



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

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

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Vol. 59

September 2023

No. 9

Hello September

BACK TO School

Welcome back Cornerstone
Preschool Students!

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 10-17
Our 2023 Church Offering Goal: \$3,500

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

MISSION GEORGIA



Sunday School BIG BREAKFAST

September 10, 9:00 AM

2024-2026 Deacon Nominees:

Andy Allen
Keith Beggs
James Bridges
Cliff Langham

Danny Matthews
Wade Matthews
Stephen Palmer
Tommy Phelps

Randy Pilgrim
Drue Poston
Mark Watkins

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

We've been looking at our church's vision these past few weeks, especially our discipleship map, "The Disciple's Path." Basically, we believe that every growing and thriving follower of Jesus should be actively engaged in these four areas:

- **Coming to Christ in Worship**—both personally and corporately in Sunday morning worship. We need to worship God with other believers.

This month in worship we will have the joy of helping a family dedicate themselves and their child to the Lord. We will be blessed on September 3rd to have **Jeff Harris** in the pulpit while I'm on the Gatlinburg mission trip with our youth and college students. Please pray for Jeff and be there to hear what God has to say through his message. I will finish this current sermon series on September 10th and begin a **new series on Jesus' I AM statements** in John's Gospel.

- **Growing into Christlikeness in Small Groups**—we believe the best way for you to grow spiritually is through Bible study and prayer in relationship with other Christians. Our Sunday School and other small group Bible studies are designed to help you connect with others and with God's Word!

Please join us for the **Big Breakfast** on September 10th in the Fellowship Hall. If you don't have a Sunday School class, that's all the more reason to be there and get connected! On Wednesdays at 7, we are learning about all 66 books of the Bible in **Route 66: A Road Trip thru the Bible**. We've had over 66 people there each week! But the great thing about this study is that every week is a stand alone lesson, so if you've not been yet, please come! If you miss a week, you won't be lost.

- **Serving Christ Out of Love**—God has shaped every Christian for service in His church. Being a good steward of our time, treasure, and talents allows us to give and serve in the unique ways God has blessed and shaped us. We want to help you get involved in serving through FBC Thomson.

On September 10th, at the close of worship, we will be electing 9 men to serve as **deacons** (8 for a three year term, and one to complete a unfinished term for 2 years). Be prayerful about this process. These men help lead us in service as a church.

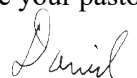
Our church's 2024 **budget planning** process begins this month. Pray for wisdom as we seek to steward God's resources for ministry next year. If you are on a committee or in an area of ministry that has budget planning responsibilities, please be at the budget workshop at 5 PM on September 17th.

The **Committee on Committees** is also beginning its work of making sure our committees and ministry teams are staffed for 2024. In the first two Sundays of this month, you'll have a chance in worship to indicate what committees you might be interested in serving on. Our committees function like ministry teams and help us carry out the work of the church. Prayerfully consider where God might have you serve.

- **Go for Christ to Make Disciples**—The Great Commission is our purpose as a church and as Christians. We are to go and tell others the Good News of Jesus and help people follow the path of discipleship we are on.

This month we are emphasizing the **Mission Georgia offering** and week of prayer for Georgia Baptist Missions. On Sunday, September 10th you'll receive a prayer booklet that will help you pray for and understand the areas of need the Mission Georgia offering helps our state mission board address. Our church's goal for the offering is \$3,500 and every dime helps us in reaching people in Georgia for Christ and meet their needs in His name. How would God have you give this year?

Glad to be your pastor,



Dr. Matt Ward

Sunday School Year Kickoff

We wait until after Labor Day to do this; nothing says “fall kickoff” to me better than, well, fall weather.

Sunday School Big Breakfast

Sunday, September 10, starting at 9:00 am

The Men’s Outreach Class is doing the morning cooking, and the Joy Class and Poston-Moore Class are bringing even more food. We want everybody (all ages) to start their Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

- 9:00 — breakfast line opens
- 9:30 — brief program/recognition/prayer for the new year
- 9:40 — kids dismissed to their own classes
- 9:45 — teen/adult large group class

Here are two interesting facts: (1) the regularly scheduled Sunday School passage for that week is how people began to spread the word about Jesus, and (2) David is preaching on our final step in the disciples’ path: to “Go and Make Disciples”. That can’t be a coincidence. So, we’re going to lean into the theme of going and making disciples. Of course, I’ll share the fundamental truth of that passage in Mark 1, but I’ll also share something that’s just been released by the North American Mission Board which dives right into that topic. And, David will share some things that will help us get the most out of his morning sermon. I hope it will be an encouraging morning for us all.

Sunday School isn’t just about “learning” the Bible because the Bible isn’t something for us to **learn**. It’s something for us to **live by**.

Community Christmas Choir Kicks Off This Month

Hopefully you remember that Bill Hobbins brought back the community Christmas choir last year. It was a great success, and it is coming back this year as well! Rehearsals start this month:

- Rehearsals Monday, 7:00 in our sanctuary
- Rehearsals are September 25 through November 20
- Concert Sunday November 26

If you love Christmas music, you should be a part of this choir. It’s also a great way to enjoy some time with your friends in other churches.

KBA Women’s Fall Leadership Event

Every year, our Association’s WMU puts on a fall leadership event for all of the women in every church in the association (that includes us). This year, the guest speaker is the President of the Georgia WMU — Lauren Sullens! She will be encouraging us about the continuing importance of mission education and mission involvement. Based on what we will be hearing in church these next few weeks, it should be clear that we can’t stress those things enough.

The deadline for registration is September 18 (there is a meal), and you can do that with the church office.

Blood Drive September 21

We are hosting a blood drive for Sheppard Community Blood Center on Thursday, September 21 in the afternoon. I’m getting a request just about every week to give blood, so I believe the need is dire. Please put that date on your calendar!



Rev. Ben Tarver

Be in prayer for our Gatlinburg Mission Trip in partnership with Smokey Mountain Resort Ministries (SMRM) coming up Labor Day Weekend. First Baptist high school youth and college students will be leading four campground worship services on Sunday for guests, employees, and residents of Gatlinburg. On Saturday, weather permitting, we will canvass the campgrounds and invite folks to worship while they are outside picnicking and watching football. We also have trail maintenance and house cleanup work to do at the ministry center. Then on Sunday afternoon there will be free time for our group in Gatlinburg.

Be in prayer for Cornerstone Preschool starting Tuesday, September 5 after the Labor Day Weekend. Be in prayer for our director, Laura Wall, the teachers, and the children. There are over 80 children in preschool this year, making it the largest preschool group in our preschool's history.

Upward Basketball early bird registration starts on Tuesday, September 5. Early bird registration is \$60 until after October 27 when it goes up to \$75. Upward is for grades K/5 through 5th grade. The easiest way to register is online at www.fbcthomson.org. Look for the Upward banner on the website that will connect you to the online registration page. The deadline to register is Thursday, November 9. Games start next year on January 20, 2024, and practices start at the beginning of the New Year. For more information, including evaluation times and dates, go to the church website. We are also always looking for referees and coaches for each age group. Please consider serving in this ministry and contact me if you can help or have any questions.

There will be a D-NOW for FBC Thomson Youth on October 13-15. DNOW is a time of discipleship within our group and fellowship as we grow closer together and closer to the Lord. This will be a time of games, food, and worship. Our group will be at the beautiful Poston Farmhouse in Warrenton. There is a house for the girls to stay in, and the guys will camp outside on the property. The cost for DNOW is \$25 to cover supplies and a T-shirt. Please contact me to sign up and turn in money by Sunday, October 1st. We will end our DNOW Sunday morning with a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall then worship together in sanctuary!

Ben

Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
July 30	281	295	228	\$13,492.00
August 6	290	189	241	\$17,503.00
August 13	298	192	245	\$16,218.00
August 20	283	252	225	\$24,075.00
August 27	334	235	267	\$12,146.00
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$537,399.94	Cap. Improvements	\$12,873.62	
Received	\$522,128.62	Ferguson Property	\$3,590.00	
Disbursed	\$495,377.94	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$32,796.82	

End-of-July Final Finances



The church office will be closed
Monday, September 4 for
Labor Day.

\$5.50 ADULTS - \$3.00 UNDER AGE 12
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON MONDAYS

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Wednesdays, 5:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

September 6

Chicken Salad and Pimento Cheese

Kids: Chicken Nuggets

September 13

Italian Chicken

Kids: Chicken Nuggets

September 20

Sub Sandwiches

September 27

Spaghetti and Meatballs

Young @ Heart

Young at Heart
Tuesday, September 12
11:00 AM



Youth Mission Trip
September 2-4

Blood Drive

September 21
1:30-5:30 PM

The bloodmobile will be in
our parking lot!



Committee Budget Workshop

September 17
5:00 PM



Early Registration begins
September 5!

Visit our website to
sign up.

September Ministry Donation
Fleece Blankets for the baskets
for the Women's Shelter.



Please place blankets 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)
	2:00	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)
	6:00	TinyKID (Ages 3-K), Chapel
	6:00	TeamKID (Grades 1-6), Gym
	6:00	Elevate (Grades 7-12), WH
	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

September 2-4

Youth and College Gatlinburg Mission Trip

Monday, September 4

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 5

Cornerstone Preschool Resumes

Upward Basketball Registration Begins

Sunday, September 10

Week of Prayer for Georgia Missions Begins

9:00 AM Big Breakfast

10:45 AM Deacon Selection

12:00 PM Greeter Team Meeting, FH

4:00 PM Youth Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 12

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

Sunday, September 17

4:00 PM Wild Game Supper Meeting, FH

5:00 PM Committee Budget Workshop, FH

Thursday, September 21

1:30 PM Blood Drive

Monday, September 25

6:00 PM **KBA Women's Fall Leadership Meeting, Sweetwater**

7:00 PM First Christmas Community Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday, September 27

See You at the Pole event at schools