



NOVEMBER 2023 | ISSUE
THE BRIDGE
 A FAITH FAMILY NEWSLETTER
 FOR FBC FRANKLINTON

FOCUS

FOCUS on what God is doing through First Baptist Church

It's time to celebrate 150 years

It was 1873—150 years ago—when a Baptist church named Half Moon Bluff on the Bogue Chitto River divided, and a group of the members formed Mile Branch Baptist Church on Mile Branch in Franklinton. The pastor at the time established a little school in the church building. A little later, in 1895, the church's pastor at that time also served on the faculty of Franklinton's Central Institute, a school that provided a secondary education to supplement the lower-grades schooling of most rural students in the area. It was the start of what is now a century and a half of integrating Franklinton Baptist Church with education and leadership in the community.

Mrs. Vicki Knight, who will be presenting the church's history at the celebration, says, "Church members have been intricately intertwined in the advancement of education in Franklinton from the early years, and they still are." She noted that church pastors, deacons, church leaders, and membership have continually included many active and retired teachers, school principals, and state and local officials.

FBC's leadership in education is just one of the stories that Mrs. Knight might share on Sunday morning, Nov. 12, at the sesquicentennial celebration of FBC's ministry in Franklinton. In compiling the history of those 150 years, she has found many stories, and the hardest thing, she says, will be choosing which to tell.

Did you know "FBC" stood for "Franklinton Baptist Church" until 1950? Things Mrs. Knight might also talk about are bats in the belfry, psychedelic walls, a 1,300-pound bell, and fireworks on the roof. And music has been a major part of church life. From the 70s and 80s, Mrs. Knight can tell about an extensive music program. In the 80s and 90s, children sang as "Half Notes," then they grew into "Melodies" and "Lyrics." There was a youth choir, an adult choir that presented cantatas, a senior adult choir, handbells, ACTS TV programs, a videotape ministry to shut-ins, plus 5 years of Christmas pageants produced under the direction of Mrs. Jerry Dick, in cooperation with musicians from area churches. The pageants began with the secular interpretation of Christmas, then segued into the Christmas story from the Bible. In later years, Mrs. Dick organized Piano Praise concerts with baby grands shipped in, which enabled pianists of all ages to join together in praise of God.

On the missions front, a Ladies Aid society that formed in 1900 eventually became the very active Woman's Missionary Union. Through WMU's children's missions program, little girls did things like trying out chopsticks and wearing kimonos as they learned of missions in Japan.

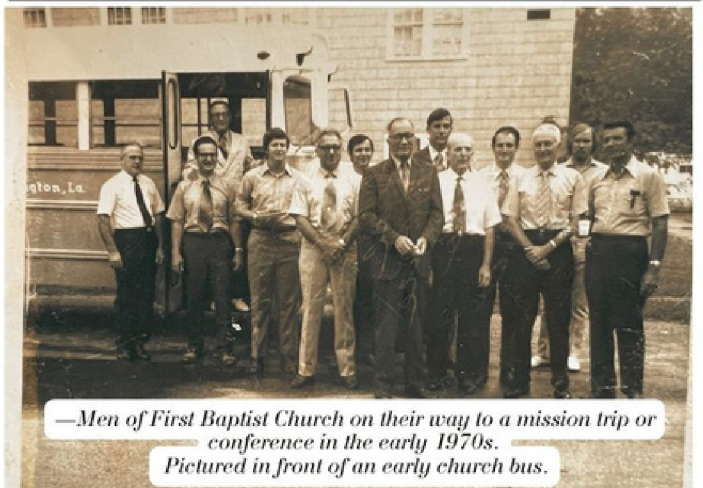
On Nov. 12, one of the beloved pastors from FBC's past, Rev. Paul Watts, will deliver the sermon at both morning services of the celebration. During the Bible study hour, attendees can choose from the regular Bible study classes or a presentation on the church's history by Mrs. Knight in the FLC.

A Dinner on the Grounds at noon will feature an extensive slideshow of historical photos, plus historical displays and memorabilia. Former members, staff, pastors, and community leaders have been invited for a time of warm fellowship and exchanging memories.

A coordinating committee chaired by Linda Crain has been organizing the anniversary festivities.

150th Anniversary Celebration

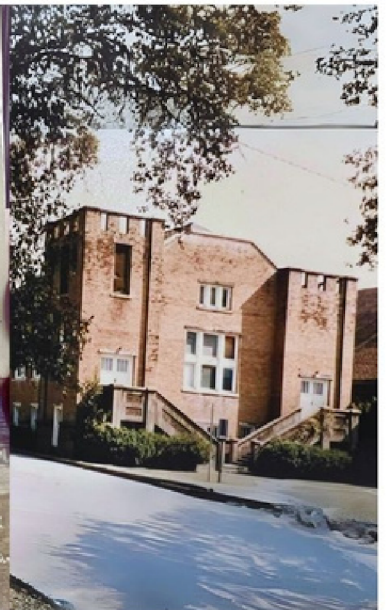
- 7:30 a.m. Light Breakfast
- 8:15 a.m. Morning service, Rev. Paul Watts, preaching
- 9:30 a.m. FBC history presentation, Mrs. Vicki Knight, FLC, or regular Bible study classes
- 10:45 a.m. Morning service, Rev. Paul Watts, preaching
- 12 noon, Dinner on the Grounds, slideshow



—Men of First Baptist Church on their way to a mission trip or conference in the early 1970s. Pictured in front of an early church bus.



— Franklinton Baptist Church, c. 1897 The first church in town



First Baptist Church sanctuary 1922-1952. Corner Cleveland and Self, later renovated as a Sunday School and education building and reception hall.

TO EVERYTHING A SEASON

Jake Roudkovski, Transitional Pastor
jaker@nobts.edu

**TO
EVERYTHING
THERE
IS A SEASON,
A TIME
FOR EVERY
PURPOSE
UNDER
HEAVEN
-
ECCLESIASTES
3:1**



God seems to be at work at FBC Franklinton. We are seeing people come to faith in Christ and believers encouraged. We have the 150th Year Church Anniversary coming up on November, 12. Bro. Paul Watts will be our guest preacher. We are planning to adopt the 2024 Church Budget before Thanksgiving. I am thrilled about how the church is coming together to serve our community. Keep serving Christ!

IN HIM, *Dr. Jake*

Please join us for the
First Baptist Church of Franklinton
150th
Anniversary
Celebration
November 12, 2023
Services:

7:30 A.M.- LIGHT BREAKFAST
8:15 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE WITH REV. PAUL WATTS
9:30 A.M. - HISTORICAL PRESENTATION
 IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER BY VICKI KNIGHT OR
 REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
10:45 A.M.- WORSHIP SERVICE WITH REV. PAUL WATTS
 -FOLLOWED BY DINNER ON THE GROUNDS IN THE FAMILY
 LIFE CENTER: HISTORICAL DISPLAYS, VIDEOS &
 MEMORABILIA.

First Baptist Church of Franklinton
 THE CHURCH FAMILY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 FRANKLINTON CORDIALLY INVITES YOU, YOUR
 FAMILY, AND YOUR FRIENDS TO SHARE IN A DAY
 OF WORSHIP, MUSIC, CELEBRATION, AND
 FELLOWSHIP AS WE COMMEMORATE 150 YEARS
 OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE TO FRANKLINTON AND
 WASHINGTON PARISH.

COME JOIN OUR CELEBRATION AS WE GREET
 OLD FRIENDS FROM THE PAST AND MAKE NEW
 ONES TO CARRY US FORWARD INTO THE NEXT
 150 YEARS. WE WILL HAVE MANY SPECIAL
 GUESTS FROM OVER THE YEARS THAT WILL BE
 SURE TO TAKE YOU BACK IN TIME.

WE WILL BEGIN OUR CELEBRATION WITH A LIGHT
 BREAKFAST AND CONCLUDE OUR CELEBRATION
 WITH AN OLD FASHIONED POT LUCK DINNER ON
 THE GROUNDS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT **985.839.3427**

REV. JOEY MILLER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

SAM NEWS

NOVEMBER ADULT 55+ FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Our SAM Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held **Friday, November 3**, at **10:30 a.m.** in the FBC Family Life Center. The menu will be our usual Thanksgiving feast with desserts. Our program guest will be Kim Kirby. Kim is the Executive Director of Safe Harbor, a shelter for women in Mandeville.

Please bring an item to help supply Safe Harbor to care for the needs of women they minister to. They always need paper products like paper towels, toilet tissue, and Kleenex. Wash cloths, towels, and laundry products are also needed.

-Bro. Joey

NURSING HOME WORSHIP SERVICES

JOIN IN THE WORSHIP SERVICES AND MINISTRY AT OUR NURSING HOMES ON THE DATES LISTED BELOW: COME AND BE A BLESSING TO THESE SWEET FOLKS.

GOOD SAMARITAN – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6 @ 3 PM
HERITAGE MANOR – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 @ 3 PM



FBC KIDS MINISTRY

Lately, our home has been dominated by talk of only one thing – weddings. Specifically, Kennedy's in just about six months. It's when Alex, Kennedy's fiancée, will officially become a member of our family. Don't get me wrong; we've counted him as part of our family for quite some time, but on May 11th, it becomes official.

There's just something special about making things official. It's quite a commitment – a public one. And that's what I thought about when I was asked to nominate members for different committees. I was somewhat surprised at the number of names I thought of and prayed over to ask about serving, only to discover they weren't members of our church family. Oh, we consider them family for sure, but it isn't official. You know, official-official. Maybe it's just an oversight. Maybe it's the long aisle (it's 36', don't ask me how I know!). Maybe they're planning to and just haven't yet. Maybe I just haven't pulled them to the side (yet!) and asked them about it.

Let's not put the cart before the horse, though! Just like in marriage, there is first a relationship. Have you made a decision to live for Christ? Do you need to talk to someone about your relationship with Christ and what it means to be a follower of Jesus? I'd love to talk. I don't have all the answers to all the questions you may have, but I can share the good news of Jesus Christ with you.

If you consider FBC Franklinton your church home but haven't joined, I encourage you to make it official. Not sure how? Ask me! There are several ways:

- You can join our church by profession of faith and believer's baptism.
- You can join by transfer of letter. This is where your former church home sends a letter of membership.
- You can join on statement. This is when you are a member of another church, having made a profession of faith and followed through in the believer's baptism, but they don't send letters of membership.

The aisle is long. I get it. I was nearly five years from accepting Christ as my Savior to making that decision public. But you don't have to stand there alone. After all, you're family.

- Kelly McElveen 

Special November Dates to Note:

November 13th – 20th: Operation Christmas Child Collection
Please check The Bridge for more information and to find out about our Packing Parties.

Monday, November 20th, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.:

How Great Thou ART for 4th -6th Graders
Mrs. Kristina will be guiding us through a Christmas painting on canvas. We'll walk to Pizza Pete's for lunch and return by 1 p.m. Preregistration is required by **Sunday, November 19th**. Register with me in person, by text, or by email. There is no cost for this event, but children are encouraged to bring regular-sized jars of peanut butter for the Washington Parish Food Bank.

Wednesday, November 22nd: No Wednesday Evening Services

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

IMPORTANT INFO



November Wee Worship Volunteers

- 5th : Kelly McElveen
- 12th : Tonya Keaton
- 19th : Alex McElveen
- 26th : Christi Harrison

Last, but certainly not least, join me in wishing a
VERY Happy November Birthday
to these FBC Kids & Leaders:

- 2nd: Callie F.
- 4th: Oliver O.
- 7th : Owen W. & Judah C.
- 13th: Andrew M.
- 21st: Maverick M.
- 24th: Mrs. Callie
- 27th: Jolie S.
- 30th : Mila S.

T H A N K F U L



FBC OPERATION CHRISTMAS
CHILD PACKING PARTY
EVENTS:
NOV. 5 & NOV. 12
4:30 P.M.

SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS

- "WOW" ITEM**
 - Soccer ball with pump
 - Doll
 - Stuffed animal
 - Shoes
- TOYS**
 - Toy cars
 - Jump ropes
 - Yo-yos
 - Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)
- PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**
 - Toothbrushes
 - Washcloths
 - Combs
 - Hairbrushes
 - Small water bottles
- SCHOOL SUPPLIES**
 - Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
 - Notebooks and paper
 - Coloring and picture books
 - Solar calculators
- ACCESSORIES**
 - Socks
 - Sunglasses
 - Jewelry and watches
 - Flashlights (with extra batteries)
- DO NOT INCLUDE**
 - candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, beads, food, liquids or bottles, medications or vitamins, breakable items or glass containers, aerosol cans

PACKING ITEM IDEAS



**DROP OFF
DATES:
NOV. 13-20**

NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

- 1- GROUP D
CHICKEN FRIED STEAK
- 8 - GROUP C
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS
- 15- GROUP B
FRIED CHICKEN
- 22 - NO MEAL
THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 29- GROUP E
JAMBALAYA



[http://](http://WWW.FBCFRANKLINTON.ORG) **CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AT**
WWW.FBCFRANKLINTON.ORG

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Franklinton
(985) 839-3427 OFFICE
SERVICE TIMES

Sundays
Worship Services
8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Bible Study
9:30 a.m.

Choir Practice
4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays
Half Notes/Joyful Noise
Preschool & Children
Choir Practice
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Supper
5:00 p.m.

Preschool, Children,
Youth Activities
6:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study
6:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
950 SELF STREET
FRANKLINTON, LA 70438

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