

# This Week @ FBC

## Sunday, December 4

**9:30 am** Sunday Bible Study  
**10:55 am** Morning Worship Celebration  
**12:15 pm** Summer Camps Fundraiser Lunch  
**5:30 pm** LifeGroup for Women  
Youth @ Pals  
**6 pm** Evening Worship

## Monday, December 5

**11 am** Joyful Praise Singers @  
NHC Rossville  
First Christmas Messiah Set-up

## Tuesday, December 6

**6 pm** Women's Ministry Christmas Party

## Wednesday, December 7

**5 pm** Wednesday Evening Meal  
Beef Tips & Noodles Carrot Souffle  
Green Beans Bread Dessert  
**5:45 pm** Youth Pizza & Bible Study  
Clubhouse Friends for Kids  
**6 pm** Group Bible Studies  
**6:15 pm** Worship Orchestra Rehearsal  
The Point Band Rehearsal  
Lottie Moon Devotion Night  
**6:30 pm** First Christmas: Messiah Rehearsal

## Friday, December 9

**5 pm** Community Christmas Dinner Set-up

## Saturday, December 10

**8 am** Community Christmas Dinner (deliveries until 4 pm)

Find more info online at [www.fbcfo.org](http://www.fbcfo.org)

# Our Volunteers

## Deacons of the Week

Dec. 4-10  
Marlin Paulson  
Patrice Humphrey  
Wayne Rasbury

Dec. 11-17  
Mary Anna Paulson  
Donnie Lindsay  
Linda Daniels

## Wednesday Meal

Dec. 7  
Scott O'Steen  
Dana O'Steen  
Frankie Trotter  
Brenda Jones

Dec. 14  
Nancy Smith  
Charles Helton  
Donna Lindsay  
Donnie Lindsay

## Security

Dec. 4  
Alvin Davis  
Ron Bethune

Dec. 11  
James Swafford  
Eddy Trotter

## Greeters

Dec. 4  
Harold Parrish  
Betty Parrish  
*Preble McDaniel*  
*Gene McDaniel*

Dec. 11  
Kay Swafford  
Sue Overlin  
G McDowell

## LaunchPad

### Sunday, Dec. 4

Babies Hannah Lee  
Priscilla Pennington  
1&2 yr olds Jane Hogsed  
Angie Smith  
3 yr olds Pam Bethune  
Mackie Yatooma

### Next Sunday, Dec. 11

Babies Sue Overlin  
1&2 yr olds Jenny Pitts  
Angie Smith  
3 yr olds Holly Randall  
Rob Randall

# Prayer Concerns

## Hospital

Jim Harden  
Glen Parker  
Nell Smith

## Home

Bimol Poole  
Beth Daugherty  
Bob Ward  
Carl Little  
Ron Mullins  
Doug Trew  
Nancy Austin  
Anita Acker  
Scott O'Steen

Winona Lewis  
Betty Phillips  
Helen Fisher  
Raymond  
Pendley  
Sharon Mullins  
Bobbie Allison  
Karen Pierce  
Tommie Brock  
John & June  
Stewart  
Tressie Fletcher  
Linda Sikes  
Ken & Betty  
Goodner

Helen  
Epperson  
Sam & Mary  
Lou Brown  
Donald Buttram  
Family

## Nursing Home

Lila Archer  
Dale &  
Delores  
Kinnison  
Norma  
Carpenter  
Eva Williams  
Eunice Mosman  
Eloise Morris  
Bertha  
Pennington  
Shirley Bryan

## Birthdays

Bobbie Graham (4)  
Carole Bolling (5)  
Josiah Forrest (5)  
Pat Long (5)

B.J. Pack (5)  
Ron Bethune (7)  
Mellonie Allison (8)  
Ronnie Born (8)

Mike Mead (8)  
Caleb Alexander (10)  
Candi Keith (10)

## Staff

Pastor - Jason Thomas  
Worship Pastor - Brad Lewis  
Discipleship Pastor - Andy Atkinson  
Youth Minister - Kevin Stone  
Children Minister - Nichole Stookey  
Administrative Assistant - Miki Ingram  
Education Assistant - Sandra Mullins  
Treasurer - Darlene Lane

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[www.fbcfo.org](http://www.fbcfo.org)



find us on social media  
**Pastoral Emergency Line**

Christ Chapel Item  
Crackers

## Christmas Card Mailbox

Save the postage & hand deliver your Christmas Cards to all of your church family by using the special mailbox located in our main Welcome Center. Money saved on postage can be donated to Lottie Moon or Freedom!



# First Baptist Church

Where Truth and Love come together

[www.fbcfo.org](http://www.fbcfo.org)

## Upcoming Events

### The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Lottie Moon was one of our most famous missionaries to China in the late 1800's. The Christmas offering that bears her name is a great way to continue her legacy of taking the gospel to the nations. Every cent of every gift will go straight to global missions! **Our goal this year is \$16,500**, and we kick off the season with the Week of Prayer next week and the special devotion next Wednesday, 12.7.16, at 6:15 pm.

### FBC Angel Tree

We invite you to pick a star from our FBC Angel Tree, located in the main Welcome Center. Each star represents a child in need with a special Christmas wish. We encourage you to spend no more than \$20-\$30 per gift and bring the unwrapped gift (and the star with the information) to our Welcome Center on or before Sunday, 12.11.16. The families of each child will be special guests at our Kids Give Back evening on Friday, 12.16.16, immediately following our First Christmas: Messiah! production.

### Community Christmas Dinner

Our Community Christmas Dinner has touched thousands of lives in the past and will happen once again on Saturday, 12.10.16. Mark your calendar for this day-long community event in which we cook, serve, and deliver 2,000 meals to families all around our church campus! Set up begins on Friday night in our Fellowship Circle.

### First Christmas: Messiah!

This year's Christmas Production will be an entirely different presentation than before. We of course will feature our anointed Worship Choir & Orchestra, but we will be adding drama, audience participation, and a few other surprises! We are presenting it on two dates (Friday, Dec. 16 @ 6:30pm and Sunday, Dec. 18 @ 10:45am) in our Family Life GYM! **Pick your time and begin inviting guests now** to hear about our Messiah on that First Christmas!

Nov. 30-Dec. 7

# Word From Our Pastor

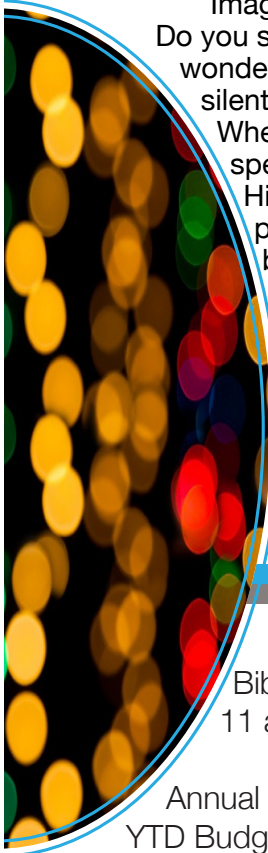
Jason Thomas

It had been a very long time. God had spoken to His people through the prophet Malachi around 430 B.C., but after that Word, the Word of the Lord had fallen silent. Over 400 years had gone by, nearly the span of 4 generations of people, before God chose to speak again to His people!

Imagine the silence. Do you sometimes wonder if God has gone silent in our day? When God chose to speak once again in His timing, He proved Himself to be ever faithful and ever loving, ushering in the Word that would go before the long-awaited Messiah. The angel of the Lord said to

Zechariah, **“Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ...Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:13-17).**

The long-awaited answer was more than just an answer to an aging father who had prayed for a son. It was the answer that would set the stage for the very first Christmas and the arrival of another Son who would forever be the living Word speaking to all the people. God has surely spoken! He continues to speak through His Son! Join us this Sunday as we gather to celebrate Him, dig deeper into Luke 1, and expect God to speak! -Jason



## The Sunday Report

Bible Study Attendance	192
11 am Worship Attendance	278
Annual Budget	553,351.00
YTD Budget Needs	510,785.54
YTD Budget Giving	519,251.26
Total Receipts for the Week:	28,200.66
Weekly Budget Giving	6,414.66
Weekly Legacy Giving	1,990.00
Weekly Missions Giving	162

## Announcements

**Loan Update**  
In the month of November, we collected \$8,568.75 (not counting our new Freedom Pledges & First Fruits) to pay towards the \$10,962 monthly bank-loan requirement. Thank you for your support as we make our monthly payments and begin our new journey towards financial freedom!

**Caroling Night**  
Our Children & Youth will be going out in two teams for a special Caroling Night on Wednesday, 12.21.16. We will meet in the main Welcome Center at 5:50 pm to load the buses and head out to area homes for caroling. RSVP by calling the Church Office, 706.866.0232. All are welcome!

**Free to BE!**  
As our Countdown to Freedom continues, there is still time for you to be one of our Freedom Families. You can send your freedom pledge by mail to PO Box 2125 or bring it to any of our worship moments. Together, we will wipe away our building debt and experience the freedom to BE the Church God is leading us to be! Thank you for your prayers & support!

# Discipleship

What you think about in your private moments reflects what your mind dwells upon. What you speak about when your guard is down is a good metric of what is in your heart (**Matt. 12:34**). Your mind needs exercise just as your physical body does. To keep your body healthy, you must be careful what you put into it, and you must exercise regularly. This is no surprise to us. But is it surprising that to keep your thoughts focused on imitating Jesus, you must push how you exercise your mind as well? To exercise your mind, you must contemplate things that are noble and truths that stretch your mind (**Phil 4:8**).

Some Christians allow their culture to fill their minds with its thinking. Some people seem drawn to concentrate on the negative, choosing to be pessimistic about everything. Some remain satisfied with thinking of the mundane. Others fail to intentionally place Scripture in their thoughts, choosing instead to



## Youth Spotlight

**December 4 - Camp Lunch:**  
Set-up begins at 9 am in the Fellowship Circle and students are encouraged to bring dessert (cake or pie). Also, the next Camp Deposit is due on 12.4.16. See Kevin for more details.

**December 10th -** Calling all volunteers! Saturday, Dec 10th, we need volunteers to put together meals, deliver meals, and multiple other tasks. We begin at 6:00 am

# Andy Atkinson

adopt their surrounding's reasoning. Others, however, choose to expose their minds to the truths of God—to that which is **true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and good**. Some people are fit physically and mentally flabby. Yes, mentally fitness can go to prideful extremes. The discerning factor is that godly mental fitness leads not simply to knowledge, but also to experience and awareness.

Much like seeds in a field, the things you allow your mind to dwell on will be revealed in how you live. If you focus on negative things, you will inevitably be a negative person. If you allow unholy thoughts to fill your mind, ungodliness will become an infection in your life. If you fill your mind with thoughts of Jesus, you will become Christlike.

What you fill your mind with is a matter of choice. Decide now to concentrate on the magnificent truths of God, and they will create in you a noble character that brings glory to God!

# Kevin Stone

until approx. 6pm. If you can help all day or just part of the day that would be great. We need drivers to deliver meals between 12 -6 pm. Cranberry cups construction begins at 6:00 am. If you have never done cranberry cups, it is an experience! If you can't come and would like to help with phone calls contact Kevin Stone (423 902 9017). **We have something for all ages.**

# Children's Headlines

**"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10**

**Kids Give Back Project:** Following the Friday evening performance of First Christmas: Messiah on December 16, we will be having a Kid's Christmas Party with Santa. We have invited the Angel Tree Recipients to join us for the festivities. We are asking everyone to bring finger foods. This Kids Give Back Project will be our new twist on Family Night. I'm looking forward to new traditions and new ways to teach our kids about serving others through God!

# Nichole Stookey

**Camp Lunch:** There will be a Camp Fundraising Lunch this Sunday, December 4. Please arrive at 9am for set up and plan to stay after for clean up. Extra points for those bringing desserts. If you are interested in going to camp this summer contact me ASAP!

**Clubhouse Friends:** We will be having a Christmas Party on December 14 during our Wednesday night program. More information will be sent home soon.

**Caroling:** We will be going caroling on December 21 at 6pm. Be here to load buses by 5:45. We will return to the church campus at 7pm.

# Worship & More...

**First Christmas: Messiah**  
This year's Worship Ministry Christmas production will be different... Of course our anointed and gifted singers & musicians will be the anchors of the event, but there will be so much more...

We are calling it **First Christmas: Messiah**, referring to the very *first* Christmas when Jesus was born, but also because this is *First* Baptist Church of Ft. Oglethorpe's offering to our community, and *Messiah* is the theme of the entire work.

- It will be more than a cantata: It will be a Musical/Dramatic Story!
- It will be more than a service for our Faith Family: It will be an Outreach Event!
- It will be more than a performance: It will be a Worship Experience!

We are presenting **First Christmas: Messiah** on two dates and times: Friday, December 16 @ 6:30 pm and Sunday, December 18th @ 10:45 am.

We want to fill the venue twice with people who need an encouraging touch from the Lord, as well as people who need to hear about Jesus for the first time. Choose one of the dates to attend, bring friends who need to hear about Christ, and

# Keenager's Pecan Sale

The Keenager's Pecans are on sale! They have halves, pieces, chocolate, praline, toasted, and salted, plus walnuts (black & english), sliced almonds, and toasted

leave the other date for someone else... Space is limited!  
What else can you do? 'Share' on Facebook by going to the FBCFO page, find the **First Christmas: Messiah** ad, and click 'share' (or if you see the ad in someone else's timeline, simply click 'share').

Pray that God's Presence will be strong during the performances of **First Christmas: Messiah**, and that lives will be changed!

See you on Sunday, expecting God's strong Presence... **Worship Well!**

(Read my Blog: **Bigcloud.tv**)

-Brad



# Women's Ministry

**Women's Ministry Christmas Party -** Tuesday, December 6th from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Fellowship Circle. Bring a dish to share and gift of no more than \$7.00. Wear your ugly Christmas shirt!

**Women of Joy -** Contact Laura Jones at [jones@nexband.com](mailto:jones@nexband.com)

or 423.605.1816 to confirm you intend to go to the Women of Joy 2017 Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN. April 28-30.

**Life Group for Women-** Meeting on Sunday, December 4 from 5:30-7 pm in the Fellowship Circle.

# Operation Christmas Child Day Trip

We are assembling a team to head to Atlanta on Thursday, 12.15.16, to spend the afternoon volunteering at the OCC Collection Center. We'll meet on our campus at 9 am

and return around 8 pm. There will be a lunch stop on the way and a dinner stop on the way back. Only 3 spots remain. Call the Church Office (706.866.0232) to sign-up!