

# the BEACON

USPS 548-820

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

404 Love Avenue

Tifton, GA 31794

(229) 382-6063

FAX (229) 387-0523

VOLUME 65, NO. 10: NOVEMBER 20, 2025

## IT'S A GREAT DAY TO LEARN ABOUT JESUS

Outside of Sunday, Tuesday is arguably the most exciting day of the week at FBC Tifton. Most of you know about the Red Door College Ministry and how God is revolutionizing the lives of college students across our congregation. But just a few hours before Red Door, across the street in the Red Door Building, our preteens gather for Fuse Preteen Ministry, and God is doing something miraculous in the lives of our 4th- and 5th-grade students.

Seven years ago, the Lord began to cultivate a deep burden in my heart. There was a distinct attendance drop-off among our 4th- and 5th-graders in Sunday morning and Wednesday night ministries. I began to realize that our preteens felt "too cool" for Kids Ministry but not yet ready for Student Ministry. If I wanted to get serious about loving and leading that age demographic, I had to create an actual, visible, and consistent place where they knew they belonged. Fuse Preteen Ministry was born from this burden.

Fuse began in the Fall of 2018 in the FLC Craft Room with three students and me. We had snacks, played a board game, and opened our Bible to read and learn straight from scripture. It was small but impactful. Soon, we grew to fifteen, and I realized that every preteen needs peer relationships and a consistent adult who knows their name and what is happening in their life.

In the Summer of 2019, we converted the old children's library into a dedicated space for the Fuse Ministry. From Fall 2019 to Spring 2023, we grew from fifteen to 30. In the fall of 2023, we moved across the street into the Red Door Building. Over the course of our two years over there, we have grown from 30 to an average of 43, with our highest Tuesday being 52 preteens. Numbers matter because every number represents a child who is hearing God's Word. The Kids Team, led by Carter Brooks's vision, renovated the Red Door Building this summer, and it has truly become a space where preteens know they belong.

Fuse has had a ripple effect throughout the Kids Ministry. Our Sunday and Wednesday attendance for 4th- and 5th-graders is consistently higher than ever. Families whose first interaction with FBC was through their preteen coming to Fuse with a friend are now engaged as church members. Most importantly, God has used the teaching time during Fuse to reveal Himself to save preteens. Since our inception, we have seen 18 preteens walk from death to life through the course of their time in Fuse.

Fuse meets from 3:00 to 5:00pm at the Red Door Building. Drop off can occur anytime between 3:00 and 4:00pm. I recognize that peer relationships are significant to preteens' social development. Therefore, we start with an hour of free fellowship. This fellowship is a time when students choose their activity, and I focus on small, impactful conversations with each child. Since it is immediately after school, I offer snacks and drinks. From 4:00 to 4:30 pm, we engage in intentional Bible time. Typically, I take a book of the Bible and go verse by verse through it. This process is methodical, teaching kids how to read scripture and apply it to their lives. I always tell them, "There are two types of people in this room. One who doesn't know Jesus and is still building the foundation for the Gospel to take root, and one who does know Jesus and can learn from scripture how to live like Jesus." I craft my lesson so that each preteen can glean something from it. We finish up with parent pick up from 4:30 to 5:00pm. The timeframe is perfect because it fills the time immediately after school and before any sports or dance activities.

I often get asked by other Kids Ministry leaders, "What is the secret to the growth of your Preteen Ministry?" I tell them the growth of our Fuse Ministry is not driven by gimmicks or giveaways. It is driven by preteens who absolutely love "Tuesday Fuse-day." They go to school, tell their friends how awesome Fuse is, and, in turn, their friends check it out, love it, and invite their friends. It is truly spectacular to see how preteen word of mouth has grown this ministry. In fact, it has challenged me. How often am I willing to tell my neighbor about the amazing things God is doing in my life and at FBC?

Fuse Preteen Ministry is just another testimony to the miraculous power of God working in our midst. It is truly incredible to see nearly 50 preteens flood the Red Door playing basketball, football, 4-square, wiffle ball, PS5, Uno, eating snacks, and simply passing the time talking, all while waiting to hear from God's Word. If you know a 4th- or 5th-grader, invite them to Fuse because "it's a great day to learn about Jesus."



**MARCIA STAUB**  
*Kids Ministry Director*

*Marcia*



**BARRY COOK**  
Minister of  
Music/Worship

## CAROL SING

What better way to ring in the Christmas season than to join us on Sunday evening, November 30th, for our second annual Carol Sing at 6:00pm in the Chapel. We will be singing some of your favorite Christmas carols together, and we will also hear the Adult Choir and other special guests lead us in worship. I'll tell some stories of circumstances that inspired composers to compose these melodies and authors to write the lyrics. We'll have some fun along the way, but this evening will be all about worshiping the One who came to bring light to a dark world. He is still offering this light to anyone who will receive it, so bring your friends and family members to hear the Gospel through these beloved carols. That's Carol Sing, November 30th at 6:00pm in the Chapel – hope to see you there!

*Barry*



**DANIEL GIBSON**  
Connection Worship  
Pastor

## WORSHIP & MISSIONS NIGHT

*"...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" — Ephesians 5: 18-19*

There is something powerful about gathering together as the people of God; lifting our voices in worship, encouraging one another, and setting our hearts on the One who is worthy of all glory. Scripture reminds us that when we sing and speak truth to one another, we strengthen the body of Christ and honor the Lord who unites us. Worship shapes us, anchors us, and reminds us that God is actively at work in our lives and in the world.

On **December 7th at 6:00pm**, I would love for you to join us for a special **Worship & Missions Night** in the **FBC Sanctuary**. This will be a time of heartfelt worship as we gather as one body to exalt Jesus and draw near to Him together.

In addition to musical worship, we are also honored to host a panel of missionaries who will share how God has moved in and through their lives. You will hear firsthand testimonies of His faithfulness, His provision, and the incredible ways the Gospel is advancing across cultures and continents. Their experiences remind us that God is still calling, still sending, and still transforming hearts through the power of His Spirit.

I hope you will join us for this meaningful night!. Invite a friend, come expectant, and be encouraged as we celebrate what God is doing—both in Tifton and around the world.

I can't wait to worship with you on **December 7th at 6:00pm!**

*Daniel*



**MICHELLE HAMMOND**  
Accounts Payable  
and CR Staff Liaison

## THANK YOU FROM CELEBRATE RECOVERY TIFTON

This holiday season, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support shown through our Holiday Side Dish Fundraiser. Your generosity and participation have made a meaningful impact—not just on our ministry, but on the lives of children and families in our community.

Thanks to your purchases, we are one step closer to hosting our annual Angel Tree Christmas Party. This is a hope-filled event for children with incarcerated parents or parent figures. Angel Tree, a ministry of Prison Fellowship, brings the love of Christ to children by connecting them with caring communities like ours.

This year, 120 children—all living within a 20-mile radius of First Baptist Church—have been assigned to us through the Angel Tree program. From October through December, every dollar raised goes directly toward purchasing gifts and creating an over-the-top Christmas party for these kids and their caregivers. But it's more than a party—it's a moment of joy, dignity, and connection for families facing difficult circumstances. And an opportunity for us to share not only the face of Jesus but the story of his birth – the real Christmas story!

Again, Thank You so much for your continued support,

*Michelle*



**MATT HOWELL**  
Student Pastor

## EARLY BIRD CAMP REGISTRATION - GOING ON NOW!

Early Bird Registration is officially open for both Middle School and High School camp!

Our middle schoolers will head to GENERATE Camp by YM360 at Samford University, and our high schoolers will return to our very own FREEDOM WEEK in St. Augustine, one of the most impactful weeks of the year. God continues to do big things in our student ministry, and these camps play a huge role in shaping our students' faith, friendships, and spiritual growth. These weeks fill up fast, and securing your spot early helps us plan well, keeps costs as low as we can, and ensures your student doesn't miss out on what God has in store. Don't wait-reserve your student's place now while spots last!

You can sign up online via our registration page. And mark your calendars...WNTR WKND signups go live in December!

*Matt*



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

## CELEBRATE WITH OUR SR. ADULT EXTENSION BIBLE STUDIES!

Thursday, December 4th, at 10:30am, we will meet at the Ministry Center for our Senior Adult Extension Luncheon. This is a chance for all of our Extension Bible Studies to connect to all our senior adult members at the physical building we call First Baptist Church. We will meet at the Ministry Center for a delicious lunch, exciting entertainment, a Christmas inspirational message, and, hopefully, lots of fun, fellowship, and friendship-making! Join us to meet a new friend or reacquaint with an old friend. You never know who you will see...Ho, Ho, Ho!

## FLC UPGRADES WEIGHT ROOM

Thank you goes out to Pastor TJ for the inspiration and know-how, and to Pastor Barry for the persistence and hard work in updating our FLC weight room. If you have not seen or used our weight room yet, please stop by for a tour and make plans to get a fob to use it.

## JOYFUL SOUND CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING

Join your Joyful Sound Choir as we tour the Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Centers of Tifton.

### We plan to visit:

December 9th at Harbor Pointe  
December 10th at Cypress Pond  
December 11th at Harbor View  
December 16th at Legacy Village  
December 17th at Maple Court  
All are scheduled for 10:00am

*Mark*

# FIRST FACTS & FIGURES

OCTOBER 2025

## BUDGET GIVING

Monthly Offering	\$328,459.92
Offering to Date	\$2,618,922.44
Expenses to Date	\$2,837,590.17
Budget to Date	\$2,908,549.00

## SANCTUARY RENOVATION

Contributions to Date	\$1,278,054
Total Cost	\$2,300,000
Loan Balance Owed	\$1,025,000

**WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE**

**1989**  
average

**SMALL GROUP  
ATTENDANCE**

**797**  
average

• APPRECIATION •

From Richard Sammons' niece, Kristie Spinks.

• SYMPATHY •

Pam Barry in the loss of her mother, **Sue Howell Fletcher**, of Irwin County.

Christy Baker in the loss of her grandmother, **Betty Jean Sellers**.

• NEW MEMBERS •

Kyle Richards; Deanne Richards; Jake Perry; Erin Perry; Scott Norton; Ty Hall; Rebecca Graham; Lawrence Cooper; Julie Cooper; Stephanie Burgess; Scott Burgess

• BAPTISMS •

Alex Torres; Kristia Powell; Bryce Rutland; Brie Johnson; Layla Moon; Octavia Bushey; Ridleigh Rowell; Samantha Everett

CONNECT  
WITH US!



**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)

**LOVE GOD.**

**LOVE PEOPLE.**

**MULTIPLY DISCIPLES.**

**THIS WEEK AT FBC**

NOV 24-30, 2025

MON	10:30am	Staff Meeting (MSH)
	1:00pm	Game Day for Senior Adults (Concourse)
TUE	10:00am	Facilities Team Meeting (Room 117)
	6:30pm	PAL - Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (S.S. Annex)
WED		Church Office Closed
THU	6:30pm	Celebrate Recovery (MSH/Chapel)
FRI	12:00pm	Church Office Closed
SUN	8:30am	Connection Worship I Service (Ministry Center)
	9:45am	Small Groups for all ages
	11:00am	Cornerstone Service (Sanctuary)
	6:00pm	Connection Worship II Service (Ministry Center) <b>Christmas Carol Sing</b> (Chapel)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DEC 4** Senior Adult Extension Luncheon (Ministry Center)

**DEC 12** Missions Sunday (8:30&11:00am)  
Missions Sunday Worship Night (6:00pm)

**DEC 14** Family Christmas Night (Ministry Center)

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS,  
MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, VISIT  
**[FBCTIFTON.ORG/EVENTS](https://fbctifton.org/events)**

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*  
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*