



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

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

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Vol. 62

August 2026

No.8

SPARK CONFERENCE

A Church-Equipping Conference

August 16, 2026
3:45-8:15 PM
FBC Thomson

Contact the Church office to register!

August 2

Promotion Sunday

Deacon Nominations

Bibles to First Graders

August 12

Wednesday Night Kick-off

Tiny Tots Age 2-3

TinyKid Age 4-5

TeamKid 1-6 Grade

Elevate 7-12 Grade

Adults:

A Great Cloud of Witnesses, FH

Women's Study, Parlor

Men's study, Room 112

August 23

Pizza with the Pastors

August 30

Next Steps Luncheon

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

As we step into August, I am amazed at all God is doing at FBC Thomson! It is a joy to pastor a church that loves Christ, loves one another, and opens its arms to our community with such grace and generosity.

August 2 is an exciting start to the month! During worship we'll present Bibles to our new first graders, marking an important milestone in their spiritual journey. We'll rejoice as believers publicly profess their faith through baptism (and on the 16th also). And every church member will have the opportunity to nominate up to eight men to serve a three-year term as deacons, beginning in January. Please prayerfully nominate men who are already faithfully demonstrating servant leadership in our church family.

On Monday, August 10, at 7:00 p.m., we'll host an **informational meeting** for those who have been nominated and would like to learn more about the ministry and responsibilities of serving as a deacon at First Baptist.

On August 9, I'm excited to launch a new sermon series through Paul's letter to the **Ephesians**. Few books of the Bible paint a richer picture of who we are in Christ and how that identity transforms the way we live. Together we'll discover God's eternal plan for His church, the immeasurable riches of His grace, the unity Christ creates among His people, and the practical calling to walk worthy of the Gospel. I hope you'll make plans to be here each week and invite someone to join you as we explore this remarkable letter together.

Our fall **Wednesday night ministries** kick off on August 12, and I'm looking forward to the new adult Bible study we'll begin together: *A Great Cloud of Witnesses: The People, Stories, and Struggles that Shaped Christianity*. Throughout this study we'll meet pastors, missionaries, reformers, martyrs, and faithful believers whose lives shaped the history of the church. More than names and dates, we'll discover the story of God's faithfulness through the centuries—and be encouraged to remain faithful in our own generation. Whether you love history or are exploring it for the first time, I believe you'll find this series both inspiring and encouraging.

One of the highlights of the month will be hosting the **SPARK Conference** on Sunday, August 16. I'm especially excited to welcome Dr. Thom Rainer as our keynote speaker. As the former president of Lifeway Christian Resources and author of books such as *I Am a Church Member*, *We Want You Here*, and *Simple Church*, Dr. Rainer has encouraged churches across the nation. I'm grateful for our many volunteers who are helping host this event and look forward to the practical, biblical encouragement and training our church family will receive that evening.

If you're new to First Baptist or interested in church membership, I hope you'll join us after worship on Sunday, August 30, for our **Next Steps Lunch** to meet with our pastors, learn more about who we are and what we believe, and discover how you can become more connected to the life and ministry of our church. It's free, and we'd love to have you join us.

As I look across all that's happening this month, I'm reminded how God continues to bring people to Himself, strengthen families, raise up new leaders, and provide opportunities for us to serve our community and one another. Thank you for the many ways you faithfully pray, give, serve, invite, and encourage. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for us as we continue following Him together this August!



Dr. Matt Ward

Building Work Progress!

You'll see the progress in the atrium for yourself. I want to point out a separate project that Property and Space is working on: the **library**. There's a lot (a lot) of work left to make it a working library again, including bringing in many more books from Leonard's personal library, but we are making slow and steady progress.

The SPARK Conference Sunday, August 16, 2026 3:45 PM - 8:15 PM

We are up to a team of 50 volunteers, and I know of more of you who intend to help but haven't signed up. Here's why I need you to sign up officially on the connect card or with the office: **I need to register you**. There is a cost to attend — mainly to cover dinner — and the church will pay that cost for all of our volunteers if you let *me* register you. That means I need to know you are helping (like, asap).

But I also want to know which **breakout** sessions you would attend if you could. While we are hosting this event to be a blessing to our nearby Baptist churches, we also want our own people to take advantage of these great speakers and leaders. I have sent the list of breakout sessions to everyone who has signed up so far — if you have not gotten this list, please let me know (mward@fbcthompson.org)! I've discovered that some of you couldn't open the document.

For everyone else:

[1] Come to the conference on your own! Go to thesparkconference.com and register. The cost is \$15. All you have to do is pick which breakout sessions you want to attend.

The breakout attendance is very important to me logistically. The state leadership will share those numbers with me so I can put each session in an appropriately-sized space. You know how quirky our building is.

[2] Encourage your Georgia Baptist friends to come. Our prayer is that this conference is an encouragement to our sister churches.

This conference is for all pastors and ministry leaders (women's, men's, youth, children, music, missions, discipleship, etc.), all Sunday School and Wednesday night teachers, and anyone who serves in any way in a church.

Breakout sessions include church planting, college ministry, grief ministry, disaster relief, greeter ministry, connecting with young adults, sharing the gospel with senior adults, improving teaching skills, using AI in ministry, understanding kids, being a better deacon, sexual abuse awareness, audio/visual technology, and **so much more**.

I'm very excited, and so thankful for everyone who is helping!

Wednesday Night Meal Program Change

The office staff has been very pleased with the summer response to removing "permanent reservations" for our Wednesday Night Meals; so pleased that we're going to keep it that way. From now on, we will not have "permanent" reservations — you'll need to let us know week by week that you plan on eating with us. Reservations are due by Tuesday at lunch.



Rev. Ben Tarver

As we wrap up a busy and exciting summer, we are so thankful for God's faithfulness and all that He has done in the lives of our children and students. Our summer began with **Youth Camp (May 31–June 5)**, where students walked phrase by phrase through the **Lord's Prayer**, learning how Jesus taught us to pray and applying those truths to everyday life. We praise God for the spiritual growth that took place during that week.

God also worked in incredible ways through VBS. We welcomed **156 children**, were blessed by **86 amazing volunteers**, celebrated **11 professions of faith**, and raised **\$500 for Manna Ministry**. We also had a wonderful Children's Camp at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, where our kids learned that **God is the Author of their lives**. We praise God for the seeds that were planted throughout the summer and pray they will continue to grow.

As a new school year begins, we invite our church family to join us in prayer. Please pray for our students, teachers, administrators, and school staff as they head back to the classroom. Pray that God will give them wisdom, protection, strength, and opportunities to be a light for Christ throughout the year.

Please also pray for the remaining work on the **3rd-Level** to be completed safely and on schedule so our classrooms will be ready for the start of Cornerstone Preschool and our children's ministries.

Finally, pray for our **Back-to-School Parties** and our Wednesday night kickoff on **August 12**. We are excited to begin **Tiny Tots, Tiny Kids, Team Kids, and Elevate Youth**, along with opportunities for adults. There truly is something for everyone, and we are praying that God will bring new families, deepen discipleship, and continue to change lives through these ministries.



Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
June 28	260	375	223	\$23,526.19
July 5	258	314	199	\$24,978.75
July 12	262	315	220	\$21,939.69
July 19	302	327	222	\$17,015.00
July 26	296		236	\$11,483.19
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$519,766.00	Cap. Improvements	\$8,597.00	
Received	\$494,854.63	Vision Implementation	\$248,601.14	
Disbursed	\$487,872.52	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$18,144.00	

End-of- June Final Finances

August 2

Baptism Sunday

August 16

Baptism Sunday

August 23

Lord's Supper

Senior Adult *trip*

Saturday, August 15

Fernandas and McDuffie Museum

Meet at Fernandas at 11:30 AM

Cost: Money for Lunch

RSVP on the connect card or to
the church office by August 7.

Blood Drive

August 6

1:00-6:00 PM

**The bloodmobile
will be in our
parking lot!**

On Sunday, August 30, we will have a
time of prayer and receive a love
offering for our preschool as they
prepare to begin another year.



**Cornerstone
Preschool**

DEACON NOMINATION
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

INFORMATION MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 10

DEACON VOTE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

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 August 30.

\$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

August 12
Pork Tenderloin

August 19
Papa Johns

August 26
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

AUGUST MINISTRY FOOD FOR MANNA



**Chicken Noodle Soup, Peanut
Butter and Jelly**

AUGUST

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)
Elevate (7-10 Grade), Warehouse
TeamKID (1-6 Grade), Gym
TinyKID (K4-K5), Parlor
TinyTots (2-3), Nursery
7:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

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

August 2, 2026

Promotion Sunday
Bibles for First Graders
Deacon Nomination

August 5, 2026

No Evening Activities

August 6, 2026

1:00 PM Blood Drive

August 10, 2026

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Deacon Information Meeting

August 11, 2026

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

August 12, 2026

Wednesday Night Kickoff

August 15, 2026

11:30 AM Senior Adult Activity

August 16, 2026

Spark Conference

August 23, 2026

Worship with Lord's Supper
12:00 PM Pizza with the Pastors
(1st-6th graders and families)

August 30, 2026

Next Steps Luncheon