

# the BEACON

USPS 548-820

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

404 Love Avenue

Tifton, GA 31794

(229) 382-6063

FAX (229) 387-0523

VOLUME 65, NO.6: JULY 24, 2025

## DECLARATIONS OVER OUR BELOVED SANCTUARY

Not many days from now, we will rededicate our beloved sanctuary to the gospel work and the glory of God. The process has taken longer than anticipated, but I am confident it has not taken one minute longer than the Lord ordained for us in His wisdom and kindness.

A dear friend recently told me they believed the delay was God's way of keeping us together—to grow closer, to become more unified, and to prepare us for the best that is yet to come. I wholeheartedly agree as I look back and consider all God has done over the last year. I've witnessed preferences give way to unity as hearts and voices were lifted in musical worship, confessions were made during sacred moments of communion, and more than seventy men, women, boys, and girls followed Christ in obedience through believers' baptism.

I am deeply thankful for this season and will forever be humbled that the Lord has called us to walk it together. I say this often, but it bears repeating: I love you, FBC, and I love being your pastor.

This transition back into the sanctuary will bring more change, and change is never easy. But if there's one thing we've weathered well together, with minimal complaint, it's change. I'm especially grateful for those of you who have carried the torch of encouragement, patience, and positive perspective throughout this process. That alone has been a profound blessing to me and our staff.

While I could go on all day expressing my appreciation, the primary purpose of this message is to share a few declarations from my heart—truths I fully intend, by the power of the Spirit, to see realized in our sanctuary:

### 1. A House of Prayer

Before preaching, singing, or any element of a worship service, this must be a house of prayer. Prayer isn't merely a pillar of ministry—it is the very foundation. If this house is not covered in prayer and fueled by its power, we will fall short of our calling.

### 2. A Platform for the Word

After prayer, we gather to sing the gospel and be edified by its preaching. The Word of God is central. If we ever lose our love for Scripture—our desire to draw from the deep well of God's heart—we risk losing our lamp stand. As your pastor, I commit to preaching the Word faithfully and humbly, as Christ allows.

### 3. A Home for the Family of God

I was tempted to say "a hospital for sinners," but it's more than that. A hospital is where you go to get fixed, then leave, hoping you won't need to return anytime soon. The church should be more like a farmhouse filled with family, where you're healed, loved, corrected, encouraged, and always welcomed back. Even if it's just to sit on the porch and talk, you can't wait to come home. That's who we're called to be: a home for the family of God.

### 4. A Launch Pad for Local and Global Missions

We are a sending church. We are called to send missionaries into our community and to the ends of the earth for the sake of the gospel. I hope to see mechanics, clerks, custodians, doctors, coaches, teachers, and more go out into Tifton with the gospel on their lips and the love of Christ in their hearts. I also dream of us becoming even more engaged in international missions—sending out missionaries to push back lostness and proclaim the goodness of Jesus until He returns.

These four things define who we are and who we are called to be. This is no small task, and we will need to rely fully on the Lord—and each other—for these truths to take root in our lives together.

Faith family, I look forward to sharing this time of dedication with you, and I can't wait to see all that God, in Christ, is going to do.



**TJ MAULDIN**  
Lead Pastor

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "TJ", written in a cursive, stylized font.



**SANDY TAYLOR**  
Financial Assistant

## FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

I wanted to ensure you received your semi-annual contribution statement, which I mailed out at the beginning of July. If you haven't received it, please let me know.

Also, if you receive contribution envelopes but no longer need them, please reach out so I can remove you from the mailing list. On the other hand, if you're not currently receiving them and would like to, I'd be happy to order a set for you.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thank you to two faithful gentlemen, Roger Nalls and Steve Woodham, who generously volunteer their time each week to help me count the offering. Your dedication and integrity do not go unnoticed. I am truly grateful for your reliability and spirit of stewardship you bring to this important task. Thank you both for your commitment and partnership.

*Sandy*



**JOHN HUGHES**  
Care Pastor

## THANK YOU! LET'S KEEP REACHING, LOVING, AND SERVING JESUS!

Nearly 20 years ago, God gave Nancy and me the privilege of coming to serve Jesus with the church family called First Baptist Church Tifton!

I have met some of the most kind, generous, and loving Christians I have ever known. I have also met some of the most determined, dedicated, and willing-to-do-anything-for-Jesus believers!

Nancy and I have loved serving Jesus here! Nancy, through her ministry to children and music, and I, with my focus on discipleship and evangelism, have truly enjoyed being a part of God's work here at FBC.

Our plans are to remain in Tifton and at FBC as we retire! Thank you so much for your demonstrations of love and affirmation; we are so grateful!

Yours for multiplying disciples in retirement,

*John and Nancy*



**MATT HOWELL**  
Student Pastor

## FBC STUDENTS SUMMER RECAP AND FALL 2025

Summer 2025 has been a summer we won't forget! FRDM WEEK, our high school camp, and Crossroads, our middle school camp, were full of moments where God moved. We watched students lean in, listen, and respond to the voice of God in powerful ways. Several surrendered their lives to Jesus for the first time, and many others took bold next steps in their faith, whether through baptism, opening up in small groups, or committing to live out their faith more intentionally. This summer wasn't just packed with fun and unforgettable moments, but they were sacred spaces where God moved deeply in students' hearts. God is clearly at work in this next generation, and we're watching His promises unfold right before us.

As Jeremiah 24:7 says, "I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord." That's exactly what we saw—students with hearts set on knowing and following Jesus. I'm beyond expectant for what's ahead this school year. If this summer was any indication, God is just getting started.

Any 6th-12th student is invited!

### Wednesday Small Groups *(begins August 13)*

- Middle School from 6-7:15pm
- High School from 7-8:15pm

**Sundays:** Sunday Groups meet at 9:45am in G Suite Rooms

*Matt*



**MARCIA STAUB**  
Kids Ministry Director

## FBC KIDS FALL 2025

The time has come to purchase back-to-school supplies, prepare schedules, and gear up for yet another school year. At FBC Kids, this means that your students will be moving up to the next grade, and our weekly ministries will be launching. I want to take this opportunity to invite you to continue engaging with weekly ministries or join us for the first time.

### Sunday Morning at FBC Kids (Every Sunday)

We focus on laying the foundation to love God through small groups.

8:30am = WorshipCare for Babies - PreK

9:50am = Age Graded Small Groups

11:00am = Worship Care for Babies - PreK & K3 Worship for Kindergarten - 3rd graders

### Tuesdays at FBC Kids (Begins August 12)

3:00 - 5:00pm = FUSE for 4th and 5th graders

### WNK at FBC Kids (Begins August 13)

4:00pm = 1st - 5th Choir

5:45pm = Baby - 5th grade Wednesday Night Kids

### Mark your calendar for our Fall Dates:

September 24 = Kindergarten - 5th grade Father Son Night

October 15 = Family Night at the Farm

November 12 = Kindergarten - 5th grade Mother Daughter Night

December 7 = Family Christmas Night

*Marcia*



**JENN GRAJKO**  
Music Ministry  
Assistant

## WORTHY GROUPS

Ladies, I am so excited for our Worthy Groups to launch this fall, and I hope you join the many women who have signed up to fellowship and grow spiritually together!

Worthy Groups will take place once a month at a host home and include time with fellowship over a meal/snacks and a Bible Study. The date and time will depend on the group you are placed in. They will run from September to April. We will start off with a Prayer and Worship Gathering in August and end with Worthy on the first Friday in May.

Each group will participate in the same study and walk through the Book of Esther. Can you imagine how powerful it will be to have over a hundred women of many generations and seasons throughout our church dive deeper into the Word and grow together spiritually?!

If you would like to sign up, you can go to [fbctifton.org/events](https://fbctifton.org/events).

I hope you'll join us!

*Jenn*

# FIRST FACTS & FIGURES

JUNE 2025

## BUDGET GIVING

Monthly Offering	\$263,850
Offering to Date	\$1,620,542
Expenses to Date	\$1,716,988
Budget to Date	\$1,743,329

## SANCTUARY RENOVATION

Contributions to Date	\$1,184,907
Total Cost	\$2,300,000
Loan Balance Owed	\$925,000

**WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE**

**1353**  
average

**SMALL GROUP  
ATTENDANCE**

**412**  
average



**KENNY MILLER**  
*Small Groups Pastor*

## INPUT/OUTPUT MATTERS

Let me be vulnerable for a moment. It wasn't until the beginning of 2025 that I started being intentional about what I was putting into my body. I thought little about my nutrition for a long time: breakfasts loaded with sugar, bottomless Coke refills at lunch, and fries with nearly every meal. I never really considered the toll it was taking on my body. The result? Constant fatigue, energy crashes, and a general lack of motivation.

While I'm still not where I want to be, I've become far more aware of what I consume daily. Recently, I've added regular exercise to my routine. Even in just a few weeks, I've noticed a huge difference. My energy levels are up, my mind feels clearer, and those sugar cravings? They're practically gone.

So why am I sharing this?

Because I've realized that spiritual health works in a very similar way. Just like our bodies respond to what we feed them and how we treat them, our hearts and minds are deeply affected by what we consume spiritually, and how we live it out.

Let me ask you:

### **What are you feeding your soul?**

Are you regularly reading the Word of God? Are you surrounding yourself with people who push you closer to Christ? Do you have a community that encourages your faith and holds you accountable?

And just as important:

### **What are you doing with what God has placed in you?**

Are you using your gifts to serve others? Are you investing in the people around you? Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works—works He prepared in advance for us to do.

When we begin to live this out—when we allow God's Word to fill us and let His Spirit lead our actions—everything changes. We start seeing people not as obstacles or obligations, but as valuable souls. We begin to experience real joy, the kind that comes from living a life of purpose and service.

### **So here's the challenge:**

Take a moment today and honestly evaluate your spiritual input and output. What are you feeding your heart and mind? And how are you pouring out what God has given you?



### **You don't have to do this alone.**

We want to help you discover what life as a follower of Jesus can look like when you live it in biblical community. That's why we offer small groups where you can grow, be challenged, be encouraged, and truly belong.

You can scan the QR code or visit [fbctifton.org/groups](https://fbctifton.org/groups) and fill out the "Find a Group Form". We help place you in a group. Let's pursue spiritual health together and experience the life God designed us for in biblical community.

*Kenny*

**LOVE GOD.**

**LOVE PEOPLE.**

**MULTIPLY DISCIPLES.**

• SYMPATHY •

The family of Tammi & Rusty Smith in the death of her father,  
**Billy Frank Selph.**

The family of **Gene Slack.**

Wilma Tyson in the death of her sister, **Joyce Baker**, of Tallahassee.

The family of **Gene Seigler.**

Joel Dixon in the death of his father, **Joe Dixon**, of Alapaha.

Gail & Luther Blalock in the death of her mother, **Betty Braswell.**

Ashley & Andrew Carter in the death of her nephew,  
**Camrin Hollingshead.**

The family of **Lenna Mayne McCranie.**

Ben & Joyce Tyson in the death of their daughter,  
**Becky, and grandchildren.**

Glen & Barbara Coburn in the death of his parents,  
**James & Dora Mae Coburn.**

Dale & Telie Sumner in the death of her brother, **Chappy Tift.**

Cherry Trevelyan in the death of her husband, **Eric.**

Ann Marie Atkinson in the death of her grandmother, **Ann Bynum.**

The family of Pam & Rusty Autry in the death of he  
brother-in-law, **Winford Wright**, of Cordele.

The family of **Betty Fletcher.**

The family of **Troy Hampton.**

The family of Mark & Kristy Stone in the death of his mother,  
**Barbara Ann Stone**, of Nashville, Georgia.

Don Davis in the passing of his wife, **Debra Davis.**

The Rutland family in the death of **Broc Moore**  
(son of Ricky & Tonita Rutland Moore).

The family of Susan Harriman in the death of her husband,  
**Benjamin Harriman**, of Florida (former members of FBC Tifton).

Jill Cross in the passing of her mother, **Carolyn Parrish.**

Jim & Rita Torell in the death of her dad,  
**Clarence Edward McCray**, of Florida.

## THIS WEEK AT FBC

JULY 28-AUG 3, 2025

MON	1:00pm	Game Day for Senior Adults ( <i>Concourse</i> )
TUE	10:00am	Facilities Team Meeting ( <i>Library</i> )
	6:30pm	PAL - Parents of Addicted Loved Ones ( <i>S.S. Annex</i> )
WED	4:30pm	War Room ( <i>Library</i> )
	6:00pm	Summer Family Pop-up ( <i>YMCA Pool</i> )
	6:45pm	Adult Choir ( <i>Choir Room</i> )
THU	6:30pm	Celebrate Recovery ( <i>MSH/Chapel</i> )
FRI	12:00pm	Church Office Closed
SUN	8:30am	Connection Worship I Service ( <i>Ministry Center</i> )
	9:50am	Small Groups for all ages
	11:00am	Connection Worship II Service ( <i>Ministry Center</i> )

• CONGRATULATIONS •

**Travelle Morgan** who turned 100 in July!

**Ron & Gina Lawhon** on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

• NEW MEMBERS •

Charles Dieas; Rita Dieas; Allyson Gaskins; Brennan Vernor;  
Ava Gaskins; Michael Gaskins; Mandy Godwin; Josh Godwin;  
Samantha Godwin; Cason Godwin; Dani Jones; Dana Jones;  
Adriel Jones; Ashley Jones

• BAPTISMS •

Brooks Branch; Levi Jordan; Krista King; Cayla Nix;  
Zoey Perez; Ethan Sammons; Markevious White

• APPRECIATION •

The family of Lenna Mayne McCranie; Joan Matthews;  
The family of Gene Slack; Brother Charlie's Rescue Center

THE BEACON (USPS 548-820) is published  
monthly by First Baptist Church, Tifton  
404 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
THE BEACON, 404 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE PAID  
at TIFTON, GA

TJ Mauldin, *Lead Pastor*  
Kenny Miller, *Pastor of Small Groups & Assimilation*  
John Hughes, *Care Pastor*  
Mark Myers, *Minister of Recreation & Sr. Adults*  
Matt Howell, *Student Pastor*  
Marcia Staub, *Kids Ministry Director*  
Jose Lopez, *Hispanic Pastor*  
Barry Cook, *Minister of Music/Worship*  
Daniel Gibson, *Connection Worship Pastor*  
Kiet Le, *Vietnamese Pastor*