



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

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

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Vol. 62

March 2026

No. 3



March 1: Called Church Conference
Campaign Proposal Vote

SPRING festival

March 28 | 11 am-2pm

FBC THOMSON PARK

- Food Trucks
- Bounce Houses
- Train Ride
- Egg Hunt
- Petting Zoo
- and more!

Everything but the food is free!

KBA Spring Inspirational Meeting

Monday, March 23

6:30-8:30 PM

FBC Fellowship Hall

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 8

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Preparing for What God Is About to Do

March is going to be a month of preparation. Preparation for renewal... for mission... for Resurrection!

This past Sunday, we heard a detailed presentation regarding our proposed building renovation plan. I am deeply grateful for the spirit in the room—thoughtful, prayerful, and forward-looking. The proposal outlines a comprehensive, phased plan to renew and update our **Education Building and Atrium** so that we can better serve the next generation and strengthen ministry for years to come.

The full project is estimated at approximately \$3.1 million. Through our **For All Generations** campaign, we currently have a little over \$1.4 million pledged and over \$730,000 already on hand. The recommendation before us would allow us to begin Phase 1 this year, trusting the Lord to continue providing as we move forward in faith and wisdom. Copies of the proposal are available upon contacting the church office. And I would more than welcome the opportunity to talk with you about these exciting plans!

We will vote on this proposal at the end of worship on **Sunday, March 1st**. I encourage you to pray and come prepared to participate in this important moment in the life of our church. Just as we prepare our hearts for Easter, we are preparing our campus for the ministry God has ahead of us.

Speaking of preparation... don't forget to set your clocks forward! **Daylight Saving Time** begins Sunday, **March 8th**. Be sure to "spring forward" before bed on Saturday so you'll be right on time for Sunday School and worship!

Midway through the month, we turn our attention outward in a special way. **March 15–22** is our **Week of Prayer for North American Missions**. This year's theme is "*More Than a Gift*," a timely reminder for us that God IS able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think.

During this week, we will also receive the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** for North American Missions. Our church goal this year is **\$14,000**. Every dollar given goes directly to support missionaries serving across the United States and Canada—planting churches, strengthening struggling congregations, and taking the Gospel into communities that desperately need hope.

On **March 23rd at 6:30 PM**, we will host the **Kilpatrick Baptist Association's Spring Inspirational Meeting and Meal**. The meal is free, and the evening will challenge and encourage us to live more intentionally on mission for Christ. As the host church, we'll need volunteers to help welcome and direct guests—and we want our own church family present and engaged as well.

Finally, March will close with the beginning of Holy Week. **Palm Sunday is March 29th**, and following that, we will host the community **Holy Week Luncheons** at noon Monday through Wednesday. Rev. Ben Tarver will be preaching on Monday, followed by speakers from Thomson Presbyterian and Thomson Methodist. Dr. Matt Ward will lead us in worship each day. These gatherings are a beautiful opportunity to pause in the middle of the week and reflect on the cross before we celebrate the empty tomb. We will also need volunteers to help us host these services well. More importantly, we need you to be there—to worship, to pray, and to prepare your heart.

March is about readiness. Readiness to step forward in faith as a church...to give generously for mission...to welcome our community during Holy Week...to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. As we move toward Easter, begin praying now about who you can invite to worship with you on that Sunday. Ask the Lord to prepare their heart—and yours.

God is not finished with us. In fact, I believe we are standing on the edge of new things He desires to do—through renewed spaces, renewed mission, and renewed hearts! Let's prepare together. Let's be ready for what God is going to do!

Thankful to be your pastor,



Dr. Matt Ward

Preparing for the March 1 Vote

I join the chorus of calls to prayer for the future of our church facilities. The vote on March 1 is connected with one very significant investment in the future of our education building, but it would not be the last such investment, nor would it be the only! If we vote to move forward with last Sunday's proposal, we will be stabilizing the education building for multiple generations. But that's not our only building. While the Campus Renewal Team has been evaluating what can be done in that building, the Property and Space Committee has been evaluating what needs to be done in the rest of the building. While some of our projects were bound to the SPARK Conference in August, some other projects are bound to the start of work on the "fifth level" — namely that we have adequate temporary space for the children's Sunday School classes while that work is progressing.

In these next few months, you will see work happening around our building that is not a part of the capital campaign proposal, and it's not funded through your campaign gifts. It's funded by the **Capital Improvements Fund**, and like last month, I ask you to consider giving above and beyond to this other fund (and also like I said last month, I know that's a lot of giving).

Preparing for the March 28 Spring Festival

Assuming it's not 40 degrees and gusty, I'm super-excited for our Spring Festival! **Saturday 3/28 11:00-2:00**

- Petting zoo and train ride
- Rock-climbing wall and bounce houses
- Face painting
- Easter egg hunts
- Food trucks include BBQ, seafood, Indian, and more!

The Easter Egg hunt is our "gimmick" to gather everyone together and share the gospel. So — we want you to (1) volunteer to help us set up, operate, or clean up, and (2) invite your friends and neighbors. Everyone who participates in an egg hunt will hear the gospel at least once. In addition to what I've already listed, we might need your help with

- Prayer tent
- Free water tent
- Greeting and mingling

This event is a lot of fun, and it's a good bit of work. If you will help us set up, we start at **9:00 AM**.

Preparing for Holy Week

With apologies for burying the lede, we are in the Season of Lent, and Palm Sunday is March 29! With so much going on (all of it important!), I know I have been distracted from the vital spiritual side of this time of the year. Easter is April 5 — it's the most important day of the Christian calendar. Make sure you are taking regular pauses in your day to (1) pray, (2) repent, and (3) ask God to help you search your own heart better.

And make plans to attend the community Holy Week lunches on 3/30-4/1 — we are hosting them here at FBC, and your presence would be a great encouragement to all of us. (Didn't we just have last year's lunches just a few weeks ago?) God bless you!



Rev. Ben Tarver

We are officially past the halfway point of our Upward Basketball season, and it has been a tremendous year. Thank you to our church family for praying, volunteering, coaching, refereeing, greeting families, and supporting this ministry so faithfully.

We will conclude the season with our **Upward Celebration Night** on the final Saturday of games (March 14). The awards celebration will begin at **5:00 PM in the sanctuary**.

We are excited to welcome Mark Lippard as our special guest for the evening. Mark has decades of experience in Christian ministry and family entertainment across the United States. It will be a fun and memorable night for our players and families.

During the celebration we will:

- Recognize our teams, coaches, and referees
- Present every participant with their end-of-season Upward gift
- Give away door prizes

Most importantly, share a clear Gospel presentation with players, parents, and coaches.

This night is one of the most important moments of our Upward season. We will have many guests in the room who may not regularly attend church. Please be in prayer that hearts would be open and that lives would be changed through the message of Christ.

If you would like to contribute a door prize, we are collecting gift cards, outdoor toys, sports balls, and sports equipment. Items may be dropped off at the church office. Thank you for helping us use basketball as a platform for ministry.

On a personal note, I want to thank our church family for the many messages, texts, cards, and prayers following the sudden loss of my cousin, Thomas, on February 11. He was only 38 years old. When we were growing up and living close to one another, we were more like brothers than cousins.

Our time together as a family was filled with mourning, but it was also marked by refreshment. The Lord gave us moments to laugh, to remember, and to strengthen bonds. My children even had the opportunity to meet some of my cousins' children for the very first time — a gift in the middle of grief.

The storm has been real, but so has the goodness of God. He remains faithful, present, and near to the brokenhearted. Thank you for loving my family so well during this season.

Ben

Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
January 25	0	0	0	\$7,440.19
February 1	0	0	0	\$11,962.00
February 8	326	232	264	\$33,318.69
February 15	225	298	204	\$16,295.00
February 22	309	131	258	\$18,763.01
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$79,964.00	Cap. Improvements	\$330.00	
Received	\$64,880.75	Vision Implementation	\$14,503.19	
Disbursed	\$76,790.79	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$1,582.00	

*End-of-
January
Final
Finances*



**Awards Night
Saturday,
March 14
5:00 PM**



Senior Adult *trip*

Thursday, March 19
Old McDonald Fish Camp
Bus will leave at 4:00 PM

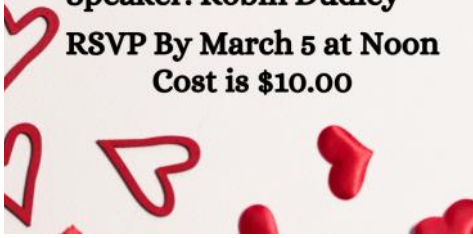
RSVP on the connect card or to
the church office by March 12.

Young @ Heart

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

Speaker: Robin Dudley

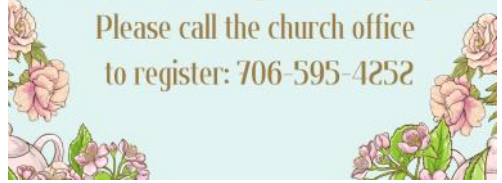
**RSVP By March 5 at Noon
Cost is \$10.00**



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

**Monday, March 16
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



Holy Week Luncheons

Monday- Wednesday
March 30, 31, April 1
12:00 PM
FBC Fellowship Hall



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

MARCH 15-21

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG
OFFERING GOAL: \$14,000**



\$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
March 4
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

March 11
Pimento Cheese & Chicken Salad

March 18
Salad Bar

March 25
Papa Johns

March Ministry Donation Food For Manna

Vienna Sausages
Jelly
Spaghetti Noodles
Canned Fruit



HELLO 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	<i>Disciples Pathway</i> (Adults, Fellowship Hall)
		Women's Study, Craft Room
		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, 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

March 1, 2026

Kids Campaign Banks Due Back
Name Tag Sunday
Called Church Conference

March 7, 2026

Upward Basketball Games

March 8, 2026

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 9, 2026

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

March 10, 2026

11:00 AM Young at Heart
6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

March 14, 2026

Upward Basketball Games
5:00 PM Upward Awards Ceremony

March 15-21, 2026

Week of Prayer for North American Missions

March 16, 2026

1:30 PM Ruth and Naomi's Tea

March 19, 2026

4:00 PM Senior Adult Trip

March 22, 2026

Cornerstone Preschool Sunday

March 23, 2026

5:00 PM KBA Women's Spring Meeting, FBC Thomson

March 28, 2026

11:00 AM Spring Festival

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

March 30, 2026

12:00 PM Holy Week Lunch, FBC

March 31, 2026

12:00 PM Holy Week Lunch, FBC