



# THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

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

PHONE: (706) 595-4252

WEB: [www.fbcthomson.org](http://www.fbcthomson.org)

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GET THE *tools & teaching* TO  
FINANCIALLY SUCCEED ON  
September 15; 4-6 PM



## SMALL GROUP STUDY

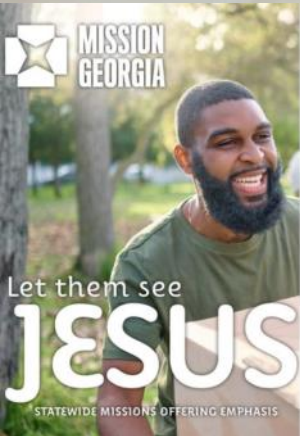
*Coming Soon!*

I WAS BROKE.  
NOW I'M NOT.

Registration Starts September 8

Class Starts September 22

Cost: \$30



The September Mission Georgia offering emphasis represents the collaborative efforts of Georgia Baptists to love our neighbors and serve the vulnerable.

Your gifts allow us to help our churches grow in compassion for their neighbors and to share the gospel while meeting needs throughout our great state.

Our Church Emphasis Dates: September 22-29

Our 2024 Church Offering Goal : \$5,000



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

11 AM-2 PM

## FALL FESTIVAL

FEATURING BOUNCE HOUSES, FACE PAINTING, PONY RIDES, HAYRIDES, FOOD TRUCKS AND MORE!

ALL FREE EXCEPT THE FOOD TRUCKS

# Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

This month, I'm excited to share some important announcements related to stewardship and financial discipleship. One is related to Sharon Pirkle, retiring at the end of September after 30 years of faithful service as our financial secretary. Many people have wondered who could ever fill her shoes? The other is related to our partnership with InJoy and their desire to help Christians live the "fully funded life" God intends, especially in challenging economic conditions.

**New in the Financial Secretary's Office October 1<sup>st</sup>:** I can't thank Sharon Pirkle enough for her decades of faithful work in our church office. She has been a vital part of our staff, and I'm grateful for her helping us hand off her important position to our new financial secretary, Candy Beggs, who brings valuable experience from her work with local school systems. Candy is completing her commitments with Glascock County School System, so she will start part-time in October as she transitions into this new role, becoming full-time by the end of the school year. She brings decades of experience in Richmond and Glascock County schools as finance director. We are grateful for her dedication and look forward to her contributions! In the meantime, Mrs. Eunice Jones will assist Candy on a part-time interim basis, bringing her own wealth of experience to help during this transition.

**Church Conference – September 8<sup>th</sup>:** We will gather to elect eight new deacons. The following men were nominated by the church and have agreed to serve as deacon:

Bobby Anthony  
Chip Bentley  
Doug Dent  
John Dent

Jerry Dunn  
Russell Gary  
Daniel Hughes  
Drew Kitchens

Wayne Miller  
Jay Mixon  
Randy Pilgrim  
Cleve Poston

We will also vote on three key recommendations from the VIT related to our campus improvements and capital campaign. First, the VIT will recommend a framework for overseeing the campaign and ask the church to affirm Alice Gary as our campaign director. They'll also propose forming a Campus Renewal Team to oversee the campus master plan, including making key decisions on construction phasing, recommending a contractor to the church, and presenting final blueprints. The team will ensure everything aligns with our vision. The VIT will recommend the following people for this committee: Adam Chalker, Andrew Harding, Tommy Phelps, Megan Poston, Bill Reese, Stephen Swann, and Mark Watkins.

**Financial Discipleship Opportunities:** I encourage everyone to register for the Financial Learning Experience (FLE) on the 15th from 4-6 PM. Chad Aukland, VP of Consulting for InJoy, will lead this free, Scripture-based workshop, covering practical topics like budgeting, saving, investing, and more. It's a great opportunity to learn how to manage your money in a way that honors God, so invite your family and friends! The FLE is open to the community. Also, consider joining the follow-up six-week study during Sunday School. For \$30 (couples can share), you'll get materials and lifetime online access to valuable financial tools. Financial stewardship is a key part of our Christian discipleship, helping us care for ourselves, our families, and Christ's mission. Come be encouraged and equipped!

*David*

# Dr. Matt Ward

## September Is a Month of Big Events!

Please make a note of these — we want you to be a part of them.

### Sunday School Big Breakfast on September 8, 9:00 AM

We are kicking off our school year with a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. It's for all ages — every class comes to breakfast:

- 9:00 breakfast (bacon, eggs, fruit, biscuits, etc.)
- ~9:30 brief program of prayer, missions report, and commissioning
- ~9:45 kids classes are dismissed; adult classes are invited to stay for two topics: (1) discussion of the upcoming stewardship Sunday School class (see below), and (2) a group study of Acts 13:42-52

### Financial Learning Experience on September 15, 4:00 PM

This is *separate* from the Sunday School class. This is a one-afternoon seminar that leads into that Sunday School class, but we have opened it to the community so as to help as many people as possible.

### Community Outreach Fall Festival on September 21, 11:00 AM

We have *moved* our fall festival to earlier in the year because the Halloween season has gotten so crowded with other community events. But it is still the same great event! (Minus the Halloween candy.) This year, we got access to a pony ride, and that sounded like too much fun to pass up. This is a community event geared towards kids, and we will be advertising through the schools, but we want our **adults** to come too. We want you guys to rub elbows with our guests and make a positive impression about our church family. (Plus, there's food trucks.)

- Games, races, face-painting
- Hayride and bounce houses
- Pony ride (!!!)
- Food trucks for all tastes

Everything is free except for any food you buy from the trucks.

### Sunday School Financial Discipleship Class, September 22-October 27

As part of our partnership with InJoy Stewardship Solutions, we have been given access to a six-week study called "I Was Broke. Now I'm Not." We want as many church members as possible to go through this course; it will talk in detail about the topics David and I aren't qualified to (because we are not financial advisors or investment bankers). Those are topics that are more pressing now than ever because the economy doesn't seem to be going back to a pre-covid state anytime soon:

- Session 1: overview of having a "fully funded life"
- Session 2: **budgeting** - how to create and stick to a budget (participants get lifetime access to their online budgeting tools)
- Session 3: **saving** - how to plan for future expenses
- Session 4: **debt** - including tips to getting out of debt
- Session 5: **investing** - types of investments, a big emphasis on **retirement** planning
- Session 6: **insurance** - types of insurance

We will talk more about this during the Big Breakfast! If you are not a member of a Sunday School class, you are still invited to join in. Participant kits are \$30, and they come with lots of bonuses.



# Rev. Ben Tarver

We are excited to continue our long-standing ministry partnership with Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries in Gatlinburg for Labor Day Weekend. First Baptist's 8th-grade, high school, and college students will canvass the campgrounds on Saturday to invite guests to worship while they are outside picnicking and watching football. On Sunday we will lead campground worship services for guests, employees, and residents of Gatlinburg. That afternoon we will assist First Baptist Church of Gatlinburg with a soup kitchen, and then we will have free time downtown. Please be in prayer for our group as we travel.

Remember to be in prayer for Cornerstone Preschool, which starts on Tuesday, September 3, after Labor Day Weekend. Keep our director, Laura Wall, the teachers, and the children in your prayers. This year, we have 90 children in preschool, making it the largest group in our history

Upward Basketball early bird registration starts on Tuesday, September 3. The early bird registration fee is \$60 until October 27, after which it increases to \$75. Upward is open to children from Kindergarten through 5th grade. The easiest way to register is online at [www.fbcthomson.org](http://www.fbcthomson.org)—look for the Upward banner to connect to the registration page. The registration deadline is Thursday, November 14. Games will start on January 18, 2025, and practices will begin during the first full week of 2025. For more information, including evaluation times and dates, please visit the church website. We are always looking for referees and coaches for each age group. Please let me know if this is something you would be interested in!

On September 29, we are going to have a Next Gen worship night for kids (2nd-6th Grade). Our college students are going to be hosting this at the Warehouse. Youth are also welcome to come help with this event. You will be hearing more about this as it gets closer, but go ahead and mark your calendars!



*Last Month*

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
July 28	319	80	241	\$11,771.00
August 4	311	134	238	\$17,159.00
August 11	304	106	237	\$22,261.10
August 18	227	217	217	\$9,824.00
August 25	290	195	220	\$11,063.00

#### BUDGET

Required	\$556,101.56
Received	\$488,802.27
Disbursed	\$508,564.63

#### NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS

Cap. Improvements	\$10,055.00
Vision Implementation	\$19,388.23
Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$21,602.56

*End-of-  
July  
Final  
Finances*

**Church Office  
Closed for  
Labor Day**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Young @ Heart

Tuesday, September 10  
11:00 AM

Speaker: David Moore

RSVP By September 5 at Noon  
Cost is \$10.00



**Youth Mission Trip**  
August 31- September 2

**Blood Drive**

September 19  
1:30-5:30 PM

The bloodmobile  
will be in our  
parking lot!



**Committee  
Budget  
Workshop**

September 22  
5:00 PM



Early Registration Begins  
September 2

Grades K-5

\$60 before November 1  
\$75 after November 1

Visit Our Website to Sign Up

**\$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

- September 4:  
Salad Bar
- September 11:  
Breakfast
- September 18:  
Pizza and Salad
- September 25:  
Taco Bar

**September Ministry**

Fleece Blankets  
for Women's  
Shelter Baskets



Please place items in the blue bin in the atrium.

# SEPTEMBER



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)
		<b>Women's Study, Room 410</b>
		<b>Men's Study, Parlor</b>
		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

## August 31– September 2, 2024

Youth Mission Trip to Gatlinburg

## September 1, 2024

Rev. Jeff Harris Preaching

## September 2, 2024

Church Office Closed

Upward Registration Begins

## September 3, 2024

First Day of Cornerstone Preschool

## September 8, 2024

9:00 AM Sunday School Big Breakfast

10:45 AM Deacon Selection Vote

## September 9, 2024

6:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

## September 10, 2024

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

## September 14, 2024

9:00 AM FLE Coaches Training

## September 15, 2024

10:45 AM Chad Aukland Preaching

4:00 PM Financial Learning Experience

## September 19, 2024

1:30 PM Blood Drive

## September 21, 2024

11:00 AM Fall Festival

## September 22, 2024

9:00 AM Kick-Off for

“ I Was Broke and Now I’m Not”

5:00 PM Committee Budget Workshop

## September 25, 2024

See You At the Pole

## September 29, 2024

5:00 PM Next Gen Worship Night (2nd-6th Grade)