



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

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

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February 2024

No.2



Triumphant Quartet In Concert

Friday, February 2 at 7:00 PM



Join us in welcoming
**Aubrey Bentley to our staff as
Children's Ministry Coordinator**



Ash Wednesday Service
February 14, 6:00 PM

**NEXT
STEPS
luncheon**

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 February 11.

Youth Winter Retreat
Gatlinburg, TN
February 16-19
Cost is \$125
Sign up Before February 7

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

"I will declare wise sayings; I will speak mysteries from the past—things we have heard and known and that our ancestors have passed down to us. We will not hide them from their children, but will tell a future generation the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his might, and the wondrous works he has performed." (Psalm 78:1-4)

The psalmist writes about the importance of taking the faith and legacy we inherit from those who came before us and passing them on to our children and generations yet to be born. God's people have always focused on the future, seeking to steward well the faith handed down to us and instill it in the hearts of our children.

As members of the First Baptist Church, Thomson, Georgia, we have also inherited a legacy from the generations before us who started this church in 1859, helped it grow and reach Thomson and McDuffie County, added new ministries and staff positions, expanded our property, built this beautiful campus, and worked to keep everything working and beautiful so we could use it effectively for Kingdom purposes.

On Sunday night, January 21, at the Quarterly Church Conference, we affirmed a future-focused vision ensuring that we will *"teach [our] children so that a future generation—children yet to be born—might know...."* so we can *"rise and tell [our] children so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God's works, but keep his commands"* (Psalm 78:5c-7). We adopted the report from the Campus Vision Team for our facilities to be ready for the growth the Lord has already been bringing our church, and we believe will continue to bring, as we reach more people and families in our community.

We also tasked the Vision Implementation Team with researching next steps to begin to implement that Campus Master Plan. The VIT will look at engineering and feasibility studies, potential funding avenues, and how we might phase the work to be completed in the most timely, efficient, and cost-effective means. I'm so thankful for all the hard work that has gone into this presentation and the concepts that will inspire our future campus plans. I'm especially appreciative of 2KM Architects and Megan and Cleve Poston for many hours of work.

If you were not at the QCC and would like to learn about this master plan, please see me, Matt Ward, or Cleve Poston. We'd be glad to share it with you! We will be sharing more in the weeks and months to come as the VIT works, as we pray, and as we prepare to receive their recommendation at the April QCC.

Pursing our purpose of *Loving God, Loving People, and Making Disciples for Jesus from all generations*, we continue to see many families visiting and interested in our church. If YOU are a new member or interested in possibly joining our church family, you're invited to the **Next Steps Luncheon** on February 11th, after worship. It is a FREE lunch, and you'll receive some fun gifts and lots of good information. Contact the church office to register.

We are blessed to have a dedicated Youth and Family Pastor, who, with his family, has helped our church minister to children, youth, and families for ten years. Please make plans to join us for a special celebration of Rev. **Ben Tarver's Ten Year Anniversary** on Sunday, March 3. We will recognize Ben and his family in worship and then enjoy a fun time of fellowship over lunch after worship.

Please also note two other upcoming events: **Ash Wednesday** service on February 14 at 6 PM in the Sanctuary, and the Georgia Baptist Mission Board's **Evangelism Conference** at FBC Conyers, February 25-26. It is FREE, and we will take a bus for both the Sunday evening and the Monday session. You can attend one or both. Contact the church office to register.

David

Dr. Matt Ward

Triumphant Here in Concert on February 2!

Just one last reminder about this amazing concert on Friday, February 2, at 7:00. Triumphant came last year, and they are fantastic. **YOU WANT TO BE HERE.** The doors open at 6:00, admission is free, and there is no reserved seating. We'll take up a love offering to support their ministry.

A Wild Game Supper on March 16

This will be here before we know it ...

Several of our adult Sunday School classes have already gotten heavily involved, and visits have already begun to enlist help from our other classes.

If you are not in a Sunday School class, here's what you need to know:

- We need **greeters** for the event. You just have to say hello and point people toward the registration tables.
- We need **desserts** for the event. We also need you to tell us what you're bringing so we can make sure we have enough.
- Join a class.

In the worship service, we have started asking people to tell us if you have wild game to donate. We need to know what's coming so we can estimate if we have enough.

Our goal is to have 500-600 people here!

If you want to help or to know more, talk to Drue Poston or contact the church office.

Adult Sunday School Leadership Training on January 28

This may have taken place by the time you read this article. In any event, my request is that you pray for the leaders of your class. Sunday School is still one of the most effective tools any church has to reach people and make disciples of Jesus, and churches that emphasize it are healthier and better equipped to fulfill the Great Commission. Our agenda includes making sure we stay focused on those things that make Sunday School effective.

And yes, our agenda also includes some discussion about the long-range vision for the building ☺. I have philosophy for how I want to handle how our adult classes relocate, and we're going to talk through that and see if our adult leaders agree with me. David has asked for prayer for this process, and I second that request. We want everyone to feel like they are going to be impacted in a positive way by whatever investment we decide to make in our building.



Matt

Rev. Ben Tarver

I am very excited to introduce Aubrey Bentley as the Children's Ministry Coordinator. Under my supervision, she will help guide the Children's Ministry, from birth to 6th grade. Aubrey is currently working on a degree in Early Childhood Education and is passionate about our church and helping children. Aubrey will give ministerial insight and assistance to our children's programs and be a staff representative present at children's events. Please join me in welcoming Aubrey!

Preschool Sunday is coming February 25. We have so many preschoolers that we have divided up the recognition of the classes and students to two separate Sundays. A couple things I would ask, please welcome all visitors that come and be flexible to sit somewhere else if someone is "in your spot." We want to be kind and welcoming to all.

The Youth Winter Retreat is President's Day Weekend, Feb 16-19 in Gatlinburg. This will be a great getaway opportunity for our youth to bond, have fun snow-tubing, ice skating, and other fun activities. We will stay at the Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries house. If you have not yet signed up, please call the church office ASAP.

Winter Jam is an annual and inexpensive contemporary Christian music tour. Winter Jam is at the James Brown Arena on Thursday, February 8. The youth will take a bus and leave the church at 4:30 PM. The cost is \$15. Please have your money in by January 31.

Upward Basketball kicked off Saturday, January 20! It was an exciting day with lots of children playing - we have 158 in the league this year! The end-of-season celebration will be here before we know it, Saturday, March 9. I am asking for Upward Gift donations to hand out as door prizes for that evening. Gift cards to Walmart, local restaurants, and/or sporting goods equipment, board games, scooters, bicycles, portable basketball goals, are all wonderful prize ideas! If your family, business or Sunday school class would like to donate an item, please get those into the church office by the end of February.

As you can see, we have many exciting things going on in the wintertime for children and youth at our church. I am so thankful for a church family with a heart for the next generation!

Ben

Last Month

	We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
	December 24	265	304	201	\$22,660.16
	December 31	224	216	208	\$41,346.60
	January 7	269	256	263	\$17,925.75
	January 14	248	352	221	\$18,817.00
	January 21	260	249	215	\$13,456.00
	BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
	Required	\$921,257.00	Cap. Improvements		\$21,887.62
	Received	\$909,420.93	Ferguson Property		\$5,665.00
	Disbursed	\$888,963.75	Go & Tell Mission Fund		\$46,684.71

*End-of-
December
Final
Finances*



WINTER JAM YOUTH TRIP
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8


BUS LEAVES WAREHOUSE AT 4:30 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
CONCERT STARTS AT 7:00 PM
\$15 DUE BY JANUARY 31



February 11

Immediately Following Worship

For Guests and New Members



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 14
6:00 PM

Young @ Heart

Tuesday, February 13
11:00 AM

Speaker: Rev. Jeff Harris

RSVP By February 8 at Noon
Cost is \$9.50



Cornerstone Preschool
Sunday



February 25

2024 EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
FBC CONYERS, GA

Called to WITNESS

<u>FEBRUARY 25</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 26</u>
5:00-8:00 PM	8:30 AM- 12:30 PM
BUS LEAVES FBC AT 3:00	BUS LEAVES FBC AT 7:00

 Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Family Night Supper
 Wednesdays at 5:00,
 Fellowship Hall

February 7	Meatloaf
Kids: Corn Dogs	
February 14	Baked Chicken
Kids: Chicken Tenders	
February 21	Sub Sandwiches
February 28	Spaghetti and Meatballs

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

February Ministry Donation
Oral Care Products



February

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)
	2:00	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)
	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	<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

February 2, 2024

7:00 PM Triumphant Quartet

February 3, 2024

Upward Basketball

8:00 AM Deacon Planning Retreat

February 4, 2024

Name Tag Sunday

February 8, 2024

1:30 PM Bloodmobile Blood Drive

4:30 PM Youth Leave for Winter Jam

February 9, 2024

6:30 PM Deacon and Wives Dinner at Thomson Boat Club

February 10, 2024

Upward Basketball Games

February 11, 2024

12:00 PM Next Steps Luncheon

February 13, 2024

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

February 14, 2024

6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service

February 16-19, 2024

Youth Winter Retreat in Gatlinburg

February 17, 2024

Upward Basketball Games

February 24, 2024

Upward Basketball Games

February 25, 2024

Cornerstone Preschool Sunday

February 25-26, 2024

GBC Evangelism Conference in Conyers