



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

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

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Vol. 59

January 2023

No. 1

Merry Christmas



Christmas Eve:

Candlelight Service with Lord's Supper

5:00 PM

(No Nursery Provided)

Christmas Day:

Family Worship Service

10:45 AM

(No Sunday School or Nursery)

Church Office Closed:

December 23

December 26

January 2

In an effort to conserve our resources, this will be the last physical mailout of the monthly Cornerstone Newsletter. We will have a few printed copies around the church and you are more than welcome to grab one of those if you prefer a hard copy. We will continue to print and mail the monthly Cornerstone Newsletter to our homebound members.

If you are not receiving our weekly emails, please contact the church office!



Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

As you receive this edition of *The Cornerstone Newsletter*, we are still approaching Christmas. I'm so grateful for the beautiful Advent season we've enjoyed together, especially the many opportunities to proclaim the Gospel message that Jesus has come to save us from our sin. We have celebrated through concerts, worship services, the Advent Devotional and photo challenge on social media, the Drive-thru Nativity, as well as the gifts given to MANNA, Operation Christmas Child, Lottie Moon, and our Foster Care Angel Tree. Thanks be to God for a church family that truly embraces the call to reach our neighbors and the nations for Christ! I do hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Remember that on **Christmas Day**, we will have a family-oriented worship service at 10:45. There will be no Sunday School, no nursery, and no children's church. Let's come in a casual but festive spirit to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Also remember that on **New Year's Day**, we will have a joint Sunday School with light breakfast at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, followed by worship with nursery and children's church as usual.

Even though most of our programs begin with the new school year, January is still a great month to celebrate new beginnings, and it's the month that begins anew our committee and deacon ministries. Let me encourage you to set some **goals for 2023**: Read through the Bible this year or commit to a daily devotional for spending time in God's Word. Use our prayer lists to guide you in daily prayer for the needs in our church, community, and world. Make regular participation in worship a priority, as well as growing in a small group Bible study, being faithful with God's tithes and your offerings, and finding ways to plug-in and serve. Identify someone you will share the Gospel with, or someone you'll disciple through a shared Bible study and accountability. If you need help with any of the above, please reach out to me, Matt, or Ben. We'd love to help you and point you to some resources.

As a church, we have several ways we celebrate the beginning of a new year of ministry and worship. First, we will **install and commission the 2023 deacons** in worship on January 8. Then on January 22, we will have a **Committee Workshop at 5 PM** followed by our **Quarterly Church Conference at 6 PM**. If you are serving on a committee, I hope you'll spend a few minutes with your team praying and setting some goals for the new year. Our committees function as ministry teams and help us implement our church's vision. For example, our Membership Committee will help plan a **Next Steps Luncheon on February 5** after worship. This will be a great opportunity for new members and those interested in joining our church to learn more about FBC Thomson, spend time with the pastors, ask questions, and discover their next steps in joining and serving at First Baptist Church.

As always, I'm excited to begin a new sermon series in January. We will work through **"The Armor of God"** from Ephesians 6:10-20. Spiritual warfare is one of the most misunderstood and abused areas of Christian theology and spiritual formation. I hope to share spiritual insights and give practical tools we can use as we "struggle...not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens" (Ephesians 6:12).

I do want to make one very urgent announcement: This will be the **last Cornerstone Newsletter** that will be automatically mailed out. We will be moving to an entirely digital version beginning with the February edition. Unless someone specifically asks to receive one by mail, we will only be emailing it and posting it on www.fbcthomson.org as well as social media. If you or someone you know needs to continue receiving one by mail, please contact the church office. Also, please make sure we have a correct email address for you—one that you check frequently. This is an effort to be more efficient with time and resources as the costs of paper, printing, and mailing continue to increase.

Finally, if you are making **end-of-the-year gifts** to the church, please make sure they are postmarked by December 31. The church office will be open on December 30, if you would like to drop any gifts by before 5 PM. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Dr. Matt Ward

Year-End Thank Yous

Ordinarily, I put a bunch of thank-yous in my final article of the year, and I certainly don't want to change that! Our church is blessed with people who give, people who serve, and people who reach out to neighbors and welcome guests. It's truly a blessing to be a part of this church family. And I pray God's blessing on you all in 2023!

Christmas Morning Worship

A reminder that we will **not** have Sunday School on 12/25. We will have a worship service at 10:45, and it will be shorter than usual because we will have our babies and toddlers with us (giving the nursery workers a well-earned holiday). And don't forget about our Christmas Eve service!

New Year's Morning Sunday School and Worship

On New Year's Day, we will have a joint Sunday School time in the fellowship hall starting at 9:30. (Not early!) We will have some light breakfast foods, and time of prayer and thanksgiving, and then a short "lesson" on John 3, which is one of everyone's favorite passages. I want this to start 2023 with the right focus.

Website Resources

We're announcing some changes to the way we share information with everyone, and our website will be the place you can find just about everything. Let me point out three things in particular. If you go to the bottom of our main page — fbcthomson.org — you will see our most recent newsletters and Sunday School posts.

Recent Posts / Latest News

What's Happening at FBC December 9

Come and See - a study of John 1:40-51

What's Happening at FBC December 2

Connect with Us
253 Jackson St
PO Box 1205
Thomson GA 30824

Sunday Mornings
Bible Study 9:30
Worship 10:45

Menu
Home
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Resources/Library
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Preschool

You can also find this information on our menu option, "Resources"

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Israel Trip

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Watch The Chosen

Sermons

Newsletters

Helps and Articles

Bible Studies and Commentary

Leadership and Teaching

Faith at Home

First Baptist Church Thomson, Georgia

Jesus can make all the difference in your life - just as He has for us.

and "Newsletters" or "Bible Studies". Finally, if you ever want to watch any of our services or read our most recent bulletin, you can find that under the "MyFBC" menu at "FBC Live". Our website is a useful tool that's kept up to date!

Rev. Ben Tarver

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I truly hope you and your family have had at least a moment or two to slow down and reflect on this season and the reason Jesus came to dwell among us.

There are *Faith @ Home* activities and family discussions in our church Advent book, and if you did not have time to get to them before Christmas, it's not too late! Also, at the *Faith @ Home Center*, there is a "Questions for the Start of a New Year" that is specifically designed to help Christians grow and reflect.

I am thankful to the families and Sunday School classes that helped complete the Christmas wish lists for 25 children in foster care. Amazing! You not only make it meaningful to those kids and the foster families, but also the case workers at McDuffie County DFCS. They are always appreciative of our church and your generosity!

I am thankful for our TinyKID, TeamKID and Elevate leaders for children and youth. Be in prayer for them and all of our children and youth as we rest and recover over the Christmas break and prepare to start again strong on Wednesday, January 11.

Our Kids are going to camp this summer! We are headed to Mt. Vernon, GA for Centrikid. CentriKid is a high-energy, intentional, gospel-centered overnight camp for rising 2nd - rising 7th graders. Their mission is to help kids experience the time of their lives and learn more about the message of Jesus Christ. This takes place through track times, rec, worship, Bible study, church group time, and a variety of other fun events. CentriKid Camps are committed to providing content that is rooted in Scripture, a safe location, kid-friendly programming, and staffers who are deeply invested in your kids. The deadline to sign your kids up is January 31! They won't want to miss this!

Upward basketball practices start the week of Martin Luther King Weekend on January 16. We will have a one day Upward Basketball Camp on Saturday, January 21. The schedule for this camp is as follows:

K/5 thru 2nd grade: 9:00-10:30 AM
 3rd-5th grade: 12:00-1:30 PM.

Games will kick off the following week, Saturday, January 28. Be in prayer for this important ministry to our community. I need devotion speakers to give a short devotion during halftime(5 minutes or less). If you are interested, please contact me or the church office.

The youth have an upcoming ski trip at Winterplace in West Virginia over Presidents' Day Weekend. If there are any youth still wanting to go, please contact me ASAP. We are thankful to get back to our favorite slopes this year. It's a great place to have fun, fellowship and worship together!



Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship	Sunday School	Wednesday	We Gave
November 13	270	216	90	\$22,065.00
November 20	291	205	76	\$12,644.63
November 27	363	212	N/A	\$13,877.39
December 4	367	229	62	\$26,293.97
December 11	288	210	N/A	\$19,157.37

End-of- November Final Finances

BUDGET		NON-BUDGET	
Required	\$812,918.37	Cap. Improvements	\$19,999.00
Received	\$788,529.57	Ferguson Property	\$5,640.00
Disbursed	\$747,606.78	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$36,165.42



**July 7-9, 2023
Mt. Vernon, GA**

**Rising 2nd- 7th Graders
A \$75 non refundable deposit is
due by January 31.**

Contact the church office to sign up.

**\$5.50 ADULTS - \$3.00 UNDER AGE 12
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON MONDAYS**

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

*Wednesdays, 5:00 PM
Fellowship Hall*

January 11
Soup/Baked Potatoes
January 18
Spaghetti
January 25
Country Fried Steak

JANUARY 22

...

5:00 PM

COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

...

6:00 PM

QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE



February 5

Immediately Following Worship

Whether you're a guest or a new member, we hope that you will join us for lunch to learn more about our church and why membership is important.

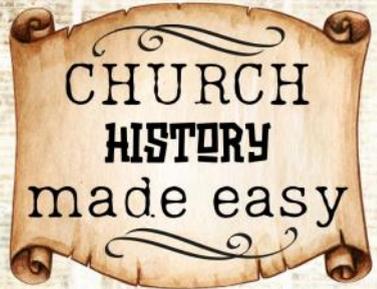


January 16: Practices Start

January 21: Upward Camp

January 28: Games Start

March 11: Awards Ceremony



Wednesday Nights
6:00 PM
Beginning January 11

LORD'S SUPPER

January 29

A benevolence offering will be received.

**JANUARY
MINISTRY DONATION**

Hair care products



Please place items in the blue bin in the atrium.

JANUARY

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)
	10:00	Church Staff Meeting, 402
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
	5:30	Open Warehouse
	6:00	<i>Disciples Pathway</i> (Adults, Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TinyKID (Ages 3-K), Chapel
	6:00	TeamKID (Grades 1-6), Gym
	6:00	Elevate (Grades 7-12), WH
	7:15	Adult Choir Rehearsal, S
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)
FRI	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	10:00	Stretch & Flex, Gym

Sunday, January 1

9:30 AM Joint Sunday School, FH

10:45 AM Worship

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 4

No Evening Activities

Sunday, January 8

10:45 AM Worship, Deacon Installation

Tuesday, January 10

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM **Deacon's Meeting**

Wednesday, January 11

Wednesday Night Semester Kick-Off

Monday, January 16

Church Office Closed

Upward Practice Starts

Saturday, January 21

9:00 AM Upward Basketball Camp (K5-2nd Grade)

12:00 PM Upward Basketball Camp (3rd-5th Grade)

Sunday, January 22

5:00 PM Committee Workshop

6:00 PM Quarterly Church Conference

Saturday, January 28

Upward Games Begin

Sunday, January 29

10:45 AM **Worship, Lord's Supper**

Tuesday, January 31

Centrikid Camp Signup Deadline