



# **THE CORNERSTONE** FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH **THOMSON**

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

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## **February 1**

### **Immediately Following Worship**

*For Guests and New Members*



**Triumphphant Quartet in Concert**  
**February 7; 6:00 PM**

## *Ash Wednesday Service*



### **February 18; 6:00 PM**

Childcare will be provided through age 3.  
Everyone else will be in the sanctuary.

# Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

## Grateful for What God Has Done—and Expectant for What's Ahead

February invites us to pause, reflect, and look ahead with faith as God continues to work in and through our church family. I want to begin by *looking expectantly at what's ahead this month* and encourage our guests and newer members to join us for our **Next Steps Luncheon on February 1st**. We are truly blessed, encouraged, and humbled by the people and families the Lord is bringing to our church and we never want to take them for granted. This luncheon is an opportunity to learn who we are, what we believe, and how to find belonging and purpose here. If you're newer to our church—or know someone who is—I hope you'll make plans to attend. Contact the church office ASAP so we can prepare for you!

Later this month, we will gather for **Ash Wednesday on February 18th at 6:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be provided for children through age 3, and all others will worship together through Scripture, prayer, the **Lord's Supper**, and the **imposition of ashes**. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are sinners in need of God's grace. As we continue our **Ten Commandments** series on Sundays, this service reinforces a central truth of the Gospel: God's Law reveals His holiness and our inability to keep it perfectly—but **Jesus kept the Law for us**. This service marks the beginning of Lent as we prepare to observe Holy Week and celebrate the hope of Easter.

Now, let me take a moment to *look back in gratitude*: Over Christmas, I received three cards that offered a powerful reminder of how God uses even the “ordinary” faithfulness of our church. One came from several families who drove over an hour to experience our **Drive Thru Nativity**, thanking us for helping them remember the true meaning of Christmas. Another came from a senior adult widow who lives hours away but remains connected through our online worship and Facebook ministry. The third came from a local man—who attends another church—simply expressing gratitude for our **indoor walking track** and its availability to the community. Three brief notes, all pointing to the same truth: small, consistent ministries can have a far-reaching impact.

None of these ministries exist by accident. They are possible because of the **visionary, faith-filled, sacrificial generosity** of those who came before us—people who looked beyond their own moment, trusted God with bold ideas, and invested in ministries they might never personally benefit from. Because they stepped out in faith, we have a campus that serves our church, our community, and even people far beyond Thomson.

As we continue our **For All Generations** campaign, we are now being invited into that same legacy. We have the opportunity to carry that vision forward by making our **Education Building** more usable, welcoming, and effective for ministry—especially for children, students, and families who will come long after us. We are laying foundations others will stand on, shaping spaces where the Gospel will be taught, faith will be nurtured, and lives will be changed for generations to come. It makes me wonder: **What “thank you” cards will be written decades from now because of what we choose to do today?**

May we remain faithful, forward-looking, and generous—trusting God to use what we offer for generations to come.



# Dr. Matt Ward

## End-of-Year Go and Tell Mission Fund Report

I've updated the missions fund posters to include final totals for our go and Tell Fund in 2026. We set a goal of \$45,000, and we gave \$40,888 toward that goal. That's wonderful, and we would of course love to do even better next year. Of the portion that was allocated to be used at the church's discretion, we supplemented our gifts to Manna to help them navigate the sudden loss of funding from other sources. We also closed the gap on our goal for backpacks for Appalachia, Angel Tree gifts, a gift for some missionaries, and helped a number of our Sunday School classes tackle their own mission projects. Please continue to give to our mission fund; if each family gave ~\$20/month, we would easily reach our goal. Thank you!

## Capital Improvements Fund Report

If you're new around here, this might be confusing. We are in the middle of a capital campaign called the "For All Generations Capital Campaign" (or just "building campaign"). Please give generously in support of that! David will have a lot more to say about that in the weeks to come.

But our church also has a **Capital Improvements Fund**. This is totally separate from the building campaign. The Capital Improvements Fund is used by our Property and Space Committee to keep up with the day-to-day needs of the building that are unrelated to the capital campaign. We have three sources of funding: a line in the budget, bank interest, and gifts. I am asking you to consider making a gift to our capital improvements fund (even while you continue to support the capital campaign). I know; it's a lot of asking. Let me tell you how we use it.

We use our Capital Improvements Fund to cover major reactive expenses that the budget can't handle. In 2025, that included: The primary water heater sprung a leak; \$17,500 to replace. The HVAC in the kitchen died; \$19,200 to replace. Part of the commercial dishwasher broke; \$4,000 to replace. Capital Improvements also allows us to tackle projects more effectively. In 2025: The electrical service in the education building was on its last legs; instead of trying to repair it, we were able to replace it, \$31,668. The water main under Borders Street cracked; instead of patching the road yet again, we were able to re-pave the whole road, \$20,000. And Capital Improvements lets us do fun things that would otherwise get kicked down the road repeatedly. In 2025: a beautiful new sign for the preschool and fellowship hall, \$3,424; turning the Snack Room into a wonderful and usable space, \$5,300; painting some areas that needed it, \$2,500.

You can see that those were all necessary projects, but not cheap. The Capital Improvements Fund allowed us to tackle those projects without demolishing the church's maintenance budget (which we use to replace lights, repair appliances, pay for inspections, etc.) and without asking for money from the church every time an emergency hit.

In 2026, here are some of the things for Capital Improvements: the gym will have some major repair work that will allow us to finally repair the wood floor; the library is long overdo for a beautification effort; we want to build a bus barn to protect our valuable buses; we have important repair work on the columns and fascia boards around the sanctuary and chapel. These are big projects that are important and not cheap. Please consider supporting the Capital Improvements Fund and helping us to tackle those projects more aggressively!



# Rev. Ben Tarver

I am incredibly thankful for our Youth Winter Retreat weekend getaway to Gatlinburg. We are especially grateful to Jodi and Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries for their hospitality and for preparing the SMRM House for our stay. The weather was cold but perfect for skiing, snow tubing, and ice skating, and we also enjoyed time exploring downtown Gatlinburg together.

I am deeply thankful for our chaperones—Jay Mixon, Wint Cook, and my wife, Christy—who helped make this trip possible. In total, we had 19 students and adults participate, and it was a joy to spend the weekend growing together in fellowship.

Back at the house, students connected through group games and meaningful devotions as we looked at the name of God and why it matters so deeply in light of our relationship with Him. It was a refreshing and encouraging weekend for our youth.

Upward Basketball is also off to a great start this season. I am thankful for our volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and scorekeepers who give their time and energy to serve our kids and families so well. Player and team pictures will take place during practices on February 23, 24, and 26. More information about ordering photos—using a new system this year—will be coming soon.

Finally, as Valentine’s Day approaches, be on the lookout for new resources at the Faith @ Home Center. For some, this season is joyful and meaningful; for others, it can be difficult or something you’d rather skip. Whatever your situation, we want to offer thoughtful resources to support you and your family.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.  
God bless,



***Last Month***

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
December 21	300	202	245	\$36,118.29
December 28	183	237	170	\$16,673.04
January 4	275	228	229	\$18,647.00
January 11	335	194	267	\$11,154.19
January 18	235	401	200	\$12,547.50
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$961,820.00	Cap. Improvements	\$13,376.65	
Received	\$1,115,706.36	Vision Implementation	\$699,578.04	
Disbursed	\$983,804.24	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$40,888.17	

***End-of-  
December  
Final  
Finances***



## FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

**Saturday, February 21  
8:30 AM**

McDuffie County Fire Station  
1061 Salem Rd. Thomson

- ✓ Open to church members
- ✓ \$50 for certification card
- ✓ Free if you do not want the official certification
- ✓ RSVP to the church office

## Faith@Home

*Building Strong Families*

Make sure you are regularly checking our Faith @ Home Center in the atrium for new material and seasonal activities!

## Young@Heart

**Tuesday, February 10  
11:00 AM**

**Speaker: Karen Holley**

**RSVP By February 5 at Noon  
Cost is \$10.00**

## UPLUARD

**Picture Dates:**

**February 23**

**February 24**

**February 26**



Cornerstone Preschool Registration will open soon for the 2026-2027 school year:

**February 17:**

**In house registration begins.**

**February 24:**

**Registration open to the public.**

*Save the Date*

**VBS  
July 13-17  
6-8:30 PM**

**\$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  
**February 4**  
**Baked Potatoes & Chicken Fries**

**February 11**  
**Spaghetti**

**February 18**  
**Sub Sandwiches**

**February 25**  
**Fried Chicken**

## 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)
	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)
		<b>Women's Study, Craft Room</b>
		<b>Men's Study, Parlor</b>
		Elevate (7-10 Grade), Warehouse
		TeamKID (1-6 Grade), Gym
		TinyKID (K4-K5), Chapel
		TinyTots (2-3), Nursery
	7:15	Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
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 1, 2026

12:00 PM Next Steps Luncheon  
 5:00 PM Committee Workshop  
 6:00 PM Quarterly Church Conference

## February 7, 2026

Upward Basketball Games  
 6:00 PM Triumphant Quartet Concert

## February 8, 2026

**4:30 PM Women's Ministry Team Meeting**

## February 9, 2026

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

## February 10, 2026

11:00 AM Young at Heart  
 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting  
**7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting**

## February 14, 2026

Upward Basketball Games

## February 15, 2026

4:30 PM Senior Adult Team Meeting

## February 17, 2026

Cornerstone Preschool In House Registration Opens

## February 18, 2026

6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service  
 (Childcare through age 3. Everyone else in Sanctuary)

## February 21, 2026

Upward Basketball Games

## February 24, 2026

Cornerstone Preschool Registration Opens to the Public

## February 28, 2026

Upward Basketball Games