



CALHOUN

FIRST BAPTIST

news & views



November
2025



411 College
Street



706-629-7714



calhounfbc.org



FirstBaptistCalhoun

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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Rev. Andrew Crawford

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Mrs. Emily Hurd

Preschool Ministry
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Dr. John Barber **SENIOR PASTOR**

Many thanks to all those who helped make our Educators Appreciation Day a success. This event is great example of our church's efforts to fulfill our mission of living in pursuit of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission by serving others and sharing His love.

Our next big event for families is our Operation Christmas Child Packing Party on Sunday November 16th. The event will take place in our CLC starting at 6 PM. Our plan is to pack at least a 1000 boxes so we will need a lot of hands to help make this happen. If you have taken a box to fill yourself, please return it to the church no later than November 17th and be sure to include your \$10 for shipping. And if you or your Sunday school class would like to make a donation to help with the shipping costs (at \$10 per box we will need over \$10,000 in funds to cover shipping costs), you are welcome to do so. Just make sure your check or envelope is clearly marked "Operation Christmas Child."

The Annual Meeting of our Georgia Baptist Mission Board will be taking place next week, November 9 - 11th, at the First Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA. We will have a brief Called Conference Sunday November 9th to elect messengers as I plan to attend as a voting messenger from our church. Our partnership with some 3,600 other Georgia Baptist churches is a very important part of our Great Commission work in our state and around the world.

As you are reading this article, I am leading a "Tour of Italy" with several of our church members and a few other guests. We will be returning home on November 8th. I am considering organizing another "Footsteps of Paul" trip to Greece and Turkey for the spring of 2027. This trip would be a land and sea trip that begins in Thessalonica, Greece, and ends in Istanbul, Turkey. More details to come after the first of the year.

On Sunday morning, November 9th, we will welcome Colonel Josh Payne as the guest speaker for our Veterans Day recognition. Josh is one of our North American Mission Board endorsed chaplains. Josh and I served on staff together for three years in Chattanooga. Josh has been in the Air Force for more than 20 years and is currently stationed at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Dayton, Ohio.

As the holiday season is just a few weeks away, let me highlight some important upcoming events in the life of our church:

- **Week of Prayer for International Missions**, November 30th through December 7th
- **Children's Walk Through Bethlehem / Live Nativity**, December 7th, 6:00 PM
- **Senior Adult Christmas Party**, December 12th, 6:00 PM
- **Christmas Musical and Church-Wide Christmas Party**, December 14th, 6:00 PM
- **College Student Christmas Breakfast**, December 21st, 9:45 AM
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**, December 24th, 5:00 PM

We have been blessed to have several professions of faith in recent weeks. We will be baptizing each of the next three Sundays! Doxology. I hope you will be present with your First Family as we gather for worship, grow in discipleship, serve in ministry and share in love.

Dr. Lance Cole MUSIC MINISTRY

I overheard a conversation over the weekend between two ladies regarding the Christmas decorations in their homes. It reminded me of growing up next door to a family who put their Christmas tree up the day after Thanksgiving and we laughed at them and thought they were crazy. How times have changed!

With the Christmas celebrations beginning, the music of Christmas is naturally coming to life as well. Our annual Christmas musical is entitled, "Heaven's Greatest Gift," and will take place on December 14th at 6:00 p.m. Our Church-wide Christmas party will follow in the CLC as usual. Please be sure to mark this on your calendar before it fills up with the many events of the season.

One of the songs we sang in worship last Sunday was "Forever," based on Psalm 136. The Psalm is written as a call and response with each statement about God followed with the words, "His love endures forever." I encourage you to think on that for a moment. From time to time I will remind our congregation of a working definition of worship as "expressing love to God for who He is and what He has done." The other side of that coin may be how God views us as individuals. The repeated statement in this Psalm is a strong example that God's love for us *endures*. A biblical definition of endure is "the ability to withstand hardship, adversity, or persecution with patience and perseverance, rather than yielding to pressure." And God's patience and faithfulness keeps up forever! It never ends and never run out. Hallelujah!

Lance

GENERAL INFORMATION

Adult Worship Choir

Wednesday Rehearsal

6:45 PM in the Choir Room

Children's Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal

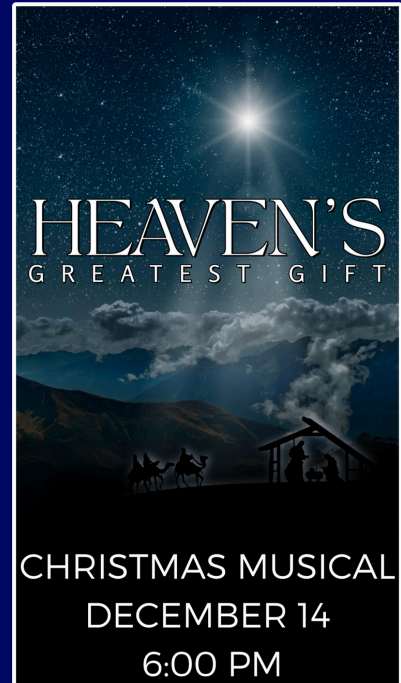
6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor

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

November 16

OCC Shoebox Packing Party

December 7

Walk Through Bethlehem
& Live Nativity

December 14

Christmas Musical &
Church-Wide Christmas Party

OCTOBER BAPTISMS

Terri Denton
Austin Yancey
Sawyer Yancey
Banks Layson

OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

Ava Cass
Matthew Cass

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

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Dr. Steven Waters MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & ADMINISTRATION

What is Discipleship, Really?

We all hear the word Discipleship a lot in church. Many of us in church *think* we know what discipleship is and think we have it all figured out. But do we know what it is, really? Over the next few months I am going to be working through "What is Discipleship, Really?". Hopefully it will give us a clear understanding of what discipleship is, where it happens, and how we can be more in tune with our discipleship journey as individuals and a church family.

Discipleship Happens in the Local Church

FBC, and Southern Baptists in general, have always believed the **local church is God's primary tool** for making disciples. The Great Commission wasn't given to a denomination or a parachurch ministry — it was given to the church. It was given to us all.

Every ministry of the church should have discipleship as its heartbeat:

- **Worship** teaches us to center our lives on Christ.
- **Bible study** equips us to know and apply God's truth.
- **Fellowship** helps us grow together in unity.
- **Missions and evangelism** extend discipleship beyond our walls.

When we see every program as a pathway for spiritual growth, we move from being a "busy church" to becoming a disciple-making church. That is who we want to be as a First Family of Faith.

Blessings,
Steven



Rev. Andrew Crawford

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hey first family!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth Activities

Wednesdays
5:45 PM on the 3rd Floor

Sunday School

9:45 AM on the 3rd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

November 16

OCC Shoebox Packing Party

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

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October was one for the books! We had the incredible opportunity to be part of Fields of Faith at Calhoun High School, where over 700 students from churches all across the county came together for a powerful night of worship, testimony, and unity. It was electric, with students leading worship, sharing their stories, and stepping up to help plan and organize the event. We're especially proud of several of our own students who took part in leading the event!

The best part? At the end of the night, 27 students responded to the invitation to follow Jesus. Twenty-seven! That's 27 lives forever changed, and we're still celebrating what God did and is continuing to do.

What We're Learning: Joy in Philippians

On Wednesday nights, we've kicked off a new teaching series walking through the book of Philippians, and it's all about joy. Not the "everything's perfect" kind of joy, but the deep, unshakable joy that comes from knowing Jesus, even when life is hard. We're excited to see how God continues to shape our students through His Word.

Parents, We've Got You Covered

We know discipleship doesn't stop when students leave the building, so we're equipping you with tools to keep the conversation going at home. Each week, we send out:

- **Bible Reading Decks:** Five cards with daily Scripture readings and a challenge that ties directly into Wednesday's message.
- **Home Discipleship Guides:** Simple conversation starters to help you talk about faith around the dinner table, in the car, or wherever life happens.

You can find these resources in our GroupMe and on the Parent Facebook Group, so keep an eye out each week! You can sign up for those via our linktree-linktr.ee/calhounfbcstudents)

Thanks for partnering with us as we help students know Jesus, grow in joy, and live out their faith boldly. We're grateful for you!

Blessings! Andrew



Travis & Emily Hurd

CHILDREN'S & PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Parents,

I'd like to thank all of those who helped with our Trunk or Treat. We had a great turn out, and it was a great opportunity for our community to be on our campus and interact with us.

We have some exciting events coming up. November 16th is our annual shoebox packing party, and December 7th is our Walk Through Bethlehem with a live nativity. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

May God Bless,
Travis

Parents,

Mark your calendars, our Walk Through Bethlehem event returns this year on Sunday, December 7th, beginning at 6:00 PM! Invite your friends! It's going to be a special night. Don't forget our annual shoebox packing party will be held on November 16th. This is always a great event for the whole family to enjoy.

Please make sure you are part of the FBC preschool Group Me group so you will receive notifications regarding all of the special things we have going on this time of year!

God bless,
Emily

GENERAL INFORMATION

Children's Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal
6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor

Team Kids

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

November 16

OCC Shoebox Packing Party

December 7

Walk Through Bethlehem
& Live Nativity

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

emily.hurd@calhounfbc.org

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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

Nov.	2	Eric Jackson
	9	Harry Harwell
	16	Mike Hall
	23	Ron Hammontree
	30	Will Engel

Usher Group of the Day

Nov.	2	Group II: Harry Harwell
	9	Group III: Wes Alexander
	16	Group IV: Brad Brown
	23	Group V: David Repp
	30	Group VI: Jason Hawkins

Building 'B' Greeters

Nov.	2	Laura & Stephen Ralston
	9	Bill & Teresa Bishop
	16	Mary Sterling
	23	Tom & Carol Shanahan
	30	Harry & Jean Russell

CLC Greeters

Nov.	2	Clint Hayes
	9	Sharon & Dennis Alexander
	16	Camille & Mike Hall
	23	Dena Wright
	30	Kim Hall

Children's Ministry Hall Greeters

Nov.	2	Gina & Robbie McCorkle
	9	Logan & Wes Alexander
	16	Sharon & Dennis Alexander
	23	Kim Hall
	30	Laura & Stephen Ralston

OFFERING UPDATES

Offerings for October 2025

Budget Requirement Monthly	\$	106,802.08
Budget Offering	\$	106,340.96
Faith Forward Giving September.....	\$	9,325.00
Other Designated	\$	8,172.00
Total	\$	123,837.96

Year-To-Date

Budget Requirement thru 10/31/25.....	\$	1,068,020.80
Budget Offering Given as of 10/31/25.....	\$	1,129,738.64
Faith Forward Fund Balance as of 10/31/25.....	\$	45,725.87

SERVE WITH US

Give

- Blewer Food Bank
- Backpack Buddies

Share

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

Serve

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

OCTOBER WORSHIP AVERAGE: 413

OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHOOL

AVERAGE: 304



Prayer List

FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Ginger Walraven, Alli Albritton, Laura Jones, Elaine McDearis, Andrea Smith, Rickey Harris, Greg Gallman, Linda Ruddell, Chet Utz, Gary Reese, Rebecca Brown, Sylvia Brumbelow, John Lord, Doris Brown, Martha Miller, Harry Russell, Charlotte Beard, Brenda Hughes, Yvonne Elrod, Max Mashburn, Baxter Burke, 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

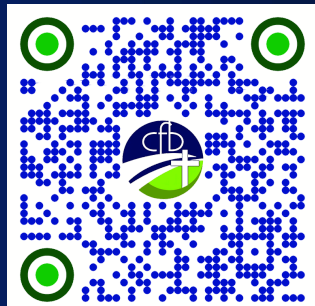
FROM CHURCH FAMILY

Scott Weaver, Connie & Perry Hildebrand, Harold Crump, Francis Payne, Charlene Henderson, Nicole Carter, Tony Crunkelton, Chris Mulkey, Ben Flanagan, Marlin Sullivan, Maria Sanchez, Tammi Faulkner, Juanita Smith, Tim Smith, Cody Henderson, Marie Jarrett, Daryl Goble, Bob Barton, 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

All previous digital newsletters can be accessed in the online library at
calhounfbc.org.

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

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



Events & Updates

OCC PACKING PARTY

It's Shoebox Season!

Share the joy of Jesus with children around the world! Here's how you can help:

- **Pack** – Fill a shoebox (or two!) and return it by November 16th. Boxes and labels are available in the CLC and at the Sanctuary entrances. Don't forget to include \$10 per box to cover shipping.
- **Join** – Our Packing Party on Sunday, November 16th, at 6 PM. Enjoy food, fellowship, and fun for all ages. Packing supplies will be provided.
- **Give** – Monetary donations for shipping costs and box fillers for our Packing Party are greatly appreciated. Items such as school supplies, small toys, and toiletries are also welcome. Please drop off all donations at the Church Office.
- **Pray** – Lift up the children who will receive your gifts.

For more information, contact Jill Repp at 770-548-2926 or repp.jill@gmail.com. Thank you for being part of this mission and making a difference in a child's life!

Find Us Online



www.calhounfbc.org



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[calhounFBC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



[@cfbcxstudents](https://www.instagram.com/cfbcxstudents)





Notes of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

I am very grateful for your prayers, cards, food, etc. following my shoulder replacement surgery. I am blessed to have you in my life.

Thank you for every act of kindness.

I am recovering well and should complete rehab before Thanksgiving.

**Love,
Marty Holt**

First Family,

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the many acts of kindness I received during and after my recent heart surgery. The prayers, calls, texts, cards and pastoral visits were all very much appreciated. I am doing well and look forward to being back in church. I have an awesome church family!

**Sincerely,
Rickey Harris**

Dr. Steven Waters and Members of Calhoun FBC,

Thank you for supporting our Calhoun Primary and Calhoun Elementary students by providing Bibles for those who reached out and asked for one. I am humbled by your generosity and thankful for the impact you are making in the Calhoun community for the Lord's kingdom. Please know the Bibles have all been given away, and our students were thrilled! I am excited to see all the Lord will accomplish in the lives of our students because of your generosity and the power of the Holy Word. Thank you for your dedication and determination to continue sharing the Good News of the Gospel in your community.

May the Lord bless you abundantly for your kindness.

**With gratitude,
Emily Stallings**
*Calhoun City Schools
Media & Technology Coach*

Parking Information

Due to the City's continued repair work on College Street, access routes to our campus parking lots have temporarily changed. Please check your emails and our Facebook page for updates, as we will provide new information when we receive updates from the construction crews.

For now, please reference the map provided below, and feel free to ask volunteers and our Golf Cart Drivers for information and directions on Sunday!

