devotional speakers give a 3-5 minute devotional to the undivided attention of all the spectators. Please consider signing up to do a devotion this Upward basketball season. You can use a devotional book or devotion from online. The important thing we want to do is share the love of Jesus and the need for a Savior. Be in prayer for our coaches as they lead devotions to their team during a break every practice.

On January 7, immediately after worship, we will have our ski trip fitting at the Warehouse. This will greatly cut down waiting time for equipment when we arrive at Winterplace Ski Resort. The youth will be returning to Winterplace for our ski retreat over President's Day Weekend.

The youth will have a Pancake Supper fundraiser for our ski trip Monday, January 22, from 5-7:00 PM. Tickets will be \$7 each. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this event. We will also have to-go boxes available for pickup!

I would like to ask all of our members and regular worshippers to be extra friendly as we host our Cornerstone Preschool Families on Sunday, January 28, for Preschool Sunday. Our Preschool is an important ministry of our church and we want to make sure all our preschoolers and their families feel loved and welcome! You always do a fantastic job of this each year and we are thankful for your love and support of our Cornerstone Preschool ministry.

Elevate will kick back off January 10 at the Warehouse from 6-7:00 PM (open Warehouse at 5:30 PM) and D-Groups and Consumed Youth Choir starts back Sunday evening, January 7. Please be safe, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ben

	We Came	Morning Worship	Sunday School	Sunday Evening	We Gave
<i>Last Month</i>	November 26	235	178	64	\$10,255.00
	December 3	259	218	32	\$24,054.00
	December 10	277	201	34	\$14,868.00
	December 17	244	192	212	\$12,932.00
<i>End-of-November Final Finances</i>	BUDGET	NON-BUDGET			
	Required	\$793,822.08	Cap. Improvements	YTD \$17,358.71	
	Received	\$769,633.76	Ferguson Property	MTD \$1,445.00	
	Disbursed	\$721,496.37	Go & Tell Mission Fund	YTD \$36,814.32	

REV. DAVID LAMBERT, LEAD PASTOR

2017, where did you go?! Amazingly enough, as you get this in the mail, 2018 is just a few days away. The Bible is right that our lives are "like a mere breath" and our "days are like a passing shadow" (Psalm 144:4). As we reflect on the year that was and prepare for a new year, I hope you will take time to examine your life. Don't just make typical New Year's resolutions that you'll never live up to. Instead, let Psalm 139:23-24 be your prayer and your guide:

Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Here is a list (nowhere near exhaustive) of some areas you can ask God to help you examine and begin to put in place a plan of action for 2018. This is Discipleship 101. God wants to bring every area of your life under His rule and reign. He wants you to reflect Christ Jesus and experience *shalom* (completeness and maturity) in every sphere of your life.

Worship—This is supreme. It is what you were made for! Are you worshipping God in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)? Are you worshipping God personally and privately every day (Psalm 119:164)? How committed are you to worshipping with the gathered people of God on the Lord's Day (Hebrews 10:24-25)?

Witness—This is the next most important thing we can do. It is why God has left you here on earth after your salvation. It is what Jesus Himself has commanded you (Matthew 28:18-20). Are you looking for opportunities to engage people in Gospel conversations? Are you cultivating relationships with lost people for the purpose of sharing the Gospel? Are you praying for lost people by name every day?

Walk—How is your walk with Jesus? If you are a Christian, then you are a disciple of Jesus. "Disciple" means follower, student, apprentice. Are you spending time in God's Word daily learning from Jesus how to live, rest, work, play, etc. (Matthew 11:28-30)? Are you growing in spiritual disciplines meant to help you walk closer to Jesus, like prayer, fasting, memorizing Scripture, etc.? Are you following God's paths for you, or leaning on your own wisdom (Proverbs 3:5-6)?

Work—Paul tells us, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23-24). Consider your daily work (employment, chores at home, schoolwork, serving in the community, serving through the church). Are you doing it cheerfully? Are you striving for excellence? Is Jesus glorified by the way you work, study, serve?

These are just a few areas I pray you'll join me in examining and prayerfully developing a plan to grow and improve in ways God reveals. In 2018, we will be bringing you some resources through our *Faith @ Home* resource center (coming soon!) and through a few sermon series designed to help you grow in your worship, witness, walk and work. Know that your church staff is praying for YOU as we move into a new year filled with new opportunities and new experiences of the Good and Beautiful God we serve!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

David

DR. MATT WARD

Holiday Schedule Reminder

For this crazy time of year, I think the most helpful thing I can offer is a quick summary of the important dates for the next month:

- Wednesday 12/27
No PM church events
- Sunday 12/31
Normal AM schedule here and every week to follow
No PM events
- Wednesday 1/3
No Family Fellowship Supper
Special joint prayer service at 6:00 PM
- Sunday 1/7
Kick-off for Children & Youth ministries
Committee Workshop at 5:30 PM
- Wednesday 1/10
Normal Wednesday night schedule resumes!
- Sunday 1/14
Church Conference and Crosscurrent Preview

Sunday Night Crosscurrent Schedule

Here's what to look for this Spring:

- Financial Peace University led by Charles & Summer McDonald
 - A History of God's Church led by David Lambert
 - Ladies' Bible Study
 - Forgiveness and Reconciliation led by Matt Ward
- Come to the preview night on 1/14 to learn more.

And one special date for you to mark on your calendars:

Sunday, February 25, 6:00 PM

Mark Trammel Quartet in concert!

And Finally, a Christmas Prayer

We pray, O Lord, purify our hearts,
That they may be a worthy place for Your Spirit.
Let us never fail to find room for you,
But come and abide in us, that we may also abide in You,
You, who were born into the world for us,
You, who live and reign,
King of kings and Lord of lords, now and forevermore. Amen.

Matt

Year-End gifts need to be received in the church office no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, December 29, 2017, or post-marked by December 31, 2017 in order to receive 2017 giving credit.
Thank you for your gifts to FBC!