



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

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

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August 2024

No.8

AUGUST

August 4

Promotion Sunday

Bibles Presented to
First Graders in Worship
Deacon Nominations
Pizza with the Pastors

August 14

Wednesday Night Kick-Off
For Kids and Youth
TinyKid Age 3-K5
TeamKid 1-6 Grade
Elevate 7-12 Grade

NEXT
STEPS
luncheon

AUGUST 25

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Back to school = back to a busy season of ministry at FBC Thomson! Please note these important programs, events, and dates:

Route 66—That's right, we are back on the road picking up where we left off. We finished the Old Testament leg of our journey through God's Word and on August 14th, we begin the New Testament with Matthew's Gospel. Whether you were part of our study last school year or not, you can jump in with us as we road trip through the New Testament this year.

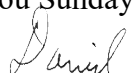
Deacon Nominations—August 4th is the designated Sunday for us to nominate up to 8 men to serve as deacons for three years, beginning in January. Every resident church member should have received a packet explaining the ministry and qualifications of a deacon, a letter about our selection process, and a list of eligible men to serve. Pray over that list and come to worship on the 4th, ready to nominate the men you feel are already servant-leaders in our church. The final selection will take place on the second Sunday of September. Our deacon ministry is vital to the health and growth of our church family. Please make this a matter of prayer, especially that those men God is leading to serve would say Yes to His prompting.

Next Steps Luncheon—After worship on Sunday, August 25th, we'll have another Next Steps Luncheon for new church members and those interested in learning more about our church. If you have never been to one of these, I invite you to sign-up and enjoy lunch, learn about who FBC Thomson is from the pastors, ask questions, discover how to become a member of our church, and receive some special gifts. It is free to attend! Sign up on Sunday mornings or by calling the church.

Financial Learning Experience—On September 15th, we will be hosting a special weekend on financial stewardship, led by Injoy Stewardship Solutions. We'll have a guest preacher in the pulpit that morning, and an afternoon workshop to help our folks win with money God's way. We all know that many families are struggling financially: living paycheck-to-paycheck, racking up more consumer debt, dealing with rising inflation, and wondering how best to invest for the future. While there are no quick fixes, there is biblical wisdom to help us live fully funded lives right in the center of God's will. You'll be seeing more about this special weekend event in the coming weeks, as well as the six-week small group Bible study we'll launch the next Sunday (9/22), called *I Was Broke. Now I'm Not*. Registration is required for both. The FLE Weekend is free, but there will be a small fee for the study to cover cost of materials. Stay tuned for more!

Retirement Sunday—It is going to be a bitter-sweet day on August 11th as we celebrate both Cookie Cobb and Sharon Pirkle for their 25 and 30 plus years of service. God has already brought us a new custodian, Mr. Jason Penna, who is church member and already proving himself to be a hard and dedicated worker. We are in process of filling Sharon's position as financial secretary. But Sharon will be working full-time until the end of September as we get that new person in place. I hope you'll help us celebrate these two dear members of our staff, who we will miss! Bring a covered side dish or dessert that Sunday.

See you Sunday!



Dr. Matt Ward

Tribute Quartet Concert August 16!

We are thrilled to welcome back Tribute Quartet for another free concert on Friday, August 16 at 7:00 in our sanctuary. You know how this works — admission is free, there is no reserved seating, doors open at 6:00, and we will take a love offering for the group. They are so talented, and they are so genuinely eager to share the love of Jesus. Invite your friends who may not otherwise come to a church event!



Sunday School Back-to-School Schedule

McDuffie County schools start back on August 5, so here's what that means for our Sunday School calendar:

- July 28, at the **end** of Sunday School, the kids who will be “graduating” into a new class will be taken to visit their new class.
- August 4, all kids should report to their “new” class.

Aubrey Bentley will be on hand to help any parents who aren't sure what to do. Most of the kids either stay in the same room or move next door, so this is nothing to be stressed about. Yay, back to school!

Sunday School Big Breakfast Will Be in September

I love to kick off the Sunday School year with a big breakfast that everyone's invited to, but this year we are going to wait until September 8 to host this fun morning. Why? Because we have a big churchwide emphasis this fall, and the Big Breakfast is our best opportunity to make sure everybody in our Sunday School classes knows what is about to happen and how it affects them. But more about the Big Breakfast in *next* month's newsletter!

A Sunday School Stewardship Training Opportunity in September

One of the reasons we hired InJoy Stewardship to help us with our plans to update our education building is their heavy emphasis on biblical stewardship, and we decided that we want to go “all-in” on the financial training they offer. Here's how that affects Sunday School:

- Normal “Big Breakfast” on September 8
- “Financial Learning Experience” weekend on September 14-15
- Stewardship Sunday School series starting September 22

That last bullet point is obviously the big one for us. We want as many church members as possible to go through this **6-week** study that covers everything from budgeting to investments to insurance. The best time to do that (particularly for parents) is the Sunday School hour. So, we are going to offer an **optional group Sunday School class** in the Fellowship Hall for everyone who is interested. If your class wants to attend as a group, that would be great! I've been told that this is valuable training for young and old alike. But let me stress that this is **optional**. (Well, except for my class. Y'all don't have an option.) Talk about this with your Sunday School teacher.

SPARK Conference

You'll be hearing more from me in the weeks to come about the SPARK Conference at Abilene on Saturday morning, August 24. This is ministry training for everyone, and I want you to come with us!

Rev. Ben Tarver

As summer comes to a close, teachers and schools are preparing for the new school year. Please keep our teachers, school faculty, and students in your prayers as they embark on this new journey. On Monday, July 22, our church hosted the McDuffie County new teacher training. We welcomed the new teachers with care bags filled with materials and treats from our congregation.

This summer has been wonderful, filled with events, camps, and times of fellowship for our children and youth. These opportunities helped us grow closer to one another and, most importantly, to the Lord. We will continue these efforts with our Wednesday night kickoff for children and youth on August 14. We invite all our young people and their friends to join TinyKID, TeamKID, or Elevate!

Our youth had a fantastic week at Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, SC. The main message of the week was that God is with us and never forsakes us, even through trials and suffering. It was an amazing experience, and we hope to take even more students with us next year! Next year, we are going a month earlier in hopes of cooler weather and to avoid back-to-school sports practices, band camps, and teacher training days. Here are some dates for you to keep in mind for next summer...

2025 Dates:

- Youth Camp June 8-13
- Kids Camp June 27-29
- VBS July 14-18

Please mark your calendars accordingly!

High school and college students have the opportunity to join our annual Labor Day mission trip to Gatlinburg from Saturday, August 31, to Monday, September 2. This is a valuable opportunity to continue our long-standing relationship with Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries. We will stay in a beautiful ministry house overlooking the Smoky Mountains, and our students will deliver worship services to guests and residents in nearby campgrounds. Please consider joining us; applications will be available soon in the Warehouse and youth/college Sunday School classrooms.

Ben

Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
June 30	288	159	232	\$16,700
July 7	238	72	185	\$13,472.00
July 14	240	143	231	\$16,084.00
July 21	238	158	201	15,939.00

BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS	
Required	\$476,658.48	Cap. Improvements	\$8,954.00
Received	\$431,536.27	Vision Implementation	\$18,357.23
Disbursed	\$438,513.07	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$18,014.56

End-of- June Final Finances



Join us after worship on August 11 for a retirement lunch for Mrs. Sharon Pirkle & Mrs. Genola (Cookie) Cobb



Abilene Baptist Church
August 24; 8:00AM-12:20 PM



Tribute Quartet in Concert
Friday, August 16
7:00 PM



Are you new to First Baptist?
Did you recently join?
We would love for you to come find out more about our church at the Next Steps Luncheon immediately following Worship on August 25!



GET THE *tools & teaching* TO FINANCIALLY SUCCEED ON September 15, 4-6 PM



On Sunday, August 25, we will have a time of prayer and receive a love offering for our preschool as they prepare to begin another year.



Cornerstone Preschool

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

Family Night Supper
Wednesdays at 5:00
Fellowship Hall

August 14:
Spaghetti and Meatballs

August 21:
Baked Chicken
Kids: Chicken Nuggets

August 28:
Sub Sandwiches

AUGUST MINISTRY



Backpacks for Appalachia.
Backpacks can be any size/gender.

August

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)
	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)
	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

August 4, 2024

Sunday School Promotion Sunday
 Name Tag Sunday
 Deacon Nomination
 Bibles Presented to First Graders
 12:00 PM Pizza with the Pastors Lunch

August 7, 2024

No Evening Activities

August 11, 2024

12:00 PM Retirement Lunch for
 Sharon Pirkle and Genola (Cookie) Cobb

August 12, 2024

6:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting
 6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting
 7:00 PM Deacon Information Meeting

August 13, 2024

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting
 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

August 14, 2024

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Kick-Off

August 16, 2024

7:00 PM Tribute Concert

August 18, 2024

10:45 AM Lord's Supper in Worship

August 24, 2024

8:00 AM Spark Conference at Abilene Baptist

August 25, 2024

10:45 AM Love Offering Received
 for Cornerstone Preschool
 12:00 PM Next Steps Luncheon

August 29, 2024

6:00 PM Cornerstone Preschool Open House

August 31- September 2, 2024

Gatlinburg Mission Trip