



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

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

PHONE: (706) 595-4252

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Vol. 61

January 2025

No.1

Merry Christmas



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

with Lord's Supper

December 24
5:00 PM

No nursery provided

Church Office Closed



December 24 & 25
Merry Christmas



January 1
Happy New Year

Year-End Giving

Year-End gifts need to be received in the church office no later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday, December 31, 2024, or postmarked by December 31, 2024, in order to receive 2024 giving credit.

Thank you for your gifts!

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we wrap up 2024, there is so much to celebrate together! We baptized 16 people and saw another 14 join our church, for 30 new members, adding several new families. We exceeded all our offering goals for this past year—praying we do the same for Lottie Moon! We are grateful for the faithful giving of our people and for all those who have given of their time and talents in helping us reach and serve our community.

Our ministries to youth and children continue to grow. Our Cornerstone Preschool had another record attendance year, and we had another fantastic VBS with record attendance and offerings received. We are doing a great job of reaching and discipling the next generation. Let's keep it up!

But beyond numbers, we've been equipping families and helping them commit themselves to God's ways through our Marriage Retreat, the Financial Learning Weekend, the *I Was Broke. Now I'm Not* Sunday School class, and through Wednesday night small group studies. Add to that the many ways our church family has been on mission in places like Gatlinburg and West Virginia, reaching our neighbors through the Wild Game Supper, through our Spring and Fall Festivals, Upward Basketball, and Hurricane Helene relief efforts...as I said, we have much about which to celebrate and thank God!

But as I write this, 2024 isn't done yet! I hope to see you and your family on **Christmas Eve** for the Candlelight Lord's Supper service at 5 PM. Also remember **Year End Gifts** need to be turned in to the church office by Tuesday the 31st, or at least postmarked by then to count toward your 2024 giving.

Now, on to 2025: Our big focus this coming year will be the capital stewardship campaign. I'm thankful for the dozens of people working on numerous teams and praying for God's guidance as we plan this spiritual emphasis and time of renewal for our church. This will be about so much more than just raising funds to carry out a much-needed renovation project in our current facilities. My hope and prayer is that this will be a time of spiritual revival and a renewal of God's vision for our church as we seek to make disciples of Jesus from all generations. Be praying about this, and watch for more information in the new year.

We will begin the year with a new sermon series: **Better: New Year, Better You**. We will look at how the Great Commandments and the Great Commission show us God's plan for making us the best possible version of ourselves, by His power and wisdom. We all want to be better people, but we need to strive toward improving ourselves God's way. Join us on Sundays to begin your journey to a better you.

Also, make sure to join us again on Wednesdays beginning January 8th, especially as we pick back up on our "Route 66" Road Trip thru the Bible, with the books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians. There are other great studies for men and women, as well as TinyTots, TinyKids, TeamKids, and Elevate for preschool, children, and youth.

Looking forward to serving the Lord with you in 2025!



Dr. Matt Ward

How Do You Want to Begin 2025?

Y'all know that I do not advocate for "New Year's Resolutions". If there is something that you should be doing, don't wait for an arbitrary calendar date to start it!

That said, December tends to be weird, doesn't it? In many of our jobs, there are year-end things that happen that take a lot of our attention. Schools take a break, and for many this follows a frantic time of tests and projects. Christmas is an event that takes significant planning (and then significant clean-up) and possibly some travel. And this is not even to mention the December-specific things like concerts, plays, parades, and the like. Or the fact that "sickness season" is back in full force. And it gets cold (and then hot, and then cold again). When we get to the end of it all, we just want to take a break, don't we?

For that reason, the end of December is a good time to take stock of your habits. How is your **prayer life** doing? How is your **Bible reading** going? How happy are you with your **church attendance**? How about the members of your **family** — what nudges do they need in the right direction?

As someone who works with administration around here, it would be silly of me to ignore year-end giving. Take a look at what you have given in 2024 (it's available in Realm to you) — how does that total compare with what you think you should be giving?

Keep Christ in Christmas

This is for everyone who missed my message on Sunday. If you say you "keep Christ in Christmas", then make sure that you do! Make plans to attend our Christmas Eve service (or whatever church you will have traveled near). Spend time on Christmas day reading about or talking about the Nativity and God's perfect gift to us.

Thank You to Our Nativity Volunteers

Paige and I are so thankful to everyone who made our Nativity so beautiful, and if the weather had been different, you were ready to keep going! When we rebuild our village set, we will make some changes to it to minimize this kind of damage from happening again.

January Is for Upward!

If you don't have kids or grandkids in Upward Basketball, you might not know how big a ministry it is, both in numbers of people and impact. If you don't already, put on your prayer calendar to pray for Upward Basketball every Saturday morning starting January 18 — there are hundreds of people on our campus every Saturday, many of whom are not church members (and some of our guests won't be Christians). Pray for good sportsmanship (on the court and in the stands), pray that our guests have a good interaction with our church, and pray that people listen to gospel truths as they are presented!

Committee Workshop on January 12

Our new committee rosters take effect on January 1, and it's important that we start the year with a clear sense of who you're working with and what you're working toward.



Rev. Ben Tarver

As we look ahead to the New Year, there are plenty of exciting opportunities for our kids, youth, and families to get involved, grow in faith, and enjoy community together!

Youth Winter Retreat

Mark your calendars for **President's Day Weekend (Feb 14–17)**! Our youth group will head to **Gatlinburg**, staying at the Smoky Mountain Resort Ministry (SMRM) house to enjoy the beauty of the winter season. During the retreat we will enjoy Snow Tubing, Ice Skating, Ridding the Giant Skylift, Exploring Gatlinburg (shopping and eating out), as well as group time at the SMRM house with games and devotionals.

Total Cost: \$130 per person (includes a meal in Gatlinburg, ice-skating, snow tubing, and a sky lift ticket).

Reserve your spot today with a **\$50 deposit** due ASAP to the church office!

Kids Centrifuge Camp

We're thrilled to announce that signups for **Kids Centrifuge Camp** are opening soon! Camp will be **June 27-29 in Shocco Springs, AL**. This is a wonderful camp experience designed to help kids grow spiritually while having a ton of fun with friends and leaders. A non-refundable **\$75 deposit** is due by the **end of January** to secure a spot.

Youth Summer Camp at Look Up Lodge

Our youth will return to **Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, SC** this summer! This camp is an unforgettable experience for youth to grow closer to God, connect with peers, and have an incredible time together.

Details:

- **Cost:** \$320 per person (includes 5 nights, meals, recreation, and lodging)
- **Deposit:** A non-refundable **\$75 deposit** is due by the **end of January** to secure a spot.

Let's make this another amazing summer of growth, fun, and fellowship!

Upward Basketball Season

We're excited to kick off another season of **Upward Basketball**! Practices begin the **first full week of the New Year**, with **140 children** signed up to play this season.

We still need a few **coaches and referees** for the Saturday games. No experience? No problem! If you're willing to help, you can easily learn to coach or referee for younger kids' games. Please contact the church office if you can serve on Saturday mornings from January– March.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We are so grateful for each of you and look forward to all that God will do in and through our church in 2025. Let's step into this new year with joy, anticipation, and hearts ready to serve!



Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
November 24	275	185	220	\$18,929.80
December 1	280	184	240	\$26,385.00
December 8	315	275	220	\$16,504.50
December 15	214	258	212	\$23,351.50
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$873,873.88	Cap. Improvements	\$16,788.00	
Received	\$807,675.49	Vision Implementation	\$25,246.23	
Disbursed	\$821,548.19	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$35,958.54	

**End-of-
November
Final
Finances**

Register for Camp!



CentriKid Camp
Rising 2nd- Rising 6th
June 27-29



Look Up Lodge
Rising 7th- Completed 12th
June 8-13

Contact the church office to sign up, or sign up on the connect card in worship.
A \$75 deposit is due by January 31.

COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

January 12
6:00 PM

QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE

January 19
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 January 26!

Wednesday Nights

Beginning January 8

TinyTots: Age 2-3 (Nursery)
TinyKID: Age 3-K5 (Chapel)
TeamKID: 1st-6th Grade (Gym)
Elevate: 7th-12th Grade (Warehouse)

Adults:

Route 66 Road Trip through the Bible (final semester)

Men:

"Authentic Manhood"

In the parlor led by Andrew Harding

Women:

God of Creation by Jen Wilkin
Cost is \$15

Lord's Supper

Sunday, January 26

A benevolence offering will be received.

Wednesday Nights

Beginning January 8

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"Authentic Manhood"

In the parlor led by Andrew Harding

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God of Creation by Jen Wilkin
Cost is \$15

\$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

January 8:
Soup and Sandwiches

January 15:
Chicken Strips

January 22:
Pork Chops

January 29:
Pizza

JANUARY MINISTRY DONATION

HAIR CARE PRODUCTS



PLEASE PLACE ITEMS IN THE BLUE BIN IN THE ATRIUM

January

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

January 1, 2025

Office Closed– Happy New Year!

January 5, 2025

Name Tag Sunday

4:00 PM Women's Ministry Team Meeting

January 6, 2025

Upward Practices Begin

January 8, 2025

Wednesday Night Kickoff

January 9, 2025

1:00 PM Blood Drive

January 12, 2025

6:00 PM Committee Workshop

January 13, 2025

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

January 14, 2025

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

January 18, 2025

Upward Games Begin

January 19, 2025

6:00 PM Quarterly Church Conference

January 20, 2025

Office Closed

January 25, 2025

Second Week of Upward Games

January 26, 2025

Worship with Lord's Supper