CALHOUN FIRST BAPTIST news & views

July 2026

411 College Street | 706-629-7714 | calhounfbc.org | FirstBaptistChurchCalhoun

Calhoun First Baptist Church

is a *multigenerational* family of faith **living in pursuit** of the Great Commandment & the Great Commission.





Gather • Grow

Serve • Share

CALHOUN FIRST BAPTIST **FAITH FORWARD**

LIVING IN PURSUIT

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Dr. John Barber
SENIOR PASTOR

Thank you, First Family, for the many expressions of love and concern following my Achilles repair surgery. I am especially grateful for your prayers on my behalf. The surgery went well and I am in my fourth week of recovery. While I will soon be able to resume walking with a boot on my right foot, it will be several weeks before I can drive or begin physical therapy. I do plan to return to the pulpit on Sunday, July 12th.

Many thanks to Lance, Steven, and Andrew for covering my preaching and pastoral responsibilities during this recovery period. I am grateful for each of these men and all they to do serve you and help me lead our church.

Last Monday night, the City Council approved our variance request for the required setback for our new Preschool Building. Thanks to so many of you who attended this meeting as a show of support to our elected officials. With this variance approval behind us, we can now submit our construction plans for state and local permitting. Our General Contractor can also begin the bidding process with subcontractors that will determine a fixed construction cost. We have also been engaging with five different banks concerning financing terms for our project. Once all these details are in hand, we will share these with you in a Called Conference for the church's final consideration. Our hope is to begin construction in early September.

Our Faith Forward giving is off to a strong start. Since May 17th, we have received $260,931.92 for our upcoming facilities project. And we have already paid $124,513.58 in architectural and engineering fees of the projected $6.143 million total project cost. First Family, thank you for your willingness to give generously and sacrificially, above and beyond your tithes, to underwrite this planned project. As we read in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, "*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work*." Doxology!

I look forward to returning to the pulpit this Sunday. I will begin a new 6-week sermon series entitled, "First Family Values," emphasizing five values that shape our mission and ministry. I hope you will join me as we continue to "live in pursuit of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission."

Blessings!
Pastor John

Dr. Lance Cole

MUSIC MINISTRY

Over the past month, I have been deeply moved by the love and support shown to my family and me following the passing of my mother. Thank you so for the cards, texts, and countless words of encouragement and comfort. While the sudden decline in her health caught us unprepared, I take great solace in knowing she did not suffer long and is now at peace in heaven with her Savior. Thank you again for walking alongside us through this difficult season. Calhoun FBC is truly an amazing, loving church family!

Following a crazy busy month of June at church, it will be nice to settle back into a normal Wednesday evening routine for the Worship Choir. Among other things, we will be combining with other nearby choirs to sing at the *SPARK Conference* in late August, preparing to sing the National Anthem at an upcoming Rome Emperors game, and working on music to present at our annual church picnic in the park this fall. In addition to singing, we continue the shenanigans with our Jittery Jams Summer Choir Competition each Wednesday. Rehearsals this summer are a hoot! You are invited to come and join in on the fun.

One of the biggest challenges of my job is choosing music for our times of corporate worship. On occasion I will hear a request to sing "some old songs." That's always an interesting request because the word "old" can mean different things to different people. We've sung a newer, old song lately that I've gotten a good bit of positive feedback on. The song is "Be Thou My Vision," and it was written by a blind poet in the 8th century. Now THAT'S an old song! Like 1250 years old!

"Be Thou My Vision," which we will sing again this Sunday, reminds us to look to Christ as we think of the future as He is the "Lord of our hearts." As we do that, the song reminds us that He is the "High King of Heaven" and our Protector as we live our lives out in devotion to Him. Perhaps my favorite verse begins proclaiming that we will not heed riches as our goal, nor the praise of others. Instead, heaven is our inheritance. To God be the glory! I'm already looking forward to singing this hymn with you on Sunday.

Joyfully,
Lance

GENERAL INFORMATION

Adult Worship Choir
Wednesday Rehearsal
6:45 PM in the Choir Room

IMPORTANT DATES

Choir Food Drive for Blewer
July 15 - August 12

Dairy Queen Outing
July 22

Rome Emperors National Anthem
August 19

Choir "Jamboree" / Fall Kickoff
September 2

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dr. Steven Waters

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & ADMINISTRATION

IMPORTANT DATES

Deacons & Finance Meeting
July 20

C.R.O.S.S. Team Meeting
July 21

Christmas in July
July 25

Senior Trip
August 13

SPARK Conference
August 23

CONTACT INFORMATION

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First Family of Faith,

We have some exciting opportunities and updates to share with you as we continue moving forward together in ministry.

First, on August 23, we will be attending the Georgia Baptist Mission Board SPARK Conference. This is a wonderful opportunity for our leaders and members to be encouraged, equipped, and challenged in their area of ministry. There will be a variety of breakout sessions designed to strengthen churches, leaders, teachers, volunteers, and ministry teams. We would love for our leaders and members to take some time to look over the available sessions, choose a couple that would be helpful to them, and sign up to attend. Whether you serve in Sunday School, discipleship, music, children's ministry, youth ministry, missions, hospitality, or another area of church life, SPARK can help us grow as servants of Christ and as a church family.

Second, we are thankful to share that the Calhoun City Council has approved our variance request for the new preschool building, allowing us to continue moving forward with our Faith Forward building project. This is an important step in the process, and we are grateful for the Lord's continued provision and guidance.

The Faith Forward project will include replacing our old preschool building with a new brick-and-mortar building designed to better serve our children, families, and church for years to come. In addition, the project will add seven new Sunday School rooms and a new choir suite. Four of those Sunday School rooms will also function as youth breakout rooms for youth activities, giving our students more space for discipleship, fellowship, growth, and ministry.

This project is not simply about buildings. It is about creating space for ministry, discipleship, worship, and gospel impact. It is about investing in the next generation while strengthening the ministries God has already entrusted to us. We believe the Lord is leading us forward, and we are excited to see how He will use these facilities for His glory.

Thank you, First Family of Faith, for your prayers, generosity, patience, and commitment. Let us continue to pray together, serve together, and move forward together in faith.

Blessings,
Steven

Rev. Andrew Crawford

YOUTH MINISTRY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth / Kids Activities
Wednesdays
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Sunday School
9:45 AM on the 3rd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

Squad Wars 7
July 15

Red Clay Resort
July 22

Six Flags Youth Trip
July 25

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

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As I write this, our students are gathered at Centrifuge at WorldSong in Cook Springs, Alabama, worshiping, studying Scripture, and enjoying the kind of moments that help their faith take root. It feels like the right time to pause and say thank you for the way you have supported our ministry all summer long.

This has been a full season, and God has been faithful through every part of it. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity made all of it possible.

Squad Wars

Squad Wars has given our students a place to connect, laugh, compete, and hear the Gospel in a setting that felt welcoming and fun. You helped create an environment where students felt like they belonged. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have gone the extra mile and sacrificed to make this week happen!

Mission Trip

During our trip with Send Relief Atlanta, students packed food boxes, prayed for families, and led a backyard Bible club for Refugee kids who escaped the Taliban. Our students learned that serving others is something we live out daily. Thank you for sending them and trusting them to serve well.

Vacation Bible School

At VBS, our students stepped up in a big way. They led games, helped with crafts, guided kids from place to place, and showed patience and joy all week long. Their leadership made a real impact on our younger kids. VBS wouldn't have happened with our volunteers', many of them students, hard work.

Centrifuge at WorldSong

Here at Centrifuge, we are watching God work in powerful ways. Students are worshiping with sincerity, opening up in Bible study, and responding to God's calling. These are the moments that stay with them. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Thank You

Church family, thank you for investing in our students. Thank you for praying, giving, and showing up. This summer has been full of growth, service, joy, and Kingdom impact. We are grateful for you, and we cannot wait to see how God continues to move in the months ahead.

Travis & Emily Hurd

CHILDREN'S & PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Parents,

Summer is going great! We had a fantastic time at camp and VBS was also a huge success. Squad Wars is continuing to be a great summer program for the kids. They seem to be loving the competitions and, most importantly, the Bible studies.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- July 15th Squad Wars / (Color Wars, need to wear clothes that can get dirty)
- July 22nd Trip to Red Clay Resort

All events scheduled are also advertised through our fbckids GroupMe app. If you have any questions or need to help with notifications please contact me at 678-986-5060.

May God bless,
Travis

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth / Kids Activities
Wednesdays
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Children's Sunday School
9:45 AM on the 2nd Floor

Nursery & Preschool - Kindergarten Sunday School
9:45 AM in the Preschool

IMPORTANT DATES

Red Clay Resort
July 22

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Hello parents!

We are quickly moving through summer! I hope you are enjoying some extra time spent with family.

We will have a special event on Wednesday night, July 22nd. The children and youth will have a swim party at Red Clay Resort in Cohutta from 6 to 8 PM. Our preschool families are invited to attend. We will send more details through our GroupMe account closer to time.

Please note we will not have nursery that Wednesday night.

While school is out and family schedules may be a little less stressful, I encourage you to take this time to develop a habit of Bible and prayer time with your children. We are all creatures of habit. There's no greater routine to teach your children than spending time daily in scripture and prayer!

God bless,
Emily



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

OFFERING UPDATES

Deacon of the Day		
July	5	Wes Alexander
	12	Chad Crawford
	19	Larry Vickery
	26	Bill Dillard

Usher Group of the Day		
July	5	Group I: Craig Mashburn
	12	Group II: Harry Harwell
	19	Group III: Wes Alexander
	26	Group IV: Brad Brown

Building 'B' Greeters		
July	5	Mary Ann Berryman
	12	Laura & Stephen Ralston
	19	Bill & Teresa Bishop
	26	Mary Sterling

CLC Greeters		
July	5	Logan & Wes Alexander
	12	Clint & Jenny Hayes
	19	Sharon & Dennis Alexander
	26	Camille & Mike Hall

Children's Ministry Hall Greeters		
July	5	Gina & Robbie McCorkle
	12	Logan & Wes Alexander
	19	Kim Hall
	26	Sharon & Dennis Alexander

Golf Cart Drivers		
July	5	Tyron Johnson / Brandon Dillard
	12	Alan Krudzlo / Mike Hall
	19	Joe Jones / Greg Green
	26	Russ Edwards / Chad Crawford

Shuttle Bus Drivers		
July	5	Stephanie Brown
	12	Jeremy Bray
	19	Michael Schutz
	26	Brian Nation

Offerings for June 2026

Budget Requirement Monthly	$	109,163.00
Budget Offering	$	89,403.14
Faith Forward Giving	$	177,571.80
Other Designated	$	10,352.09
Total	$	277,327.03

Year-To-Date

Budget Requirement thru 6/30/26	$	654,978.00
Budget Offering Given as of 6/30/26	$	884,162.00
Faith Forward giving since 5/17/26	$	260,931.92

ZONING VARIANCE RESULTS

Thank you to all who attended the City Council Meeting in regards to our variance request.

Your enthusiasm for our Faith Forward building project is greatly appreciated.

The Council voted unanimously to approve our variance request for the construction of the new Preschool Building!

We will continue to update everyone as we move through the next steps.

JUNE WORSHIP AVERAGE: 406

JUNE SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE: 302

FIND US ONLINE

www.calhounfbc.org

@cfbcxstudents

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Prayer List & Updates

FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Hazel Moss, Jeanette Burch, William White, Charlie Williams, Russell Cochran, Martha Worley, Tanya Johnson, Jean Warren, Rebecca Brown, Sylvia Brumbelow, Harry Russell, Charlotte Beard, Yvonne Elrod, Max Mashburn, Donald Gallman, Geneva Owens, Bob Bullard, Mary Ann Berryman, Judy Thomason, Annette Thomas, Charlie Reeves, Harriett Koen, Pat Autry, Carolyn Holbert, Madeline Erwin, Ron Hayes, Grant Glaze, Milton Kean, Kayanne Walraven, Wesley Daniel, Kyle Holbert Brown, Truett and Peggy Grogan

FROM CHURCH FAMILY

Barry Page, Brandon Johnson, Finley Wright, Tim Tidwell, David Smith, Randall Townsend, Amy & Angelia, Adam, Elizabeth, & Daisy Offutt, Thomas & Jennifer Pass, Regina Kinnie, Scott Weaver, Harold Crump, Francis Payne, Charlene Henderson, Nicole Carter, Tony Crunkelton, Chris Mulkey, Marlin Sullivan, Tammi Faulkner, Cody Henderson, Daryl Goble, Monica Perkins, Bill Bryson, Julia Stansell, Drew Walraven, Herman Westbrook, Lisa McDonald Braden, Lou Helen Warren, Miller Creel, Darrell Goble, Randy McCorkle, Lisa Holden, Lloyd Pack, Mark Waters, Zoey Adolphi, Carol Cross, Shirley Willis, Ava Price, Margie Moss, Tricia Crump, Danny Elrod, Charlie Williams, Evan Koen, Turner Rogers

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for awarding me the First Baptist Church Scholarship. I am incredibly grateful for your genorosity and support as I begin this next chapter of my life at Piedmont University.

This scholarship means so much to me, not only because of the financial assistance it provides, but also because it comes from a church family that has played such an important role in my life. First Baptist has been a place where I have grown in my faith, built meaningful friendships, served others, and learned what it means to follow Christ.

I am especially thankful for the many pastors, youth leaders, volunteers, and church members who have invested in me over the years. Whether through Sunday School, youth group, mission trips, Vacation Bible School, or simply words of encouragment, your influence has helped shape me into the person I am today.

As I move forward into college, I will carry with me the lessons, values, and faith foundation that First Baptist has helped build. Thank you for believing in me, praying for me, and continuing to support me as I persue my education and future goals.

I am truly grateful for this scholarship, and for everything First Baptist Church has meant to my family and me throughout the years.

With sincere appreciation,
Kirk Wallin

Thank you (my church) for the wonderful gift. I promise to use it wisely.

In His Love,
Pat, Dena, & Bristol



Upcoming Events

CHURCH EVENTS

Deacons & Finance

July 20th

Finance Committee – 6:45 PM
Deacons Meeting – 7:30 PM

C.R.O.S.S. Team

July 21st , 11 AM

C.R.O.S.S. Team will meet in the back room of Big John's Treat Shoppe. Anyone interested in this ministry may attend!

Birthday Night

July 23rd , 5:30 PM

Senior Adult Birthday Night is Thursday, July 23rd at 5:30 PM in the back room of Big John's Treat Shoppe.

OTHER EVENTS



Date: *Sunday, August 23, 2026*
Time: *3:45 PM - 8:15 PM*
Location: *Tabernacle Baptist Church*
Address: *31 Douglas St, Cartersville, GA 30120*

It doesn't matter at what stage you are in ministry, there is something for everyone at SPARK. This conference is designed with YOU in mind, no matter your experience or skill level!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

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multigenerational family of faith living in pursuit of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.



Construct

- new 9,466 sf, single story Education & Preschool Facility following demolition of current Preschool building
- new 1800 sf Choir Suite

Renovate

- existing racquetball court into 4 adult classrooms (doubles as Wednesday Youth Breakout rooms)
- existing Choir Suite into 3 adult classrooms



Total of 7 new adult classrooms, 5 rooms on the ground floor.



Add

- approximately 60 paved parking spaces following demolition of pastorum and playground
- new playground area on Fain Street side of the new preschool building

[Top left: preschool building rendering]

[Middle right: choir suite rendering]

[Lower left: preschool playground rendering]

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