



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

*Loving God, Loving People,
Making Disciples of Jesus*

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Vol. 62

July 2026

No.7



VBS 2026

July 13-17

6:00-8:45 PM

Register Here:



OPERATION CHRISTMAS IN JULY

COLLECTION SUNDAY: JULY 26
BOX PACKING PARTY: JULY 26, 4:00 PM

GOAL: 375 BOXES
(315 IN PERSON, 60 ONLINE)
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS



Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

July is a month of celebration! As our nation continues commemorating America's 250th birthday, we remember God's blessings upon our country and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy. John Adams wrote that Independence Day should be marked by "solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty." While our nation celebrates its founding, at FBC Thomson we're preparing to celebrate an even greater gift: the coming of Christ into the world. Perhaps that is one reason ***Christmas in July*** feels so fitting. It reminds us that gratitude, generosity, and the good news of Jesus are not confined to a single season of the year.

Our annual Christmas in July focuses on **Operation Christmas Child**, an outreach ministry of Samaritan's Purse that delivers shoebox gifts and the Gospel to children around the world. Our goal this year is **300 physical shoeboxes** and **60 online shoeboxes**. You can pack a shoebox online through Samaritan's Purse, while physical boxes may be brought to worship on **Sunday, July 26**. That afternoon at 4:00 PM, we will gather for our annual Shoebox Packing Party, a wonderful time of fellowship and service for all ages.

We also prepare for Christmas later this year with presales of our church ornament. The **2026 ornament** features our beautiful Easter flowering cross and may be purchased during July, with proceeds helping support our children's ministry and summer camp efforts. I hope you will purchase one for your family, and more to give away to others as Christmas gifts.

We are also beginning preparations for the **2026 Advent Devotional**. One of the great blessings of this booklet is hearing the voices and testimonies of our own church family. If you enjoy writing, teaching, or simply sharing what God has laid on your heart, I encourage you to sign up to contribute a devotion. Your words may become a blessing to someone during the Advent season. Devotions will be due later this fall.

On Sunday evening, July 19, we will gather for our **Quarterly Church Conference**. During this meeting we will receive updates on our Campus Renewal Project, vote on the annual Nominating Committee Report, and consider a second and final vote on the proposed bylaw clarification on **Article VI, Section 7** to read: "Church staff members, with approval of the pastor, are empowered to make non-budget and non-designated expenditures of amounts not to exceed \$2,500. Any amount over that must first be recommended by the Stewardship Committee and approved the Church in Conference."

That same morning we will welcome a representative from **Gideons International** to share about their ministry of distributing God's Word around the world. Following worship, we will receive a special offering to support the purchase and distribution of Bibles. Few investments have greater eternal impact than helping place the Scriptures into the hands of those who need them.

Later this month, our **deacon nomination lists** will be distributed by email and made available in the Sanctuary and church office. I encourage you to begin praying now as we prepare for our Deacon Nomination Sunday on August 2. We are grateful for the faithful men who serve our congregation, and we seek God's leadership as we identify those He may be calling to this important ministry.

I also continue to be deeply grateful for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministries of First Baptist. Through your giving to the **For All Generations** campaign, we have now received \$894,501.18 toward our commitments of \$1,451,360. God continues to bless this effort, and your generosity is making possible improvements that will serve our church family for years to come.

We are hopeful that **work in the Atrium** will be completed by the end of July, allowing us to enjoy a refreshed welcome area. In addition, work on the **third-floor preschool** and nursery area is progressing with the goal of completion by the end of August, just in time for the beginning of another Cornerstone Preschool year. We are excited about the new restrooms, check-in desk, and resource room in addition to four new classrooms and new AC in all our preschool spaces to help us better serve future generations.

Whether it is packing a shoebox, writing a devotional, supporting Bible distribution, serving in leadership, investing in our facilities, sending kids to camp, and reaching children here with VBS, all of these efforts share a common purpose: *passing the faith from one generation to the next*. As we celebrate both our nation's heritage and the hope of Christmas in July, may we continue to thank God for His blessings and faithfully share them with others.

David

Dr. Matt Ward

Building Work Progress!

My hope is that many of you will take David up on his request to visit the Fifth Level during/after the picnic. Let's surround that space with God's Word — the more the better! 😊



The SPARK Conference

This is the biggest deal to *me* for these next two months. Our church has the privilege of hosting a very important conference for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board: "SPARK, The Total Church-Equipping Conference."

Sunday, August 16, 2026
3:45 PM - 8:15 PM

This conference includes a worship gathering (with an in-person message from Thom Rainer!), dinner, and two breakout sessions (from more than 25 options).

We need our church members to do two things:

[1] Volunteer to Help Us Host. Jobs include:

- Room set-up and/or clean-up
- Parking lot and door greeting
- Helping clean up after dinner
- Watch over a room

And when you're not working, we want you to sit in on a breakout session (more on this below).

We will start asking for signups **on the connect card in July**. It is helpful for me to know you can help so I can register you as part of our church group (and pay for your dinner).

[2] Encourage Your Georgia Baptist Friends to Come.

We accepted the work of hosting to make it as easy as possible for our Baptist friends to participate. Our prayer is that this conference is a boost and encouragement to our sister churches (and to us!).

This conference is for all pastors and ministry leaders (women's, men's, youth, children, music, missions, discipleship, etc.), all Sunday School and Wednesday night teachers, and anyone who serves in any way in a church.

Breakout sessions include church planting, college ministry, grief ministry, disaster relief, greeter ministry, connecting with young adults, sharing the gospel with senior adults, improving teaching skills, using AI in ministry, understanding kids, being a better deacon, sexual abuse awareness, audio/visual technology, and **so much more**.

If your friend serves in any way in a church, the SPARK Conference will give them valuable tools to help them serve even better.

This is a big deal, and we're honored to be a part of it. And we will need your help to make this event run well.

Rev. Ben Tarver

Summer is one of my favorite seasons because of the opportunities we have to invest in children and families. **Rainforest Falls VBS** is just around the corner, and we're excited to help children discover the nature of God through the Psalms. Throughout the week they'll learn that **God is our Creator, He knows us completely, He is our Refuge, He is Love, and He is forever faithful.** If you haven't already, please register your child today! Registering early helps us prepare for snacks, crafts, supplies, and everything needed to make VBS a wonderful experience for every child. Most of all, please be praying that God will use VBS to draw children and families closer to Him.

I'm also looking forward to **PJs and Pancakes with the Pastors on Sunday, July 26**, during the Sunday School hour for our **2-year-olds through Kindergarten.** Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas for a fun morning together. The pastors, however, will probably stick to regular clothes—I don't think the congregation is quite ready for *Pastors in PJs!* We hope your family will join us for a morning of fun and fellowship.

One of the best ways we can continue what happens at church is by intentionally discipling our children at home. That's why I'd recommend **What Do I Say When...? A Parent's Guide to Navigating Cultural Chaos for Children & Teens** by Andrew T. Walker and Christian Walker. It offers biblical, age-appropriate guidance for having some of today's most challenging conversations with children and teenagers. None of these conversations are easy, but they are too important to avoid.

Finally, I'm excited about the progress being made on our future children's and student ministry spaces. This Sunday, families will have the opportunity to write Scripture and prayers on the framing before the walls are closed in—a beautiful reminder that while we're building classrooms, we're ultimately building lives on the foundation of God's Word. Thank you for partnering with us as we invest in the next generation.

Ben

Last Month

	We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
May 24		293	445	221	\$13,923.00
May 31		297	334	248	\$11,469.19
June 7		286	124	237	\$31,053.22
June 14		266	263	229	\$15,818.19
June 21		250	134	220	\$15,829.00
	BUDGET	NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS			
	Required	\$439,802.00	Cap. Improvements		\$7,847.00
	Received	\$408,628.03	Vision Implementation		\$180,776.63
	Disbursed	\$405,128.51	Go & Tell Mission Fund		\$13,858.00

**End-of-
May
Final
Finances**

THERE ARE NO EVENING
ACTIVITIES ON JULY 1.
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED ON JULY 3.



**Quarterly Church
Conference**
July 19 at 6:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

**PJS AND PANCAKES
WITH THE PASTORS**

**JULY 26
DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL**

AGE 2- K5



SPARK
CONFERENCE

A Church-Equipping Conference

**August 16, 2026
3:45-8:15 PM
FBC Thomson**

Volunteers Needed!

**Operation Christmas
Child Shoeboxes**



**Collection Sunday:
July 26**

**Packing Party:
July 26, 4:00 PM**



CentriKid
camps

Be in prayer for our
kids and
chaperones as
they attend camp
July 18-20

Family Night Supper
Wednesdays at 5:00; Fellowship Hall

July 8
Sub Sandwich Bar

July 22
Kent's Fried Chicken

July 29
Taco Bar

\$6.50 ADULTS - \$4.00 UNDER AGE 12
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON MONDAYS

July Ministry

**Operation
Christmas Child
Shoeboxes**



July

SUN	9:00	Cornerstone Cafe
	9:30	Sunday School
	10:45	Morning Worship
MON	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	10:00	Stretch & Flex, Gym
TUE	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	1:30	Church Staff Meeting, 402
	5:15	Firm Believers, Gym
WED	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	10:00	Stretch & Flex, Gym
	5:00	Family Night Supper, FH
	6:00	<i>Disciples Pathway</i> (Adults, Fellowship Hall)
		Elevate (7-10 Grade), Warehouse
		TeamKID (1-6 Grade), Gym
		TinyKID (K4-K5), Parlor
		TinyTots (2-3), Nursery
	7:15	Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
THU	6:30	<i>Stand in the Gap</i> Prayer Group, Parlor
	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	5:15	Firm Believers, Gym
FRI	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	10:00	Stretch & Flex, Gym

July 1, 2026

No Wednesday Night Activities

July 3, 2026

Office Closed

July 5, 2026

Rev. Ben Tarver Preaching

Christmas in July Kickoff

July 6, 2026

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

July 7, 2026

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

July 13-17, 2026

6:00-8:45 PM VBS

July 18-20, 2026

Kids Camp

July 19, 2026

Gideon Sunday

6:00 PM OCC

July 26, 2026

9:30 AM PJs and Pancakes with the Pastors

OCC Collection Sunday

4:00 PM OCC Box Packing Party