This Week @ FBC

Sunday, December 25 Merry Christmas!

10:30 am Celebration Worship No Evening Worship Service

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27 Church Office Closed Wednesday, December 28

> No Evening Activities Thursday, December 29

5 pm Women Ministry Fellowship

Sunday, January 1 **Happy New Year!**

9:30 am Sunday Bible Study **10:55 am** Morning Worship No Evening Worship

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

Removal of Christmas Decorations

Wednesday, January 4

5 pm Wednesday Evening Meal

Beef Stew Salad Bread Dessert

5:45 pm Youth Pizza & Bible Study

6 pm Clubhouse Friends & Group Bible studies The Point Band Rehearsal

6:15 pm Worship Orchestra Rehearsal 6:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Service

7:15 pm Worship Choir Rehearsal

Find more info online at www.fbcfo.org

Our Volunteers

Deacons of the Week

Dec.25-31 <u>Jan. 1-7</u> Don Pittman Kerry Pennington Scott O'Steen Ron Mullins Ronnie Born Tim Banister

Wednesday Meal

Dec. 28

Betty Dunwoody Joyce Rogers No Meal

Cindy Shipp Betty Parrish

Security

Dec. 25 Jan. 1 W. Honeycutt Tom Acker Ken Lee Kris Kubler

Greeters

Dec. 25 <u>Jan. 1</u> Lois Carlton Scott O'Steen Jim Carlton Dana O'Steen Marlin Paulson Dolores Tant

LaunchPad

Sunday, Dec. 25

1&2 yr olds No Launchpad

Babies

Next Sunday, Jan. 1

Carrie Payne

Jennifer Stone Levanda Swafford

Angie Smith

3 vr olds 3 yr olds

Ron Mullins Sandra Mullins Prayer Concerns Hunter Griffin

Hospital

Scott O'Steen Vera Thomas Al Davis

Home

Drew Tordaro & Baby Piper Sue Overlin Beth Daugherty Ron Mullins Stephen Mosman Patti Godfrey

Doug Trew

Anita Acker 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

Birthdavs

Priscilla Pennington (26) Wayne Rasbury (27) Kelly Smith (27) Helen Epperson (29) Katie Goodner (30) Greg Leath (30) Louise Fletcher (31)

Bella Rae Paris (31) Rebecca Wright (1) March Mead (2) Kave Swafford (2) Betty Phillips (3) Shelly Brooks (4) Floyd Kelly (4)

Heather Parente (4) Alice Atkinson (5) Mark Hall (5) Aaron McCurdy (5) Levi Bowman (6) Ryan McCurdy (6) Lindsey Smith (6)

Staff

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

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

> Christ Chapel Item Crackers

Merry Christmas!

On behalf of our entire staff and leadership team, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a blessed new beginning in 2017! God is so good!



Where Truth and Love come together

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 \$5,794.50!

Christmas Eve By Candlelight

We invite you to experience our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service this 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 this Sunday, 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.

Coming Soon in 2017!

Get ready for exciting new opportunities coming your way in the new year! Our **Starting Line** for visitors & new members will begin on Sunday, 1.8.17, along with a new **Sermon Series** and evening **New** Year's Prayer Service. Also, we are looking forward to Wednesday nights becoming a special family night for all ages with dinner, Kid's Clubhouse Friends, Youth Nite, Prayer, and new Bible studies for moms and dads. And don't forget Free to BE! There will be fun events, moments, and ways to join the cause of Freedom in 2017!

Dec 21-Jan 7

Word From Our Pastor

It was like the Star of Bethlehem was shining over our campus this past weekend... Gathering people from all over our community to come and behold First Christmas: Messiah! Words cannot express my joy and gratitude for Pastor Brad, Mike LaRoche, and our entire

> Worship Team for how they let God anoint them and lead us so powerfully in worship!

First Christmas: Messiah was more than a Christmas celebration. It was a gospel celebration with close to 400 people at each performance experiencing the power and the presence of God!

> What happens next? Let's pray for the

gospel seeds that were planted this past weekend. If you invited friends or visitors, reach out to them and ask them about their experience. This might lead to an opportunity to invite them to future gathering moments and even to share the gospel with them!

Jason Thomas

Let's also look forward to our final 2016 gathering moments this weekend with Christmas Eve by Candlelight at 10:45 pm. and our Christmas morning service at 10:30 am. Join us for one or both of these special worship moments and be encouraged by those who gathered close to Emmanuel by way of the star... "and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed" (Matt. 2:9-10). May you draw close and experience the joy of Emmanuel this Christmas... God with us! -Jason

The Sunday Report

Bible Study Attendance 11 am Worship Attendance

Annual Budget 553,351.00 YTD Budget Needs 542.709.63 YTD Budget Giving 556,848.78

Total Receipts for the Week: 18,777.86 4,534.90 Weekly Budget Giving Weekly Legacy Giving 11,798.89 Weekly Missions Giving 2,444.07

This Sunday's Message:

"On Mission for Christmas" Luke 2 & Philippians 2

Next Sunday's Message: "A Closer Walk in 2017" New Year's Message

Announcements LaunchPad Loan Update

So far in the month of December, we have collected \$21,995.82 to pay towards the \$10,962.74 monthly bank-loan requirement. Thank you for your support as we make our monthly payments and begin our new journey towards financial freedom!

Thank you so much for your service to our LaunchPad Worship Nursery! We are having an appreciation lunch on Sunday, 1.15.17. This is for all current and new volunteers. At this lunch, we will be introducing some exciting new updates and look at the schedule for 2017!

Free to BE!

As we reach the end of 2016, consider becoming one of our Freedom Families. You can send your 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

Peter and the other disciples were continually disoriented to God. While Jesus was concerned about one thing, it seems that the disciples were always distracted by something else. In order to help his three closest disciples better focus on who He was, Jesus took them up to the Mount of Transfiguration. There, Jesus was transfigured into a glorious state and was joined by Moses and Elijah, two historical honored men of God. Instead of absorbing the significance of the moment, Peter interjects his plan for occasion. At one of the most profound moments in history, the disciples could not stop, observe, and listen to God. God had to literally overshadow them.

Peter announced his plans to build three tabernacles. When I read that (Matt 17:4) I feel like Peter was already walking down the lumber aisle at Lowe's

Andy Atkinson

The disciples were more concerned with what they could do for God than the incredible work of redemption God was about to accomplish through His Son. The reality of God's close presence overshadowed them, God removed everything from the disciples' sight but Jesus. "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" Throughout the ups and downs of life. God has for us to focus. The Spirit of Christ has a message to us if we listen.

It is so easy to become spiritually distracted. Are you like me and the disciples and find yourself focusing on everything else but Christ and the work He is doing around you? Are you so eager to "get to the work" that you

> have not yet clearly heard what is on God's heart? What margin in your life needs to be created to prioritize yourself on what really matters?

Kevin Stone

Nichole Stookey

No Sunday School or PALS on Dec.

in the Welcome Center). We will

return to the church at 7:10 pm.

An enormous "Thank You" to all

those who participated in Kids Give

Back and the Angel Tree Project!!! It

was a huge success and we were

able to bless many families around

our community!

Children's Headlines

"The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35

Youth Spotlight

If you have not paid the Oct. and

Dec. camp deposits to Kevin, you

need to get those paid ASAP.

Caroling: We will be going caroling on 12.21.16 at 6pm. Please be here to load buses by 5:45. (We will meet

Pecans

The Keenagers have a few remaining pecans (halves, pralines) & black walnuts for sale. The cost is \$11. Contact Rena Honeycutt @ 706-866-2497.

Christmas Cards

Don't forget to stop by the special mail box in our Main Welcome Center to drop off the Christmas Cards you would like to share with your church family and to pick up the Christmas Cards that have been shared with you.

Worship & More...

What a Glorious Year!

You and I are blessed beyond measure! Every day God shows us new mercies. We have been given the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead... Living inside of us!

If you will look back, you will see that 2016 has been a year of blessing! I do not know what has happened in your life, but I do know that because you are God's child, He has blessed you.

Oftentimes, we tend to focus on the problems we encounter. But God wants us to focus on Him, and have faith... Because without faith it is impossible to please God.

Look closely. Dig deeply. What has the Lord done for you this past year? And look beyond what He has provided for you materially, and how you got your own desires.

Too often we focus on ourselves: Our problems, our needs, our victories. But we need to realize that it is not about us, but rather it is

Brad Lewis

about God and His Kingdom. What has God done through your life to advance His Kingdom and bring glory to Him?

That my friends, made it a glorious Year!

Elaine and I want to sav

thank you for your continued response to our leadership. We are blessed to minister among vou, and are looking forward to what God wants to do at FBCFO in 2017. Worship Well!

(Read my Blog: Bigcloud.tv)

-Brad

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.

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 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 inspirational and classic movies to watch. (God's Not Dead, Risen, White Christmas).

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, 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.