

Word From Our Pastor

Jason Thomas

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

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!

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

What happens next? Let's pray for the

The Sunday Report

Bible Study Attendance 223
11 am Worship Attendance 366

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
Weekly Budget Giving 4,534.90
Weekly Legacy Giving 11,798.89
Weekly Missions Giving 2,444.07

Announcements

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!

LaunchPad

Thank you so much for your service to our LaunchPad 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!

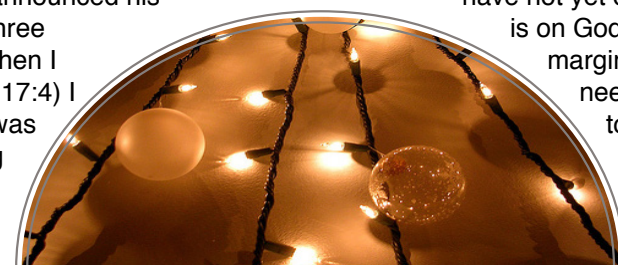
Free to BE!

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?

Youth Spotlight

If you have not paid the Oct. and Dec. camp deposits to Kevin, you need to get those paid ASAP.

Kevin Stone

No Sunday School or PALS on Dec. 25.

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

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

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.

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,

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

Worship Well!

(Read my Blog: Bigcloud.tv)

-Brad

