FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
THOMSON

THE CORNERSTONE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

• LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE, MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS •

VOL. 62 NOVEMBER 2026 NO. 11

November 1

Deacon Ordination Service

and commissioning of all new deacons

Mr. Chris Bowick
Mr. Trevor Johnson

November 15
5:00 Budget Presentation and Dinner
5:30-6:15 PM All Kids Choir Practice
6:30 Movie in the Park

November 22
Budget Vote in Worship

Sunday, November 29

Hanging of the Green Service & First Sunday of Advent

Dr. David Lambert

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever."
Psalm 107:1

November is a wonderful time to reflect on the goodness and faithfulness of God. As Thanksgiving approaches, I am reminded of how much we have to be grateful for as a church family. God has blessed us in many ways, and I am especially thankful for the privilege of serving alongside you as we worship, grow, give, and share the Gospel together. We have a busy month ahead, with several important opportunities for ministry, fellowship, and service.

On Sunday, November 1, we will have the joy of ordaining two new deacons, Mr. Chris Bowick and Mr. Trevor Johnson, during our morning worship service. We will also commission our 2027 deacons, whose term of service officially begins January 1. I am grateful for these men and their willingness to serve the Lord and His church. Please pray for them and their families as they prepare for this important responsibility.

The Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting will take place November 9–10. I am honored to serve on the Convention's Nominating Committee and look forward to gathering with fellow Georgia Baptists. These meetings provide wonderful opportunities to connect with other pastors, learn more about what God is doing among and through our Georgia Baptist churches, and be encouraged through inspiring worship and biblical preaching. Please pray for all who will be attending and for the ongoing cooperative work of Georgia Baptists as we advance the Gospel together.

Our Stewardship Committee has also been hard at work preparing the 2027 church budget. On Sunday, November 15, at 5:00 PM, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and the presentation of the proposed budget. This will be an opportunity for our church family to hear about our ministry priorities, ask questions, and discuss the proposal before we vote on it at the conclusion of morning worship on November 22. Please pray for wisdom and unity as we make these important decisions. And don't forget that our Family Movie Night in the Park will follow our budget meeting on the 15th! I hope you'll make plans to join us for both.

Speaking of November 22, I will be away that Sunday as I lead a group on a journey through Greece, walking in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. We have 13 travelers—eight from Thomson and five from a church in North Carolina—who will depart November 20 and return November 28. I am especially excited that Julia and Abby will be joining me for this experience. We will visit many of the places where Paul preached, planted churches, and helped spread the Gospel throughout the ancient world. Please pray for safe travels, good health, and spiritual encouragement for everyone in our group. I am also grateful that Rev. Tim Batchelor, our Kilpatrick Baptist Association Missionary, will be preaching in my absence on Sunday, November 22. I know you will welcome him warmly!

When we return, we will be entering one of my favorite seasons of the church year. Sunday, November 29, is the first Sunday of Advent, and we will celebrate with our annual Hanging of the Green service. Our Advent theme this year is "The Word Made Flesh," as we reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love that come to us through Jesus Christ. Advent devotionals will be available by November 29 to help you and your family prepare your hearts throughout the Advent and Christmas season. I hope you'll take advantage of these resources and join us each week as we celebrate the miracle of the Incarnation.

Finally, as we gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take time to remember the many ways God has shown His goodness to you. Beyond the blessings we enjoy, we have the greatest reason of all to give thanks: the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Our church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26–27, in observance of Thanksgiving.

I am thankful for each of you and for the wonderful church family God has brought together here at First Baptist. May our gratitude be more than something we express around the Thanksgiving table. May it be reflected in the way we live, love, give, and serve every day.

"Give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Happy Thanksgiving!

David

Dr. Matt Ward

It's Drive Through Nativity Season

That's a disturbing title to write, but planning for our Nativity is well underway. A reminder that if you have not let the church know that you are interested in participating in the Nativity this year to please let me, Paige Boutwell, or Abby Lambert know ASAP.

Sunday-Tuesday, December 6-8
7:00-9:00 PM, dinner at 5:00, "places" at 6:30

Set Construction
Saturday, November 21, 8:00 AM

To all able-bodied individuals, we invite you to help us construct our sets. It is not a complicated process, but it takes a lot of hands. And, it would be incredibly valuable to have some new faces in on this process. The more people who know how the process works, the brighter the future. In recent years, we have been finished close to noon.

Operation Christmas Child Collection

You know that our church is the collection site for our area. So, even though we had our church "OCC Sunday" back in July, we still have all of the boxes to collect from our neighboring churches – the week of November 16. We are always happy for more volunteers (to help in the hectic moments and keep us company in the calm moments, and there's no predicting when either will happen). Plus, if you need to bring in your own OCC shoeboxes, please do so during collection week (including Sunday, November 22).

Church Christmas Decorating

And here's another very important project we can always use some help with – Christmas decorating!

Friday, November 27, 9:00 AM

Yes, it's the day after Thanksgiving, but we kick off the Christmas season in earnest!
Christmas Concert on Saturday at 6:00 PM
Hanging of the Green on Sunday at 10:45 AM

Our annual Christmas concert with the Mark Trammell Quartet and the Whisnants is a favorite and a great way for you to help a friend or neighbor get "into the Christmas spirit". It's a great time, a lot of fun, and has such a beautiful focus on Jesus.



Rev. Ben Tarver

Upward Basketball Registration and Evaluation Nights

It's time to get ready for another exciting season of Upward Basketball at First Baptist Church Thomson! Open to boys and girls in K5 through 5th grade, Upward helps children develop basketball skills, build friendships, learn sportsmanship, and grow in their faith.

Evaluation and Orientation Nights will be held on the following dates:

Monday, November 9

K5 & 1st Grade Boys and Girls: 6:00–7:30 PM

2nd Grade Boys and Girls: 7:15–8:00 PM

Thursday, November 12

3rd & 4th Grade Boys and Girls: 6:00–7:30 PM

5th Grade Boys and Girls and Make-Up Evaluations: 7:15–8:00 PM

Registration is available on our website. The registration fee is $65 per child for early registration and $80 after October 30. The registration deadline is November 13, 2025. We're grateful for all the coaches and volunteers who make this ministry possible!

Family Movie Night in the Park – November 15

Join us for Family Movie Night in the Park on Sunday, November 15, immediately following the Budget Presentation! Bring the whole family and enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun as we watch The Sheep Detectives (PG), a mystery-comedy about a clever flock of sheep who set out to solve the mysterious death of their shepherd. It's a fun pick for families, especially those with children. Snacks and drinks will be available, so bring the family and enjoy an evening together!

Angel Tree Ministry – Coming Soon!

Be on the lookout for our Angel Tree Gift Wishlists from McDuffie County DFCS! Each year, individuals and Sunday School classes purchase gifts for children in foster care. This is a wonderful opportunity to share Christ's love in a tangible way and make Christmas special for these children and families. Thank you to everyone who participates in this meaningful ministry!

Youth Winter Retreat 2027 – Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Mark your calendars for our annual Youth Winter Retreat, January 15–18, 2027, over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend! Students can look forward to a weekend of worship, fellowship, games, mountain activities, and time to grow closer to Jesus and build lasting friendships. A letter with pricing, registration information, packing details, and the full schedule is coming soon! For now, save the dates and start making plans to join us.

We're thankful for the many opportunities God gives our church family to serve, connect, and grow together. We hope you'll join us for these upcoming events at First Baptist Church Thomson!

Ben

We Came	In Person Worship	Online Worship	Sunday School	We Gave
Sept. 27	294	194	248	$14,592.00
Oct. 4	326	-	261	$24,582.19
Oct. 11	241	237	191	$18,495.00
Oct. 18	240	276	214	$20,778.31
Oct. 25	372	253	221	$25,463.00

BUDGET	End of Sept.
Required	$779,649.00
Received	$735,100.27
Disbursed	$738,892.53

NON- BUDGET RECEIPTS	End of Sept.
Cap. Improvements	$13,792.00
Vision Implementation	$327,491.97
Go & Tell Mission Fund	$27,600.00

Young at Heart
SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Meeting
NOVEMBER 10
11:00 AM • $10

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 5 AT NOON

NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM IS
Veterans Day Program

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Collection Week: November 16-23

Mon, Nov 16: 10 am -12 pm
Tue, Nov 17: 4:00 pm- 6:00 pm
Wed, Nov 18: 10 am- 12 pm
Thu, Nov 19: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Fri, Nov 20: 10:00 am- 12:00 pm
Sat, Nov 21: 11:00 am- 1:00 pm
Sun, Nov 22: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Mon, Nov 23: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

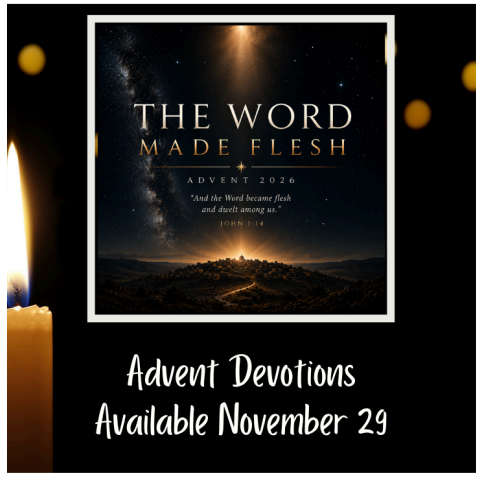
Samaritan's Purse
OPERATION Christmas Child

UPWARD

Register Now

Grades K-5
$80 after October 30

Evaluations:
November 9 and 12
6:00- 8:00 PM



Advent Devotions
Available November 29



Mark Trammell &
The Whisnants in Concert
Saturday, November 28
6:00 PM

Ruth and Naomi's Tea

A sweet time of fellowship for widows.

Monday, December 7
12:30 in the afternoon
FBC Thomson Parlor

The tea is free but registration is required.
Please call the church office
to register: 706-595-4252

Family Night Supper

Wednesdays at 5:00; Fellowship Hall

November 4	Pork Chops
November 11	Papa Johns
November 18	Ham and Sides

$6.50 Adults - $4.00 Under 12
Please Make Your Reservations By Noon on Mondays

November Ministry



Stuffing Mix for Manna

November

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), 3rd Floor
		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

November 1, 2026
DST Ends
All Saints Sunday
Deacon Ordination
12:00 PM Spaghetti Lunch and Dessert Auction

November 8-10, 2026
Georgia Baptist Convention

November 8, 2026
Veterans Recognition

November 9, 2026
6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Mtg.
6:00 -8:00 PM Upward Evaluations

November 10, 2026
11:00 AM Young at Heart

November 12, 2026
6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting
6:00-8:00 PM Upward Evaluations
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

November 15, 2026
5:00 PM Budget Dinner (Nursery Provided)
5:30-6:15 PM All Kids Choir Practice
6:30 PM Family Movie Night in the Park

November 15-23, 2026
OCC Collection Week

November 20-28, 2026
Greece Trip

November 21, 2026
8:00 AM Drive Thru Nativity Construction

November 22, 2026
Budget Vote in Worship

November 25, 2026
No Wednesday Night Activities

November 26-27, 2026
Church Office Closed

November 28, 2026
6:00 PM Mark Trammell and the Whisnants

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Green Service
5:30-7:30 PM All Kids Choir Practice