

## Stone Says

*Hello Dear Friends,*

*Happy New Year! I pray that you will experience a healthy and joyful New Year in 2026! God is always so faithful to guide, direct, and love us. We will possibly face challenges, but rest assured - God is always with us. Let's continue to pray, read our Bibles, worship, and share God's love with others. I am excited to see all God is going to do in and through us at Cookeville First Baptist Church!*

*I hope you will enjoy the Happy Traveler's trips that are planned for you this year. Be sure to sign up early and pay the deposits on time at the church office. A list of trips can be seen on the church website.*

*In early January, printed copies will be available in the church office and at the welcome desk near the Sanctuary. January is a great time to submit your yearly medical release form needed for each Happy Traveler. They must be notarized.*

*Lisa and I thank you for your cards, expressions of love, and your prayers. God bless you sweet friends. Remember, as God blesses you, be a blessing to others. I love and appreciate you!*



*Love and prayers,  
-Pastor Bill*

## From the Corner

Brrr! A New Year is here! Happy New Year!

It's 2026, and all is well because Jesus is Lord and God Almighty has a plan that will be perfect if we just follow His Holy Spirit's leading! What a blessed year it will be!

I'm excited about the **Foundations New Testament reading plan** for our church. This is something we can do to prepare for a deeper understanding of the sermons presented each Sunday. It will keep us in His Word 5 days a week, with a built-in catch-up day to help us recover from the unexpected. We can look forward to diving deeper into God's Word and applying what we learn to our lives. We can pray for wisdom to share that knowledge and understanding that we gain with those we meet along life's way.

I'm also excited about where **mission** plans will take our teams and how each of us can help send or take the Word to the lost. We can pray, help meet the costs, send notes of encouragement to those on permanent mission and our teams going from FBC on short-term missions, donate needed items to go with the team...be sure to watch for information as things begin to move.

Coupled with these will be another exciting opportunity to move through **Praying and Fasting** together with several other churches in our area beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>. Be deciding what you will be fasting that will challenge you to prayerfully lean upon the Lord to carry you through. Expect to grow closer to and deeper in love and devotion to God.

I'm excited about **Upward Basketball** games beginning in January, 2026! Our teams and their coaches have been practicing hard in 2025, and they are anxious to hit the hardwood! Be sure to pray for them and when possible, come out and support them and their coaches as they learn about salvation and life lessons from God's word with every practice and game.

I'm excited about opportunities to fellowship and grow closer to each other through **Cultivate Women's** monthly meetings, **Women on Mission** Day and Evening groups monthly meetings and mission projects, **OCC** work days, **Happy Tones Senior Choir** in the Spring, **Discipleship** groups, **Sunday school** groups, Wednesday night supper and **small groups, choirs, orchestra, Celebrate Recovery** programs, **Laundry of Love** monthly mission times, **Heart Strings Harp Ensemble** and **Happy Travelers** trips north, south, east and west. Be watching for more!

**Much Love, -Mary Frances**

# PRAYER LIST

The following are at home and need our prayers for their health, comfort, and recovery.

Joanne Chaffin  
Orlene Carter  
Cheri Daniel  
Martha Davenport  
Jean Downey  
Sandi Geddie  
Sara Hans (Lisa Stone's Aunt)  
Dorothy Hawkins  
James Madewell  
Wanda Peterson  
Louise Phillips  
Reba Roberson  
Mable & Roy Tudor  
Margaret Garrett

If you know of anyone who needs to be on the homebound list, please call the church office.

Please remember the following in prayer:

## Cedar Hills

Bonnie Greene  
Arleda Hunter

## Charter Assisted Living

Mark Mullinix

## NHC

Marilyn Langford  
Kevin Langford  
Retha Mayberry  
Tracy Sweat

## Life Care Center of Sparta

Jo Mathis  
Harold Garrett

## The Sisters of Legacy:

### A Ministry to Widows

Sisters of Legacy will meet January 10th at 1:00 pm at Glenda Newsom's house. All widows are welcome to join us for a time of Bible study and fellowship. Call 931-526-7108 for more information.



# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

January 5, 2026 marks the beginning of Prayer & Fasting. We are excited to partake in this journey once again, and would like to invite you to join us as we commit to seek God and draw near to him through prayer and worship.

## 55+ Bowlers

At our last meeting, we had five bowlers. The best score of the day was Sam Galloway. Our next outing will be Tuesday, January 6th at 10:00 am at the Cookeville Bowling Alley. If anyone is interested in joining the bowling group, contact John Shaffer at 931-261-3538 or fsha1f@frontiernet.net. You don't have to be 55+ to bowl! Everyone is welcome to join our team.



## Laundry of Love

**Tuesday, Jan. 6th** at the Handy Mart Laundry on Willow Avenue from 2-7 p.m. There are opportunities to serve food, assist individuals to the washers & dryers, and build connections with the community. Our main emphasis is sharing the love of Jesus with them. To volunteer, please contact Bob Miller at 931-260-3364 or the church office at 931-526-7108.



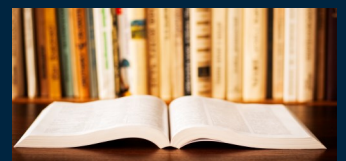
## 2026 New Testament Reading Plan

We are excited to begin a 260 day reading plan this January. To learn more about it, visit [www.cookevillefirst.com/read2026](http://www.cookevillefirst.com/read2026).

Bible study workbooks will be available to purchase through the link for \$12.50. To pick up a copy, please visit the church office.

## W.O.W. BOOK CLUB

The book club will be meeting **Jan. 12th, at 1:00 p.m.** For more information, please call Barbara Galloway at 615-330-9679.





## Activities Schedule

|      |         |   |          |
|------|---------|---|----------|
| Thu. | Jan. 1  | Church Office Closed                    |          |
| Sun. | Jan. 4  | Deacon's Breakfast                      | 8:30 am  |
| Sun. | Jan. 4  | Pastor Bill's Reception                 | 3:00 pm  |
| Mon. | Jan. 5  | Prayer and Fasting Begins               |          |
| Mon. | Jan. 6  | Laundry of Love                         | 2:00 pm  |
| Mon. | Jan. 6  | Bowling                                 | 10:00 am |
| Sat. | Jan. 10 | Sisters of Legacy                       | 1:00 pm  |
| Sun. | Jan. 11 | Greece Info Meeting                     | 4:00 pm  |
| Mon. | Jan. 12 | WOW Book Club                           | 1:00 pm  |
| Sun. | Jan. 25 | Prayer and Fasting Ends                 |          |
| Fri. | Jan. 30 | Happy Travelers to Cumberland Mtn. Park |          |

## Retirement Reception

*Please come join us to celebrate with Pastor Bill Stone on his retirement. We will be having a reception in the Fellowship Hall on January 4th, at 3:00 p.m. to honor Bill for his many decades of faithfulness to First Baptist Church.*



## 10-Day Journeys of Paul in Greece

### A message from Pastor Scott:

I would like to invite you to join me on an amazing journey retracing the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. We will step into history and walk alongside Paul as we journey through Philippi, Thessaloniki, Athens, Corinth, Crete, Patmos, and Ephesus. The Holy Scriptures will come to life in unimaginable ways! This will be a trip of a lifetime that promises to forever change all of us! We will have an informational meeting about the tour Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel. If you would like more information prior to the meeting, you may visit [Signaturetours.com](http://Signaturetours.com), click on upcoming tours, and scroll down until you find my tour dates, September 6-15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. You can also scan the QR code or pick up a brochure in the Welcome Center or at the tower door entrance to the church.



## Church-Wide Breakfast

Church family, you are invited to a deacon-sponsored breakfast on **January 4th, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. **We will have Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. followed by the worship service at 10:45 a.m.** Join us in celebration of the New Year!

## Upcoming Happy Travelers Trip for 2026:

### "The Clark House" January 30th

Description: Eat Lunch  
Cost: Lunch on your own  
Sign-up Deadline: Jan. 22nd  
Load: 11:15 a.m.  
Leave: 11:30 a.m.  
Return: 2:30 a.m.



### "The Stone Mystery Trip" April 8-10

Cost: \$470 per person  
Deposit: \$250 due at Sign-up (January 25th)  
This trip includes a four diamond hotel stay, two breakfasts, three exciting venues and attractions, as well as transportation.



### "Bell Buckle Café" February 26th

Date: February 26th  
Description: Eat Delicious Southern-style comfort foods & shop antique stores and other unique shops  
Sign-up Deadline: Feb. 18th  
Load: 9:00 a.m.  
Leave: 9:15 a.m.  
Return: 4:00 p.m.  
Deposit: \$5.00



***If you have not filled out a Medical Release form in the last year, please fill one out and have it notarized before your next trip. It must be signed in front of a Notary. We have two Notaries in the church office. Call Bill Stone - 931-261-2001 or the FBC office for information, reservations, or cancellations.***

# Christmas at Dollywood



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U.S. Postage Paid  
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Cookeville, TN 38501

**55+ Happynings**  
First Baptist Church  
18 S. Walnut Ave.  
Cookeville, TN 38501  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED