



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH **THOMSON**

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

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MARCH

*Week of Prayer for
North American Missions
March 12-19*



**Cornerstone Preschool Sunday
March 19**

Be in prayer for Pastor David as he has surgery March 1st. He will be out for the majority of March. We will have the following guest preachers filling the pulpit in absence:

MARCH 5:

Rev. Thomas Hammond,
Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board

MARCH 12:

Rev. Jeff Harris

MARCH 19:

Preschool Sunday, Rev. Ben Tarver



Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

February was such a productive month of ministry and worship at First Baptist Church! We were blessed with two Sundays of baptisms, enjoyed having TeamKID and TinyKID lead us in two worship services, and hosted a Next Steps luncheon for guests and new members. And that's just what happened on Sundays! March will give us another month of wonderful opportunities to love God, love people, and make disciples for Jesus from all generations.

Of course, my March will be spent largely recovering from surgery! I do appreciate all the words of encouragement and offers of prayer. I definitely need and welcome all your prayers for my surgery and recovery. On March 1, I'll be undergoing a laparoscopic surgery to repair a paraesophageal hernia of my stomach. The recovery will include two weeks of rest at home and a liquid-only diet, followed by three weeks of limited work and activity and a soft-foods diet. My goal is to be in worship on the 19th and back in the pulpit on the 26th.

Pray also for those who have graciously given their time to fill the pulpit in my absence. Thomas Hammond, the Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board will be preaching on March 5. Our own Jeff Harris will preach on the 12, and Ben Tarver will preach on Preschool Sunday, March 19. I hope you'll make it a point to be at each of these worship services to hear what God wants to say through each of these men of God and dear brothers in Christ.

Pray for the staff as they work extra hard in my absence with administrative tasks, lead and attend meetings, do extra pastoral care, and especially for Matt Ward as he teaches for me on Wednesday nights March, 1—15. (And pray for Abby and Julia, too. They probably will need more than anyone else!)

I will be praying for our church family, studying, and preparing for my final two sermons on the Words of Christ from the Cross, getting ready for Holy Week and Easter Sunday especially. I will join you all in praying for North America Missions during our week of prayer. I will worship along with you from home, thanks to the amazing technology we employ each week to help connect more people with the Gospel. And I'll be in prayer for you as you use this Lenten season to prepare yourselves anew to celebrate the Risen Lord and walk every day in Resurrection Life in Christ; and as you identify, pray for, and invite people you know who are far from God to join you in worship that Easter Sunday.

Israel Trip Update: We currently have 42 people registered for this trip to Israel, both from our community and from Gastonia, NC, where my friend Josh pastors. We do have a few more seats reserved on the flights, and will hold those a little longer. If you or someone you know is interested, there is a limited window for adding a few more people to this remarkable trip. Let me know!

David

Dr. Matt Ward

Worship Opportunities in March

“If the pastor is out, he won’t notice if I’m out, too.” We’ve all heard that, and we’ve all chuckled about it. But let’s stop for a moment and think. What is it to be a part of a Christian church? Is it about sitting and listening? No! We are a community of Christ-followers who have been saved by the amazing grace of God in Jesus Christ. We gather together to thank God for His wondrous gift and encourage one another to follow Jesus faithfully. That’s about *you* — that’s about your relationship with God and with our church family.

What does the pastor’s presence or absence have to do with that?

We don’t come to our church services for David — we come for God. We come because it’s the least we can do in thanksgiving for our salvation. We come because God has set aside one day in seven for the sake of our soul’s well-being. We come because our enemy, against whom we put on the armor of God, is looking for any and every opportunity to wound us when we are weary, discouraged, or isolated. God has given us our church family to help defend us from those attacks.

And we’re blessed to have a pastor who boldly shares the Word of God with us week in and week out. But our needs and responsibilities aren’t dependent on him. While David is recovering from surgery in March, prioritize being with us on Sunday mornings.

And be sure — we’re doing all we can to make our Sundays a time of great rejuvenation in the Word of God:

- March 5, Thomas Hammond (the Executive Director of our Georgia Baptist Mission Board) will fill the pulpit
- March 12, Jeff Harris (already a beloved bringer of God’s Word here after just a few sermons) will fill the pulpit
- March 19, Cornerstone Preschool will bring a report of what God is doing through this super-important ministry we have for the kids of our community and their families

I look forward to sharing these Sundays with you! And we all look forward to having David back with us in the very near future.

Upcoming Carpet and Bathroom Work

Some of you have heard that we plan on replacing the **carpet in the atrium** (the stairs and the balcony) in the very near future. We also plan on replacing the **tile in the men’s gym/fh bathroom**. We are doing everything we can to schedule this work around church events, but there will be a minor disruption when the work does happen.

- Carpet Replacement. This work should take two days. During the work, the **upstairs walking track** will be off-limits. Also, for one day, the **offices** will be off-limits. (Yes, there is a back stairwell for the offices, and we will use it to get in and out, but we will relocate what we can downstairs for a day.)
- Bathroom Tile Replacement. We did the same work in the adjacent ladies’ bathroom last year, and it took the bathroom out of commission for **one week**. We expect this project to take the same length of time. Some of the tile has pulled away from the concrete floor in the last 20+ years, and the only way to fix it is to replace it all.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the **Capital Improvements Fund**. That’s the only way we can afford to take on these projects in addition to the regular maintenance for our not-small building.



Rev. Ben Tarver

The Upward Basketball season is winding down, with only a few games left. We will have our annual Upward Celebration to end the season on Saturday, March 11, at 5:00 PM in the sanctuary. We have the Dorrell's, a wonderfully entertaining family of jugglers coming to lead the program and proclaim the gospel. There will be giveaways and an end-of-year prize from Upward for each participant. This is a wonderful time to recognize the kids and all of our amazing volunteers that make this ministry possible. Anyone is invited!

Preschool Sunday is Sunday, March 19. This is always a fantastic Sunday to recognize our Cornerstone Preschool, director, teachers and kids. We will have many visitors so we want to be welcoming, and chances are, someone might be sitting in "your pew." It's okay. You will survive. Say hello and greet them. I will be preaching a short devotional message on family ministry. Please plan to be with us at worship and support our Cornerstone Preschool.

I am very excited for our youth summer camp returning to **Look Up Lodge** in Travelers Rest, SC from **July 11-16**. The camp is located on a beautiful lakeside property with a chapel for worship, a giant swing, waterfront for swimming and games, a double zip line over the lake, water slide, and their famous "Slopstacle" course. There are opportunities to fish, ballcourt activities (gaga ball, 9 square in the air, cornhole, basketball, ping-pong) and more! The camp has a wonderful, trained staff of Christian camp counselors with very impactful and meaning times of teaching and worship. **The total cost of camp for five nights, meals, and facilities is \$320. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due by Sunday, April 5, 2023.** Our chili and dessert fundraiser in November did very well. The money from this fundraiser will be distributed evenly for the youth going which will help alleviate a portion of that total cost. If money is ever an issue, please contact me directly and we can work out a plan. I know this will be an exciting and life changing event for our youth! Contact me if you have any questions.

Ben

Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship	Sunday School	We Gave
January 29	336	230	\$21,547.00
February 5	333	227	\$22,208.00
February 12	326	227	\$14,431.00
February 19	346	206	\$14,550.00
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET	
Required	\$76,771.42	Cap. Improvements	\$1,069.70
Received	\$77,123.60	Ferguson Property	\$495.00
Disbursed	\$61,117.63	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$2,655.73

**End-of-
January
Final Finances**

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING®

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

Our 2023 Goal:
\$10,000

\$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*

March 1
Pork Chops
March 8
Spaghetti and Meatballs
March 15
Loaded Baked Potatoes
March 22
Salad Bar
March 29
BBQ Sandwiches



Cornerstone Preschool Registration
is open for the
2023-2024 school year.

Pick up a registration packet in the
church office.

KILPATRICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

*Spring Inspirational
Meeting*

MONDAY, MARCH 20
6:30 PM
FBC FELLOWSHIP HALL



Awards Night
Saturday, March 11
5:00 PM

Young @
Heart

Tuesday, March 14
11:00 AM

Speaker:
Rev. Jeff Harris
RSVP by March 9

Name Tag Sunday



March 5

March

Ministry donation

Easter Candy

Non-Chocolate, individually
wrapped candy and gum that will
fit in a plastic Easter egg.



MARCH

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
5:00 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
5:30 Open Warehouse
6:00 *Disciples Pathway* (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 *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)
5:00 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

Saturday, March 4
9:00 AM Upward Games

Sunday, March 5
Name Tag Sunday
10:45 AM Rev. Thomas Hammond preaching

Saturday, March 11
9:00 AM Upward Games
5:00 PM Upward Awards Night

Sunday, March 12
Daylight Savings Time Begins
Week of Prayer for North American Missions
10:45 AM Rev. Jeff Harris Preaching

Monday, March 13
6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 14
11:00 AM Young at Heart
6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

Saturday, March 18
9:00 AM Kids Ministry Trip to EdVenture Science Center
10:00 AM Basket Packing Party

Sunday, March 19
10:45 AM Preschool Sunday
Rev. Ben Tarver preaching

Monday, March 20
6:30 PM KBA Spring Inspirational Meeting