

# FIRST FOCUS

## **EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS**

This weekend begins the last 12 days of Advent. They're also the most significant of the season. As our hearts draw closer to Christmas, so do the eyes of those around us begin to pay closer attention to the season. As you plan for your friends, family, and loved ones, make room in your table and schedule for someone who isn't planning to be anywhere until you invited them.

On Saturday, our children's ministry hosts "Breakfast in Bethlehem." It's a chance to share the Christmas story through food, fellowship, and fun. We've invited our Weekday families to participate and encouraged folks to bring friends who aren't involved in a church. What better way to tell the Christmas story than to participate in the re-telling.

On Sunday, the Christmas musical "A Time for Christmas" is written specifically for people who have no idea what time it really is. That long ago God promised that when the time is right his Son would come... and return. The tickets are free, and there are still plenty left. Invite those who you've been sharing with in your Life Group places, phases and pursuits.

On Christmas Eve, we have two distinctly different services designed not only for your loved ones but also for guests as well. What better way to start the season than to invite friends to join you. Even if they already have family and friends, they are likely looking for a place to stop, enjoy, and reflect on the Christ of Christmas. Both services are Christmas casual. At 4:00PM, we'll have a spontaneous nativity. If you were with us last year, you will remember that children put on improvised costumes and helped me retell the Christmas story. Rhonda invites anyone with musical talent to come early and be a part of the pre-service music. Doors will open at 3:30. You'll be out by 5:00, in plenty of time to take pictures around the tree or visit with loved ones. At 6:00PM, our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service will feature traditional carols, reading of the Christmas story, and a message from yours truly called, "ChristmasTime."

In August, we practiced the "5 minute rule" and the "15 foot rule." Take 5 minutes after each service

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Christmas Time *Advent at First Baptist Church*

### 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: *Shiell Home*

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.

**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.

# 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!

## 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 next Sunday, December 21, online and in person. For more information, check out [fbctlh.org/connections](http://fbctlh.org/connections).

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to look around your pew and share in the Welcome Center. Talk with those who are here about the importance of the season. Use the 15 foot rule as you pass people in the hallway. Wish them "Merry Christmas!" and offer encouragement.

Legend has it that the song "The 12 days of Christmas" was code language for Christians celebrating the holy-days in places where they did not share the meaning of the season. Let's use these 12 days of Advent to invite people to experience ChristmasTime.



## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

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  
6:00PM Time for Christmas, Sanctuary

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

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  
6:45PM RAs and GAs, Duval 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:00PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201  
7:00PM Chamber Players Rehearsal, Adams 200  
7:15PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
7:15PM Young Adults Veritas, Adams 317

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:30PM First Brass Rehearsal, Adams 200

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00AM-1:00PM CLC Open



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 [lenoi@fbctlh.org](mailto:lenoi@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 17 - Breakfast for dinner  
*\*for kids: pizza or hot dog with chips*

**FINANCIALS**

YTD budget: \$2,540,341  
Receipts 12/07: \$64,835  
YTD receipts: \$2,409,817  
Winter Missions Offering: \$5,375

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – Richard Duley

Deacons of the Week

- 8AM Al Eppinger
- 9AM Jim Davis
- 11AM James Craig

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 14

- 8AM Tim Barry
- 10AM Lyle Ragans
- 11AM Erik Eikeland

Wednesday, December 17

- 6PM Charles Maynard

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

# Looking for Kairos Time

Mark 1:14-16