

# the BEACON

USPS 548-820

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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## INSTRUMENTS FOR GOD'S GLORY

The beginning of the year is always a fun and challenging time around FBC. We are saying goodbye to the year that has passed with all of its victories, trials, triumphs, and treasures, and we are depending all the more on Christ to continue the good work of the gospel and to show up in a precious way that marks our hearts and church for years to come. Many of our church members I have had the privilege of spending time with recently or speaking with, have hinted at a fresh vision for their lives and faith journeys in 2026. It seems that the Lord is graciously giving us a collective holy anticipation for what he could do with yielded lives in the year to come. In the scriptures, we see that God used a burning bush, a staff, a donkey, and even an ark to carry his message, glory, and presence. I wonder this year if our own lives will join the ranks of these consecrated instruments. Yes, instruments indeed. It seems better (and safer analogy) to compare our family to instruments rather than donkeys, so let's meditate here a moment. You and I are instruments. All playing together that we might host the message of the gospel, the glory of the Lord, and the very presence, which is *"Christ in you the hope of glory."* We are an orchestra of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> chairs. Some have been following Jesus playing in tune and glorifying God, some are fresh on the scene, recently captivated by the gospel, and seem to be prodigies as they live out the gospel while the heart of God resonates from their life-instrument with resounding boldness and clarity. Regardless of where you find yourself, it's unmistakable that God has called all of his people to come together so that he might be lifted and so that we might be in community. Considering these things, I know a few things for certain.

First, every instrument needs to be tuned. We all desperately need the Spirit to search us and refine our rough edges, to lay waste to our sin and its effect so that we play in rhythm and tune with the heart of God and the host of his kingdom. Psalm 139:23-24, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."*

Second, solos are great, but they can be lonely. You are amazing, but WE are better together. I love the *Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104* by Antonín Dvořák, it's a unique mingling of light and dark, fun, whimsical and precise, hauntingly beautiful, and technically other-worldly, yet the moment for me that seems most beautiful and powerful is when the strings and woodwinds banter back and forth giving way to a pleasant horn that almost lulls you to nostalgia then welcomes the entire orchestra back into movement which gives rise to introducing the cello and off we go. As much as I love the cello, and I do, the orchestra makes the cello magical. Brothers and sisters, we are the same. Made more fun, beautiful, and useful together for the glory of God. Though at times we all serve different roles that may seem more noticeable or "out front," we all need one another to accomplish the plan and fulfill the purposes of our conductor.

Lastly, we never play to the crowd, only at the pleasure of the conductor. We keep our eyes fixed not on the audience, the opinions of the critics, or the whims of the other musicians; we focus solely on the direction, correction, and encouragement of the conductor. We move when he says move, we breathe when he says breathe, and we play only the notes he has assigned for our part. This gives me great confidence, knowing that he knows his orchestra, that his musicians have been recruited and



**TJ MAULDIN**  
Lead Pastor

*Continued on next page.*

WATCH SUNDAY SERVICES LIVE AT [YOUTUBE.COM/FBCTIFTON](https://www.youtube.com/FBCTIFTON)

Continued.

trained by him, and that they are put in their proper places for his glory. Let this be the great, freeing joy of your life. To play for our great conductor.

Last, last point. Many trained orchestral musicians would say, “The conductor’s breath is the true cue.” They often watch for the deep breath of the conductor as he lifts his hand to begin. They depend on his breath to signal movement, and that faith-family is what we need. The very breath of the conductor. So in tune with this note of encouragement, I will resolve to bring a closing cadence.

Job 33:4, “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

TJ



**MARK MYERS**  
Minister of Recreation  
and Senior Adults

**WHAT’S UP FOR SENIORS IN FEBRUARY!**

I hope everyone has had a great start to their year and has participated in and enjoyed our *21 Days of Prayer and Fasting*! Many of you are also now about 4 weeks into a year-long commitment through our read-through-ther-Bible and War Room accountability. What about those who have NOT made a commitment to discipleship for 2026:

**Experiencing God Kickoff - February 11<sup>th</sup>**

Do you remember the workbook for *Experiencing God*? I used that as a discipleship tool when I was a new Christian about 30+ years ago. Why don't we get back to the basics and start experiencing God for senior adult discipleship! If you are a senior adult and would be interested in joining a small group that will go through the 13-week workbook called *Experiencing God*, please sign up at the FLC desk so we can form small groups and order the material!

**Lunch on the Road - Headed to Hahira**

Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, please join us for *Lunch on the Road* as we visit *Fancy Girl Farms*! Please sign up at the FLC desk or call 229-386-1643 to reserve YOUR spot!

**Want to get ACTIVE in the new year?**

How about a workout program for 2026 that could include cardio: walking track or elliptical machines, rowing machine, free weights, and machines, and a desk worker who could help get you started! We have ALL these at our Family Life Center. Come and check out our new weight room and try out some of our equipment. Open 8:00am to 8:00pm, same hours as our Family Life Center!

2026 snuck up on me, but I know that Jesus is at work in my heart, life, and family. Keep sharing with others the ways Jesus is working in YOUR Life! Praying we will all experience a peaceful, prosperous, and powerful year in the Lord!

Mark

**FIRST FACTS & FIGURES**  
DECEMBER 2025

**BUDGET GIVING**

Monthly Offering	\$506,909.07
Offering to Date	\$3,620,110.85
Expenses to Date	\$3,281,904.49
Budget to Date	\$3,576,158.34

**SANCTUARY RENOVATION**

Contributions to Date	\$1,331,388.00
Total Cost	\$2,300,000.00
Loan Balance Owed	\$1,025,000.00

**WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE**

**1762**  
average

**SMALL GROUP  
ATTENDANCE**

**569**  
average



**MARCIA STAUB**  
Kids Ministry Director

## FUSE WKND

We are so excited to reintroduce *FUSE WKND* to our Kids Ministry calendar. This is a shortened, modified version of our Student Ministry's *WNTR WKND*. Preteens (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will gather together for recreation, hang time, worship, the word, missions, and small groups, all while being pointed to who God is. *FUSE WKND* is February 27 & 28. We start at 4:00pm Friday and end at 4:00pm Saturday. Preteens will be staying at host homes, but if your child would rather sleep in their bed, you are welcome to pick them up after the first small group session at their host home. Cost is \$50 and includes all supplies, all meals, and a piece of swag. **Register TODAY on our events page.**

## CENTRIKID CAMP

CAMP IS COMING for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders! I absolutely love camp week. We will be traveling to a NEW LOCATION that promises to be extraordinary. Our kids will embark on the *Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center* in Talladega, Alabama, from June 21-25. The cost is \$400 per camper, but do not let that deter you! We have one more, possibly two more spaghetti fundraisers planned. Mark your calendar for March 14-15 and earn some money to offset the cost of camp! **Register for CentriKid on our events page!**

## KIDS CONNECTION TEAM

FBC Kids is building a Kids Connection Team. The purpose of this team is to connect with guests until they become family. If you are looking for an avenue to serve that isn't necessarily teaching kids, we would love to talk to you about our opportunities. We need just seven more people to launch this team. It is a once-a-month commitment and an excellent way to make newcomers feel welcomed! **Contact me** (mstaub@fbctifton.org) **TODAY for more information!**

*Marcia*



**KENNY MILLER**  
Executive & Groups  
Pastor

## IT'S BACK—AND IT'S AN EVENT NO MAN SHOULD MISS

The Men's Ministry *Wild Game Supper* returns **February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**, and year after year, this remains one of the most meaningful nights on our calendar. Why? Because it brings men together, across generations, to hear a powerful testimony, to be challenged to live out the gospel, and for some, to hear the gospel clearly for the very first time. These moments matter. We are in a real battle for the hearts of men, and this night is an opportunity we can't afford to take lightly.

We're honored to welcome **Granger Smith** as our guest speaker. Granger is a bestselling author, speaker, and Southern Baptist minister known for his authentic and compelling story of faith, family, and hope. After more than two decades as an award-winning, platinum-selling country music artist, including the No. 1 hit "*Backroad Song*," Granger stepped away from life on the road to pursue full-time ministry following a profound journey of loss and restoration. He is the host of the nationally syndicated *After Midnight with Granger Smith* radio show, the author of *Like a River: Finding the Faith and Strength to Move Forward After Loss and Heartache*, and a sought-after speaker who challenges men to live with purpose, resilience, and gospel-centered conviction.

This is the kind of night that's even better when you **intentionally invite another man**—a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member. Tickets are just **\$5** and can be purchased online at [fbctifton.org/events](http://fbctifton.org/events), in the FBC Tifton church office during the week, or at the Welcome Desk on Sunday. **100% of ticket sales** will support two local ministries making a real impact: **Called to Care** and **Tiftarea House of Hope**.

And yes—there will be **incredible door prizes**, including hunting gear, guns, and bows, plus raffle tickets available in the lobby for:

- A Field Bred English Springer Spaniel from *Southern Country Kennels*
- A half-day quail hunt for four at *Southern Woods Plantation*
- A Browning A5 Ultimate 16-gauge shotgun

Come hungry. Come expectant. And don't come alone.

This is a night for men—**of every age and every stage**—and it's one you won't want to miss.

*Kenny*

• CONGRATULATIONS •

**Adam & Gracee Dukes** on their marriage, January 10, 2026

• SYMPATHY •

Tom and Martha Hocutt in the death of their daughter-in-law,  
**Deborah Lea Hocutt**, of Hanover County, Virginia.

The family of **Evan "Tank" Merrill**, Vivian Richardson's dad.

The family of **Yvetta Kimmell**.

The family of **Martha Matulich**.

The family of Linda Abbott in the death of her sister, **Rue Player**.

The family of **Tommy Cottle**.

The family of **Willette Martin**.

• BAPTISMS •

Juan de Dios Torres; Lincoln Davis;  
Eric Lee; Skyler Leyda

## THIS WEEK AT FBC

FEBRUARY 2-8, 2026

MON	10:30am	Staff Meeting (MSH)
	1:00pm	Game Day for Senior Adults (Concourse)
TUE	10:00am	Facilities Team Meeting (Conference Room)
	10:30am	Joyful Sound (Choir Room)
	3:00pm	FUSE Preteen Ministry (Red Door)
	6:00pm	PAL - Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (S.S. Annex)
	7:15pm	Red Door College Ministry (Ministry Center)
WED	4:30pm	Elementary Choirs
		War Room (C105)
	5:30pm	Kids Open Gym
	5:45pm	Kids Recreation or Art
	6:00pm	Middle School Gathering (Gathering Room)
	6:15pm	Kids Mission Classes
	6:45pm	Adult Choir (Choir Room)
THU	7:00pm	High School Gathering (Ministry Center)
	6:30pm	Celebrate Recovery (MSH/Chapel)
FRI	12:00pm	Church Office/FLC Closed
	6:30pm	<b>Men's Wild Game Supper</b> (Ministry Center)
SUN		<b>Student Ministry Bake Sale</b>
	8:30am	Connection Worship I Service (Ministry Center)
	9:50am	Small Groups for all ages
	11:00am	Cornerstone Service (Sanctuary) Connection Worship II Service (Ministry Center)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB 19** Men's Life Lunch

**FEB 21** Worthy on Mission

**FEB 27-28** FUSE WKND

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS,  
MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, VISIT  
**FBCTIFTON.ORG/EVENTS**



INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD

**LOTTIE MOON  
CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING**

**\$100,000**  
OUR GIVING GOAL

**\$77,593**  
REC'D-TO-DATE

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR BEACON VIA EMAIL ONLY?

Let us know by calling the church office at 382.6063  
or emailing Ansley Griner at [acotton@fbctifton.org](mailto:acotton@fbctifton.org)

CONNECT  
WITH US!



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PERIODICAL  
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