

This Week @ FBC

Sunday, December 23

9:30 am Bible Study Groups & Classes

10:50 am Morning Worship Celebration

No Evening Service

Monday, December 24

5 pm First Christmas Eve Service
(Church Office Closed)

Tuesday - Thursday, December 25 - 27

Merry Christmas!

(Church Office Closed)

Wednesday, December 26

No Evening Activities

Sunday, December 30

9:30 am Bible Study Groups & Classes

10:50 am Morning Worship Celebration

No Evening Service

Monday - Wednesday, Dec. 31 - Jan. 2

(Church Office Closed)

Monday - Thursday, Dec. 31 - Jan. 3

Student Extreme Conference

Wednesday, January 2

No Evening Activities

Find more info online at fbcfo.org

Our Volunteers

Deacons of the Week

Dec. 23-29

Jean Stone
Linda Daniels
Paul Overlin

Dec. 30.-Jan. 5

Bruce Underwood
Luke Daniels
Marlin Paulson

Wednesday Meal

Dec. 26

**No Evening
Activities**

Jan. 2

**No Evening
Activities**

Security

Dec. 23-29

Tracy Smith
Wayne Daniels

Dec. 30-Jan. 5

Jimmy Boyette
Bob Rogers

Greeters

Dec. 23

Jeff Wells
Carrie Wells
Brenda Jones

Dec. 30

Rena Caradine
M. Caradine
Jeff Wells
Carrie Wells

Sunday, Dec. 23 LaunchPad

Babies

Brenda Lynch
Madison Stookey
Debra Stone
Mackie Yatooma
Pam Bethune
Deborah Gray
Tiffani Brady

1&2 yr olds

3 yr olds

Welcome

Next Sunday, Dec. 30

Babies

Amber White
Callie Stookey
LeAnn Alexander
Ela Alexander
Erie Stookey
Joy Clark
Jane Hogsd

1&2 yr olds

3 yr olds

Welcome

Prayer Concerns

Hospital
Amber Walker

Home

Louise Stinnett
Ray Bell
Louise Crane
Louise Pendley
Casey Rowland
Kevin McCurdy
Nell Smith
Jane Hogsd
Steve Rosser
Larry & Cindy Shipp

JoAnn Davis
Jeanne Clark
Beth Daughtery
Trey Baldwin
Dawn Emous
Pat Medearis
Jerry Gann
Angela Gann
Wayne Honeycutt
Ruth & Brian Wagoner
Tommie Brock
Betty Phillips

Helen Epperson
Mary Lou Brown
Ken & Betty Goodner
John Stewart

Assisted Care

Sharon Mullins
Lila Archer
Bertha Pennington
Joetta Roderick
Lila Archer
Dale Kinnison

Eunice Mosman
Norma Carpenter
Robbie Fletcher
Glenda Duncan

Birthdays

Harold Parrish (24th)
Priscilla Pennington (26th)
Zach Zearfaus (26th)
Wayne Rasbury (27th)

Kelly Smith (27th)
Helen Epperson (29th)
Greg Leath (30th)

Staff

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

jasont@fbcfo.org
bradl@fbcfo.org
andya@fbcfo.org
patrick@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

Items for December:
Pasta & Soups

**No Newsletter next
week for 12.26 - 1.2.
Merry Christmas!**



First Baptist Church

Where Truth and Love come together

www.fbcfo.org

Upcoming

"First Christmas" on Christmas Eve

Imagine our main Worship Center filled to capacity with all of our church family and the people we have invited to celebrate Christmas and experience the life-changing hope of the gospel! That is the vision of our "First Christmas" on Christmas Eve with a special worship time of 5 pm. Let's pray now, and invite others, for that special experience happening this Monday, 12.24, at 5 pm.

Closer to Freedom this Christmas

Remember Free to BE as we draw near to the end of 2018. We are one step closer to being debt free as our countdown to Freedom continues. A special end of 2018 gift is a perfect way to join the cause and help us get below the \$800,000 mark. Our current balance is \$846,908. Thank you for supporting our march towards Freedom!

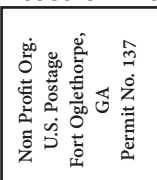
Looking Ahead to the New Year

As we celebrate Christmas together, we are also dreaming ahead for a big start to the New Year. Mark your calendar for these upcoming ministry moments: **Launch Pad Worship Nursery Lunch** on Sunday, 1.20; **Discover FBC Lunch** for frequent guests & new members on Sunday, 1.27; and a **New Year Sermon Series** called, "Simply Jesus" on Sunday mornings!

The Summit is Coming in 2019

There was a time when Jesus called His closest followers onto a mountain to experience more of His power and majesty (see Matthew 17), and we are praying ahead for a monthly "mountain" experience for all of our FBC leaders. Stay tuned to learn more about the Second Sunday Summit beginning in February 2019!

Dec. 20 - Jan. 2



First Baptist Church
2645 Lafayette Road
P.O. Box 2125
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Word From Our Pastor

Jason Thomas

Looking Beyond the Huddle.
Imagine being included in the original twelve. They had been hand-picked by Jesus and had spent at least two years by His side. There were times when they argued over who among them would be the greatest. And yet, right in the middle of their human tendencies and weaknesses, Jesus raised them up to eventually think bigger than themselves. This meant even thinking beyond their group of twelve. Jesus told them, **“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (John 20:21).**
As I’ve stated before, it is very important that we have shared values. Every successful team, business or church family does. Shared values give us common unity, identity, and direction, and last week we looked at the “G” of our GOSPEL values, growing in Christ. This week, as we take this next step in our newsletter series, our focus is all about the “O,” having an outward focus. Why is an outward focus so valuable? First because Jesus commands it. He has given us the same commission that He gave the original twelve. And this ongoing mission depends on us carrying it forward to new people and the next generation. Second, however, we must remember our natural tendencies. We tend to huddle and find comfort in our consistent relational niches. This alone is not a bad thing. It is wonderful that we are people who love each other. Yet, we have to be careful that our love for each other does not exclude or lead to the neglect of others. We enjoy our huddles, but don’t let them be a stopping point or a chilling effect on the mission of God. More next week! -Jason



The Sunday Report

Bible Study Attendance	N/A	
11 am Worship Attendance	252	
Annual Budget	570,548.00	
YTD Budget Needs	548,603.85	This Sunday’s Message:
YTD Budget Giving	534,440.75	“Embracing the Miracle of Christmas” Luke 2:1-20
Total Receipts for the Week:	19,420.15	Next Sunday’s Message:
Weekly Budget Giving	12,523.65	“Not Too Late for Christmas Spirit” Phil. 2:5-11
Weekly Freedom Giving	1,962.50	
Weekly Missions Giving	4,884.00	

Announcements

- Prayer Breakfast**
Our next Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, 1.12, in the New Year. Make plans now to attend this special breakfast. Mr. Hank Humphrey will be our special guest speaker. It all begins at 8:15 am in our downstairs Gathering Circle.
- Pecan Fundraiser**
Only a few bags of pecans remain for the Keenagers’ Annual Pecan Fundraiser. Each bag is \$12. Contact Rena Honeycutt @ 706.866.2497 or Nolan & Dolores Richardson @ 423.580.4679 to get yours before they run out!
- Prayer Breakfast**
Calling women of all ages to our next Women’s Prayer Breakfast happening Saturday, 1.19, in the New Year. Make plans to attend this special breakfast. It will begin at 8:15 am in our downstairs Gathering Circle and will include a devotion.

Discipleship

Christmas is a time to remember that Light has overcome darkness. The language of the cosmic victory of Christ can be a bit confusing. Christians are not called to defeat Satan. God has already done that in Christ! Nor is it our mandate to “bind” Satan. Jesus has already set limits on the extent of Evil’s freedom. The Accuser, “our ancient foe,” was decisively and completely defeated by Christ on the cross and in His resurrection. Our assignment is to trust in the victory that Christ already achieved and daily resist him and ourself with the truth of Christ’s victory, as Jesus did. We accomplish this by following His path of victory, dying to self. Satan is the father of lies and a master deceiver (John 8:44). If he can convince you that God has not defeated him, then you will not experience Jesus’ victory. You will find yourself fighting battles that Christ has already won! Much of our work is accepting what we already have! Satan has already been utterly and humiliatingly defeated. Your responsibility is to resist Satan, and he will flee from you (James 4:7). God is not the God of fear! When you resist evil, you are acknowledging that Jesus has defeated it and given you victory over its dark influence. Christians can become preoccupied with battling Satan. This deceives them to invest their time and energy attempting to do something that Christ has already done. If Darkness can divert you to wage a warfare that has already ended in surrender, it will have eliminated your effectiveness where God wants you. Also remember that you are called to put on the new self. Which transformation needs to happen on you. Don’t fool yourself that the battle occurs outside of your heart. You need only to absorb Christ’s victory in every area of your life and to live the victorious Christian life.



Andy Atkinson

Student Spotlight

ONEIGHTY
Monday, 12.31, to leave on our two church buses. Please remember to pay your \$50.00 deposit to Miki Ingram. We will return to the church campus around 3 pm Thursday afternoon, 1.3. Patrick Everett

Children's Headlines

Nichole Stookey
"All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name." Psalm 86:9
haven't confirmed with me from this past year, please do so ASAP! There is a schedule ready for you to pick your class and dates in the main Welcome Center! Our training lunch will be on Sunday, 1.20.19, following the Morning Worship Celebration.
Merry Christmas!!
LaunchPad: We need you and all of our church family!! I've been in contact with many of you regarding the schedule for LaunchPad next year. If I've not spoken to you and you would like to be added to our list, or you

Worship & More...

Brad Lewis
Once again I have been captivated by God’s Word while meditating on it in the morning... Psalm 55:5 says: *Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for He has endowed you with splendor.*
There is a powerful promise in these words. When God pours out His Spirit on us as individual people, and on us as a church, people will come. They will see our love for the Father and for each other. They will hear our praise of the Lord Jesus. They will sense the transforming power of His Holy Spirit in our lives. And they will come... To Him!
We need to have God’s vision. We need to be committed to our mission. We need to have a strategy in place to expand His Kingdom. But more than anything else, we need to have His Holy Spirit filling empowering us. Christmas week is the perfect time to allow His power to captivate us, and for us to be *endowed with His splendor.*
Verse 6 goes on to say: *Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Now is the time to seek the Lord. Now is the time to call on Him. He is near! He is here!*
O come let us adore Him: Christ the Lord. **Worship Well!**
-Brad



Men's & Women's Ministry

Cereal Boxes are being collected. They must be 10 to 13 inches tall. Open the flaps at both ends, flatten the boxes, and cut off the flaps. Bring your boxes to the Koinonia or Challenge Class rooms.
Helping Hands are available from our Men’s Ministry if you need help with small jobs around the house. Email churchoffice@fbcfo.org to share requests.

Christmas Office Schedule

There are many ways to stay in touch with our staff through the Christmas holiday season. You can always call the Church Office main phone line at 706.866.0232 or email churchoffice@fbcfo.org. Use our pastoral hotline at 423.708.5303 for urgent ministry needs. Messages will be returned promptly. Our office will be closed for Christmas on 12.24 - 27 and New Years on 1.2. Have a wonderful Christmas season!

Lottie Moon for World Missions

Ms. Lottie Moon was a dynamic missionary in China in the late 1800’s, and the Christmas offering that bears her name is one of the best ways to support God’s world-wide gospel mission. Our 2019 goal is \$16,500, and every penny will go directly to fuel the people who are reaching people and planting churches internationally. So far we have raised \$8,206 towards our goal. Thank you for sharing in this important cause!