

# FIRST FOCUS

## **CHRISTMAS WORK BEGINS**

Happy New Year! As we begin 2016 together, I want to tell you how grateful I am to be a part of such a wonderful church. Thank you for encouraging me with your prayers, participation, and presence throughout the Advent Season. As I shared Sunday, the work of Christmas begins now. Let me share how you can help at First Baptist.

Beginning Sunday, I'll be preaching a series of sermons on 1 Peter entitled "Strong Homes." First Peter is written to believers scattered in places where they serve under the leadership of nonbelievers. How are they to behave at home, work, and in society when the people in authority over them are disobedient? This book instructs us to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation. Our conduct sets us apart, and we demonstrate that through our hope, respect, obedience, gentleness, reverence, and care for those around us. Join us each Sunday for worship.

On Wednesday night, I start a new series through the book of Exodus entitled, "Questions Children Ask." It's based on two important passages in Exodus 10:2 and 12:26. Children and grandchildren ask, "What do these things mean?" Exodus is written to people who wonder and worry if their grandchildren will share their faith—or have any faith at all. As we seek to build strong homes as a church, Exodus teaches how to explain God's power and deliverance so that future generations will know and believe in the living God. Join us on Wednesday nights as we study God's work in Exodus and learn to share our faith across the generations.

Lastly, I want you to know how much I appreciate Zach and Shelley Allen. Zach has ministered personally to our family and has been a great blessing to our college students and the campuses in Tallahassee. As you'll read in another section of this newsletter, Zach has accepted a call to City Church in a similar role. His last Sunday with us will be January 10, and we'll have a reception for the Allens from 11:00AM - 1:00PM. Our personnel committee will meet to discuss an interim college minister and to plan with our college leadership team for the future. Please pray for Zach and Shelley in this new work. We will miss them.

A new year begins, and I look forward to seeing you this Sunday!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## **BILL & FIRST BAPTIST TALLAHASSEE,**

With a combination of sadness & excitement I am submitting my resignation as Minister to College Students to take effect Friday, January 15, 2016. First Baptist has been a tremendous blessing for over 18 years to me & my family. As a student involved with the College Ministry back in the late 90s, I would never have imagined being able to return to First Baptist as the College Minister. The last six years have been a blessing in so many ways.

First Baptist has supported our ministry & we have seen many students encounter the Gospel, be discipled & sent off after graduation to serve God's Kingdom all over the nation. In a day & time where resources for churches continue to shrink, First Baptist has sacrificed much to serve & challenge a group that is not known for financially giving back to the church. The model you have set to generously give has been realized & appreciated by our students & myself.

First Baptist has also selflessly invested in the lives of our kids. I cannot express how thankful I am to those adults who have led & served Jackson, Walker & Caroline. I was vividly reminded the other week before I baptized Jackson of so many who have taught & encouraged him in his Christian walk. Shelley & I are so grateful for those who weekly minister to Walker & Caroline...they are helping us as we seek to deposit the Gospel into the lives of our kids.

Shelley & I have become good friends with several people on our staff & in our church. It's been refreshing to be able to call my Pastor a friend & not to have to think of him as a boss. I really want to thank you & Kelly for modeling one of the healthiest "pastor families" that Shelley & I have ever known. We so appreciate y'all's normal, transparent & personable lives. To see y'all minister with & to your kids has been a blessing for me as a dad. And your boys are awesome! Two great guys that my boys & I really love being around.

I've accepted a position with City Church as their Connections, College & Missions Pastor. We are praying for wisdom & effectiveness as First Baptist prepares for the next chapter in the life of its College Ministry & asking God to help First Baptist have a successful 2016. Our family would love to be lifted up in prayer for wisdom & effectiveness during this transition. Our hope is that this will be for the advancement of the Gospel & the Kingdom of God in two churches here in Tallahassee.

We sincerely pray that you & First Baptist continue to be a church that impacts Tallahassee & the world for Jesus. Thank you for your leadership, support & friendship. We love y'all & this church!

- Zach Allen

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 3**

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor  
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options  
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 4**

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room  
10:30AM NO First Joy Senior Adult Choir, (resumes Jan. 11)  
5:00PM DT Rehearsal, C-2201  
6:00PM NO Bells of Praise

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 5**

9:30AM Knitting Ministry, C-2201  
6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, D-209  
6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Adams 211  
7:00PM Capital Bells, Adams 211

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6**

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 Mom's Connect, Adams Basement, Room 1, 2, 3  
7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC Quad  
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 7**

9:00AM Childcare for Internationals, D-209  
9:00AM International English Classes, C2201

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 8**

12:00PM Faith, Food, Friday, Fellowship Hall  
2:00PM Chelsea House Women of Worship

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**

9:00AM CLC Open

# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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

- In memory of E.C. Allen given by Tillie Allen.
- In memory of Lawrence and Betty Wilson, Dorothy "Grannie" Harper, Coleman Thompson and Jerri Haywood and in honor of Elizabeth Thompson given by Valera and Ben Reynolds and Angie and Bruce Alstaetter.
- In memory of Ernest Kever and W.M. and Louise Ard given by Marty and Brenda Kever Ard.
- In memory of Alan Paul Barney given by Jan Barney.
- In memory of Margaret Sawyer and Loretta Dowden Chason and in honor of The FBC Pastoral staff, the FBC staff and Rev. Marty and Janice Smith given by Susie Bell.
- In memory of Regina Poppell Brewster and in honor of Ryder Henry Kirkland given by James R. Brewster.
- In memory of Loretta Chason, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Brodeur, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Dowden, Jr., Bill Rhodes, Donna Morris and Ellen Willimas given by Gary and Elyse Brodeur and family.
- In memory of Bill and Elizabeth Carlton and in honor of Susan, Jeff and Colleen Harmeling given by Betty Carlton.
- In memory of Ridgway Coe, T.P. Coe, Maude Coe Harvey, John B. Harvey, Lucille Coe Webb, Fay Coe Stanley, Thomas C. Griffin, Eva Griffin, T.C. Griffin, Jr., Sara Griffin Brem and Amira McFarland given by Dot Coe.
- In memory of L.C. and Annette Dennard given by Lewis, Frank, Jerry and Joe Dennard, Judy Smith and Sue Brown.
- In memory of Alfred and Gladys Turner, Dewey Eubanks, Jerry Morrow, Alfreda Smith, Mary Catherine Linzy, and Lila & Jerry Turner given by Lila Eubanks.
- In memory of Diane Foster given by Frank and Linda Foster.
- In memory of Ruth and Karl Funchess and Ernestine Warner and in honor of Penny Folsom and Linda Smith given by Kathy Funchess.
- In memory of Kelly Lane Gaddy given by Richard and Barbara Gaddy.
- In memory of Mr. Bill Yon, Mr. Charles Walker, Rev. Coleman Thompson and Mrs. Beulah Barwick and in honor of Anita Pearson, Bonnie Snyder, Ray and Jenna Young given by Virginia Glass.
- In memory of Pope and Esther Hamrick given by Pope Hamrick, Jr. and Janet Dickson
- In memory of Shirley Eikeland and Will Veal given by John and Julie Hansen.
- In memory of Van and Bonnie Murdoch and Rev. Coleman Thompson and in honor of Mr. Glen Hicks given by Tony and Carole Jo Hardiman.
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Powell and James Russell Pender given by Clyde P. Hicks.
- 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 Janet Holley
- In memory of Bill Fletcher and Lucille Lee given by Patsy Fletcher Jett.
- In memory of Jerri Hatwood and Reese Langston and in honor of Patsy Faircloth given by the Joy SS Class.
- In memory of Tamon Shimoishi and in honor of the FBC pastoral staff given by Tadako Knight.
- In memory of Theodore (Ted) R. Lane given by Frances M. Lane and Dr. Rebekah M. Lane.
- In memory of Mackenzie Green given by Randolph and Marilyn Maphis.
- In memory of Wanda Merriam, Jack Merriam, Jr. and Edna Merriam given by Roger Merriam.
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Shirley and in honor of Mr. and Mrs. N.G. Monson given by Sandy and Carl Monson.
- In memory of Walter and Elma Moore given by Robbie Moore.
- In memory of Dorothy Moss given by Louise Moss.
- In memory of Robert, Myrtice and Bob Jordan, Ivey Hinote, Tom, Inez, Ed and Jim Ragans given by Charles and Dot Jordan Ragans.
- In memory of Bill Rhodes and Estelle Stewart given by Emily Rhodes.
- In memory of Roy and June Rhodes given by Tommy Rhodes.
- In memory of Sherry Salimone, Howard Hartsfield, Coleman Thompson and Julius Hartsfield and in honor of Todd Smith given by Shannon and Lonnie Salimone.
- In memory of Fay C. Stanley, Maude C. Harvey, J.B. Harvey, T.P. Coe and Ridgway Coe given by Susan and Bill Stanley.
- In memory of Dr. Mode and Jeanne Stone given by William and Nancy Stone Thompson.
- In memory of Estelle Stewart given by Fay Vaughn.
- In memory of Thomas J. Wagner given by Carolyn Wagner and family.
- In memory of Bill Yon given by Maye and John Walker.
- In memory of Roger Harrington and Maurice Barineau given by Maye and John Walker.
- In memory of James & Annie Ruth Wheeler and Charles & Lorna Freeland given by Jim and Linda Wheeler.
- In memory of Roger and Bequita Morse and in honor of Hank and Hazel Will given by Robin and Eric Will.
- In memory of Ellen Williams and Dickie Brinson given by Steve Williams and Penny Brinson Williams.
- In memory of Bill Yon given by Eris and Charlene Wilson.
- In memory of Bill Yon, Ruby Smith, Ed and Lidale Whitaker given by Bobby Yon.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

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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**

January 6 - Baked potato bar: toppings include chili, cheese sauce, broccoli, mushroom/onion medley, salad bar, roll, dessert. **Kid's corner:** hot dog or pizza

**FINANCIALS**

YTD budget: \$2,882,958  
Receipts 12/27 \$58,759  
YTD receipts: \$2,479,260  
Winter Missions Offering \$10,443

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – Charles Maynard  
Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Richard Lee
- 10AM Seth Ablordeppey
- 11AM Erik Eikeland

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, January 3

- 8AM Tim Barry
- 10AM Brent Daniel
- 11AM Eric Palm

Wednesday, January 6

- 6PM Jim English

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

CONDUCT  
YOURSELF  
HOPEFULLY

1 Peter 1:3-16