

This Week @ FBC

Sunday, December 18

9:30 am Sunday Bible Study
10:45 am Morning Worship Celebration
"First Christmas: Messiah" Performance
5:30 pm Youth @ Pals
Life Group for Women
6 pm No Evening Worship Service

Tuesday, December 20

11:30 am Agape Sunday School Party

Wednesday, December 21

5 pm Wednesday Evening Meal
Ham Macaroni N Cheese Green Beans
Salad Bread Dessert
5:45 pm Youth Pizza
6 pm FBC Caroling Night
Group Bible Studies
6:15 pm Worship Orchestra Rehearsal
6:30 pm Business Meeting
No Worship Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 24

10:45 am Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Find more info online at www.fbcfo.org

Our Volunteers

Deacons of the Week

Dec. 18-24 Raymond Pendley
Gene McDaniel
Bruce Underwood
Dec. 25-31 Kerry Pennington
Ron Mullins
Tim Banister

Security

Dec. 18 R. Pendley
Paul Overlin
Dec. 25

Wednesday Meal

Dec. 21 James Swafford
Elaine Steele
Mary Jo Case
Cathy Cox
Dec. 28 Betty Dunwoody
Joyce Rogers
Cindy Shipp
Betty Parrish

Greeters

Dec. 18 Laurie Brown
Joyce Tindall
Mary Jo Case
Dec. 25 Lois Carlton
Jim Carlton
Marlin Paulson

LaunchPad

Sunday, Dec. 18

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

Next Sunday, Dec. 25

Babies Madison Stookey
1&2 yr olds Carrie Payne
Angie Smith
3 yr olds Jane Hogsed

Prayer Concerns

Hospital

Drew Tordaro
& Baby Piper

Home

Sue Overlin
Bimol Poole
Beth Daugherty
Carl Little
Ron Mullins
Doug Trew
Hunter Griffin
Anita Acker
Scott O'Steen
Winona Lewis

Betty Phillips
Carrie Payne
Helen Fisher
Raymond
Pendley
Sharon Mullins
Bobbie Allison
Karen Pierce
Tommie Brock
John & June
Stewart
Tressie Fletcher
Linda Sikes
Shirley Bryan
Ken & Betty

Goodner
Helen
Epperson
Sam & Mary
Lou Brown
Donald Buttram
Family
Nell Smith

Nursing Home

Bob Ward
Herschel
Spivey
Lila Archer
Dale & Delores
Kinnison
Norma
Carpenter
Eva Williams
Eunice Mosman
Eloise Morris
Bertha
Pennington

Birthdays

Dedee McMahan (11)	Luther Nicholson (14)	Matthew Fitzpatrick (17)
Jo Minshew (11)	Sue Overlin (14)	Hayden Jones (17)
Fred Boswell (12)	Carla Wyatt (14)	Cindy Shipp (17)
Hannah Gillespie (13)	Margaret Box (15)	
Jamie Ogden (13)		

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

jasont@fbcfo.org
bradl@fbcfo.org
andya@fbcfo.org
kevins@fbcfo.org
nicholes@fbcfo.org
miki@fbcfo.org
sandram@fbcfo.org
finance@fbcfo.org

2645 Lafayette Road - P.O. Box 2125
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742
Office: 706.866.0232
www.fbcfo.org



find us on social media
Pastoral Emergency Line
(423) 708-5303

Christ Chapel Item
Crackers

Special Sympathy

On behalf of our Church Family we express our heartfelt condolences to Don & Melissa and all the Pittman family on the passing of their Baby Girl, Megan and to Ken Lee and his family on the passing of his brother, Wayne Lee.



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 \$3,919.50!

First Christmas: Messiah

It is almost here! Our Christmas Musical "First Christmas: Messiah" (featuring our Worship Choir & Orchestra) will be in our Family Life GYM this Friday night at 6:30 pm and Sunday morning at 10:45 am. **Pick your time and bring guests** to hear about our Messiah on that First Christmas. The Friday night performance will be followed by our Family Night (Kid's Give Back) reception. There will be gifts for all the kids. **Bring your favorite finger foods!**

Christmas Eve By Candlelight

We invite you to experience our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service next Saturday night, 12.24.16. Our Worship Orchestra will begin music at 10:45 pm. This is a worship event for the entire family, and one that has become a special Christmas moment in our community. Invite friends and extended family as we celebrate and ring in Christmas day together.

Christmas Day Worship

Our last Sunday of 2016 will be Christmas Day, 12.25.16! Join us that morning for a special 10:30 am Worship Celebration in our main Worship Center. Kids are welcome to come in their Christmas pajamas and show off their favorite Christmas gift. We will not have our normal Bible studies that morning.

Dec. 14-Dec. 21

Word From Our Pastor

Jason Thomas

Are you listening for His voice? Jesus said that His sheep will follow Him because they know His voice. **“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27).**

I confess that I know very little about living out in the field, at night, under the stars, whether as a sheep or a shepherd. Yet, I do know this... It was a shepherd boy named David who spoke some of his greatest prayers and wrote some of his greatest songs while sitting out in that field. It was out in that field in which he waited and experienced God lifting him up and putting a new song in

his mouth (see Psalm 40:1-3). It was also out in that field where other shepherds were perfectly positioned to hear the angelic greeting on that first Christmas morning. **“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord’” (Luke 2:8-11).**

Careful listening has a lot to do with our positioning. May it be, in the midst of this busy season, that you and I find our “fields nearby” so that we can hear once again from heaven. We will celebrate and continue to listen for His voice this Friday night & Sunday morning after a week in His harvest field!

-Jason

The Sunday Report

Bible Study Attendance	222
11 am Worship Attendance	285
Annual Budget	553,351.00
YTD Budget Needs	532,068.27
YTD Budget Giving	552,296.16
Total Receipts for the Week:	26,475.87
Weekly Budget Giving	19,960.37
Weekly Legacy Giving	2,515.00
Weekly Missions Giving	1,278.50

Announcements

Joshua Jars

If you are interested in the prayer ministry shared by our guest speaker Stacey Williams on 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 next 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 we draw close to the end of 2016, consider becoming 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

Living in the moment is a Godly characteristic (*Phil 1:27-28*). **Living in the moment** requires us not to be tied down to the past nor coasting toward the future, but living in faith now. The **“now”** requires a special type of faith because of the invisibility of the fruit of our current actions. We simply have to trust God and strive to live honoring the essence of the gospel. The heart of *Philippians 1:27-28* takes on a special application in our current time. Divisive cultural radicals would look at verse 28 and find a counterfeit comfort on its surface. But when connected with verse 27, a gospel ethic of **living in the moment** is exposed. This gospel ethic consists of politeness, upcoming joy, steadfastness, and especially unity.

Living in the moment is striving to be one with the mission of God, but also one with people in our lives. Encouraging people to have faith takes great effort and openness to every opportunity the “now” presents. This encouraging people toward faith will take



Andy Atkinson

us into a wide range of different sufferings. But know this is required to purify our own faith and to give others the insight of the empowering nature of faith from God for God.

Living in the moment and suffering well have a similar dimension to them. We are never at a point where we are finished living in the moment or suffering. Throughout it all, we are focused doing both in a manner that is worthy of the gospel. Both are a joyful privilege of new heart that is central to following Jesus but continually being in his presence. There is an interesting difference in translations at the end of *Philippians 1:27*, some translations use “*striving*,” others use “*struggling*.” The debate is to how much frustration or suffering is implied in “the work together.” Now matter to what degree, we **live in now together** for faith that God is making all things new and we all have great roles to play together in this story now.

Kevin Stone

There will not be Sunday School or Pals on Sunday, December 25.

Youth Spotlight

PARENTS: Youth will not be in campus next Wed evening - Dec 21. We will leave at 6:00 pm to go caroling.

Camp Deposits: If you have not paid camp deposits for October & December, they are past due. ***Please get them in asap.*** Camp is only 6 months away.

Children's Headlines

“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” Luke 2:14

Kids Give Back Night: Following the Friday evening performance of “First Christmas: Messiah” this Friday, 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

Nichole Stookey

Night. I'm looking forward to new traditions and new ways to teach our kids about serving others through God!

SS Christmas Party: We will have a Christmas Snack during Sunday School on December 18 in our classrooms. 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 campus at 7pm

Worship & More...

Seeking the Presence of God...

In Luke 2, one the Bible's greatest chapters, we see two different times that the shepherds encountered the Presence of God. Both are recorded in verses 8-20.

After their first encounter, they sought more of God's Presence: (*Verse 15*) *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”*

After the second, they glorified God: (*Verse 20*) *The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

What do you do when you encounter the Presence of God? When I experience God's Presence, I want more of Him. Being in the Presence of God, having His peace, joy, and loving arms surround me always makes me want more. When

Brad Lewis

you experience God's Presence do you embrace it or shy away from it?

Also when I experience God's Presence, I am so transformed by it that I meditate on it, talk about it with others, and continue to worship God. When you experience God's Presence do you continue to worship Him, or do you go on with business as usual?

May we encounter God's Presence this Christmas season, and may we never be the same... ***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 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.

Life Group for Women - Meeting on Sunday, Dec, 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! Get

Chattanooga Rescue Mission

The Stepping Stones class is collecting items for the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. Hats, scarves, Christmas candy, gloves, combs, hairbrushes (women) chap stick, memo pads, granola bars, pens, disposable razors, lipsticks, socks, deodorant, colognes for men/women, KJV New Testaments,

yours for \$15 and \$5 of the sale goes to our Women's Ministry!

Dec. 29 - "Mid-Holiday Slump Party" As the decorations come down you look around and see...those leftover sweets. How about a fellowship with all the wonderful women you know for a soup/ chili dinner and a movie. Start time is 5 PM. Bring your relatives visiting for the season and your Christmas sweets for a movie night. We will pick from an inspirational and classics movie to watch. (God's Not Dead, Risen, White Christmas).

aftershave, chewing gum, nail clippers, sweatshirts, small toys/books for children and bags (large size from Dollar Tree) to tote the items. Bring donations to the Stepping Stones Sunday School Classroom by this Sunday, 12.18.16 if possible.

