



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

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

PHONE: (706) 595-4252

WEB: www.fbcthomson.org

Vol. 61

March 2025

No. 3



March 23: Commitment Sunday with
Lunch after Worship

SPRING FESTIVAL

MARCH 8TH, 2025

11 AM - 2 PM

FBC THOMSON PARK

FOOD TRUCKS

PETTING ZOO

TRAIN RIDES

BOUNCY HOUSE

FACEPAINTING

EVERYTHING BUT THE FOOD IS FREE!!!



Ash Wednesday Service
March 5; 6:00 PM

Nursery will be provided. Everyone else will be in the sanctuary.

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

As we step into a pivotal season of stewardship and vision, our "For All Generations" capital campaign invites each of us to play a part in shaping the future of our church. This campaign is not just about enhancing our physical spaces—it's about ensuring our facilities reflect the heart of our mission to Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples of Jesus from All Generations.

A Vision That Bridges Generations

Our church stands at a sacred moment of transition, much like when King David prepared to pass the torch to Solomon for the building of the Temple—a place meant not just for their time but for generations to come. In the same spirit, we are called to renew and prepare our church campus to meet the evolving needs of our growing congregation and community.

Over the past five years, we've witnessed remarkable growth and revitalization in our ministries, particularly those serving our children and youth. The energy and vibrancy these programs bring each week remind us of our responsibility and privilege to provide spaces that nurture faith and fellowship.

Key Dates to Remember

As we embark on this three-year journey of faith and commitment, we want to ensure everyone is aware of these key moments this month for you to engage with and support our "For All Generations" campaign:

Prayer and Devotion: I encourage you to use the daily devotional to deepen your prayer life and guide you in seeking God's guidance on how much you and your family will commit to give over the next three years to the campaign.

Follow-Up Sessions: If you missed our Launch Sunday, or have further questions, I will be available for a couple of hours on March 9th from 3-4 or 4-5 and March 16th from 3-4 or 4-5 in the Parlor.

24-Hour Prayer Emphasis: Join us on March 21st and 22nd for continuous prayer. Sign-up in the Atrium on Sunday for a 15-minute (or more) time slot to pray either individually or as a family

Commitment Sunday: March 23rd is a day of commitment and celebration. Bring your commitment cards and first-fruit offerings to the service. Following our worship, we'll enjoy a special lunch together in the Gym, celebrating what God will do through our collective commitments.

Our Call to Action

As your pastor, I am personally committed to this journey and will be one of the first to lead by giving sacrificially. I invite each of you to join me in this act of faith. Whether you've been with us for decades or are new to our church family, your participation is crucial. We are not just investing in bricks and mortar but in a spiritual legacy for future generations.

Would you pray about your commitment over these next few weeks? Consider how you can contribute, not just through your finances but also through your time and talents. Let's embrace this opportunity to act boldly, trusting in God's provision and promises as we invest, renew, and grow together "for all generations."

Excited for our future together in Christ,



Dr. Matt Ward

Spring Festival on March 8

We are trying something different this year, and that means we might need your help. Long story short: we are combining our Upward Awards Celebration with our Spring Festival into one

Mega Celebration

Saturday, March 8, 11:00-2:00

Some of our usual helpers will be watching their basketball game during set-up, so I'd really like you to consider **volunteering** to help us this year. For obvious reasons, we are expecting a larger crowd than usual. More guests means more need for volunteers!

And **you** are invited! Take a look at everything going on:

- Petting Zoo and train ride
- Bounce houses and rock climbing wall
- Games and music
- Lots of food options!

Come out and get some great food — Christy's Cookies, Willimacs Express, Southern Smoke Shack BBQ, Burger Barn, Kona Ica, Travelin' Tom's Coffee, Funnell Cake Lounge. You have to buy your own food, but everything else is free!

Senior Adult Trip to Old McDonald Fish Camp

Back by popular demand, our senior adults are taking a trip to eat some seafood at Old McDonald Fish Camp in North Augusta

Thursday, March 20

Bus leaves the church at 4:00 PM!

Deadline to sign up: March 11

The restaurant does not accept reservations, so the bus will be leaving the church campus at 4:00 sharp to be there when they open at 5:00. We will make sign-ups available in Sunday School and worship the next two Sundays!

"First Impressions" Training on March 30, 3:00-5:00

I'm using whatever avenues I can to spread the word about this event. This training is specifically designed for our

- **Greeter Team**
- **Ushers**
- **Deacons**, and
- **Safety Team**

It is designed to help these teams understand how they work together to create the best first impression possible for our guests.

If you have ever considered joining our greeter team, **or if you just want to know how you can help our church be the most welcoming place we can be for guests**, you are also invited!

And if you are worried that 2 hours seems like a long time to talk about being nice to people, you definitely need to come! That's just enough time to scratch the surface of what it takes to help families feel welcome, comfortable, and safe when they attend a church for the first time or three.

Ruth and Naomi Widow's Tea on March 17

This wonderful fellowship is designed help the widows in our church to lift one another up and minister to one another. If you know a widow who feels isolated, tell her about this event!



Rev. Ben Tarver

Winter Retreat in Gatlinburg

Our youth recently returned from an incredible Winter Retreat in Gatlinburg, where we experienced both adventure and spiritual growth. A group of 17 stayed at the Smoky Mountain Resort Ministry house, enjoying a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, and faith. We played games, bowled, and played basketball at the Gatlinburg Community Center, explored downtown, and ate some great meals together. One of the highlights of the retreat was our devotional time, where we traced **the mountain top experiences and challenges in the ministry of Jesus**—from His temptation by Satan on the mountain (Matthew 4), to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), the Transfiguration (Matthew 17), and ultimately to the Great Commission on the mountain at the end of the book of Matthew (Matthew 28:16-20). We reflected on how these moments shaped Jesus' mission and how God meets us in both the high moments and the challenges of our faith journey. Originally planning to visit Ober Gatlinburg, a power outage led us to an unexpected blessing: a thrilling snow tubing experience in Pigeon Forge. It was a weekend full of laughter, bonding, and growing in our faith together!

Upward Basketball Season & Spring Festival

Our Upward Basketball season is in full swing, and it has been a joy to see 140 kids across 18 teams grow in both their skills and understanding of Christ's love. With over 25 coaches, assistant coaches, officials, and scorekeepers, this ministry is made possible by so many faithful volunteers. As the season wraps up, we look forward to celebrating with our **Spring Festival** at the church park on **Saturday, March 8, from 11 AM to 2 PM**. This event is open to the entire community, not just Upward families, and will feature games, bounce houses, and food vendors. This week, I am also sharing the gospel at Upward practices with each team, praying that seeds of faith will be planted in the hearts of these young athletes. God is truly at work through this ministry!

Children's Banks & Annie Armstrong Offering

You may have noticed that children recently brought home special giving banks, and we want to encourage families to focus on the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** throughout March. These donations go directly to support **Southern Baptist missionaries across the United States**, helping spread the gospel to communities in need. Additionally, the **capital campaign piggy banks**—featuring a special church logo—will be collected on the **first Sunday of each month**, beginning in April, which also coincides with Name Tag Sunday. A designated **collection jar** will be available in the **atrium** for children to empty their banks into, turning their small gifts into something impactful for the future of our church. We are grateful for all God is doing through our youth, children, and family ministries. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to disciple the next generation!

Ben

Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
February 2	347	244	235	\$19,589.00
February 9	290	164	250	\$23,485.61
February 16	258	208	214	\$12,355.00
February 23	285	250	234	\$18,345.28
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$73,986.15	Cap. Improvements	\$936.00	
Received	\$95,153.43	Vision Implementation	\$1,470.00	
Disbursed	\$67,028.49	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$2,332.00	

*End-of-
January
Final
Finances*

Spring Forward
Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 9

Young @ Heart

Tuesday, March 11
11:00 AM

Rev. Bob Allen

RSVP By March 6 at Noon
Cost is \$10.00

Ruth and Naomi's Tea
A sweet time of fellowship for widows.

Monday, March 17
1:30 in the afternoon
FBC Thomson Parlor

The tea is free but registration is required.
 Please call the church office
 to register: 706-595-4252

Cornerstone Preschool

Cornerstone Preschool
 Registration is open for the
 2025-2026 school year.

Contact Laura wall with questions:
 lwall@fbcthomson.org

Blood Drive

March 6
1:00-6:00 PM

The bloodmobile
will be in our
parking lot!

Senior Adult trip

Thursday, March 20
 Old McDonald Fish Camp
 Bus will leave at 4:00 PM

RSVP on the connect card or to
 the church office by March 11.

Family Night Supper
 Wednesdays at 5:00
 Fellowship Hall

March 5
 Chicken Salad and Pimento Cheese
 Kids: Chicken Nuggets

March 12
 Baked Spaghetti and Salad

March 19
 Sub Sandwiches

March 26
 Papa Johns

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

MARCH MINISTRY

Pop-top cans of meals,
 toys and hygiene items
 for backpacks for
 Appalachia

March

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)
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 *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

March 1, 2025
 2:00 PM Annie Armstrong Tea

March 2, 2025
 Name Tag Sunday

March 5, 2025
 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service

March 6, 2025
 1:00 PM Blood Drive

March 8, 2025
 Last Upward Games
 11:00 AM Spring Festival

March 9, 2025
 Daylight Savings Time Begins— Move Clocks Forward
 3:00 PM Follow Up Session for Capital Campaign
 4:00 PM Follow Up Session for Capital Campaign

March 10, 2025
 6:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting
 6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

March 11, 2025
 11:00 AM Young at Heart
 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting

March 16, 2025
 3:00 PM Follow Up Session for Capital Campaign
 4:00 PM Follow Up Session for Capital Campaign

March 17, 2025
1:30 PM Ruth & Naomi's Tea (A Tea for Widows)

March 20, 2025
 4:00 PM Senior Adult Trip to Old McDonald Fish Camp

March 21-22, 2025
 24 Hours Of Prayer for Capital Campaign

March 23, 2025
 Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday with Lunch

March 24, 2025
 6:30 PM KBA Spring Inspirational Sharon Baptist Church

March 30, 2025
 3:00 PM First Impressions Training