

# FIRST FOCUS

## TAKING NOTE

When the Pharisees and Sadducees tried to test Jesus in Matthew 16, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He answered by critiquing them: "You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times." The pious wanted predictability so they could control their lives. Jesus offered a promise of *Kairos* time. Right in their midst they could see heaven's Son if they believed. He was the only sign they needed, but their lives were distracted by everything else pressing against them. The Messiah had come and set up a whole new way to view the times.

In his sermon "The Church and the Kingdom," Giorgio Agamben says that we live in Messianic time, the time of the Messiah's presence on earth while we anticipate his return as Lord. Our challenge is to be the church, to interpret for our world that Christ is in charge. God doesn't offer us predictability; he promises hope, peace, joy, and love in a crucified, risen baby born in a Bethlehem manger. As we follow him, we take note of the places around us where Christ fulfills what he promised in Matthew 28:20: "Lo, I am with you always to the very end of the age."

We've scheduled plenty of events on the church calendar for us to take notes. By delivering poinsettias, welcoming guests at Winter Festival, Ring[ing] in the Season with handbells, dressing up at Breakfast in Bethlehem, and participating in the musical Time for Christmas, we have scheduled time to serve and worship. Each Sunday morning, I'll be preaching on the moments where *Kairos* and *chronos* (God's movement and our schedule) press each other in scripture.

Advent, however, becomes a *Kairos* season when we take note of what we see and hear as the early Church did. They had the discipline to write where they saw Christ at work no matter where they were located. Their notes formed the background information that makes up the New Testament today. Although we'd never attempt to write anything biblical, taking notes on Christ's presence is a Christian discipline. I keep a small book in my back pocket. I write down these *Kairos* moments, places where God's presence intersects my schedule. These sorts of things happen all the time, but rarely am I awake enough to pay attention. I have to train my mind to see these things and record them so I don't forget them. It can be as simple as a conversation in a hallway, a request for prayer, or a chance to serve someone less fortunate. *Kairos* moments happen in the office when a co-worker needs time to talk, or when a neighbor has a question at the bus stop.

By recording Christ's presence around you this month, you will be the people against whom Jesus said, "The gates of hell will not prevail." You will be the ones who understand the signs of the times. You will be the church.



# COMING SOON

## Christmas Time *Advent at First Baptist Church*

### **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, praise team, 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 21** Christmas Open House

**4:00-7:00**  
PM

Location: *459 Frank Shaw Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32312*

Bill, Kelly, Parker, and Drake Shiell have cordially invited our church family to join them at their home for their Christmas Open House. All children and guests are welcome for a time of casual fellowship together.

### **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.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## **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 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 THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7.

## **FAITH, FOOD, FRIDAY**

Our pastor, Dr. Shiell, and "The God Squad" continue their fourth Faith, Food, Friday this season with "The 'Hate' Button – How'd we get so mean?"

The program will be held Friday, December 12 from 12:00-1:00PM at Temple Israel (2215 Mahan Drive) with lunch available beginning at 11:30AM. It will be moderated by Pastor Darrick McGhee of Bible Based Church.

All Faith, Food, Friday forums are free and open to the public. Lunch is available for \$8 if you RSVP by Tuesday, December 9, and \$10 with a late reservation or at the door; all lunches are paid cash or check at the door. You may also bring a brown bag lunch. For more information, a menu, or to reserve your seat, please call 590.6646, go online to [wiki.tothevillagesquare.org/x/QYDf](http://wiki.tothevillagesquare.org/x/QYDf), or email [fff@tothevillagesquare.org](mailto:fff@tothevillagesquare.org).

## **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, DECEMBER 7**

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, DECEMBER 8**

10:30AM First Joy Choir, HarborChase  
6:30PM Newlywed Seminar, Cooke Home

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9**

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

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

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, Fellowship Hall  
6:00PM DivorceCare, Adams 315  
6:00PM Women's Bible Study, Adams 301  
6:30PM Christmas Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
6:45PM RAs and GAs, Duval 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:15PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
7:15PM Young Adults Veritas, Adams 317

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11**

5:30PM First Brass Rehearsal, Adams 200

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

6:00PM First Brass Rehearsal, Adams 200

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

9:00AM-1:00PM CLC Open  
9:30AM Breakfast in Bethlehem, Fellowship Hall



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

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PERIODICALS  
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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).

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

December 10 - Hand-patted hamburger with all the trimmings, fries, green beans, and dessert *\*for kids: hot dog and chips*

**FINANCIALS**

YTD budget: \$2,488,497  
Receipts 11/30: \$44,576  
YTD receipts: \$2,344,983  
Winter Missions Offering: \$2,185

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – John Corven

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Phil Cooper
- 10AM Charles Maynard
- 11AM Jim Cooke

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 7

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

Wednesday, December 10

- 6PM Wesley Head

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

# On God's Schedule

Galatians 3:26-4:7