



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
THOMSON

THE CORNERSTONE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

VOL. 62

OCTOBER 2026

NO. 10



FALL PRESCHOOL
SUNDAY

October 25



Grades K5-5

\$65 before October 30

\$80 After October 30

Visit Our Website to Sign Up
Deadline to Register is November 12

Dr. David Lambert

We are in my favorite season of the year, with the changing leaves and cooler mornings. It's also a season of harvest—of giving thanks for what has been produced—and also a season of preparation for what comes next. In many ways, that describes where we find ourselves as a church this October.

What a joy it was to celebrate our **For All Generations Halftime Sunday!** We are halfway through our three-year campaign, but we have already given more than **\$1 million—approximately two-thirds of the way toward our total pledged amount.** That is an incredible testimony to the faithfulness and generosity of God's people! We are investing, renewing, and growing For All Generations so that our campus can continue to be a place where children hear the Gospel, students are disciplined, adults grow in Christ, families are strengthened, and the Gospel is proclaimed for years to come. We are grateful for what God has enabled us to accomplish, but halftime is not the finish line!

Thank you to **Alice Gary**, our campaign director, for her continued leadership, and to **Jay and Kelli Poston and their team** for the wonderful breakfast that helped make Halftime Sunday such a special celebration. Most of all, thank you to everyone who has given faithfully and, in many cases, sacrificially. Your faithfulness matters. As we enter the second half, I want to encourage those who may have fallen behind on their commitments: this is a great time to make an adjustment and get back in the game. And if you have not made a commitment to For All Generations, it is not too late to join us on this journey. There is still much to accomplish together.

October also reminds us of another kind of stewardship—the stewardship of **service.** At our **Quarterly Church Conference** on October 18, we will hear a report from our Committee on Committees as we prepare for a new year of ministry. Our committees play an important role in helping our church pursue God's vision and fulfill the Great Commission. They help plan and coordinate events and ministries for preschoolers, children, youth, senior adults, and others. They also help our church make wise decisions concerning our staff, campus, finances, and other areas of church life. I am deeply thankful for those who serve each year.

We are grateful for the eight men selected by our church to serve three-year terms: **Blake Allen, Chris Bowick, Sammy Doolittle, Bob Hughes, Trevor Johnson, Philip Pirkle, Jay Poston, and Brad Smith.** I'm looking forward to our ordaining Chris Bowick and Trevor Johnson on November 1. I am equally grateful for the other men who were willing to be considered. Being selected in a particular year is not the measure of a man's usefulness to the Lord or to His church, and I appreciate their willingness to serve whenever and however God calls.

This is also an important season of **financial stewardship and preparation.** Our Stewardship Committee is now developing our proposed 2027 church budget. I am thankful that First Baptist is not only a generous church, but a responsible one. Our Stewardship Committee meets monthly to review our finances, monitor our budget, and help us plan wisely. They work conscientiously and transparently, desiring that every dime entrusted to and through our church be used for the glory of God, the building up of the Body of Christ, and the furthering of the Gospel. As costs continue to rise and our church continues to grow, pray that God will give us wisdom to propose a responsible and necessary budget for the church's consideration in November.

Finally, autumn is also a season when we are reminded that we are part of something larger than ourselves. We gladly cooperate with our sister churches through the **Kilpatrick Baptist Association** for the sake of the Gospel. I hope you will make plans to join us for the KBA Annual Meeting on **October 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Faith Baptist Church.** We will worship together, hear the preaching of God's Word, celebrate what God is doing in and through our association, and conduct the business of our association.

Autumn reminds us to look back with gratitude and forward with anticipation. We can thank God for a wonderful harvest of faithfulness while continuing to plant, prepare, serve, give, and pray for what He wants to do next. May we enter this new season together, faithful in what God has entrusted to us and expectant about what He will do *for all generations.*



Dr. Matt Ward

Sunday School

Let me open by saying thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers and classes who let us do something a little different with our kickoff “big breakfast” on the 20th. There was a lot going on, and I hope that in the shuffle we didn’t shortchange our appreciation (1) for the folks who spent all morning cooking breakfast for us (!) and (2) for our wonderful Sunday School leaders who give of themselves week after week.

Let me reprint a little of what I hope everybody took home with you. We do Sunday School at FBC because we believe that studying and learning the Bible is a critical part of following Jesus – He specifically told us to do that in the Great Commission. Here are three important definitions:

- Disciple: a committed, passionate follower of Jesus.
- Discipleship: the lifelong process by which a follower of Jesus is being formed into His likeness and multiplies the experience.
- Spiritual Formation: the product of (1) real relationships, (2) transformational teaching, (3) disciple-making environments, and (4) intentional multiplication.

Your Sunday School leaders can’t do that for you, and it doesn’t happen without you. And if you’re “doing it right”, you will want to bring others along for the ride. How are you helping your class create an environment where everybody wants to learn about Jesus and help others do the same?

Fall Festival

In spite of how hot it was, people seemed to have a good time at our Fall Festival. (I saw a lot of our members enjoying conversations in the shade.) Next year, we will make a couple of changes to (1) give it a better chance to be cooler, (2) share more information about our church and ministries, and (3) make it more interactive with our families. October is tough – there’s something big going on every weekend of the month – but we’ll do our best.

As always, thank you to everyone who helped us. Clean-up was uncomfortably hot; thank you. We will definitely continue with the free waters, and it looks like our cheap hot dogs were a hit, so we’ll keep doing that too. We had a lot of guests (maybe 200 people who don’t go to church here), and the more of our church members who spend time with them, the better chance we have to win them to a fair hearing of the gospel.

North Carolina

We’re sending a team to Black Mountain Home on October 5-9 to help them clean up their campus for their annual fundraiser. They do good work, and we hope to be a blessing to them. We’ll share our stories when we get back!



Rev. Ben Tarver

A Fall Full of Opportunities

Fall has been a busy and exciting season in our Youth & Family Ministry, and I am thankful for the many opportunities God has given us to serve others and share the good news of Jesus.

We had a wonderful Labor Day weekend in **Gatlinburg** with our youth. Our students helped lead worship at a large campground, spent two days leading games and crafts for children and families at another nearby campground, and enjoyed time together in the Great Smoky Mountains and Gatlinburg. We are always grateful for our time in the mountains and the opportunity to serve together.

On **September 19**, we were thankful for the opportunity to share the Gospel at our **Fall Festival**. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, fun, and pointing people toward Jesus. We are grateful for every opportunity God gives us to take the Gospel beyond the walls of our church.

I also had the privilege of leading a devotion and prayer time for **See You at the Pole** on September 23 at Thomson-McDuffie Middle School. An estimated **150 students** gathered to pray for our students, teachers, families, school, and community. Throughout September, I have also been sharing devotionals and continuing to serve our community through our **Manna Food Bank** ministry.

UPWARD BASKETBALL 2027 — REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Upward Basketball is for **K5–5th Grade**. Early registration is only **\$65 through October 30**, and the registration deadline is **November 12**.

Season: **January 4–March 13**

Register on our website or directly at registration.upward.org/UPW91630.

We are also still looking for members of our church family who can help make Upward possible by serving as coaches, referees, or devotional speakers throughout the season. If you would like to invest in the lives of children and families through this ministry, please let me know!

We are thankful for every opportunity to serve children, families, and our community—and most of all, for every opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ!



We Came	In Person Worship	Online Worship	Sunday School	We Gave
Aug. 30	313	306	243	\$10,860.70
Sept. 6	228	304	218	\$21,753.19
Sept. 13	319	259	224	19,776.00
Sept 20	268	324	226	\$18,629.19

BUDGET	End of August	NON- BUDGET RECEIPTS	End of August
Required	\$699,685.00	Cap. Improvements	\$12,817.00
Received	\$660,349.89	Vision Implementation	\$296,094.34
Disbursed	\$652,138.89	Go & Tell Mission Fund	24,428.75

Blood Drive

**October 1
1:00-6:00 PM**

**The bloodmobile
will be in our
parking lot!**



Pray for those from our church who will
be serving at the Black Mountain Home
for Children and Families.

October 5-9



Meeting
OCTOBER 13
11:00 AM • \$10

RSVP BY OCTOBER 8 AT NOON

OCTOBER'S PROGRAM IS
Mac Meilthargey
Family YMCA- Senior Safety

**QUARTERLY
CHURCH CONFERENCE**
October 18, 6PM

LORD'S SUPPER
October 18

A benevolence offering
will be received .

**KILPATRICK BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**

Annual Meeting

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27
6:30 PM
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**

***Youth and Children
Spaghetti Fundraiser
& Dessert Auction***

***Sunday, November 1
Immediately Following
Worship
\$8/per person***

Family Night Supper

Wednesdays at 5:00; Fellowship Hall

October 7	Poppyseed Chicken
October 14	Lasagna
October 21	Kent's Fried Chicken
October 28	Soup and Sandwiches

\$6.50 Adults - \$4.00 Under 12

Please Make Your Reservations By Noon on Mondays

OCTOBER MINISTRY



**CANNED YAMS
FOR MANNA'S
THANKSGIVING BAGS**

October

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

October 1, 2026

1:00 PM Blood Drive

October 5-9, 2026

Mission Trip to Black Mountain

October 8, 2026

7:30 AM Senior Adult Apple Trip

October 13, 2026

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting

October 18, 2026

Worship with Lord's Supper

6:00 PM QCC

October 25, 2026

Fall Preschool Sunday

October 27, 2026

6:30 PM KBA Annual Meeting, Faith Baptist