



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

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

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No.2

*Coming  
soon*

**Capital Campaign Launch Sunday**  
**February 23**



**Triumphant Quartet in Concert**  
**February 14; 7:00 PM**



**Cornerstone Preschool Sunday**  
**February 2**

# Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Since becoming lead pastor at First Baptist Church, Thomson, we've stood together on the brink of several momentous seasons in the life of our church: calling our Associate Pastor, Dr. Matt Ward, and our Youth and Family Pastor, Rev. Ben Tarver; renovating spaces like the Nursery; facing and overcoming challenges such as an historic pandemic and once-in-a-generation storm like Hurricane Helene; and adopting a new vision for who we are as a church and a clearer focus on what God calls us to do: to love God, love people, and make disciples of Jesus from all generations.

Today we find ourselves once more on the cusp of a great movement of the Lord that will shape our church for generations to come. This month we are preparing to embark on a journey that promises to shape our church family, campus, and ministries for the future. While the specifics of this initiative remain under wraps until our Launch Weekend on February 23rd, the excitement within our leadership team is palpable, and we are eager to share this enthusiasm with each one of you!

Our upcoming campaign is about more than funding a construction project—it is a spiritual journey and a call to action for every member of our congregation. We believe that what we are planning will not only enhance our church's facilities but also deepen our commitment to serving and loving one another and making disciples of all generations in renewed spaces that will foster growth and outreach. Success relies heavily on our collective prayers, participation, and passion.

As you know, the need for renovations on our campus stems directly from the wonderful growth we've been experiencing. God is moving powerfully among us, bringing more individuals and families into the FBC family, and increasing our capacity to reach out and touch lives with the love of Christ. With each new member, from the smiling faces of young families to the eager participation of children in our ministries, our need for enhanced and renewed facilities becomes ever more apparent. Of course, we are not just concerned about bricks and mortar; but more importantly creating spaces that will align us with God's work in our church family and enable us to continue to serve effectively. As we grow together in numbers and spirit, our physical space must evolve as well, to nurture the vibrant community God is gathering here.

We invite each of you to approach this moment with a heart open to the possibilities that lie ahead. Let us unite in prayer and anticipation, ready to contribute our time, talents, and resources. As we count down to February 23rd, may we all consider how we can play a part in this significant chapter of our church's story. This is an opportunity for us to lay down lasting foundations for future generations, and every prayer, every offering, and every hand that joins in, brings us closer to realizing the vision that God has laid on our hearts.

Stay tuned for more details and prepare to be part of something truly transformative! Let's step forward together, trusting that the best is yet to come for our church family.

Excited for our future together in Christ,



# Dr. Matt Ward

## **A Triumphant Concert on Valentine's Day!**

Triumphant will be here in concert on Valentine's Day. The concert starts at 7:00, which gives you plenty of time to take your Valentine out to dinner and then come to the concert. Do you want to win Valentine's Day this year?

*Triumphant*

Dinner and a show! Come on!

### **Triumphant in Concert at First Baptist Church**

**Friday, February 14, 7:00 PM**

Doors open at 6:00, no reserved seating. Admission is free, and a love offering will be received.

### **We Have Two *Different Ladies'* Teas in March**

I understand how this could be confusing, so let me try to set the record straight. We have two totally different ladies' teas coming up:

#### **Annie Armstrong Women's Tea on March 1**

This tea is for all women. It is a fundraiser for missions, so tickets cost \$10. It is also a fellowship and outreach — so we want you to buy tickets for your friends who don't come to church and invite them. And it is inspirational in tone with guest speaker Trisha Fraley. You can use the connect card to request information or to purchase tickets.

#### **Ruth and Naomi Widow's Tea on March 17**

This tea is for widows. It is a fellowship for the widows in our church to lift one another up and minister to one another. If you know a widow who feels isolated, tell her about this event!

Both events will be great, but they are two separate events fulfilling two separate purposes. If you're eligible, come to either or both!

### **Giving Envelopes Available**

We really only talk about giving envelopes once a year — in January when the new year's envelopes are available. And as more people shift to online giving or automated giving, we need fewer envelopes. However, giving envelopes are helpful. First, they help you keep up with your giving. Second, they help the office keep track of your giving; those boxes are numbered, giving our financial secretaries a quick way to make sure they connect giving to the right people.

If you do not have giving envelopes, but would like some, please contact the office. We always order extra boxes!

### **Realm Access for Giving**

You do not have to have a Realm account to use our online giving. However, it does make that easier — it saves all of your information, and it allows you to download your own giving statement whenever you want it. If you would like to have your own Realm account, please contact me; you must have a personal email address to use Realm.

*Matt*

# Rev. Ben Tarver

February is here, and we are off to a great start to the year! Our Wednesday night children and youth activities launched strong, and Upward Basketball is in full swing. With 140 children participating and over 25 coaches, assistant coaches, and officials, it's exciting to see our church reaching not only our own children but the entire community.

## Upcoming Events:

- Cornerstone Preschool Sunday – February 2**  
 We are celebrating Cornerstone Preschool Sunday, and it's also Nametag Sunday! Please wear your nametag so guests can feel welcomed. If a visiting family is in your usual pew, be gracious—your kindness makes a difference!
- Youth Winter Retreat – February 15-17**  
 Our youth are heading to Gatlinburg over President's Day Weekend for a retreat filled with fellowship, laughter, and worship. We will stay at the Smoky Mountain Resort Ministry home, attend a campground worship service, and enjoy ice-skating and snow tubing at Ober Mountain. Please pray for safe travels and a meaningful time together.
- Upward Finale & Spring Festival – March 8**  
 For the first time, we are **combining our Upward season-end celebration with our Spring Festival!** After the final games on Saturday, March 8, we will go straight into a festival from **11 AM – 2 PM** at the park. Expect games, food vendors, and music for the whole family. This event is open to everyone, not just Upward families! Leading up to the event, I will share the gospel with our Upward teams, and each child will receive their end-of-season gift. Please pray for clear weather and a great outreach opportunity.

Mark your calendars and join us in prayer for these upcoming events. I look forward to seeing how God continues to move in our church and community!



### Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
December 22	228	143	222	\$14,077.00
December 29	200	200	166	\$22,092.00
January 5	291	167	231	\$21,739.00
January 12	286	181	234	\$16,040.43
January 19	263	142	234	\$18,503.00
January 26	283	162	220	\$14,256.00
<b>BUDGET</b>		<b>NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS</b>		
Required	\$953,317.00	Cap. Improvements	\$76,550.13	
Received	\$919,629.73	Vision Implementation	\$7,870.17	
Disbursed	\$915,880.48	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$3,270.30	

### End-of-December Final Finances





**Youth Winter Retreat**  
 Gatlinburg, TN  
 February 15-17  
 Cost is \$150



**Young @ Heart**  
 Tuesday, February 11  
 11:00 AM  
**Briarwood Choral Group**  
 RSVP By February 6 at Noon  
 Cost is \$10.00



**Annie Armstrong Women's Tea**  
**MARCH 1, 2025**  
**2:00 PM; Fellowship Hall**  
**\$10 PER PERSON**  
**GUEST SPEAKER: TRISHA FRALEY**



**Cornerstone Preschool**  
 Cornerstone Preschool Registration will open soon for the 2025-2026 school year.  
 February 18:  
 In house registration begins.  
 February 25:  
 Registration open to the public.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
**MARCH 5**  
**6:00 PM**  
 NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED. EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE TOGETHER IN THE SANCTUARY.



*Save the Date*  
**VBS**  
**July 14-18**  
**6-8:30 PM**

**\$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

- February 5  
 Pork Chops  
 Kids: Chicken Strips
- February 12  
 Spaghetti and Meatballs
- February 19  
 Chili Dogs
- February 26  
 Chick Fil A



**February Ministry Donation**  
**Oral Care Products**

# February

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, 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 *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

February 1, 2025

10:00 AM Basket Packing for Safe Homes

February 2, 2025

Name Tag Sunday

Cornerstone Preschool Sunday

February 10, 2025

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

February 11, 2025

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

**7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting**

February 14, 2025

7:00 PM Triumphant Quartet

February 15-17, 2025

Youth Winter Retreat

February 23, 2025

Capital Campaign Launch Weekend