



THE CORNERSTONE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
THOMSON

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

PHONE: (706) 595-4252

WEB: www.fbcthomson.org

Vol. 60

November 2024

No.11

NOVEMBER

Deacon Ordination Service

Sunday, November 17

Mr. Jay Mixon

November 17

5:00 PM

Budget Presentation

6:00 PM

Dinner & Movie in the Park

Community Thanksgiving Service

Community Wide Thanksgiving Service

November 24, 6:00 PM

FBC Thomson



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3
Move your clocks back one hour



Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

As we step into November, I continue to be deeply moved and grateful for the way our church has been the hands and feet of Jesus over the past month. Though our community was hit hard by Hurricane Helene, we pulled together to help each other through it. Partnering with the Red Cross, FBC Thomson served meals to those in need, as God worked through each act of compassion and every helping hand. Some from our church made multiple trips to help people in North Carolina, and Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief has been at work in our area.

In addition to the time and effort so many gave past month, our church family's financial generosity and faithfulness also went above and beyond, demonstrating a remarkable spirit of sacrificial giving in a time of great need. I'm also grateful for the new members who have joined us, for the families who dedicated themselves and their children to the Lord, and for the kids who sang and helped lead us in worship. What a season of faithfulness and growth God has blessed us with, despite the storm!

November is going to be another month of wonderful worship, beginning with our annual All Saints Recognition on the 3rd. We will also honor our Veterans on the 10th. On both of those Sundays we have the joy of baptizing new believers! On November 17th, we will have the blessings of ordaining Mr. Jay Mixon as a deacon, and commissioning all our 2025 deacons. On the morning of the 24th, we will vote on the 2025 budget and that evening at 6 PM we are hosting a community-wide Thanksgiving Worship Service in partnership with Thomson First Methodist and Thomson Presbyterian churches. I'm hoping to have more join us as well.

November is also a month of preparation and service. Don't forget our FBC Serve Day on the 2nd. Join us and I promise we'll have some things for you to do to help others. And of course, it's all hands-on-deck as we prepare the church park for its annual transformation into 1st century Bethlehem AND as we decorate the interior of the church buildings for Advent and Christmas. So mark down the 23rd and 29th as days to come help construct and decorate!

Finally, I'm very excited about my two upcoming sermon series on Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas. As always, I hope you will remember me daily in your prayers as I study and prepare to preach God's Word every week. It is a sacred calling, and a weighty honor that I never take lightly. I truly covet your prayers!

I also hope you'll be thinking of someone you can invite to worship with you during both of these holiday seasons. As I preach these Thanksgiving sermons and as we host a community-wide Thanksgiving service, these are great times to invite people you know who need to be in church. The same is true for every Sunday of December. Who has God put in your circle of influence? Who has He brought across your path? Share Jesus with them. And bring them to worship with you!

See you Sunday!



Dr. Matt Ward

Thinking about October

October didn't go the way I thought it would. It was certainly not the let's-slow-down-and-get-ready-for-the-holidays month that I hoped it would be. But it was a good month to be thankful for God's blessings that we had perhaps taken for granted. It was a good month to pray for the men and women who are still selflessly helping with hurricane recovery. And it was a good month to be thankful for my church family.

Thinking about Giving

Going through "I Was Broke, Now I'm Not" has helped me think more biblically about my own finances, and it has given me new goals for our church's finances. Two topics have come up that you might be interested in —

- **Did you know that you can give stocks/ETFs to the church?** We have been challenged to be "tax wise" in our finances. For most people, giving stocks directly to the church is better than selling them — the church receives the entire gift, and you avoid certain gains taxes.
- **Did you know that you can check your giving on Realm?** We have been challenged not to get behind in our giving (which can be due to simple forgetfulness!). In Realm, you can easily see your year-to-date giving (on the Giving tab). If you do not have a Realm login, please contact me. This November, Candy will send you a giving update; if we have an email address for you, it will go to your email. Candy has a lot on her plate, but we will get that done as soon as we can.

Thinking about the Drive-Through Nativity

On behalf of Paige Boutwell, our Nativity director, thank you to everyone who has indicated interest in helping with this year's Nativity. The big November date is **Set Construction!**

Saturday, November 23, 8:00 am

We always need more help. With enough help, we can get the entire set built by lunch. Hope to see you then!

Thinking about Sunday School

I just got back from the latest iteration of Lifeway's Sunday School leadership training. It will take a while to cover it all, but our leaders will get a steady dose of tips and strategies.

However, one of the books we covered reminded me that **effective Sunday School leadership does not guarantee an effective Sunday School**. Why? Well, think of it this way — what is the purpose of Sunday School? To help our church make disciples. **Can your teacher force you to be a better disciple?** Of course not! Your walk with Jesus is just that: yours. The leaders in your Sunday School class can help you learn and apply God's Word to your life, but you still have to learn and apply God's Word to your life.

I was reminded that effective Sunday School takes all of us. Our leadership wants you to grow in your relationship with Jesus, but you have to want that for yourself. You have to want it so much that you're willing to make the changes in your life necessary to help you think, act, and be like Jesus. Let's all make that commitment together.



Rev. Ben Tarver

It's the holiday season, which is hard to believe! For the next couple months, I encourage our families to take part in intentional prayer and devotional activities with *Faith @ Home*. Our **November Prayer Calendar** is available in the atrium, designed to guide you in praying for different ministries and roles in our church. Additionally, we have **four special Christmas-themed activities** for families to use during Advent, included in the devotional book.

Our youth fed the Thomson High School football team earlier this month. We had a great time and were able to feed 85 players and coaches. I shared a devotion and a gospel message to the team. I am thankful for our youth and adult volunteers and for Coach Youngblood and Coach Grant providing this opportunity!

I want to express how thankful I am for the outside donations that have been entrusted to our church that have allowed us to provide Thanksgiving meals through Manna this year. We have had several church members who have gathered and prepared food and supplies for **600 Thanksgiving bags for Manna**. Special thanks to our TeamKID children, who assembled bags, and to the youth, who pitched in on Wednesday night to bag sugar. It's been a blessing to see everyone come together and the generosity which provided the food and supplies needed for this mission.

We are excited to announce our Youth Christmas Party on **Wednesday, December 11!** Join us at my home from **5:30 to 8:00 PM** for an evening filled with food, laughter, and a gift exchange. Each youth should bring a **wrapped \$15 gift** for the exchange. I am so excited to celebrate together the night following our Drive Through Nativity!

With all that our community has endured—from storm and hurricane damage to ongoing recovery—this season reminds us of all we have to be grateful for. Let's keep our focus on gratitude as we enter Thanksgiving and celebrate the joy of Christmas!

Ben

Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
October 6	289	0	242	\$26,015.00
October 13	276	399	221	\$22,740.45
October 20	277	170	216	\$17,330.72
October 27	372	208	217	\$10,345.00

BUDGET

Required	\$714,987.78
Received	\$643,654.29
Disbursed	\$671,631.11

NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS

Cap. Improvements	\$12,266.00
Vision Implementation	\$22,083.23
Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$27,020.56

*End-of-
September
Final
Finances*

FBC SERVE DAY

November 2
9:00 AM- 12:00 PM



Be watching for more details!

NOVEMBER 3
All Saints Sunday

NOVEMBER 10
Veterans Day Recognition

A photograph of five men in dark suits and ties, standing in a row against a red background. They are smiling slightly.

Mark Trammell &
The Whisnants in concert
Saturday, November 30
6:00 PM

Young @ Heart

Tuesday, November 12
11:00 AM

Speaker: Dillon Bowers

RSVP By November 7 at Noon
Cost is \$10.00

Blood Drive

November 14
1:30-5:30 PM

The bloodmobile
will be in our
parking lot!

UPWARD

Register Now

A square QR code used for registration.

\$60 before November 8
\$75 after November 8

\$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

November 6:
Hot Dogs

November 13:
Baked Ham

November 20:
Soup and Sandwiches

November Ministry

A jar of Welch's Cranberry Sauce, labeled 'WELCH'S CRANBERRY SAUCE'.

Cranberry Sauce for
Manna's Christmas Bags

NOVEMBER

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)
		Women's Study, Room 410
		Men's Study, Parlor
		Elevate (7-10 Grade), Warehouse
		TeamKID (1-6 Grade), Gym
		TinyKID (K4-K5), Chapel
		TinyTots (2-3), Nursery
	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

November 2, 2024

9:00 AM FBC Serve Day

November 3, 2024

Daylight Savings Time Ends

All Saints Sunday

Baptism Sunday

Name Tag Sunday

November 4, 2024

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

November 7, 2024

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

November 8, 2024

Last Day for Upward Early Bird Registration

November 10, 2024

Veterans Recognition

Baptism Sunday

November 11-12, 2024

GBC Annual Meeting, FBC Statesboro

November 12, 2024

11:00 AM Young at Heart

November 14, 2024

1:30 PM Blood Drive

November 17, 2024

Deacon Ordination in Worship

5:00 PM Budget Presentation

6:00 PM Dinner and a movie in the church park

November 18-25, 2024

National OCC Collection Week

November 18, 2024

6:00 PM First Upward Evaluation

November 20, 2024

Last Regular Wednesday Night

November 21, 2024

6:00 PM Upward Deadline and Last Evaluation

November 23, 2024

Nativity Set Construction

November 24, 2024

Budget Vote in Worship

6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service, FBC Thomson

November 27, 2024

No Evening Activities

November 28-29, 2024

Church Office Closed

November 30, 2024

6:00 PM Mark Trammel and the Whisnats