



CALHOUN

FIRST BAPTIST

news & views



December
2025



411 College
Street



706-629-7714



calhounfbc.org



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Calhoun First Baptist Church

is a *multigenerational*
family of faith

living in pursuit

of the Great Commandment
& the Great Commission.



We work together to

Gather & Grow

so that we can

Serve & Share

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CHURCH STAFF

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Dr. John Barber **SENIOR PASTOR**

With the beginning of December comes our Week of Prayer for International Missions and our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our goal for this year's offering will be \$29,000, as we join with some 46,000 Southern Baptist churches to raise 210 million dollars to combat global lostness. Every dollar given to the LMCO goes directly to support of our IMB missionaries serving on the front lines of lostness around the globe.

To give you some idea of the global impact of our missionary work facilitated through the LMCO, here are some statistics from the last year reported by our IMB. 109 new people groups were engaged by IMB missionaries. 795,482 people heard the gospel. 68,626 new believers were baptized. 2,409 new churches were established. 282,692 individuals were disciplined. You can find more information about the work of our International Mission Board and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering at www.imb.org. I hope you will prayerfully and generously give to our missions offering.

Congratulations to Andrew Crawford as the month of December marks his 3rd anniversary of service as our Minister of Students. Andrew is an invaluable member of our Pastoral staff and continues to do an outstanding job leading our Student Ministries. Andrew, we love and appreciate you and your family. First Family, I hope you will find an opportunity to express your love and appreciation to Andrew, Jennifer, Cooper, Lilly, and Annabelle.

The month of December also brings with it our annual budget preparation and approval process. The church membership will receive a copy of the 2026 Proposed Budget as well as a letter of explanation later this week. On Wednesday, December 10th, we will have a Called Conference at 6:45 PM for the purpose of budget discussion. On Sunday December 14th, we will have a Called Conference to act on the proposed budget. I am very grateful for the faithful and generous giving of this congregation that allows us to be in a very strong financial position.

Our Facilities Team has been diligent in their work to develop a concept that meets our current and future facility needs. Our plan is to present a detailed concept to the church on Sunday night, January 11th, and make specific recommendations concerning next steps of action. Please mark your calendar and plan to be present at this important meeting.

I hope you will be present for the many different worship opportunities we will have this Christmas season. This Sunday night, our Preschool and Children's Ministry will be hosting our Walk Through Bethlehem live nativity. And on Sunday night, December 14th, our Music Ministry will present "Heaven's Greatest Gift" at 6 PM. We will also have our churchwide Christmas party following this service. I look forward to sharing my first message from this year's Christmas sermon series entitled "The Story of Christmas."

Dr. Lance Cole

MUSIC MINISTRY

This year's Christmas musical, "Heaven's Greatest Gift," is almost upon us. I could not be more excited about how this Christmas story in song is coming together! Once again, our Adult Worship Choir, Children's Choir, Youth Ensemble, and Worship Band will be joined by orchestra members from around our area to lead us in a time of worship through music. Please join us on the evening of December 14th at 6 pm in the sanctuary for the musical, and plan to stay for our churchwide Christmas party afterwards in the CLC. I believe this will be a highlight of your Christmas season celebrations.

I was asked this past Sunday morning about why the Praise Team members were wearing earbuds as we sang and led in worship. Our instrumentalists have depended on these for many years now and I am thrilled to incorporate them into the mix of our "out-front singers." These in-ear monitors are commonly used by churches to allow the singers to hear the instrumentalists, the choir, and one another in a way that improves our timing, pitch, blend, and musicianship. Other benefits will be added as we grow comfortable with using these monitors as well. While I am not one of those who places musical excellence as our number one goal, I am confident that we honor God when we give Him our very best. When technology has the ability to help us in that endeavor, I'm all for it! I am also thankful to our Praise Team and Worship Band Members for stepping out of their comfort zones in order to incorporate this tool. Lastly, a big thanks goes to Steve Davenport for pulling all of this together and teaching us how to use it.

While many may not be concerned with the behind the scenes aspects of worship planning each week, I do want you to know that this in-ear monitor system is a big deal for us. Pulling in another technology-driven tool is never easy, and in full disclosure, I was a nervous wreck trying to sleep Saturday night! However, on Sunday as we sang the lyrics, "and all my life You have been faithful, and all my life you have been so, so good," I was reminded that every single time we've taken a carefully considered and prayed-over step in worship leadership, God has been faithful! Our worship environment has improved and the tools of technology have proven helpful.

As we look towards our Christmas program and the many events of the Christmas season, I pray that God may richly bless you and your family.

Joyfully,
Lance

GENERAL INFORMATION

Adult Worship Choir

Wednesday Rehearsal

6:45 PM in the Choir Room

Children's Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal

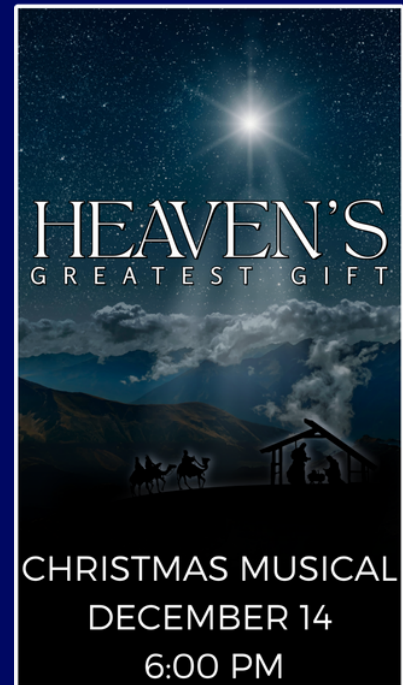
6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor

Preschool Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal

6:00 PM in the CLC 2nd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

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IMPORTANT DATES

December 7

Walk Through Bethlehem
& Live Nativity

December 14

Christmas Musical &
Churchwide Christmas Party

NOVEMBER BAPTISMS

Makayla Brown
Ava Cass
Matthew Cass
Tracy Bennett
Christine Bennett
Maria Sanchez

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dr. Steven Waters **MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & ADMINISTRATION**

Christmas and Discipleship

Christmas is a joyful season, but it can also distract us from the very One we celebrate. Discipleship begins with a clear focus on **Jesus Christ—God in the flesh, our Savior and Lord**. The Christmas story reminds us that God sent His Son to redeem us and invite us into a new life of obedience and faith. Christmas is about the incarnation—Immanuel, God with us. Jesus came to rescue sinners, just as Scripture teaches. Let this season renew your gratitude for salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Make worship a priority. Read Luke 2 with your family, attend church with expectancy, and keep your heart anchored in God's Word. True discipleship grows from a life shaped by Scripture and regular worship. God gave us His greatest gift in Christ. We reflect His heart when we show generosity—encouraging someone who is hurting, meeting practical needs, and supporting gospel work. Christmas is also the season for the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**, a vital part of our mission to send the gospel to the nations.

A faithful disciple guards against distraction. Take time for quiet prayer, Scripture reading, and reflection. Let the peace of Christ steady your heart in a busy season.

Don't forget that many people are open to spiritual conversations at Christmas. Invite someone to church, share your testimony, or simply explain why Jesus' birth gives you hope. Evangelism should be an outpouring of us growing in our Discipleship journey. Evangelism is not just a task: it's the overflow of a heart transformed by Christ.

As we celebrate Jesus' birth, let's recommit ourselves to walking closely with Him. May our First Family of Faith shine with the love, truth, and hope of Christ this Christmas.

Blessings,
Steven

Rev. Andrew Crawford

YOUTH MINISTRY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth Activities

Wednesdays
5:45 PM on the 3rd Floor

Sunday School

9:45 AM on the 3rd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

January 23-25

Winter Retreat

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

andrew.crawford
@calhounfbc.org



A Year in God's Word + Winter Retreat

Parents, we're excited to launch a year-long study called *The Thread: Discovering the Gospel Through the Big-Picture Story of the Bible*. Over 52 Sunday mornings, students will:

- Learn the overarching story of Scripture: key people, events, and how it all fits together.
- See how the Gospel runs through every page, revealing God's unfailing love from Creation onward.

This journey will help students not only know God's Word but also see how His story connects to their own lives.

How You Can Help

- Pray for your teenager and their peers.
- Engage with the verses we highlight at home.
- Share your own questions and reflections with them.

Winter Retreat: January 23–25 at Johnston Woods, McDonald, TN

We're also inviting students to an unforgettable **Winter Retreat!** This weekend will combine worship, team-building, and Bible study to help students grow in faith. Our emphasis will be Christian leadership- we will define it, study it, and help your student apply it! It's a chance to step away from distractions, build lasting friendships, and discover how God is calling them to live boldly. The cost for the retreat is \$150 and includes all food. We will return around noon that Sunday.

Parents, encourage your student to sign up, we want this retreat to be a catalyst for something special in their lives!

Andrew

Travis & Emily Hurd

CHILDREN'S & PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Parents,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I am very thankful for the opportunity to teach and worship with your kids each and every week. We have some exciting activities planned for the kids for the month of December.

Mark your calendars for our Walk Through Bethlehem on December 7th at 6pm. We will also have a Christmas party for the kids on Wednesday, December 17th, during Teamkids. I encourage parents to make it a priority to have conversations about the birth of Christ with their children. He truly is the reason for the season.

May God Bless,
Travis

Parents,

I can't believe we are already in December! We have lots going on in the life of our church, so please watch for announcements and messages regarding special events. Remember, this Sunday is our Walk Through Bethlehem event. We will recreate a Bethlehem market ending with a live nativity complete with animals the children can interact with. It's going to be a wonderful night. I hope you will join us and bring friends! It all begins at 6 pm. Our music ministry will present their Christmas musical on December 14th at 6pm. This will be followed by a churchwide social. Our preschool choir will sing during prayer meeting on Wednesday, December 17th.

Please remember to take some time during this busy season to share with your child why Christmas is important to you as a Christian. Christmas is more than Santa, gifts, and parties. I pray you all have a wonderful holiday season. I am so very thankful for our church family.

God bless,
Emily

GENERAL INFORMATION

Children's Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal
6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor

Teamkids

Wednesdays
6:45 PM on the 2nd Floor

Preschool Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal
6:00 PM in the CLC 2nd Floor

Mission Friends

Wednesdays
6:45 PM in the Preschool

Children's Sunday School

9:45 AM on the 2nd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

December 7

Walk Through Bethlehem
& Live Nativity

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

emily.hurd@calhounfbc.org

travis.hurd@calhounfbc.org





Sunday School Information

GROW WITH US

We also offer Sunday School classes for every age group!

Children / Youth

- Babies
- Toddlers and 2's
- 3's and Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- First Grade
- Second Grade
- Third Grade
- Fourth Grade
- Fifth Grade
- Sixth - Eighth Grade Girls
- Sixth - Eighth Grade Boys
- Ninth - Twelfth Grade Girls
- Ninth - Twelfth Grade Boys

College / Adult

- College & Careers
 - Young Single Adults
- Young Married Adults
 - Young Adults Co-ed
- Fish Finders
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Vine and Branches
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Genesis
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Cornerstone
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Joy
 - Median Adult Ladies

Senior Adult

- Fishers of Men
 - Senior Men
- Mary-Martha
 - Senior Ladies
- Becomers Co-ed
 - Senior Co-ed
- New Men
 - Senior Men
- Faithseekers
 - Senior Co-Ed
- Mattie Lou Strain
 - Senior Ladies
- Becomers Ladies
 - Senior Ladies

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunday School begins at 9:45 AM on Sundays and will dismiss just before the Worship Service starts at 11:00 AM.

We have classes for every age – from babies to our wisest of senior adults, there is a small group that is perfect for you!

We also have a nursery service for our youngest members and visitors.

See the welcome desk for more information!

Monthly Church Information

Deacon of the Day

Dec.	7	Steve Nelson
	14	Brad Brown
	21	Bart Walraven
	28	Scott Clements

Usher Group of the Day

Dec.	7	Group I: Ritchie Harris
	14	Group II: Harry Harwell
	21	Group III: Wes Alexander
	28	Group IV: Brad Brown

Building 'B' Greeters

Dec.	7	Mary Ann Berryman
	14	Laura & Stephen Ralston
	21	Bill & Teresa Bishop
	28	Mary Sterling

CLC Greeters

Dec.	7	Logan & Wes Alexander
	14	Clint & Jenny Hayes
	21	Sharon & Dennis Alexander
	28	Camille & Mike Hall

Children's Ministry Hall Greeters

Dec.	7	Gina & Robbie McCorkle
	14	Sharon & Dennis Alexander
	21	Logan & Wes Alexander
	28	Kim Hall

OFFERING UPDATES

Offerings for November 2025

Budget Requirement Monthly	\$	106,802.08
Budget Offering	\$	170,173.68
Faith Forward Giving September.....	\$	14,002.00
Other Designated	\$	36,380.91
Total	\$	220,556.59

Year-To-Date

Budget Requirement thru 11/30/25.....	\$	1,174,822.88
Budget Offering Given as of 11/30/25.....	\$	1,302,238.64
Faith Forward Fund Balance as of 11/30/25.....	\$	59,727.87

SERVE WITH US

Give

- Blewer Food Bank
- Backpack Buddies
- Lottie Moon

Share

- Vacation Bible School
- Mission trips
- Youth programs
- Adult International Trips

Serve

- Worship Choir
- Nursery
- Women on Mission
- C.R.O.S.S. Team

NOVEMBER WORSHIP AVERAGE: 413

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE: 300



Prayer List

FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Tanya Johnson, Jean Warren, Nicki Faulkner, Sayre Holland, Ginger Walraven, Laura Jones, Elaine McDearis, Andrea Smith, Rickey Harris, Linda Ruddell, Gary Reese, Rebecca Brown, Sylvia Brumbelow, Martha Miller, Harry Russell, Charlotte Beard, Yvonne Elrod, Max Mashburn, Donald Gallman, Clint Hayes, Geneva Owens, Rebecca Owen, Joan Holcomb, Bob Bullard, Mary Ann Berryman, Judy Thomason, Annette Thomas, Randy Mcentyre, Charlie Reeves, Jane Silvers, Harriett Koen, Dan & Pat Autry, Steve Warren, Carolyn Holbert, Norma Highfield, Madeline Erwin, Ron Hayes, Mike Miller, Grant Glaze, Helen Faw, Ginger Worde, Milton Kean, Kayanne Walraven, Nona Lunsford, Jim Lay, Ramona Reese, Wesley Daniel, Kyle Holbert Brown, Truett and Peggy Grogan

FROM CHURCH FAMILY

Regina Kinnie, Larry Young, Scott Weaver, Harold Crump, Francis Payne, Charlene Henderson, Nicole Carter, Tony Crunkelton, Chris Mulkey, Marlin Sullivan, Tammi Faulkner, Juanita Smith, Tim Smith, Cody Henderson, Marie Jarrett, Daryl Goble, Charles Avery, Monica Perkins, Bill Bryson, Julia Stansell, Drew Walraven, Herman Westbrook, Lisa McDonald Braden, Lou Helen Warren, Miller Creel, Darrell Goble, Penny Baker, Mike Earnest, Randy McCorkle, Lisa Holden, Tom Ramsey, Wesley Burgess, Robert McConnell, Lloyd Pack, Larry Garner, Kurt Cowell, Mark Waters, Zoey Adolphi, Carol Cross, Jane Bennett, Alice Ann Mullins, Shirley Willis, Ava Price, Aaron Jones, Margie Moss, Robert Adams, Tricia Crump, Danny Elrod, Charlie Williams, Kaisley Miller, Elaine Powell, Evan Koen, Turner Rogers

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(Under the **CONNECTIONS** tab, click **Newsletters**.)

10 You can also scan this code to access the library on your mobile device!



Events & Updates

DECEMBER EVENTS

December is upon us, and with it comes plenty of activities and events in the life of our church!

Dec. 4	Senior Adult Game Night	4:00 PM
Dec. 7	Walk Through Bethlehem	6:00 PM
Dec. 8	Finance Committee, Deacon, and Staff Christmas Dinner	6:30 PM
Dec. 12	Senior Adult Christmas Banquet	6:00 PM
Dec. 14	"Heaven's Greatest Gift" Christmas Musical & Christmas Party	6:00 PM
Dec. 21	College & Careers Class Breakfast	10:00 AM
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	5:00 PM
Dec. 28	Morning Worship Only	11:00 AM

walk through
Bethlehem
& Live Nativity
DECEMBER 7TH, 6:00 PM


HEAVEN'S
GREATEST GIFT
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL
DECEMBER 14TH, 6:00 PM

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

December 24th - Office Closed
December 25th - Office Closed
December 26th - Office Closed
December 31st - Office Closes at Noon
January 1st - Office Closed

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

TOGETHER

100% OF EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE SENDS AND SUSTAINS MISSIONARIES ON THE FIELD.



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

Our 2026 Goal: \$29,000.00

Given To Date: \$2,870.00

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CELEBRATE GOD'S WORK IN 2024

3,577
MISSIONARIES ON THE FIELD

68,628
BAPTISMS

84,430
NEW LEADERS

2,409
CHURCHES PLANTED

144,969
PROFESSED FAITH IN JESUS

1.6 MILLION
HEARD THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

