



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
THOMSON

THE CORNERSTONE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

• LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE, MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS •

VOL. 62

SEPTEMBER 2026

No. 9

HALFTIME Celebration!



Celebrating the halfway point of our Capital Campaign



BIG BREAKFAST

All together in the gym during Sunday School



**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20**



**9:00
AM**

Georgia Baptist State Missions Offering

SEASON OF PRAYER AND GENEROSITY



MISSION GEORGIA
MISSIONGEORGIA.ORG

Your gift helps Mission Georgia
support churches as they:

- Provide literacy and education programs
- Care for families through foster care and adoption support
- Partner with healthcare ministries to meet physical needs
- Respond to disasters and times of crisis
- Support addiction recovery and restoration efforts
- And so much more!

**Church Emphasis Dates:
September 27- October 4**

Our 2026 Church Offering Goal: \$6,000

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

11 AM-2 PM

FALL FESTIVAL

FEATURING BOUNCE HOUSES, FACE PAINTING, PONY
RIDES, HAYRIDES, FOOD AND MORE!

ALL FREE EXCEPT THE FOOD

Dr. David Lambert

August gave us another wonderful reminder of what God can accomplish when His people pray, serve, and work together. On August 16, we hosted the Georgia Baptist regional **SPARK Conference**, with 619 people representing 95 churches—among the largest regional SPARK gatherings ever held!

As your pastor, I could not have been prouder of our church family. Our guests were welcomed, guided, fed, protected, and encouraged because our people joyfully did what needed to be done. I especially want to thank Matt Ward for his tremendous leadership, planning, and how he invested his heart in this conference. I am also deeply grateful for our entire church staff and every volunteer who prayed, parked cars, prepared food, greeted guests, handled registration, supported breakout rooms, operated technology, provided security, cleaned, organized, and solved problems behind the scenes. Thank you for showing hundreds of guests what makes First Baptist Church such a special church family!

In September, we have another important moment: **the Half-Time Celebration of our For All Generations Campaign**. As you know, halftime is not the end of the game. It is a time to celebrate what has gone well, evaluate where things stand, make adjustments, and return to the field with renewed focus. That is exactly what we will do as we reach the halfway point of this three-year campaign. God has been wonderfully faithful, and you have responded with tremendous generosity. But a strong first half does not guarantee a successful finish! We must remember our “why,” renew our commitment, and prepare to finish well.

On Sunday, September 20, we will begin with a **Big Breakfast in the gym** and continue our celebration during worship. We will hear updates, give thanks for what God has accomplished, and look ahead to the second half of the campaign. Most importantly, we will remind ourselves that this campaign has never been merely about buildings or money. It is about creating ministry space that will help us reach people, strengthen families, make disciples, and proclaim the Gospel—for all generations.

Every one of us has a part to play. Some have faithfully kept pace with their commitments, while others may need to catch up or begin giving. Some may be able to increase their pledge or give a special gift above and beyond it. Others—including those who have joined our church since the campaign began—have not made a commitment. September 20 will offer all of us a fresh opportunity to ask, “Lord, what would You have me do?”

We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines or spend the second half warming the bench. We need everyone in the game! Let’s come ready to celebrate, recommit, and finish even stronger than we began!

September also brings other opportunities to serve, such as indicating the committees and ministry teams on which you are interested in serving in 2027. God has shaped every believer for service, so prayerfully consider where He might use you. And on September 13, at the close of worship, we will **elect eight men to serve as deacons** for a three-year term. Please pray for God’s guidance as we choose these servant-leaders.

Planning for our **2027 ministry budget** also begins this month. If you serve in an area with budget-planning responsibilities, please attend the budget workshop at **5:00 PM on September 20**. Pray for wisdom as we seek to steward faithfully every resource God entrusts to us.

Finally, September 27 begins our **Mission Georgia Week of Prayer**. You will receive a prayer guide highlighting the work Georgia Baptists are doing across our state. Our church’s offering goal is **\$6,000**, and every dollar will help reach people with the Gospel and meet needs in Jesus’ name. Begin praying now: “Lord, how would You have me give?” God has given us a strong first half. Now, together, let’s get back in the game and finish well!



Dr. Matt Ward

Building Work Progress!

I want to take a moment to celebrate our contractor. He and his team worked tirelessly to meet a SPARK deadline that they didn't sign up for, and they met that deadline. Our SPARK Conference happened because of their hard work!

Unrelated Project: Gym Floor Refinish. By the time you read this, the gym floor will be refinished! The project was completed much faster than we anticipated. Thanks to a new product it did not smell nearly as strong as the last time we did this or take as long to cure.

SPARK Conference Wrap-up

You've heard plenty about this, so I don't need to belabor anything. Take a look at the Christian Index article for photos and unbiased opinions. I think we have the best team in the state, and our church members repeatedly knocked it out of the park with their friendliness, helpfulness, and great attitudes.

Fall Festival

Saturday, September 19, 11-2

We've started the volunteer signups, so this should already be on your radar. We just hosted a fantastic event inside, and we're blessed with the kind of campus that lets us do great things outside as well. As always, you can expect games and bounce houses and a hayride. This year, we're going to try to do something different with food and sell hamburgers (or hot dogs) as a fundraiser – maybe not as fancy as the food trucks but definitely cheaper. Pray for good weather, and invite your friends!

Sunday School Big Breakfast

Sunday, September 20, 9-10:30

Our Sunday School has gotten big enough that we are going to have this annual event in the gym. However, this is almost to-the-day the halfway point of our "For All Generations" capital campaign, so we are going to combine the two events. There are still a few details to work out, and we will tell you everything you need to know in the days to come. For now, just mark this on your calendar. As always, we want all of our classes to participate. And this year, even if you're not in a class, you will want to come and be a part of this!

Senior Adult Revival at First Baptist Warrenton. Members of our Senior Adult Committee went to this event last year and really enjoyed it, so they want to pass the invitation along: September 14-16 at 5:00 PM with dinner following. No charge, but they need an RSVP at 706-465-2025.



Rev. Ben Tarver

God Is at Work!

One of the highlights of our Youth Ministry year is just around the corner—our **Labor Day Mission Trip to Gatlinburg!** We'll leave Friday evening, September 4, and return Monday, September 7. This extended weekend is always a special time to enjoy God's creation, grow together, and serve others.

This year, we have a new opportunity to minister to children at a Gatlinburg campground. Along with our campground church service, we'll host **crafts, games, devotionals, yard games, and a giant parachute** on Saturday morning and again Sunday after brunch. Most of all, we're looking forward to simply "being a kid with them" and showing these children the love of Jesus. Please pray that God will use these simple moments to open doors for the Gospel.

We also had a great opportunity to serve our **Thomson High School football team** on August 26, feeding around 100 players, coaches, and personnel. Thank you to **Keith Beggs and Bob Lemley** for helping cook and to our youth and adult volunteers who served. I especially enjoyed sharing a devotional from Daniel about **standing firm for God when the culture around us pressures us to conform.**

One of my greatest joys this summer has been celebrating **children and families taking their next steps of faith through baptism.** It is a privilege to watch children come to faith through ministries like VBS, Upward, and CentriKid, then sit down with them one-on-one and hear them share in their own words what Jesus has done in their lives. **What a joy to see God working in the hearts of our children!**

Finally, please pray for **Cornerstone Preschool** as a new school year begins. We are thankful for the new windows, AC unit, and other improvements made this summer, and especially for our construction team and teachers led by **Laura Wall.** Pray for a wonderful year of learning, growing, and pointing children toward Jesus.

God is at work—and we are grateful to be part of it!



We Came	In Person Worship	Online Worship	Sunday School	We Gave
Aug. 2	358	197	237	\$27,090.00
Aug. 9	294	237	235	\$12,854.19
Aug. 16	399	190	271	\$20,148.55
Aug. 23	327	285	230	\$18,575.19

BUDGET	End of July	NON- BUDGET RECEIPTS	End of July
Required	\$599,730.00	Cap. Improvements	\$11,597.00
Received	\$570,821.26	Vision Implementation	\$265,052.82
Disbursed	\$571,853.97	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$21,764.75

Deacon Vote Sunday, September 13

Nominees:

BLAKE ALLEN	TOM LAMEE
DWAYNE BOUTWELL	PHILIP PIRKLE
CHRIS BOWICK	CULLY POSTON
SAMMY DOOLITTLE	JAY POSTON
JACKSON DOUGLAS	DAVID RUSSELL
BOB HUGHES	BRAD SMITH
TREVOR JOHNSON	



Join us on a mission trip to Black Mountain Home for Youth, Children and Families.

October 5-9

Projects will include things such as yardwork, painting, and cleaning



Meeting
SEPTEMBER 8
11:00 AM • \$10

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 3 AT NOON

SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM IS
Stephen Sewell
FROM THOMSON- MCDUFFIE EMS/SAFETLY

Committee Budget Workshop

September 20
5:00 PM



Senior Adult Apple Trip

Thursday, October 8
7:30 AM-5:00 PM

RSVP by
Sunday, October 4

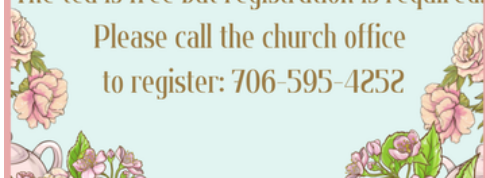
Ruth and Naomi's Tea

A sweet time of fellowship for widows.

Monday, September 21
1:30 in the afternoon
FBC Thomson Parlor

The tea is free but registration is required.

Please call the church office
to register: 706-595-4252



Family Night Supper

Wednesdays at 5:00; Fellowship Hall

September 2	Pork Chops Kids: Bagel Bites
September 9	Sub Sandwich Bar
September 16	Chick-Fil-A
September 23	Pork Loin Kids: Chicken Fingers
September 30	Salad Bar

\$6.50 Adults - \$4.00 Under 12

Please Make Your Reservations By Noon on Mondays

September Ministry

Fleece Blankets
for Women's
Shelter Baskets



Please place items in the blue bin in the atrium.

HELLO September

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	Disciples Pathway (Adults, Fellowship Hall)
		Elevate (7-10 Grade), Warehouse
		TeamKID (1-6 Grade), Gym
		TinyKID (K4-K5), 3 rd Floor
		TinyTots (2-3), Nursery
	7:15	Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
THU	6:30	Stand in the Gap 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

September 3, 2026

6:00 PM CPS Open House

September 4-7, 2026

Youth and College Trip to Gatlinburg

September 6, 2026

Joey Glover Preaching

September 7, 2026

Church Office Closed

September 8, 2026

CPS First Day of School

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

September 13, 2026

Deacon Vote in Worship

September 19, 2026

Fall Festival

September 20, 2026

9:00 AM Big Breakfast

5:00 PM Committee Budget Workshop

September 21, 2026

1:30 PM Ruth and Naomi's Tea

September 23, 2026

See You At The Pole