

Wednesday, December 12  
Sheppard Community

# BLOOD DRIVE

5:00-7:00 PM  
Parking Lot

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2018, at 5:00 PM

Lord's Supper will be observed.

No Nursery Provided

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FEAST  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12  
6:00 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL  
COST: LOTTIE MOON DONATION

### Week of Prayer for International Missions

December 9-16  
Use the prayer guide enclosed or pick one up in the church office.

## Hanging of the Christmas Green

Join us Sunday, December 2, at 10:45 AM for our annual Hanging of the Green service.

### December Evenings

~Wednesdays~  
12/5- Drive-Thru Nativity  
12/12- Christmas Family Feast  
12/19- Supper & Church Wide Caroling  
12/26- No Activities

~Sundays~  
12/2- Children's Choir Only  
12/9- Children's Choir Only  
12/16- Christmas Musical Extravaganza  
12/23- No Activities  
12/30- No Activities

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELTIC CONCERT

WITH  
ROBIN BULLOCK & SUE RICHARDS

THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 6  
7:00 PM  
TICKETS: \$10.00  
Tickets can be purchased in the Church Office

## December

Monthly Ministry Donation Items:

WINTER WEARABLES  
~any size, any gender~  
warm socks, hats, gloves, mittens,  
ear muffs, scarves

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

THE CORNERSTONE  
(USPS 074-230) Published monthly  
by the First Baptist Church  
253 Jackson St., Thomson GA  
Periodical  
POSTAGE PAID  
AT THOMSON GA 30824

POSTMASTER  
Send change of  
address to:  
The Cornerstone  
P.O. Box 1205  
Thomson, GA 30824-1205

CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor.....Rev. David A. Lambert  
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.....Ms. Kathy Hendrix  
Director of Church Operations.....Rev. David Harbeson  
Custodian.....Mrs. Genola Cobb  
Custodian.....Mr. Claude Robinson  
Director of Preschool Ministries.....Mrs. Kori Langham  
Childcare Coordinator.....Mrs. Karen Shields  
Youth Intern.....Mr. Micah Ward

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.  
253 Jackson Street, PO Box 1205, Thomson, GA 30824  
(706) 595-4252; Fax: (706) 597-0668  
FACEBOOK/FirstBaptistThomson Website: www.fbcthomson.org

Vol. 54 December 2018 No. 12

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELTIC CONCERT

ON GUITAR & HARP  
WITH  
ROBIN BULLOCK & SUE RICHARDS

Thursday, December 6, 7:00 PM

## Upcoming Events

December 2, 2018, 10:45 AM  
Hanging of the Green

December 3-5, 7:00 PM  
Drive-Thru Nativity

December 6, 2018, 7:00 PM  
Celtic Christmas Concert

December 16, 2018, 5:30 PM  
Christmas Musical Extravaganza

December 24, 2018, 5:00 PM  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25  
Merry Christmas

# REV. BEN TARVER

First Baptist is partnering with the McDuffie County DFCS for the Angel Tree this year! There are 27 names of boys and girls with Christmas wish lists. Ages range from toddlers to teens. Be sure to stop by the Angel Tree after worship to select a wish list and details for turning in gifts. Please remember to turn in gifts unwrapped and clearly labeled for the child by Sunday, December 9. Donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, tape and bows would be appreciated! We will have a wrapping party on Saturday, December 15, at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This wonderful ministry has provided Christmas gifts for these children, some of which have never opened one gift before on Christmas. I am truly thankful for our church family praying, loving and supporting these children each year!

The Consumed Youth Choir is attending Xtreme Winter in Gatlinburg Dec.27-Dec. 29. Xtreme Winter has a huge lineup of live Christian music artists and life-changing messages. Please be in prayer for our youth choir as they travel and have a blast at Xtreme Winter!

The FBC College Ministry will attend the college Passion Conference Jan. 2-4! Passion is a college Christian conference that was first organized in 1997. The purpose is "uniting students in worship and prayer for spiritual awakening in this generation." Be in prayer for our college students and leaders as they travel to Atlanta for this wonderful opportunity!

Be in prayer for our 2018-19 Upward Basketball League. We have close to 130 kids registered! Practices and games start in January. Please consider serving in our league to give a short devotion, volunteer as a referee, or to keep the scoreboard and game clock. Contact the church office, Ben Tarver, or Amy Williams to volunteer.

During Advent, Faith @ Home has resources available at the beginning of each week in the church Advent devotional books! Be sure to check out each creative family activity. The first week's family activity directly involves our Drive-Thru Nativity. Other activities include a Christmas movie night, scavenger hunt for Christmas lights and more! I hope these free activity ideas bless you and your family as we remember and look to Jesus, God with us!

In Christ,

*Ben*

	We Came	Morning Worship	Sunday School	Sunday Evening	We Gave
<i>Last Month</i>	<b>October 28</b>	262	214	82	\$11,318.03
	<b>November 4</b>	307	239	78	\$25,848.00
	<b>November 11</b>	301	247	97	\$10,864.93
	<b>November 18</b>	247	194	265	\$12,653.00
<i>End-of-October Final Finances</i>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>NON-BUDGET</b>			
	<b>Required</b>	\$741,056.41	<b>Cap. Improvements</b>	YTD \$16,171.00	
	<b>Received</b>	\$699,221.20	<b>Ferguson Property</b>	MTD \$970.00	
	<b>Disbursed</b>	\$687,139.83	<b>Go &amp; Tell Mission Fund</b>	YTD \$36,864.82	

# REV. DAVID LAMBERT, LEAD PASTOR

"What child is this?" That question must have rattled around in Mary's mind as she held in her arms the God whose arm is mighty to save; as she sang to sleep the One who spoke the Heavens and Earth into being. She knew what the angel Gabriel had said to her. She knew the prophecies. Still, she was overwhelmed with the wonder of it all. "What child is this sleeping on my lap?"

"What child is this?" The shepherds must have been scratching their heads at the angels' pronouncement. How could the Hope of Nations come from a dirty stall in a barn in Bethlehem? How could a child born to such lowly common folk be the long-awaited Messiah? "What child is this that is so greeted into the world by angels' anthems and yet attended by barnyard animals and dirty shepherds?"

"What child is this?" The magi from the East had studied the scrolls, mapped the stars, and hitched their hope to one special star. They endured a long journey across desert plains to find this kingly child. Yet their journey didn't end in the halls of power as they thought. The star led them to a simple house, a simple family, and an all-but-simple child. "What child is this, but the King of Kings who brings salvation!"

Throughout Jesus' life and ministry, priests and kings, publicans and fishermen, wondered, "what man is this who calms storms...whose voice demons obey...who heals the sick...who raises the dead...who teaches with such authority?"

*This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

I hope this Advent Season captivates your heart with wonder and captures your imagination as you ponder anew. "What child is this?" And may the Spirit of God work through the Word of God to reveal to you the Son of God in all His glory, wonder, and love, this Advent season. Please make note of all the ways you can worship, fellowship, celebrate, and serve this month as we prepare our homes, hearts, and minds to celebrate the birth of the King!

One way you can make sure Advent is more than just a season of parties, wrapping paper, and busy schedules is to pick up a copy of our annual Advent Devotional. It's celebrating 25 years of our church's common journey to the manger each year by using past devotions and incorporating family-based activities. I know you'll find your Advent and Christmas observances refreshed through this special issue of our devotional.

Finally, our Week of Prayer for International Missions will be December 9-16. Please use the enclosed prayer guide to intercede on behalf of our missionaries working tirelessly around the world to share the Gospel and make disciples of all peoples. And consider how you can give the greatest Christmas gift you could possibly give to help these men and women spread the Gospel to unreached peoples by giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We have exceeded all of our special offerings for the year; let's not make the LMCO the exception. Let's continue to master the art of giving!

Happy Advent!

*David*

# DR. MATT WARD

Christmas Music Celebration. One of our great joys as a church is the musical talents of our members and how they bring life and light to each season through music. Join us for our Christmas musical:

The Story of Christmas  
Sunday, December 16 at 5:30 PM

All of our choirs, from children to handbells!

It's not too late to be a part of our choirs. We can keep you up-to-date on our flexible rehearsal schedule during this very busy season.

Drive-Thru Nativity Construction. The initial round of construction went great this year, and of course that thrills me. But let me be specific—we had a large number of new church members come to help, and that gave great encouragement to our long-time stalwart builders. I think I can safely say that we were done in record time, and we added more structural support than we ever have before. Thank you so much for your help!

Next opportunity: December 1 and 2, we will add the smaller details to the sets. If you weren't able to help us construct but still want to help, please contact the church office. There's plenty left to do. (And if that's still not going to work for you, we will tear down the sets the weekend after the Nativity. We need lots of help then!)

Operation Christmas Child Results. Earlier this year, Hope Colrud (our regional Samaritan's Purse coordinator) came to our church and mentioned that Samaritan's Purse had increased their goals for shoeboxes. Then, pastor Mark Brumbelow came and doubled down on that goal. So David issued a rather aggressive church goal of 500 boxes (I've seen numbers in the 400s in the past; last year, we collected 260). Pam Partridge, our church's coordinator, never doubted that we would reach that goal. And she was right! Counting every place church members turned in boxes, we collected 553. Praise the Lord and thank you! As a site, we collected 2,330 boxes, which is more than I've seen in the files. There are billions of children in the world, and they all deserve to learn about Jesus. Every step we take matters.

Church-wide Christmas Caroling. Last year, we set aside a Sunday afternoon and encouraged our Sunday School classes to set up a Christmas get together and spend some of their time caroling to our shut-ins. We have still set aside December 9 for our classes, and you are still welcome to go caroling! However, we have also decided to make Wednesday December 19 a time for family and friends caroling. We will still serve dinner between 5:15 and 6:00, and we will set our church members into teams of families and friends to go and share Christmas joy with our elder church members.

*Matt*



Every Christmas, the Deacons of First Baptist Church deliver a beautiful poinsettia to each homebound member. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please bring your \$14 donation labeled "Homebound Poinsettias" to the church office or place it in the offering plate.