

February, 2025
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The MESSENGER

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From Your Pastor

I started writing this article before the inauguration of our new president. I'm praying all goes well without incident. I also have the death of our former President Jimmy Carter on my mind, remembering our world during his term in office and since. Politics... Ugh! I am so sick of contentious politics. It just feels like there are leaders in Washington who are not interested in solutions, truth, or American exceptionalism WITHOUT a political party's agenda. Honestly, it appears this is equally imbalanced between liberals and conservatives alike. I hope that will change. I know God used both good and evil kings and pagan empires to accomplish His will in the OT. Be encouraged as I am to acknowledge the Sovereignty of God, even over politics. Therefore, amidst all the frustration with politics, I am claiming the overshadowing of faith. I still believe we live in the greatest country in the world. I hope we can return to the value of common sense while we strive to live out our motto: "In God We Trust"! I encourage all of us to pray daily for our leaders. Romans 13:1 says, "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

During the late 1950s, 60s, and 70s, churches in America were awakened to

the reality that family life was changing in America. Hindsight is 20/20, so please do not assume I'm judging efforts of the past harshly. I am a product of those efforts that helped point me to Christ and understand God's calling upon my life. There was a strong emphasis on age-specific and age-appropriate programs to target and reach "children" and "youth," which exploded with buses, gyms, camps, choir tours, trips, and age-specific ministry and age-specific Ministers to reach youth and children. However, too often, those efforts did not do enough to reach or equip the parents of those same children and youth. Before the 1960s, Mothers had the job of being homemakers in many homes. However, Mama working outside the home became the norm because most households needed two incomes to live the American dream. Many changes were necessary, but the consequences also began to erode the health of family life, which brings us to the state of the family today. For many, if not most, the government, schools, television, social media, and yes, even churches took over the primary role of shaping ideas and concepts in the life of a child rather than the family. Who is the primary influencer in a child's life today? It should be the family that teaches a child values, right from wrong, discipline, respect, and constructs a spiritual framework, but today, social media, schools, and the government have

become the managers who set the standards of what is acceptable. Even many Christian parents could be compared to the father of the child vexed by an evil spirit in Mark 9 who watched helplessly as the evil spirit had "often thrown [his son] both into the fire and into the water to destroy him." And so many Christian parents are as desperate as that man to say, "I do believe. Help my unbelief!" Our hope is found in the same person who proclaimed authority and compassion in Mark 9: Jesus. Jesus conquered the evil spirit. BUT the story does not end there! Mark 9:27 says, "But Jesus took [the boy] by the hand and raised him; and he got up." That could be our theme verse. Therein lies the way Jesus will use us to help families. Being the hand of Jesus extended to take others by the hand and help them get up. Our only authority comes from Jesus. Our only hope is found in Jesus. Will we be the hand extended to help, "and he got up?" Our Savior does not come from Washington or Jackson. He came from heaven by way of a manger, a cross, and an empty tomb to bring us faith, hope, love, and salvation. Every day, I pray, "Lord, I do believe. Help my unbelief." He is kind, loving, gracious, forgiving and so patient on the days I struggle. He DOES help my unbelief. He can see you through, too!

Your Pastor and friend,

Bro. Dale

Women's Ministry - Lunch break with Susan Moore and the Fervent Five will begin on March 17 and continue for the following Mondays (March 24, 31, April 7). She will be leading us on the women at Easter with a biblically dressed woman joining us each week and a demonstration of the Passover/Seder meal in their Journey to Easter. Mark your calendars now for this special 4 week Bible study. Bring a friend and your lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30. (Light snacks will be provided.)

Other dates to save:

May 17 - Garden Tea party for 8

August 5- Pearls and Proverbs fellowship

October 21- Ladies Fall Banquet - speaker Lea Turner

GINGER'S NOTES

"We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." 1 John 4:19-21

WORSHIP CHOIR rehearsals are in full swing on Wednesday nights at 6:00 in the choir room. New listening CDs and flash drives will be available next week! They will include new Easter music and music for morning worship services. This is a great time to join choir or return to choir if you've not been singing with us recently. All are welcome.

STUDENT CHOIR will be singing in a MULTI-GEN CHOIR February 2. We will meet Sunday afternoons, February 2 and 16 at 5:00 in the choir room for rehearsals. We will not have youth choir on February 9 or 23! ALL youth are invited to participate! Our youth choir

trip is scheduled for March 15-16. More information will be available soon!

YOUTH PRAISE BAND MEMBERS will meet Sunday afternoon February 9 at 4:00 in the Choir Room.

HAND BELLS
Adult hand bells will meet every Tuesday in February at 5:45. We will be preparing for our Hand Bell Clinic to be held February 28 and March 1. We will be playing in Morning Worship March 2.
Youth hand bells will meet February 2 and 16 at 4:15 in the balcony.

THANK YOU for supporting the 9 students participating in All-State Choir during the Soup Fundraiser on January 26. We are so appreciative of your help and generosity. The 9 students going to All-State are: Marci Allen, Ava

Grace Burton, Macey Busby, Hartleigh Jo Ferrell, Chloe Gee, Samuel Hollis, Hannah Miller, Leslie Robinson, Riley Turnipseed.

He keeps me singing!

Welcome New Members!!



By Baptism:
Curry Smith

By Letter:
Hannah Golson



Covered Dish Luncheon
 Thursday, February 13 at 11:30
 Program: Raider Rhythm
 Meat and rolls will be provided.



We do not wrestle against flesh and blood...but against the spiritual forces of evil. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, having done all, to stand firm. (Ephesians 6:12-13)

I was reminded one Sunday morning, twice, while reading 2 different devotions about the need to take up the spiritual armor. Going to church on Sundays is a way to armor up, and we should gather with that in mind. That is one among many benefits of gathering on Sundays with the body of Christ! Whenever God repeats something for me, I'm more attentive that day. Surely, He is showing me something.

When I got to church, I had ELEVEN children recite scripture to me. They had stored up those words in their hearts with the help of parents and Sunday and Wednesday teachers. And it dawned on me, this is spiritual warfare! This is important work. So, kudos to these kids (and parents) who are memorizing scripture. The benefits are immeasurable and eternal.

Your Family Worship Resource for February is "Love Notes to God." You may pick up your packet on the table outside the fellowship hall.

February 2 will be our first **First Kids Volunteer Breakfast**. This will be at 8:30 downstairs in the Taylor building. If **God is For Us** studies (adults and kids) will meet February 2, 16 and 23. There will be a **Family Football Fellowship and Chili Cookoff** February 9 at 5:00. The children will participate in the **Cereal Bowl**. Don't forget body wash for **Operation Valentine**. The kids will package these on Wednesday, February 12 for Dugan residents. **Department 56** kicks off with Disciple Now on Friday, February 21. Times and details to come.

Children's Worship

- Feb. 2 - Preschool: Brooke and Reese Ketchum
1st/2nd Grade: NONE
- Feb. 9 - Preschool: Wesley and Taylor Frost
1st/2nd Grade: Jade and Joedee
- Feb. 16 - Preschool: Katie Oswalt and Casey Berry
1st/2nd Grade: Jade and Caroline
- Feb. 23 - Preschool: Farrah and Madison Honea
1st/2nd Grade: Jade and Shanna F.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is June 2-6. We need volunteers! Please let me know if you can serve at **MAGNIFIED**. **CENTRIKID** (July 12-16) deposits due February 15.



A **THANK YOU NOTE** has been received from Myra Duncan.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Clara Hampton who passed away December 27; also to Gene and Carolyn Gwathney, Heath and Sheila Brand, and family in the death of their sister/aunt, LaVaughn Long, December 27; and to Peggy O'Shea, Patrick and Monica O'Shea, and family in the death of Pete O'Shea, December 31; also to Gary and Myra Duncan in the death of her sister, Mitzi Thompson, January 5; and to Brucie Lyon and family in the death of her brother, Bill Doughty, January 7; and to Mark, Shana, and Kaylee Cliett in the death of Shana's mother, Patricia Sheffield, January 10; also to Robby, Terri, and Sarah Pierce in the death of Terri's mother, Sherry Haley, January 26.

First Students

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since He who promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:24

Church family,

We have made it to February which means that **DNOW** is upon us! DNOW 2025 will be February 21-23. We are going to need some volunteers to open their homes for host homes, transport students back and forth throughout the weekend, bring snacks and drinks, and most importantly, pray! In the coming weeks there will be more information given about how you can volunteer to help. Our speaker for DNOW this year will be Gary Permenter and our band is a family group from Arkansas called Broken Vessels. They will be with us for the morning of the 23rd for our Sunday worship. For any students that have not

signed up, they should do so as soon as possible. The cost for DNOW is \$25 per student and the money will be due by Sunday, February 16th.

We also have an exciting family night event for February. On the evening of February 9th, we will have a **family night** in the fellowship hall which will include a **chili cookoff, a super bowl watch party, and Bible trivia during halftime of the game.** This will take the place of our “souper bowl” lunch fundraiser that we normally do on the day of the super bowl, but we will be making up that fundraiser on March 2nd. That day, we will have a soup fundraiser that will support our students going to camps and other trips that we will take throughout the year. Be on the lookout for a sign up for that fundraiser as well in the coming weeks. As we continue into 2025, please continue to pray for our students and all of our leaders that help with our student ministry as we continue

to glorify God and make him known.

In Christ,
Joseph Blount

Kris, Laura, Samuel, and Benjamin Hollis will perform a variety of songs at the Louise Campbell Center for the Arts Sunday, February 9, at 2:00. Come and support this very talented family!!



Any groups (deacons, women’s ministry, men’s ministry, missions, small groups, committees, choirs, ensembles, children, youth, and adults) who are planning events or meetings in March must email or call Kelli with dates, times, and details by February 21. (fbcwpkelli@gmail.com)

February

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m. Worship – 10:15 a.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Children's Volunteer Breakfast 8:30 Children's Bible Drill – 4:15 p.m. STAND, IGIFU, & Youth Choir – 5:00 p.m.	3	4	5 Meal – 5:00 p.m. Children's Choirs & Ladies' Bible Study – 5:30 p.m. Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, Student Worship, Prayer Meeting, Choir Rehearsal.	6	7	8
9 "Souper Bowl" Church-wide Chili Cook-off – 5:00 p.m.	10	11	12 & Ladies' Small Group – 6:00 p.m.	13 Forever Young Luncheon	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Children's Bible Drill – 4:15 p.m. STAND, IGIFU, & Youth Choir – 5:00 p.m.	17 Presidents' Day	18 Joy Seitz WMU 10:00 a.m. Hand Bells 5:45 p.m.	19	20	21	22
23 Children's Bible Drill – 4:15 p.m. STAND & IGIFU – 5:00 p.m. DNOW Weekend	24	25 Hand Bells 5:45 p.m.	26	27	28	DNOW Weekend
						Hand Bell Workshop



Starting February 5,
supper prices are...
\$4 - Children
\$5 - Youth & Adults
\$20 - Family Max

February 5
Poppy Seed Chicken
Lima Beans
Fried Squash
Roll
Dessert

February 19
Spaghetti
Green Beans
Salad
Garlic Bread
Chocolate Pie

February 12
Baked Potato
Salad
Garlic Bread
Yellow Cake/Choc. Icing

February 26
BBQ Chicken
Black Eye Peas
Fried Okra
Roll
Dessert

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

	12/22	12/29	1/5	1/12	1/19
S.S.	181	152	206	202	191
Worship	307	262	314	343	296

BUDGET NEEDS

Average Weekly Budget Receipts for December
\$38,020.96

Weekly Budget Needs
\$21,945.92

FEBRUARY 2 Nursery
LeeAnn Funderburg
Lacy Funderburg
Rasheda Burnett
Ushers
William Allen
Will Ketchum
Brad Cox
Bill Lantz
Steve Tribble
Jonas Robinson

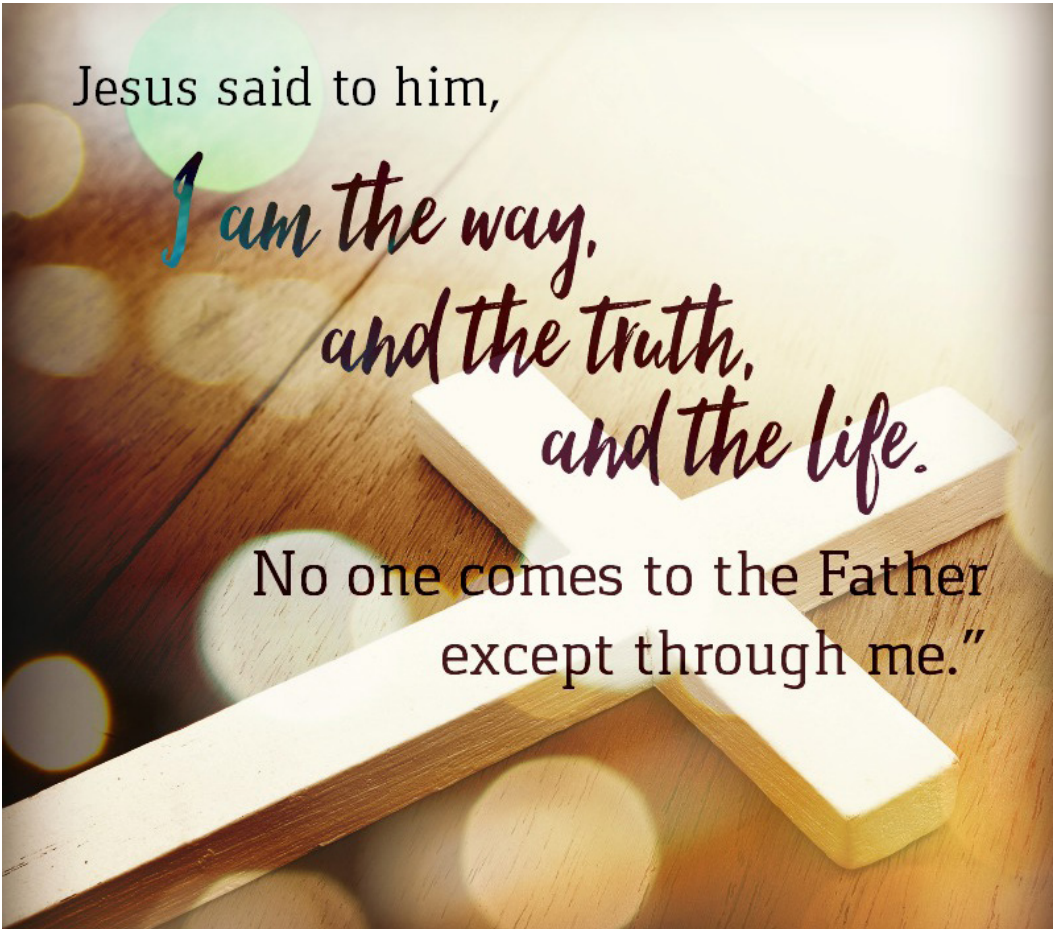
FEBRUARY 9 Nursery
Brooke Bowen
Caroline Eaves
Regina Towery
Ushers
Calvin Boyd
Jon Oswald
Jason Reed
Steve White
Scott Ross
Gregg Kaiser
Wayne Ray

FEBRUARY 16 Nursery
Will Ketchum
Brooke Ketchum
Farrah Honea
Ushers
Victor Suggs
Roger Burton
Heath Brand
Jerry Ishee
Barry Bryan
Dave Ketchum

FEBRUARY 23 Nursery
Steve Tribble
Thea Kay Tribble
Kelli Mowry
Ushers
John Freeman
John Ingram
Jamey Ballard
Chris Chambless
Sherman Berry
Ben Lawley
Mark Jessop

TITHES & OFFERINGS

<u>December Online Giving</u>	
	\$11,855.65
<u>December Online ECM Deposits</u>	
	\$14,261.86
<u>December 22, 2024</u>	
Undesignated	\$10,947.85
Child Care	\$2,120.00
Total Operating	\$13,067.85
Designated	\$7,595.00
Total Deposit	\$20,662.85
<u>December 29, 2024</u>	
Undesignated	\$95,209.20
Child Care	\$7,228.00
Total Operating	\$102,437.20
Designated	\$9,731.00
Total Deposit	\$112,168.20
<u>December 31, 2024</u>	
Undesignated	\$19,853.00
Total Operating	\$19,853.00
Designated	\$5,147.00
Total Deposit	\$25,000.00
<u>January 5, 2025</u>	
Undesignated	\$11,248.00
Child Care	\$4,295.00
Total Operating	\$15,543.00
Designated	\$920.00
Total Deposit	\$16,463.00
<u>January 12, 2025</u>	
Undesignated	\$17,849.21
Reimbursements	\$1,205.14
Child Care	\$18,039.30
Total Operating	\$37,093.65
Designated	\$1,292.00
Total Deposit	\$38,385.65
<u>January 19, 2025</u>	
Undesignated	\$8,073.00
Reimbursements	\$889.00
Child Care	\$3,866.25
Total Operating	\$12,828.25
Designated	\$692.00
Total Deposit	\$13,520.25



Jesus said to him,

*I am the way,
and the truth,
and the life.*

No one comes to the Father
except through me."

First Baptist Church

- Rev. Dale Funderburg
Pastor
- Ginger Fowler
Minister of Music
- Joseph Blount
Minister of Students
- Joedee Robinson
Minister of Children
and Family Ministry
- Sarah Burton
ECM Director
- Caroline Warrington
Children's Ministry Intern
- Samuel Hollis
Music Ministry Intern