

FIRST FOCUS

YOU'RE INVITED

Advent prepares us for Jesus' return by inviting us to come to the manger. He reigns from a throne normally designed as a feeding trough for sheep. Our Good Shepherd comes as a humble servant delivered into this world by a poor family from Nazareth. They leave the security of their house to follow God's call. In so doing, we receive the blessing of Christmas. As G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "the place where God was homeless, and all men are at home." This year, I'm inviting you to come home for Christmas.

The last time I was in Bethlehem, our guide took us to two places in the traditional site of Jesus' birth. One is the part of the cave that the church has decorated to commemorate the event. The other part of the cave is a place that looks like a real cave. Simple, peaceful, cold. If they had not provided lights, the place would be dark, damp, and miserable. I imagine this to be like a place where the Son of God would be born.

This place below ground is a gathering point for family, strangers, and worshipers to find what our hearts long for—a strong home for Christmas. This kind of home is not marked by the roof over your head or the dimensions of your television screen. It can't be described as an apartment or a duplex. This home is made of people fully surrendered to Jesus as Lord.

To get there, we must convert to God's way. Luke tells us that to prepare for the Lord, our hearts will turn to parents, children, and wisdom. As Mary and Elizabeth found, we might have to leave the routines of home life during this Christmas season temporarily in order to follow God's will. Our neighbors will be disrupted by the movement of God's grace around us. In the end, as a new day dawns on the horizon, we will see God's sunrise of mercy liberating us again from the bondage of sin. We too won't want to miss what God delivers to our world.

Our church has planned a number of worship services, programs, and celebrations for you to be a part of. You'll find many of these listed Online and in our publications. Mark your calendars, and prepare to come to the manger. For here you will find a place and a people who will lead you to your heart's true home. By kneeling at the manger with the shepherds, Mary, and Joseph, we come home for Christmas.



THIS WEEK

HANGING OF THE GREEN

A Family Celebration of the Season! Don't miss this hall-decking, tree-trimming, carol-singing, wreath-lighting, smile-bringing service. Bring your family and invite your neighbors as we prepare our sanctuary and our hearts to worship the newborn King Sunday, November 29th, at 6:00PM.

HOMEBOUND VISITATION

We need your help! We will be delivering Christmas poinsettias to the homebound Monday morning, November 30th. Because of the volume of deliveries, we would love to have additional volunteers! Pick-up will be in the Connect Center at 9:00AM.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Gather for an evening of Christmas celebration led by the FBCTLH praise team. We will worship Immanuel together through singing and scripture and collect a special offering for international missions. All are welcome! Share on Facebook and invite other to come on Friday, December 4, at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

WINTER FESTIVAL

Winter Festival is December 5th and we need volunteers! Please sign-up at <http://fbctlh.org/events/winter-festival>.

During the City's annual Winter Festival, we have the opportunity to **#LoveTallahassee** as they come downtown. We provide restrooms, a baby comfort area for parents who wish to feed, change, or rest their children, and a hospitality area in our 1st floor cafe, where senior adults and other patrons can rest and get warm.

We need volunteers to be a smiling face to welcome guests, and direct them where they need to go. Sign up to serve for 1 hour, with the rest of your night free to celebrate the season with our community!

RING IN THE SEASON

A joyous community festival of bell caroling! Bell choirs from Cairo First United Methodist, Fellowship Presbyterian, FBCTLH, Good Shepherd Catholic, Bainbridge First United Methodist, and Trinity United Methodist, along with our community handbell choir, Capitol Bells, unite to ring in the season of Christmas together on Saturday, December 5, at 4:00PM in the Sanctuary.

BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM

Share breakfast with friends and family, experience the Christmas story, participate in crafts, and have photos taken at the nativity! Saturday, December 12, at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

7:45AM Coffee Gathering
8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor
9:00AM Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
10:00AM Church-wide Bible Study Options
11:15AM Contemporary Worship - Sanctuary
6:00PM Hanging of the Green - Sanctuary

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room
10:30AM First Joy, CC-2201
5:00PM First Brass, Adams 200
6:00PM Bells of Praise, Adams 211

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:30AM Knitting Ministry, Welcome Center
6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, D-209
6:30PM INTERNATIONALS - English Classes, C2201
7:00PM Capital Bells, Adams 211

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

11:00AM Senior Ladies' Bible Study, Large Meeting Room
4:45PM Fellowship Meal - Fellowship Hall
6:00PM Children's: Music and Missions - Duval 2nd Fl
6:00PM Mission Wednesdays - Sanctuary
6:00PM Youth - Collide - CLC-Quad
6:00PM Mom's Connect - Adams BSMNT
6:30PM Praise Team Singers - C-2203
7:00PM Chamber Players - A-200 Choir Room
7:00PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - C-2201
7:00PM Culture & Theology - Fellowship Hall
7:00PM Youth Choir - Adams 211
7:00PM 3 Year Olds - KDG - Preschool #8
7:15PM Young Adult Bible Study: VERITAS - Adams 317
7:15PM Praise Team - Sanctuary
7:30PM Children's: Grades 1 - 5 Childcare - Preschool #8

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:00AM INTERNATIONAL - English Classes - C2201
9:00AM Childcare for Internationals - D209
7:00PM College Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:00PM Christmas Night of Worship - Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

3:00PM Winter Festival Hospitality
4:00PM Ring in the Season - Sanctuary

COMING SOON

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR INMATES

We need 3,000 religious Christmas cards that include a meaningful Christian witness to give to the 1,000 inmates in the Leon County jail. Each inmate will be provided with three cards to send to family and friends, along with a tract telling them of God's gift of love to them. Collection boxes are in the College Avenue foyer, library, and the Welcome Center.

PLEASE BRING YOUR CARDS BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary on a Sunday morning in honor or in memory of a loved one or a special event, please let us know using the 2016 flower calendar in the Adams foyer (on the first floor, on the right as you exit the organ-side of the sanctuary). The 2016 calendar is wide open, so reserve your spot now.

For more information, contact Lenoir (x201 or lenoir@fbctlh.org).

DEATH AND BIRTH NOTICES

As part of the new strategic plan, we will begin notifying the congregation of the death of church members and the birth of babies with their family's permission. We ask that you subscribe to these notices by email. We'll continue to communicate to family members and extended family by the prayer list and through SMBS classes and normal channels of communication.

When a church member or attender dies, Pastoral staff will contact family and ask for their permission to publish information to the church. Information will contain a link to the obituary and information about service times. Email will be distributed when service times are confirmed or within 48 hours of the contact (whichever comes first).

Members and friends of First Baptist may call the information into the church and may distribute info to their SMBS groups and email lists. However, only members of immediate family have permission to ask the church to send out churchwide death notices.

If you would like to place one or more poinsettias in our Sanctuary this Christmas season in memory or in honor of a loved one, the cost is \$9 per plant. Please return this form with your payment to the front desk. *Contact Lenoir (x201 or Lenoir@fbctlh.org) for more information.*

I would like _____ (number) poinsettias:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Your Name (giving the poinsettias) _____

Your Phone Number _____

SERVE

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of December, we will join the Children's Home in providing personal hygiene supplies: hand lotion, chap stick, tissues with lotion, knit gloves, scarves, and hats. 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.

Check out the fbctlh.org/Serve page for more ways to get involved now in serving in and through FBCTLH.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301
850.222.5470 (phone) | 850.681.0488 (fax)
vol. 21 | issue no. 47 | week of November 29, 2015

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
TALLAHASSEE
FLORIDA

THE VISION NEWSLETTER

The Vision (USPS 662-400) is published weekly, except for Independence Day and Christmas, by First Baptist Church, 108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Periodicals postage paid at Tallahassee, FL.

All submissions are subject to editorial revision. Deadline for submissions is 10 days before Sunday publishing date.

For submissions, address corrections, or to unsubscribe, contact x132 or hello@fbctlh.org.

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

SERVICE RECORDINGS

fbctlh.org/sermons

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

Contact x215 or 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. All other requests are \$5, and can be made at the front desk or online at fbctlh.org/contact.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Breakfast for dinner: breakfast casserole with or without sausage, grits, pancakes, spiced apples, assorted muffins, pumpkin bread pudding, juice, coffee
Kid's Corner: Hot dog or hamburger

FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$2,656,844
Receipts 11/22: \$17,761
YTD receipts: \$2,264,873

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Phillip Cooper

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Chip Beal
- 10AM Jim Cooke
- 11AM James Craig

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 29

- 8AM Lorne Shackelford
- 10AM Brent Daniel
- 11AM Eric Palm

Wednesday, December 2

- 6PM Jim English

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

CHRISTMAS CONVERSION

Luke 1:5-20