

This Week @ FBC

Sunday, December 11

8 am Deacons' Meeting
9:30 am Sunday Bible Study
10:55 am Morning Worship Celebration
11:15 am Children's Worship @ The Point {Christmas Edition}
5:30 pm Youth @ Pals
6 pm Evening Worship Service (Special Lord's Supper)

Tuesday, December 13

10:30 am Keenagers' Monthly Meeting
5 pm First Blessings Christmas Night

Wednesday, December 14

5 pm Wednesday Evening Meal
Beef Tips and Noodles Carrot Soufflé
Green Beans Bread Dessert
5:45 pm Youth Pizza & Bible Study
Clubhouse Friends for Kids
6 pm Group Bible Studies
6 pm First Christmas: Messiah Dress Rehearsal
6:15 pm The Point Band Rehearsal
6:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Service

Thursday, December 15

9 am OCC Volunteer Team to ATL

Friday, December 16

6:30 pm "First Christmas: Messiah" Production
7:30 pm "Kid's Give Back" & Finger-food Reception

Find more info online at www.fbcfo.org

Our Volunteers

Deacons of the Week

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

Dec. 18-24
Raymond Pendley
Gene McDaniel
Bruce Underwood

Security

Dec. 11
J. Swafford
Eddy Trotter

Dec. 18
Raymond Pendley
Paul Overlin

Greeters

Dec. 11
Kay Swafford
Sue Overlin
G McDowell

Dec. 18
Laurie Brown
Joyce Tindall
Mary Jo Case

LaunchPad

Sunday, Dec. 11

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

Next Sunday, Dec. 18

Babies Donna Lindsay
Donnie Lindsay
1&2 yr olds Erie Stookey
Angie Smith
3 yr olds Bob Johnson
Judy Johnson

Prayer Concerns

Hospital

Jim Harden
Ron Mullins
Dale Kinnison
Hershel Spivey

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
Nell Smith

Nursing Home

Lila Archer
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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find us on social media

Pastoral Emergency Line

Christ Chapel Item
Crackers

Special Sympathy

On behalf of our Church Family,
we express our heartfelt
condolences to Sadie Parker and
all of her family on the recent
passing of Glenn Parker.



First Baptist Church

Where Truth and Love come together
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.** Help us reach this goal. So far we have raised \$2,972!

Community Christmas Dinner

Our Community Christmas Dinner has touched thousands of lives in the past, and will happen once again this Saturday, 12.10.16. Join us 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!

FBC Angel Tree

We are so happy to announce that every star has been selected from our Angle Tree. 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 by this 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.

Dec. 7-Dec. 14

Word From Our Pastor

Jason Thomas

There are many reasons why He came. We often think of those reasons in terms of what it means for us. It is through His perfect life that He fulfilled the law and is able to cover us with His righteousness. And it is through His sacrificial death that He satisfied the wrath of God and is able to cover us with His grace.

All of those reasons are vital for our lives and worthy of celebration and sharing.

Yet, as we turn our attention to the Christmas Season, don't forget to notice the more personal reasons and what it meant for Him.

“When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.



A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, ‘Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.’ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’ Immediately he was cured of his leprosy” (Matt. 8:1-3). Jesus could have healed this man in a variety of ways. He chose, however, the more personal way, revealing His desire to not only heal His people, but to be close to them, even the “dirtiest” of them. This closeness could only be possible because He **“became flesh and made His dwelling among us” (John 1:14).**

May this Christmas be about a more personal touch. Serve a meal this Saturday, reach out to those in your “small group,” invite new visitors to our “First Christmas: Messiah!” production. There is power in the personal touch. Take it from our Lord! See you this Sunday after a week in His harvest field! -Jason



The Sunday Report

Bible Study Attendance	219
11 am Worship Attendance	284
Annual Budget	553,351.00
YTD Budget Needs	521,426.90
YTD Budget Giving	532,355.79

Total Receipts for the Week:	24,222.58
Weekly Budget Giving	12,542.25
Weekly Legacy Giving	7,681.93
Weekly Missions Giving	3,290.47

Announcements

Joshua Jars
If you are interested in the prayer ministry shared by our guest speaker Stacey Williams this past Wednesday, 11.30.16, we still have a few of the Joshua Jar Prayer Kits on our campus for purchase. Call the Church Office (706.866.0232) for more details.

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

Truly living the Christian life is **hard work**. Christianity involves systematically **striving** to implement the truths of God's Word into our life. It is not waving a wand, not instant magical transformation. Spiritual depth and maturity do not come without **consistent effort**. Reflecting on mistakes and moving forward from them, all require attention, focus and work.

Jesus had just concluded the Sermon on the Mount, which sets forth some of the most profound truths. The Son of God had clearly explained the kind of life that is pleasing to God. Yet Jesus knew, even as He was concluding His sermon, that some of His listeners would leave and never apply the word.

Jesus said that a man who takes the words of God and **builds** them into his life is like a wise man who **builds** his house on a rock. Rocks are hard to build on. It takes **great**



Youth Spotlight

Summer Camp Update - This past Sunday we raised \$982 from our Summer Camp Fundraiser Lunch. Thanks to you, we are one step closer to helping our kids & youth get to camp! Parents, the next Camp Deposit is due now. See Kevin for more details.

Christmas Dinner - Calling all volunteers! This Saturday, 12.10.16, we need volunteers to put together meals, deliver meals, and

Children's Headlines

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones"
Proverbs 17:22

The Point: Children's Worship at The Point will be this Sunday in the FLC. The children will be dismissed from the Worship Center during the Fellowship Song and need to be picked up immediately following the Worship Service.

Kids Give Back: Following the Friday night 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 in

Andy Atkinson

effort to properly attach a foundation to a rock. A house built on sand provides instant comfort and satisfaction; building on a rock is **laborious and tedious**. But building on sand leaves the builder in a vulnerable position, while the one building on the rock is secure.

How can we tell what kind of foundation a life has been built on? Watch what happens when a storm comes. A life built upon the Word of God will withstand the very storm that sweeps away the life that did not heed God's Word.

There are **no shortcuts** to spiritual maturity and discernment. Maturity comes only through **hard work**, surrender and obedience to what God says. Listen for Jesus speaking, then begin immediately to **firmly build His truth** into your life, process it like a builder, weighing the strengths, function and proper placement in your life.

Kevin Stone

multiple other tasks. We begin at 6:00 am 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.**

Nichole Stookey

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! Please return all gifts to the tree by Sunday, December 11.

Clubhouse Friends: We will be having a Christmas Party on December 14 during our Wednesday night program. Sign up list is on the door.

Caroling: We will be going caroling on December 21 at 6pm. Please be here to load buses by 5:45. (We will meet in the Welcome Center.) We will return to the church at 7pm.

Worship & More...

How to not lose the Wonder of Christmas...

You and I are blessed to have the Christmas Season. We have Christmas music, Christmas parties, Christmas shopping, Christmas decorating, Christmas musicals, Christmas gift-giving, Christmas traveling, Christmas Eve services, Christmas meals, and Christmas Day. Whew!

A danger during the Christmas Season is that we lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas: A poor young couple in a cattle stall bringing a baby into the world who would become our Savior. Double whew!

Our focus on the “other” things that make up the Christmas Season sometimes obscures that real meaning. We don't lose focus intentionally. We simply become swallowed-up in the Christmas Season.

How can we avoid this? By being **purposeful** about our Christmas Season:

Decide what you want to accomplish *spiritually* during the

Brad Lewis

Christmas Season for yourself, for your family, and for your personal ministry.

Be intentional to do things that fulfill your Christmas Season Purpose.

Evaluate everything that comes your way through that purpose. Be willing to say “no” if something appears on your radar that doesn't help you fulfill your Christmas Season Purpose.

May I challenge us to make the Christmas Season a time of worship. Allow our adoration of Christ our Lord to be what captivates our hearts the most.

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

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

-Brad



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

mixed nuts. Cost is \$11. A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center, or call Wayne & Rena Honeycutt (706.866.2497) if you want pecans or other goodies!

Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry Updates - Check out our Women's Ministry Newsletter for all the events & ministries coming in the new year! Call the Church Office (706.866.0232) to get your copy.

Women of Joy - Contact Laura Jones at 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.

Operation Christmas Child Day Trip

Only 4 spots remain for our OCC Volunteer Team. The team will head to Atlanta on Thursday, 12.15.16, to volunteer at the OCC Collection Center. We'll meet on our campus at 9 am and return around 8 pm. There

Life Group for Women - Meeting on Sunday, December 18 from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Circle.

Cookbooks: Buy your copy of the brand new *Georgia Church Suppers Cookbook* on Sunday morning in the Welcome Center! It features a beautiful photo of our church as well as several recipes from our own members! Gets yours for \$15 and \$5 of the sale goes to our Women's Ministry!

will be a lunch stop on the way and a dinner stop on the way back. Call the Church Office (706.866.0232) to sign-up!