



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

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

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No.5



Mother's Day

MAY 12, 2024

FREE FAMILY PHOTO

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

May 2, 2024 | 7:00 AM

Thomson Presbyterian Church



MISSIONS NIGHT WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 6:00 PM SANCTUARY



Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 12, 2024



Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Exciting days are not only ahead for our church...they're here right now! At the April Quarterly Church Conference, I reported on **four consecutive years of growth** our church has seen since 2020. By every definition, that is **verifiable church revitalization!** It is answered prayer and the fruit of our revitalization emphasis over these past five years that began with the Strategic Revitalization Team's 18-month work, the church's adoption of our vision frame, and continued through the work of our Vision Implementation Team and Action Teams.

Look at this **growth in annual average attendance** from January 2021 to the end of March 2024:

Sunday School (all ages) grew 38% from 163 in 2021 to 225 today.

In-person worship attendance increased 49% from 188 to 281.

Preschool Sunday School attendance grew 44% from 18 to 26.

Children's Sunday School increased 142% (that's not a typo) from 12 to 29.

Add to that the **record-setting enrollments and attendance** in TinyKID and TeamKID (60+ children on Wednesdays), Upward Basketball, VBS, Cornerstone Preschool, the "thundering herd" that comes for the Children's Sermon every Sunday, and the nursery where we recently had 28 children! These numbers have already been trickling up to our youth ministry, and with additional kids bringing friends, they are also seeing growth (averaging 15 on Wednesdays this year).

Naturally, all this growth in "the next generation" means **growth in adult ministries as well.** Children naturally bring parents and grandparents with them, and we have added at least 12 families these past few years who came to us through our preschool, children, and youth ministries. Many of our adult Sunday School classes have seen remarkable growth in enrollment and attendance. As I said, God is moving and doing exciting things in and through the life of our church! There is much for which we can celebrate and give thanks to God.

But there is also much to pray about, plan for, and work toward. At the January QCC, the church voted to affirm the **Campus Master Plan** that highlighted the great need to bring our aging campus up to speed, not only for the future, but for current growth and needs. If you'd like to have me, Matt, Ben, or a member of our Campus Vision Team go over those plans with you, please let us know. We would love to talk with you about these exciting ideas for improvement, growth, and maximizing the space God has already given us!

In a nutshell, **the Education Building is 60 years old.** The infrastructure needs to be updated (plumbing, electrical, bathrooms/ADA, security, HVAC, roof, windows, etc.) if we want to use it for another 60 years. The way ministry is done today is vastly different than when the rooms were laid out in the 1960s. Many rooms need to be reconfigured, especially on the 1st and 5th levels. There are spaces throughout our buildings that also need some work, including the Atrium, rooms off the gym, the music and baptism suites, and other Adult Sunday School rooms. Additionally, there is work to be done outside the buildings as well. As you can imagine, **the task before us is monumental and urgently needed.**

We realized that we would need help balancing our needs with our means and setting challenging yet realistic goals for this task. To that end, the church voted at the April QCC to hire **InJoy Stewardship Solutions** for a three-year partnership in a stewardship education and capital financing campaign. InJoy was founded by John Maxwell in 1992 and has since helped over 5,000 churches with stewardship needs, including capital funds for major projects. The VIT researched and interviewed five church consultant groups and felt led by God toward InJoy. We were especially drawn to their emphasis on spiritual growth, prayer, and discipling believers in biblical financial stewardship.

Dr. David Lambert, continued

Early in our meetings, the VIT became strongly convicted that we didn't want to merely do a fundraiser—we wanted to see our church transformed by a vision of the future and out of appreciation for God's generous blessings on us. InJoy's vision for their ministry closely aligns with that, emphasizing a **spiritual journey** to connect people with God's generous heart.

InJoy's process aligns with those convictions and follows the pattern King David laid out in raising the resources necessary for building God's Temple in Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 28-29). The four phases of this spiritual journey toward generosity are:

- 1. Vision Clarification.** InJoy will evaluate our current ministry environment and culture. They will do an in-depth financial analysis of our church's stewardship so they can develop a Capacity Assessment of what our church can expect to raise. They will help us translate our Campus Master Plan into a prioritized and phased action plan. We won't be able to do everything we want "right now," so they will help us develop a focused vision of what we can do right now, and how we can prepare for future projects down the road.
- 2. Leadership Development.** During this phase, InJoy will help unify, develop, and deploy leaders from our church as carriers of God's vision. This will include selecting and training teams, developing key and legacy donors, and preparing us to launch our campaign.
- 3. Going Public.** At this point, the initiative is brought before the entire congregation in a variety of ways, including targeted communication, small group studies, Sunday School lessons, a prayer campaign, and a sermon series. I'm especially excited to offer a biblical stewardship emphasis to equip people in how to better manage their personal financial resources. One of InJoy's strengths is helping Christians to move from financial struggles to stability to strength to sacrificial giving. They will help us train and equip families in sound financial principles such as getting out of debt, saving for the future, budgeting, and generosity.
- 4. Follow Through** is vitally important, as it helps people walk in faithfulness to what God laid on their hearts and ensures the financial goals set at the beginning of the campaign are met--and exceeded! InJoy will provide quarterly financial analysis and help us to encourage those who made commitments and onboard new people who come to our church. They will help us celebrate milestones, especially in closing out the three-year campaign with a great celebration of God's goodness and our people's generosity and faithfulness.

There is much more that I can't wait to share with you in the months to come! We are embarking on a spiritual journey as a church family. The needs in our community and world are great. Times are urgent! But our God is greater, bigger, more loving and generous than we often realize. I believe that He is calling us to a great task, and He will be faithful to provide. I'm grateful for the guidance, expertise, and resources that God is already providing through InJoy Stewardship Solutions. And I look forward to working alongside each member of the FBC Thomson family in prayer, study, worship, and fellowship as we work together to achieve God's vision for our church and community. I'm sure you have questions, and I would love to discuss this vision and these ideas with you!

David

Dr. Matt Ward

Ceding Article Space

I am quite happy to shorten my article this month to give David more space to explain the very important things on the horizon!

So Much Happened in April

Our May calendar necessarily focuses on “school” and makes as much room as possible to celebrate and finish the school year well. As a result, you shouldn’t see any major projects on our facilities. I want to say thank you to everyone who modified their parking routine so as to let us get that sealcoat applied. It will extend the life of our lots by years. I’ve also had questions about those doors that got replaced outside the fellowship hall; the long story short is that we discovered a crack that we didn’t want turning into a security hazard. A big “thank you” to everyone who donates to the **Capital Improvements Fund**, which allowed us to replace those heavy doors without having to fret about how we would pay for them.

Rev. Ben Tarver

Summer is around the corner and graduations are coming up! Graduates will be recognized during the beginning of service on Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day. Please spread the word and contact the church office so we can get graduate information, especially for our college and graduate school graduates.

Summer camps are coming up for children and youth. CentriKid for our children is at Garner-Webb University June 21-23. LookUp Lodge for the youth is July 9-14. As you know, cost of camp can put a strain on families financially. I am often approached by other members with the question, "How can I help?" Giving monetarily to camps can help a family in need. If you would like to help, contact the church office, me, Aubrey Bentley or Lindsay Dunn. Thank you for your support.

Be in prayer for our Father/Child Camping Trip coming up at the Poston Farm May 3-5. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and fun!. Missions Recognition Night for our TeamKID and TinyKID groups will be in the sanctuary on Wednesday, May 8. This is an exciting end-of-semester celebration showcasing what the children have learned this year. It is also a time to recognize and thank our wonderful leaders. It starts at 6:00 PM; do not miss it!

Also, our Cornerstone Preschool will be wrapping up their school year with an Advancement Ceremony on May 16 at 6:00 PM. This has been a wonderful school year and we are so thankful for our director, Laura Wall, and all of our wonderful teachers!

Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
March 31	468	486	267	\$21,741.24
April 7	200		183	\$20,597.83
April 14	219	148	245	\$14,464.00
April 21	261	294	193	\$13,926.00
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$238,329.24	Cap. Improvements		\$4,643.00
Received	\$214,989.58	Ferguson Property		\$926.00
Disbursed	\$232,676.69	Go & Tell Mission Fund		\$7,472.56

*End-of-
March
Final
Finances*



Mother's Day

SUNDAY, MAY 12

MAGGIE ALLEN WILL BE TAKING
FREE FAMILY PHOTOS!

Young @ Heart

**Tuesday, May 14
11:00 AM**

Speaker: Preston Waldrop

**RSVP By May 9 at Noon
Cost is \$9.50**



Cornerstone Preschool
Advancement Ceremony
May 16
6:00 PM
FBC Sanctuary

Join us for...

PIZZA & BOWLING

SUNDAY, MAY 19
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**GRADES 1-6
\$15**

RSVP by May 13
Aubrey Bentley: abentley@fbcthomson.org

May Wednesdays

May 1: Normal Wednesday Night
May 8: Missions Night, 6 PM, Sanctuary
May 15: No Evening Activities
May 22: Kids: Cooking Night
Youth: Summer Kick-off Party
Adults: Chosen Season 4
May 29: Kids: Defy Trampoline Park
Youth: Open Gym and Pizza
Adults: Chosen Season 4

SAVE THE DATES

VBS

**June 10-14
6:00-8:30 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

May 1
Pizza and Salad

May 8
Meatloaf (Kids Chicken Nuggets)

May 22
Hot Dogs

May 29
Pork Chops (Kids Uncrustables)

May Ministry
VBS Donations



Scan the QR Code to purchase items from our Amazon Registry!
You can also donate Amazon or Walmart gift cards. Please bring gift cards to the church office.



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

May 2, 2024

7:00 AM National Day of Prayer Breakfast, TPC

May 3-5, 2024

Father/Child Camping Trip

May 5, 2024

5:00 PM Children's Camp Parent Meeting

May 8, 2024

6:00 PM Missions Night (End of regular semester)

May 12, 2024

Mother's Day

Graduate Sunday

May 13, 2024

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

May 14, 2024

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

May 15, 2024

No Wednesday Night Activities

May 16, 2024

6:00 PM CPS Advancement Ceremony

May 19, 2024

12:00 PM Kids Ministry Bowling Event

May 22, 2024

Summer Wednesday Night Programs Begin

May 27, 2024

Church Office Closed for Memorial Day

May 30, 2024

1:30 PM Blood Drive