

# FIRST FOCUS

## TAKE NOTE

In the Music Ministry's performance of "Time for Christmas," we were drawn to the manger to look up and see the bright light from Jesus' eyes staring back at us and to rise in the new life we receive from him. I'm so grateful—and overwhelmed—with everything we experienced together Sunday night. I could not have been more pleased with the variety—and the offering—of our best of First Baptist to the newborn King. What better way to treasure—and save the memories—than to reflect on God's presence in our midst.

Sunday morning, I gave you a blank Kairos journal. It's your "Advent gift" from First Baptist. You're officially commissioned as a journalist to record the times when God's plan interrupts your schedule. Of course, sometimes we're blessed enough to see God's presence and experience it when we're ready for it—as we did Sunday night. Most of the time because of the busyness of life and the burdens of sin in our world, we're just not ready. God's plan collides with everything we're trying to manage.

When John was arrested in Mark 1, Jesus went public with ministry, proclaiming the gospel to the world and recruiting some of John the Baptist's disciples to follow him. He recruits us to do the same and does so in times when we least expect it. These are Kairos moments. Some are positive, like the comfort from a friend in a time of need. Some are negative—the unexpected diagnosis, the change in job or home, the struggles with a child or parent. These moments awaken us to God's presence right in front of us.

The Gospel writers, also known as the Evangelists, took time to write down Jesus' presence in their midst. I'm inviting you to do the same in 2015. Take note of where and how you see God at work. You don't need an audible voice from Sinai to know of Christ's presence with you. Just watch and wait. Like a reporter on the scene, scribble a note or phrase. Write a story.

I'm not going to invite you to turn these in or force you to share what you've written with others. I do invite you to share around the kitchen and restaurant table with people you trust. Kairos notebooks are great discussion starters for parents—and children. No matter how you use your notebook, bring it with you to church; we'll scribble a few things here as well.

By this time next year, you might even be someone like Mary. When she heard and saw the shepherds, she "treasured these things and pondered them in her heart."



# THIS WEEK

## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Bill, Kelly, Parker, and Drake Shiell have cordially invited our church family to join them at their home for a Christmas Open House. All children and guests are welcome for a time of casual fellowship together. Please drop in any time this Sunday, December 21, from 4:00 until 7:00PM. More information and directions are available at the front desk.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Bring your family and friends and join us for worship this Christmas Eve. All children and families are invited to a relaxed, fun, participatory service at 4:00PM in the sanctuary. At 6:00PM, everyone is invited for a traditional candlelight service in the sanctuary. We can't wait to see you there!

## CONNECTIONS WEEKEND

We hope you are able to join us for 2015's Connections Weekend. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Scot McKnight, a world-renowned speaker, writer, professor, and equipper of the Church. He is a recognized authority on the historical Jesus, early Christianity, and the New Testament. Mark your calendars for February 6-8 for a weekend of main sessions and breakouts on how the gospel affects different parts of your life. Registration opens this Sunday, online and in person. Check out [fbctlh.org/connections](http://fbctlh.org/connections) for more information.

*Merry  
Christmas*

*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children." Galatians 4:4-5*

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor  
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options  
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary  
3:00PM GriefShare, Adams 301  
4:00PM Christmas Open House, Shiell Home

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00PM Family Christmas Eve, Sanctuary  
6:00PM Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve, Sanctuary

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas! (Offices closed)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Offices closed

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

10:30AM Combined Worship, Sanctuary

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

No regular activities

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Happy New Year! (Offices closed)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

# COMING SOON

## **EZEKIEL**

In January, we will begin a churchwide worship and Bible study series on Ezekiel: God's Presence in Performance. Each Sunday, Dr. Shiell will be preaching through the book of Ezekiel as we discover together God's presence where he's planted us here in Tallahassee. We will hear God's call together. It's a great way to start the year! SMBS classes and Wednesday night Adult Bible Study will be studying the book of Ezekiel as well. Don't miss it!

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

New Wednesday Bible studies for women begin January 7! All women of all ages are welcome to join together for these new Bible studies:

- "What Love Is" by Kelly Minter, Wednesdays at 9:30AM, led by Patsy Faircloth, at the home of Betty Gardner. This 7-session study of 1, 2, and 3 John encourages you to remain faithful to the truth. Member books are \$13. For more information, please contact Patsy (ptfaircloth1946@comcast.net).
- "Missing Pieces" by Jennifer Rothschild, Wednesdays at 6:00PM, led by Linda Smith Adams 311. This 7-session study takes a realistic look at the messy, mysterious uncertainties of faith. Member books are \$13. For more information, contact Linda (lswcs@aol.com).

## **WOMEN ON MISSION**

All WMU/WOM groups will meet on Tuesday, January 13, at 9:30AM. For more information, please contact coordinator, Donna Heald (dheald@gmail.com).

- Group 1 - Patsy Faircloth's house. The program will be a speaker from the FSU Young Parent's Program
- Group 2 - Visit Teen Challenge program. Meet at Lake Ella to ride the church bus.
- Group 3 - Westminster Oaks Pool House. Make pillows for breast cancer patients.

## **YOUTH CHOIR REUNION**

Save the date: the Reunion Youth Choir will give a concert on Sunday evening, January 18, at 6:00PM in the sanctuary. The choir will be made up of choir members past and present who will be singing some of their favorite youth choir anthems. A love offering will be taken to offset the cost of this year's Youth Choir Mission Trip to New Orleans, LA.

\*If you are a former member of the youth choir, please REGISTER NOW through our website: fbctlh.org.

**SERVE**

### **FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME**

For the month of December, we will join the Children's Home in collecting **laundry detergent** - liquid or pods. Collection bins are in the College Avenue foyer, the welcome center, by the elevator on the first floor of the Adams building, and in the main office.

### **MORE OPPORTUNITIES**

Check out the [fbctlh.org/Serve](http://fbctlh.org/Serve) page for more ways to get involved now in serving in and through FBCTLH.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

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**THE VISION NEWSLETTER**

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Vision, 108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

**SERVICE RECORDINGS**

[fbctlh.org/sermons](http://fbctlh.org/sermons)

Our Traditional Worship service is broadcast on Comcast Channel 21 at 11:00AM each Sunday.

Contact x215 or [lee@fbctlh.org](mailto:lee@fbctlh.org) with questions.

If you are homebound and would like to be on our mailing list to receive a free DVD of our worship services each week, please contact x201 or [lenoir@fbctlh.org](mailto:lenoir@fbctlh.org). All other requests are \$5, and can be made at the front desk or online at [fbctlh.org/contact](http://fbctlh.org/contact).

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID  
TALLAHASSEE  
FLORIDA

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

December 24 - No supper tonight; enjoy Christmas Eve services at 4:00 or 6:00PM!

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – Bud Evans

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Tom Fernald
- 10AM Cecil Davis
- 11AM Lee Gonzalez

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 21

- 8AM Ben Hart
- 10AM John Schanbacher
- 11AM Mark Byler

Wednesday, December 24

- 6PM Lee Vickery

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

9:00AM  
10:00AM  
11:15AM

Here I Am

Luke 1:26-38