



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

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

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Vol. 60

December 2024

No.12

Advent 2024

December 1

Hanging of the Green

Sermon: Will you Give Him Your Trust?

December 3

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

December 4

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

6:00 PM Missions Night, TinyKID/ TinyTot Nativity,
TeamKID skit

December 8

Sermon: Will You Give Him Your Fears?

Week of Prayer for International Missions Begins

December 8-10

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

December 15

Sermon: Will You Give Him Your Treasures?

Kids Turn in Lottie Moon Banks

5:00 PM Kids Caroling Followed By S'Mores at the
Warehouse

December 18

6:00 PM Christmas Family Feast

December 22

Sermon: Will You Give Him Your Heart?

December 24

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

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded that Christmas is not just about receiving—it's about giving to the One who gave everything for us. This year's Advent theme, "**What Will You Give Jesus This Christmas?**", invites us to respond to God by giving Him our trust, our fears, our treasures, and our hearts. I encourage you to worship with us each Sunday of Advent as we reflect on the gifts we can offer to Jesus. Our **Hanging of the Green** service on December 1st will start this season beautifully, as we decorate the sanctuary and reflect on the significance of each decoration.

Make sure to pick up our **Advent devotional**, written by members of our church family, available starting December 1st. It's a wonderful resource to help center your heart and home on Jesus throughout the season. And don't miss our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with the Lord's Supper at 5 PM. This meaningful time of worship will remind us of the hope and joy we find in Christ, as we celebrate His birth and reflect on His gift of salvation.

During this season of giving, we also have the opportunity to participate in God's work around the world through the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. This year's theme, "The Great Pursuit," reminds us that God is pursuing the lost, and we get to partner with Him in bringing the gospel to unreached people. Our church's goal is \$15,000, and every penny goes directly to supporting missionaries who are sharing the love of Christ across the globe. Let's give generously and pray for those on the frontlines of international missions during the Week of Prayer for International Missions, December 8-15.

To make giving even more fun and meaningful, we're introducing the **Lottie Moon Post Office** in the Atrium! Instead of mailing Christmas cards to fellow church members, bring them to the church with the recipient's name on the envelope. Make a donation equal to what you'd spend on postage, and our volunteers will sort and place the cards in alphabetized bins. Stop by every Wednesday and Sunday in December to check for cards addressed to you. This is a great way to spread Christmas cheer while supporting international missions!

As we look back on 2024, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all the ways our church has embodied our mission to love God, love people, and make disciples. This year, you have stepped up in countless ways—the Wild Game Supper, women's events, Upward Basketball, festivals for our community, OCC Shoeboxes, helping with hurricane recovery, providing Thanksgiving meals through Manna, investing in our preschool, children, and youth ministries, and ensuring our worship services each week glorify God.

December brings even more opportunities to serve. Thank you to everyone preparing for the Drive-Thru Nativity, helping our children go Christmas caroling to shut-ins, and bringing Angel Tree gifts for foster care families. Your love and sacrifice are a powerful testimony to the heart of Christ. Let me also remind you that any end-of-year gifts to the church need to be postmarked no later than December 31st. The church office will be open December 30 and 31 if you want to bring any gifts by the church.

What will you give Jesus this Christmas? Whether it's your trust, your fears, your treasures, or your heart, may we all respond to God's incredible gift of His Son by giving Him our very best. Merry Christmas!

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

David

Dr. Matt Ward

Drive-Through Nativity Is Upon Us!

The Elephant in the Room. Let's get this out of the way right now. You have seen the heavy machinery in the Bealls parking lot, though you may not have realized what a big deal that is to us. The new owner of Thomson Plaza has decided to install a gas station in his shopping center. (And y'all, that's his right. He owns it.) Unfortunately for us, that's right where we have been staging cars who are waiting in line for our Nativity! I have been in communication with the owner, and we have a temporary solution that should work for us, for the construction, and for the businesses. And it will only look a little different to our guests. So, nobody needs to worry!

Next year, however, after the construction is finished, things will probably have to change for our traffic pattern. But we can worry about that another day. Dwayne and I have been brainstorming just about every reasonable possibility there is. It will all be fine.

Nativity is still coming! The change in the parking lot should not affect anybody's Nativity experience in any meaningful way. And for our volunteers, it only affects the parking team. For the rest of you, it's "business as usual"! Pay close attention to the schedule Paige has given you. If anything comes up and you have to make any changes, please let her know as soon as you can. The schedule is simple:

December 8-10 (S/M/T)

5:00 dinner in fellowship hall

6:00 costumes in gym

6:30 places, ~6:45 first car

You might not realize that cars start stacking up at 6:00, so we need to be ready to let them go as early as possible.

Nativity Decorating! Sunday 12/8 in the afternoon

Because our first night is a Sunday, more of you can help us do afternoon set decorating and prop moving. It takes a lot of hands to put everything in place. You don't have to be an expert "set dresser"; you just have to help us get everything out. Our long-term set designers will come behind us and do the fine tuning.

"Normal" Holiday Sunday School Schedule

I'm out of space, but please know that we plan on having a regular Sunday School and worship schedule every Sunday this holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Widows Tea

A sweet time of fellowship for widows.



Monday, December 16

1:30 in the afternoon

FBC Thomson Parlor

Please let us know you're coming!

Rev. Ben Tarver

As we enter this Advent season, our hearts are filled with hope, love, joy, and peace as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Immanuel—God with us. This is a time to reflect on the greatest gift ever given: Jesus Christ, who came to save us and bring us into God’s family. It’s the most important message we can share with our children, our community, and the world!

With the joy of Christmas in the air, I’m thrilled to invite our youth to our Youth Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 11, from 5:30–8:00 PM at my house. We’ll have dinner, play some fun Christmas games, and enjoy a \$15 gift exchange. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration as we focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

For our children, don’t miss out on the upcoming Winter WonderLights trip to the State Botanical Gardens in Athens on Sunday evening, December 29. It’s going to be a magical evening for our kids to enjoy the beauty of the season. Tickets are \$20 per child, and the deadline to sign up is quickly approaching! Contact the church office to reserve your child’s spot today.

Families, make sure to pick up a copy of our FBC Thomson Advent Book. This resource is packed with weekly Faith @ Home activities, including a discussion guide and devotion for our Drive Through Nativity. These activities are designed to help your family experience the hope, love, joy, and peace of Advent together.

Let’s approach this season with thankful hearts, remembering the words of the angels: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14). Together, let’s shine the light of Christ to a world that desperately needs His hope and love.



Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
November 3	331	189	242	\$25,239.50
November 10	283	98	217	\$28,766.00
November 17	277	174	227	\$14,678.73

BUDGET

Required	\$794,430.80
Received	\$720,061.46
Disbursed	\$744,252.06

NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS

Cap. Improvements	\$12,651.00
Vision Implementation	\$22,383.23
Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$30,409.56

*End-of-
October
Final
Finances*

Drive-Thru Nativity

December 8-10
(Sunday- Tuesday)
7:00-9:00 PM

December 4

5:00 PM

Dinner (RSVP Required)
and Lottie Moon Dessert
Auction

6:00 PM

TinyKID/TinyTot
Nativity,
TeamKID Skit

Young @ Heart

Tuesday, December 10
11:00 AM

Speaker: Dr. David Lambert

RSVP By December 5 at Noon
Cost is \$10.00

Christmas Family Feast

Wednesday, December 18
6:00 PM

Please bring a side or dessert.
The church will provide
chicken fingers.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS DECEMBER 8-15

LOTTIE MOON OFFERING GOAL:
\$15,000

KIDS' LOTTIE MOON BANKS DUE BACK
DECEMBER 15

Lottie's
CHRISTMAS
POST OFFICE

Need to mail a Christmas Card to
another FBC member?

Save your stamps, send them
through the Lottie Moon Post
office, and make a donation to our
Lottie Moon offering.

Year-End Giving

Year-End gifts need to be
received in the church office no later
than 5:00 PM on
Tuesday, December 31, 2024, or
postmarked by December 31, 2024, in
order to receive 2024 giving credit.

Thank you for your gifts!

DECEMBER MINISTRY DONATION

HAIR CARE PRODUCTS



PLEASE PLACE ITEMS IN THE BLUE BIN IN THE ATRIUM

DECEMBER

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, Room 410
		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, 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

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent; Hanging of the Green Service
Name Tag Sunday

December 3, 2024

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

December 4, 2024

5:00 PM Dinner (RSVP) and Lottie Moon Dessert Auction
6:00 TinyTot/TinyKID Nativity and TeamKID skit

December 8-10, 2024

7:00 PM Drive Thru Nativity

December 8-15

Week of Prayer for International Missions

December 10, 2024

11:00 AM Young at Heart

December 11, 2024

No Evening Activities
5:30 PM Youth Christmas Party at the Tarvers

December 15, 2024

Kids Lottie Moon Banks Due Back
5:00 **Christmas Caroling and S'mores**

December 16, 2024

1:30 PM **Widow's Tea in the Parlor**
6:00 PM Campus Renewal Team Meeting

December 17, 2024

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

December 18, 2024

6:00 PM Christmas Family Feast

December 24, 2024

Church Office Closed
5:00 PM Christmas Candlelight Service

December 25, 2024

Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed