

# FIRST FOCUS

## **PLUMBING LESSONS**

In Texas, we lived in a house that had a plumbing problem. No matter what, when we put down the drain, it always came back through the bathtub. We had our usual share of plunger issues and clogged sinks. This problem was much different. When the hard rains came, the city storm system was so inadequate, whatever was down there came back. In this city, the utility company solved the problem by creating a “pop off valve.” If the storm sewer or anything else backed up, the valve released the sewer into the back yard rather than the bathtub.

In life, as in plumbing, one thing always clogs our system. I call them the “shoulds.” They are the duties and expectations that we have or want others to perform. It usually comes out of our mouths like this:

*“We should do more of ....”*

*“She shouldn’t be so....”*

*“I know I should be doing more of....”*

*“This should never have happened in the first place.”*

Despite all the blessings of life, shoulds block our systems with negativity and complaints. We focus too much on small-minded issues rather than solutions. We think of things that “other people should do,” instead of working together to solve problems. We want our lives to somehow be just a little bit better and miss how good we really have it. We project onto others the expectations that we never really could have ever met ourselves.

The good and grace-ful news of the Thanksgiving season is that Jesus unclogs the shoulds. In John 7, Jesus offered a Way through life. Near the Gihon Spring, at the Pool of Siloam, Jesus celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles. It was a summer harvest festival akin to our Thanksgiving. He knew the people’s hearts were clogged with all kinds of duties that no one could have accomplished alone. He announced, “He who comes to me, out of him will flow rivers of living water.”

Jesus unclogged the system so that when the rains came, they could receive the blessings of the new seeds that were planted. This Thanksgiving, God will plant seeds into your hearts that will blossom again in the Spring. Prepare your heart. Should less. Trust Jesus more. You’ll be thankful for it.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## **PASTOR'S CLASS**

Have you joined FBCTLH in the past two years but never attended our Pastor's Class? Your opportunity is coming up on November 16. Join us immediately following the contemporary worship service to get to know one another, get information about our various ministries, get plugged in, and get a free meal! The class is designed to inform you about the life of Christ, to connect you with other new members, to help you love Tallahassee, and to belong to the community of believers called First Baptist Church. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Hannah (x145 or hannah@fbctlh.org) to RSVP on or before November 10.

## **THANKS+GIVING**

All college students and young adults are invited to a time of thanks...and giving. Join us Wednesday, November 19, at 7:00PM. Think of this as a warm-up for your Thanksgiving dinner. We'll provide the turkey and dressing. You bring a side dish or dessert, an empty shoebox, and gift items. There is no cost for the dinner, but you're encouraged to bring a \$7 donation to help cover the cost of shipping your shoebox. After dinner, we will pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Free childcare is available at the church until 8:30PM. Please RSVP and get more info at [fbctlh.org/thanksandgiving](http://fbctlh.org/thanksandgiving).

## **"MAINE-LY MUSIC"**

Our First Joy Senior Adult Choir will be sharing stories from their recent tour to Maine with our FBCTLH family on Wednesday, November 19 at 6:00PM during Adult Bible Study in the sanctuary. We hope to see you then!

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

We will collect all shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child project on Sunday, November 23! You will need a standard -sized shoebox, then determine if your gift will be for a boy or a girl, ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Fill the box with appropriate gifts for the child you've chosen, include a \$7 donation for shipping, and place a rubber band around each box. Then, you just need to bring them to church with you on November 23, and drop them off in the Sanctuary. For more information, check out [fbctlh.org/shoebox](http://fbctlh.org/shoebox).

Once again you may let the FBCTLH handbell choir, Bells of Praise, do the work of shopping, filling and wrapping your shoebox for you. In our continuing plan to fund the maintenance and renewal of the church's handbell equipment, we will completely prepare a box for you, donate the \$7 handling fee, and deliver it to the sanctuary on collection day. Cost per box is \$35. Call Lenoir (x201) to reserve yours now! We are limiting the number we prepare this year so please call early!

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor  
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options  
10:15AM First Step, Welcome Center  
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary  
12:30PM Pastor's Class, Fellowship Hall  
3:00PM GriefShare, Adams 301  
4:00PM American Sign Language Class, Conference Room

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room  
10:30AM First Joy Choir, Chason 2201  
6:30PM Newlywed Seminar, Cooke Home

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

9:30AM Women's Bible Study, Gardner Home  
11:00AM Senior Ladies' Bible Study, Large Meeting Room  
4:45PM Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall  
6:00PM Childcare, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Children's Music & Missions, Duval 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Youth Choir, Adams 211  
6:00PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study, Sanctuary  
6:00PM DivorceCare, Adams 315  
6:00PM Women's Bible Study, Adams 301  
6:45PM RAs and GAs, Duval 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:00PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201  
7:00PM Chamber Players Rehearsal, Adams 200  
7:00PM Thanks+Giving Dinner, Fellowship Hall  
7:15PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

9:00AM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
9:30AM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201  
5:30PM First Brass Rehearsal, Adams 200

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

9:00AM-1:00PM CLC Open

# COMING SOON

## WINTER FESTIVAL

This year as the Tallahassee community comes downtown on Saturday, December 6 to celebrate during the Winter Festival, FBCTLH will have the opportunity to minister to those around us. Volunteers are needed for 1-hour shifts - as greeters and maintenance, in our hospitality room, or in our baby comfort room to help serve patrons of the festival. Please sign up to volunteer online at [fbctlh.org/winterfestival](http://fbctlh.org/winterfestival). Contact Becky Liner ([bliner@jamesmadison.org](mailto:bliner@jamesmadison.org)) for more info.

## SINGLE ADULTS

Truly it is a "Season to Celebrate" Christ's birth. All single adults (40+) are invited for a festive Christmas buffet with entertainment on Friday, December 12 at 6:00PM. The cost is \$15 per person, and reservations are required by December 7. For questions or to make a payment, please contact Vicki (x141), Jenna (x107), or see Sharon at the front desk.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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 \$10 per plant. Order forms are available in your SMBS class or at the front desk. Contact Lenoir (x201 or [lenoir@fbctlh.org](mailto:lenoir@fbctlh.org)) for more information.

# SERVE

## COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS

From now until December 24, we'll be receiving and distributing many things across our community. Please get involved by noting the opportunities below:

- The Florida Baptist Children's home is collecting non-perishable pantry items in November, and laundry detergent in December. 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.
- Shoebox Sunday for Operation Christmas Child is November 23. Deliver your completed shoeboxes to FBCTLH that morning. For more information, check out [fbctlh.org/shoebox](http://fbctlh.org/shoebox).
- We are the host site for the Cold Night Shelter for the homeless, now through Christmas Day. Sign up to assist by contacting [hannah@fbctlh.org](mailto:hannah@fbctlh.org). Drop off industrial strength blankets (Army/Navy style) to the CLC to be used in this ministry.
- We will be delivering poinsettias to homebound members on Monday, December 1, at 9:00AM. Please contact [jenna@fbctlh.org](mailto:jenna@fbctlh.org) to assist.
- Donate new, appropriate Christmas cards (not addressed or sealed) to the connect center by December 7. These will be used by prisoners in the Leon County jail to send to their loved ones.
- Sabal Palm Elementary needs gently used and new coats and jackets for from now until December 12. Please bring your donations to Children's Ministry. For more information, contact [rhonda@fbctlh.org](mailto:rhonda@fbctlh.org).
- We will not be providing showers for the homeless on Christmas Day this year; we are hosting the Cold Night Shelter that evening. We encourage you to support the work of the Grace Mission's Christmas program on December 23. They're in need of used and new socks, underwear, blankets, coats, sweatshirts, t-shirts. Please deliver them directly to Grace Mission (303 West Brevard St, Tallahassee, FL 32301).
- As always, we will have requests for individuals and families in need in our church, Sabal Palm, and community. Contact [hannah@fbctlh.org](mailto:hannah@fbctlh.org) if you or your SMBS class or Life Group would like to adopt one of these families for Christmas gifts or a Christmas basket.

## 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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For submissions, address corrections, or to unsubscribe, contact x132 or [hello@fbctlh.org](mailto:hello@fbctlh.org).

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 [leonor@fbctlh.org](mailto:leonor@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**

November 19 - Baked pork chops, rice, gravy, okra/corn/tomato medley or green beans, corn muffins, and dessert

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – Eris Wilson

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Jimmie Callaway
- 10AM Seth Ablordeppey
- 11AM Ray Young

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, November 16

- 8AM Tim Barry
- 10AM John Schanbacher
- 11AM Mark Byler

Wednesday, November 19

- 6PM Lee Vickery

<b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP</b>	9:00AM
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	10:00AM
<b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP</b>	11:15AM

# WEDDING REHEARSAL

Matthew 22:1-14