

FIRST FOCUS

CHRISTMAS WORK

Christmas celebrations and worship take a lot of time. Through staff and volunteers, FBCTLH has offered our best to our “Savior, Christ the Lord.” I’ve been so pleased with the entire month of December. Now the Christmas work begins—to obediently carry out what we so firmly believed in worship.

Former Howard University dean and theologian Howard Thurman wrote a famous poem called “The Work of Christmas.”

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

To give us a vision of this Christmas work, we will turn to Ezekiel. He was a former priest called to a new work in Abraham’s ancient city of Ur, also known as Nippur. I’m praying for God to use this month to show us a vision of God’s presence here in Tallahassee and the work we’re called to do. We prepare our hearts by repenting from our sin, acknowledging his presence, sprouting where God has planted us, and shepherding the people under our care. You can find full details of this series on our website, or contact the church office for a printed copy of the materials.

Before Sunday, please read or listen to Ezekiel. There are plenty of great resources in bookstores, libraries, and online to listen to an audio version of Ezekiel. Use your Kairos notebook to draw what you see or write phrases that stand out in your reading. Pray for God to prepare your heart for this month of Bible study and sermons. I’ll be teaching through some of the harder passages of Ezekiel on Wednesday nights at 6:00PM. Together, we’ll share the gospel of God’s presence in the midst of a community called to proclaim his name in their city.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

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 now, online or in person. Check out fbctlh.org/connections for more information.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

New Wednesday Bible studies for women begin January 7! All women of all ages are welcome to join together for these new Bible studies:

- "What Love Is" by Kelly Minter, Wednesdays at 9:30AM, led by Patsy Faircloth, at the home of Betty Gardner. This 7-session study of 1, 2, and 3 John encourages you to remain faithful to the truth. Member books are \$13. For more information, please contact Patsy (ptfaircloth1946@comcast.net).
- "Missing Pieces" by Jennifer Rothschild, Wednesdays at 6:00PM, led by Linda Smith Adams 311. This 7-session study takes a realistic look at the messy, mysterious uncertainties of faith. Member books are \$13. For more information, contact Linda (lbswcs@aol.com).

WOMEN ON MISSION

All WMU/WOM groups will meet on Tuesday, January 13, at 9:30AM. For more information, please contact coordinator, Donna Heald (dheald@gmail.com).

- Group 1 - Patsy Faircloth's house. The program will be a speaker from the FSU Young Parent's Program
- Group 2 - Visit Teen Challenge program. Meet at Lake Ella to ride the church bus.
- Group 3 - Westminster Oaks Pool House. Make pillows for breast cancer patients.

YOUTH CHOIR REUNION

Save the date: the Reunion Youth Choir will give a concert on Sunday evening, January 18, at 6:00PM in the sanctuary. The choir will be made up of choir members past and present who will be singing some of their favorite youth choir anthems. A love offering will be taken to offset the cost of this year's Youth Choir Mission Trip to New Orleans, LA.

*If you are a former member of the youth choir, please REGISTER NOW through our website: fbctlh.org.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- 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

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

- 9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room
- 10:30AM First Joy Senior Adult Choir, Chason 2201

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

- 6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1st Floor
- 6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

- 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 1st Floor
- 6:00PM Children's Music & Missions, Duval 2nd 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 2nd Floor
- 7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2nd 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, JANUARY 8

- 5:30PM First Brass Rehearsal, Adams 200

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

- 9:00AM-1:00PM CLC Open

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Christmas poinsettia during Advent. Each of these was donated to our homebound members.

- Given by Tillie Allen in memory of E.C. Allen.
- Given by Angie Altstaetter, Valera Reynolds and their families in memory of Lawrence & Betty Wilson, Dorothy "Granny" Harper, and Coleman Thompson; and in honor of Elizabeth Thompson.
- Given by Susie Bell in memory of her parents, Loretta Lawhon Chason, Margaret & Buzz Sawyer, and Brian Wise; and in honor of our pastoral staff and our church staff.
- Given by Jo Bevis Davis in memory of Hailey Bevis and Lewis & Bernice Bevis, and in honor of Betty Bevis and Martha Foster.
- Given by Judy Bishop in memory of Hildur Southwood.
- Given by Jim Brewster, Danielle Brewster Kirkland, and Melanie Brewster in memory of Joe & Robbye Brewster, Grady & Jenelle Poppell, and Regina Brewster.
- Given by Betty Carlton in memory of Bill & Elizabeth Carlton, and in honor of Charles & Lois Walker.
- Given by Dot Coe in memory of Ridgway Coe, Thomas C. Griffin, Eva S. Griffin, Thomas C. Griffin, Jr., Thomas P. Coe, Maude Coe Harvey, John B. Harvey, Lucile Branch Webb, Fay Coe Stanley, and Amira McFadden.
- Given by Carolyn Craig in memory of Lucille Scott.
- Given by Lewis, Frank, Jerry & Joe Dennard, Judy Smith, and Sue Brown in memory of L.C. and Annette Dennard.
- Given by Lila Eubanks in memory of Dewey Eubanks, Alfred & Gladys Turner, Mary Catherine Linzy, Alfreda Smith, and Jerry Morrow.
- Given by Teman and Mary Gandy in memory of their parents.
- Given by H. Pope Hamrick, Jr. in memory of H. Pope Hamrick and Esther Hamrick.
- Given by Geri Hancock in memory of Bob Hancock and Janice Roberts.
- Given by Carole Jo and Tony Hardiman in memory of Van and Bonnie Murdock.
- Given by Donna Heald in memory of Dorothy Heald.
- Given by Clyde Hicks in memory of Russell Pender and Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Powell.
- Given by Janet Holley in memory of James Walter Browning, Flora Browning, Clarence C. Holley, Jessie L. Holley, Orval Browning, Milton Browning, Fred Browning, Ted Browning, Helen Browning, George Fields, and Judy White.
- Given by Patsy Fletcher Jett in memory of Bill Fletcher and Lucille Lee.
- Given by Brandon Johnson in memory of Wayne Carter and John Eaton.
- Given by Joy Class in honor of Yvonne Barger and Patsy Faircloth.
- Given by Tadako Knight in honor of Dr. Bill Shiell and the FBC staff, Janice & Marty Smith, and Lois Walker.
- Given by Connie & Tom Konrad in memory of their parents.
- Given by Frances M. Lane and Dr. Rebekah M. Lane in memory of Theodore (Ted) Lane.
- Given by Jeff, Sarah, Charlee, and Max in honor of George & Charlene Latimer.
- Given by Vernice McDonald in memory of George McDonald, Dawn McDonald Cooper, Mary Frances, and Richard Richardson.
- Given by Jay McGlon and family in memory of Beulah Marie McGlon.
- Given by Judy and Grover McKee in memory of Audrey and Grover McKee, Sr., Jewell Lemon, and Richard L. Lemon.
- Given by Roger Merriam in memory of Wanda Merriam.
- Given by Carl and Sandy Monson in memory of Mr. & Mrs. R.I. Futrell and Mr. & Mrs. H.M. Shirley.
- Given by Robbie Moore in memory of Walter & Elma Moore.
- Given by Susan & Russell Oder and Mary Jane Mash in memory of Dick & Margaret Mash.
- Given by Jo and Valerie Peacock in memory of William S. "Buddy" Peacock, and in honor of Christ's birth.
- Given by Elizabeth "Becky" Poucher in memory of Lt. Cdr. & Mrs. T.R. Brown, and in honor of Louise Moss.
- Given by Charles & Dot Ragans in memory of Tom Ragans and Inez Ragans Sammons, Edwin Ragans, Jim Ragans, Robert & Myrtice Jordan, Bob Jordan, and Ivey Hinote.
- Given by Emily Rhodes in memory of Bill Rhodes, and in honor of Gary & Elyse Brodeur and the Early Risers Sunday School Class.
- Given by Lonnie & Shannon Salimone in memory of Sherry Salimone, Howard Hartsfield, Julius Hartsfield, and Coleman Thompson; and in honor of Wanda Hartsfield and Annette Lee.
- Given by Elna Sapp and Susanne Wood in memory of Earl A. Sapp and E. Allen Sapp, Jr.
- Given by Liz Scanlan in memory of Jim Scanlan.
- Given by Barbara W. Smith in memory of William H. Smith, Jr.
- Given by Bill & Susan Stanley in memory of Fay Stanley, Ridgway Coe, Maude Coe, J.B. Harvey, and T.P. Coe.
- Given by Estelle Stewart in memory of Ethel Gould.
- Given by William & Nancy Thompson in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Mode Stone.
- Given by Russell Whiddon in memory of Scott Whiddon, and in honor of Vaulda Whiddon.
- Given by Robin Will in memory of Roger & Bequita Morse.

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

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THE VISION NEWSLETTER

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

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

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
TALLAHASSEE
FLORIDA

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Charles Maynard

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Richard Lee
- 10AM Tom Link
- 11AM Erik Eikeland

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 4

- 8AM Lorne Shackelford
- 10AM Jim Croushorn
- 11AM Art Pitts

Wednesday, January 7

- 6PM Roy Story

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

BLOW THE WHISTLE

Ezekiel 3:12-27