

# FIRST FOCUS

## **THE STATE OF FBCTLH**

This past year, God has blessed our church with 128 new members, 407 first time guests, and 33 baptized believers. As new people visit and join our church, we equip them to walk with Jesus Christ for life. As people come to Christ, we invite them to grow in their faith and share their faith with others. As our membership grows, we want to adapt to the complex challenges of a dynamic ministry.

With the personnel committee's blessing, I have asked our Pastoral Staff to meet this challenge within the 2015 budget the church has already approved. I am so grateful to each one for their diligent work. I could not ask for better support or a more caring team of ministers. Penny, Pam, Zach, Todd, Rhonda, and Marty are such a blessing and continue faithfully in their roles. John Rice, Jenna Young, and Josh Hall have each taken on new responsibilities. All of us are committed to help us go, disciple, and teach the Great Commission.

John Rice is the newest face of our staff. He has already made a great impact on our church in just a few short weeks. As Executive Pastor, he's working with SMBS departments with adults ages 40-69. He is overseeing operations, budget, outreach, and missions. He's working with each of our administrative committees: property, finance, personnel, and missions. We're grateful to have him, and we're looking forward to his family joining him at the end of December (and he is too).

Under John's leadership, Sharon Cawthorne will be our new Director of Operations. You already know her as the first face that meets you at the welcome desk. Sharon's military background and management experience give her the credentials we need as we create this new role in this transition. She will oversee facilities and maintenance staffs, administer human resources benefits, manage the calendar, and maintain the membership pipeline from first time guests to involved new members. We are currently seeking a Financial Director who will coordinate the budget, stewardship, and endowment funds. This person will work with Leigh Byrne and Vicki Bitton who continue to serve faithfully in our accounting department. As Sharon moves into her new role, we will have a new person at the front desk on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights to assist people.

Jenna Young has already begun her work as the Minister of Senior Adults, Single Focus, and Pastoral Care. She's increased her ministry from 20 to 30 hours per week and is visiting assisted living and homebound residents, visiting hospitals, and working with SMBS departments that have Senior Adults age 70 and above, and continuing to minister to single adults age 40 and above.

On December 1, Josh Hall will become the Associate Pastor to Young Adults and the Christian Life Center (CLC). He continues to serve with Young Adults who have finished their college years through age 40. In his expanded role, he will oversee operations of the CLC facility and the CLC committee and develop the CLC as an arm of the Young Adult Ministry. This is a natural fit for Josh and his team. We're so pleased to have Lindsey Sheets on our staff as the new administrative assistant in this area, and Dianne Butts will continue her faithful service at the CLC control desk. Josh will also be administering Sunday Morning Bible Study (SMBS) and continuing to work with Life Groups.

I could not be more pleased with the direction our church is going. We would not be here without your contagious spirit and care you've given to the body of Christ. Thank you for inviting your friends to be a part of God's work here. This Thanksgiving season, take time to celebrate. You are a blessing.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We will collect all shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child project THIS SUNDAY, November 23! Just bring your completed box to church with you and drop them off in the sanctuary. Check out [fbctlh.org/shoebox](http://fbctlh.org/shoebox) for more info.

## WINTER FESTIVAL

WE NEED YOU! 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. Sign up to volunteer at [fbctlh.org/winterfestival](http://fbctlh.org/winterfestival). Contact Becky Liner ([bliner@jamesmadison.org](mailto:bliner@jamesmadison.org)) if you have any questions.

## 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.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR INMATES

*"I was in prison and you came to me..." (Matthew 25:36)*

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 7.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

We have several opportunities for you to serve in Jesus' name this season - please check out [fbctlh.org/serve](http://fbctlh.org/serve) for more information.

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Day!

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 American Sign Language Class, Conference Room

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room

10:30AM First Joy Choir, Chason 2201

6:30PM Newlywed Seminar, Cooke Home

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

No evening activities.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Church offices closed for Thanksgiving.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Church offices closed for Thanksgiving.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:00AM-1:00PM CLC Open

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

*Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.  
(Psalm 118:1)*

# COMING SOON

## Christmas Time *Advent at First Baptist Church*

### **NOVEMBER 30** **Hanging of the Green**

**6:00**  
PM

*Location: Sanctuary*

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. Also, please bring your favorite holiday treat to share at the "Almost Christmas" party immediately afterward in the welcome center!

### **DECEMBER 6** **Ring in the Season**

**4:00**  
PM

*Location: Sanctuary*

Start with seven bell choirs from area churches with hundreds of bells ringing joyful carols of the season; add in a little organ and trumpet for leavening, and some flutes and percussion for spice. It's a one-of-a-kind recipe for Christmas cheer that you will want to share with family, friends, and life groups. Don't miss this 17<sup>th</sup> annual Ring in the Season concert. Come early for the Winter Festival and be inspired by this unique and surprisingly delightful one hour serving of Christmas spirit.

### **DECEMBER 13** **Breakfast in Bethlehem**

**9:30**  
AM

*Location: Fellowship Hall*

All families with children are invited to our annual Breakfast in Bethlehem. We will have a great time in Jesus' name as children experience the Christmas story, share in breakfast with family and friends, make crafts, and have Nativity photos taken. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 3 to [rhonda@fbctlh.org](mailto:rhonda@fbctlh.org).

### **DECEMBER 14** **Time for Christmas**

**6:00**  
PM

*Location: Sanctuary*

Do you have "Time for Christmas" this year? We hope you will join us for our annual Christmas Celebration. It features the Christmas choir and full orchestra, along with drama. This production brings together our entire church in celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Free tickets are available at the front desk - take a few and invite your friends!

### **DECEMBER 24** **Christmas Eve**

**4:00+6:00**  
PM

*Location: Sanctuary*

We hope you will join us to share in the Christmas story on Christmas Eve - at 4:00PM for the family service with a spontaneous nativity, or at 6:00PM for the traditional candlelight.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301  
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PERIODICALS  
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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 [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).

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

November 26 - NO EVENING ACTIVITIES.  
Happy Thanksgiving!

**FINANCIALS**

YTD budget: \$2,384,810  
Receipts 11/16: \$37,241  
YTD receipts: \$2,272,492

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – Harold Brock

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Jim Barger
- 10AM Tim Barry
- 11AM Terry Baker

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, November 23

- 8AM Ben Hart
- 10AM Jeff Crew
- 11AM Keith Burnsed

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

9:00AM

**BIBLE STUDY**

10:00AM

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

11:15AM

# SHARE IN THE JOY

Matthew 25:14-30