



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

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

PHONE: (706) 595-4252

WEB: www.fbcthomson.org

Vol. 61

December 2025

No.12

Advent 2025

November 30

Hanging of the Green

Sermon: Saving Christmas from Doubt

December 2

7:00 PM Kids Choirs Singing at the
Hospital Tree Lighting

December 3

5:00 PM Dinner (RSVP Required) and Lottie Moon
Dessert Auction

6:00 PM Missions Night, TinyKID/TinyTot Nativity

December 6

6:00 PM Youth Christmas Party at the Tarvers

December 7

Sermon: Saving Christmas from Conflict

December 7-9

7:00-9:00 PM Drive-Thru Nativity

December 14

Sermon: Saving Christmas from Sentimentality
Week of Prayer for International Missions Begins

4:30 PM Kids Caroling Followed By S'Mores

December 17

6:00 PM Christmas Finger Food Fellowship

December 21

Sermon: Saving Christmas from Commercialism

December 24

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Lord's
Supper

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Our Advent theme this year, *Saving Christmas*, invites us to rediscover the hope, peace, joy, and love found in Jesus as we “save” Christmas from those things that distract and divide us and keep us from receiving all God wants to give us this time of year. I hope you will worship with us each Sunday as we fix our eyes on Christ.

We begin the season on **November 30th** with our **Hanging of the Green** service, a beautiful time of decorating the sanctuary and reflecting on the meaning behind each symbol. Be sure to pick up our **Advent devotional**, written by members of our church family, available that morning. And make plans to join us for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with the Lord’s Supper at **5 PM**, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and the gift of His salvation.

This is also the time of year when we join with Southern Baptists across the nation to support international missions through the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. This year’s theme, *Reaching the Nations, Together*, reminds us that we are called to work together to reach people from every nation. Our church goal is **\$17,000**, and I encourage you to *give generously* and pray for missionaries during the Week of Prayer, December 14–21.

Don’t forget the **Lottie Moon Post Office** in the Atrium! Bring your Christmas cards for church members, make a donation equal to what you would spend on postage, and our volunteers will sort them for you. It’s a simple and joyful way to encourage one another while supporting international missions!

As we look back on 2025, I am grateful for the ways you have lived out our mission to love God, love people, and make disciples. From Upward Basketball and VBS to community festivals; from OCC Shoeboxes and Manna distributions to faithful worship each week—you have served with joy and generosity.

This has also been an encouraging year with our **For All Generations** campaign. Though we are only about one-quarter of the way through our three-year journey, we are already nearing the halfway mark toward our financial goal. God is providing through your faithful, sacrificial giving, and each step moves us closer to renewed ministry spaces that will bless children, students, families, and adults for years to come.

Thank you to everyone preparing for the **Drive-Thru Nativity**, helping with children’s **Christmas caroling**, and providing **Angel Tree gifts** for foster families. These acts of kindness shine the light of Christ in our community. Please remember that any **end-of-year gifts** must be postmarked by **December 31st**, and the church office will be open **December 30–31** if you want to bring them by in person.

This Christmas, my prayer is that we will truly *save* Christmas—not from a Grinch or a blizzard, but from a busy calendar, from the doubts, distractions, and pressures that so often cloud our view of Christ. May this season draw us back to the Savior who stepped into our world to bring hope, peace, joy, and love.

Merry Christmas, First Baptist family! I look forward to worshiping with you throughout this special season.



Dr. Matt Ward

Drive-Through Nativity Is Here

Signups have happened, schedules are being made (I'm sure we would love more volunteers for acting), and the first round of construction is complete. Nativity season is here.

Yes, please be willing to step in and help wherever Paige needs you. Yes, invite your friends and neighbors to drive through! But for a couple of weeks, I ask you to pray — pray that God would remove any barriers to our Nativity' successful sharing of Christmas truth.

- Pray for good weather.
- Pray that the operator of that new gas station will be receptive to our nearby presence.

Anything that might hinder people from coming or distract them when they are here — we ask God to stop those things.

*Sunday, Monday, Tuesday (12/7-9)
7:00-9:00 pm*

The Trammell and Whisnant Christmas Concert

I advertised this last month, and that concert is this Saturday! Make your plans to come to a free concert (and bring your friends) that kicks off the Christmas season with joy and verve. Come to the Home for Christmas tour with the Mark Trammell Quartet and the Whisnants. The concert is free, the music is top-notch, and the gospel is clearly shared.

Saturday, November 29, 6:00 PM

Fun Christmas Fellowship Opportunities

• Wednesday 12/3: The Willis's, and the Living Nativity

We will have a normal Wednesday supper at 5:00, and then we welcome the Willis' — missionaries to Uganda — to share what God is doing around the world (and help us remember why we give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions), followed by our annual TinyKid and TinyTot Living Nativity!

• Wednesday 12/17: Christmas Finger Food Fellowship

Instead of at 5:00, supper will be our 6:00 "program". We ask everyone to bring your favorite "Christmas finger food" to share, and the Bentleys will have some heavier foods to make sure no one goes home hungry. This is always a great evening of fellowship and fun.

And don't forget the Christmas **Blood Drive** on December 11 (1:00-6:00). It may not be a fun fellowship, but it may save someone's life.

Matt



Rev. Ben Tarver

As we enter the Advent season, our ministries at First Baptist are moving forward with joy and purpose. This month brings several opportunities for families and students to grow spiritually and connect with one another.

Our Faith @ Home ministry has prepared Advent resources inside this year's devotional book, including a Family Guide for the Drive-Through Nativity, a *Christmas Carol* movie devotional, an "I Spy Christmas Lights" activity, and another special family project. *Pray that these tools help our families stay focused on Christ throughout the Christmas season.*

We are also thankful to have completed Upward Basketball evaluations. With about 120 children registered for the 2026 season, teams and coaches are being finalized now. In the coming weeks, we will be recruiting referees and devotional speakers for game days. Please pray for the volunteers we need and for a strong start to practices in January.

Our youth ministry is preparing for the annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6, at 6:00 PM at my house. Students will enjoy food, games, and a fun sock gift exchange. Each student should bring a pair of character or design-themed socks filled with candy and small items, with a total value of no more than twenty dollars. Pray for a joyful evening of fellowship as we celebrate the birth of Christ together.

We are also excited for our Youth Winter Retreat over Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend in January 2026. Our students will travel to the Smoky Mountains for a weekend of worship, discipleship, and winter activities. The cost for ice skating, the Gatlinburg tram, and snow tubing is \$75, with an optional skiing package available for an additional \$150. Students should bring extra money for shopping and one meal out. Pray for good weather, safety, and a meaningful time of spiritual growth.

As we move through this season, may we continue to seek the Lord, encourage one another, and look forward to what God has planned for our church family.

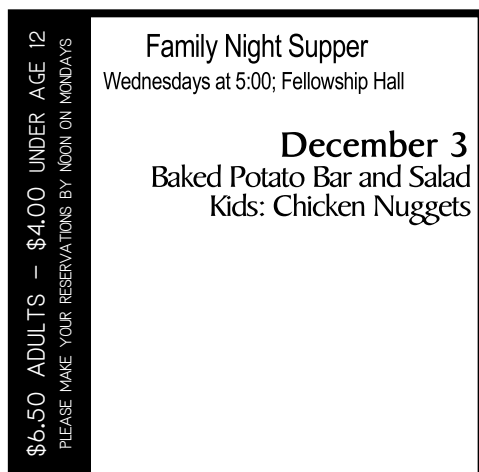
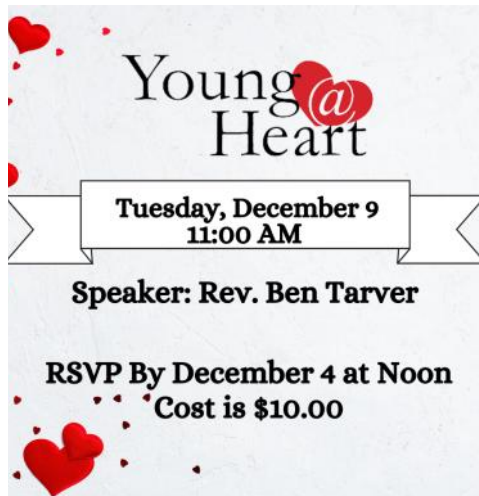
Merry Christmas!



Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
November 2	265	108	237	\$20,032.00
November 9	296	171	260	\$16,633.00
November 16	280	109	237	\$14,017.19
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$795,351.15	Cap. Improvements	\$11,460.65	
Received	\$873,680.46	Vision Implementation	\$634,805.60	
Disbursed	\$803,278.35	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$34,045.83	

End-of-
October
Final
Finances



DECEMBER

December 2, 2025

7:00 PM Kids Choirs Singing at Piedmont McDuffie (Kids should arrive by 6:45)

December 3, 2025

5:00 PM Supper (RSVP Required)

6:00 PM Missions Night and TinyKID Nativity

December 6, 2025

6:00 PM Youth Christmas Party at the Tarver's

December 7, 2025

Name Tag Sunday

Kids Bring "For All Generation" Banks

Second Sunday of Advent

3:00 PM Thomson Christmas Parade

5:00 PM Dinner for Nativity Actors and Staff

7:00 PM Drive Thru Nativity

December 8, 2025

5:00 PM Dinner for Nativity Actors and Staff

7:00 PM Drive Thru Nativity

December 9, 2025

11:00 AM Young at Heart

5:00 PM Dinner for Nativity Actors and Staff

7:00 PM Drive Thru Nativity

December 10, 2025

No Evening Activities (Back up date for Drive Thru Nativity)

December 11, 2025

1:00 PM Blood Drive

December 14-21, 2025

Week of Prayer for International Missions

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 PM Kids Caroling at At Home

December 15, 2025

12:30 PM Ruth and Naomi's Tea

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

December 16, 2025

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting

December 17, 2026

6:00 PM Christmas Finger Food Fellowship

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2025

Office Closed

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Lord's Supper

December 25, 2025

Merry Christmas! Office Closed

December 26, 2025

Church Office Closed

December 28, 2025

Kids Ministry Trip to Riverbanks Zoo

Regular Weekly Activities

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, 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 *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