



IN THE KNOW

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FERNANDINA BEACH

What's Inside

- 4 Central Nassau**
- 5 A Celtic Christmas**
- 7 Surviving the Holidays**
- 12 Family Reunion/Groundbreaking**

October 2025 - Volume 5, No.5

Biblically Faithful - Culturally Relevant

From The Pastor

LEANING INTO

the Moment God Has Given Us

In recent days, following the tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk, a very real spiritual hunger has arisen — not as a media fad, but as a quiet, deep stirring in hearts everywhere. Locally, we are seeing it in vivid terms: more first-time guests, renewed engagement among believers, and more decisions for Christ than we've ever recorded in a comparable season.

This is not a season to “coast.” This is a kairos moment. The fields are white, and God is bidding us to lean in.

A SURGE IN SPIRITUAL OPENNESS

The signs are unmistakable:

- Barna's *2025 State of the Church* report found that **66% of U.S. adults** say their commitment to Jesus remains important — a 12-point jump since 2021.
- Among Millennials and Gen Z, attendance is rising: the typical Gen Z believer now attends church **1.9 weekends per month**, and Millennials **1.8 weekends per month** — the highest rates since Barna began tracking this data.

- Bible engagement is also increasing, especially among younger generations. The 2025 State of the Bible report shows that Bible use outside of church has grown, with Gen Z up **36%** and Millennials up **41%** over recent years.

These data points reflect a deeper hunger than we often imagine. They suggest that God is preparing hearts; He is doing the heavy lifting.

OUR NEXT STEP: CENTRAL NASSAU

At FBFirst, the most significant step of faith before us is our campus in **Central Nassau**. The building process is well underway, and if all goes well, we hope to be utilizing the facility within a year. This is not merely an expansion—it is a strategic move into the region where God is calling us.

In the weeks ahead, you'll begin to see signage, billboards, and other visibility efforts—not just for Central Nassau, but to reinforce awareness of our Island Campus. But we must remember: marketing is never sufficient by itself.

WHY MARKETING DOESN'T REPLACE INVITATION

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association famously invested in billboards, posters, newspapers, and radio ahead of his crusades. Yet in post-event polls, BGEA found that **no one said they came because of a billboard**. The decisive factor was a **personal invitation**.

A classic case: the Seattle crusade of 1976 had **18,136 inquirers**, and follow-up surveys decades later showed the impact was deeply tied to local church follow-up and the pastor's invitation. Billboards built awareness and credibility — the invitation made it personal.

In other words: the billboard says, *"Something is happening here."* The friend or neighbor who says, *"Join me this Sunday,"* brings it home.

YOUR ROLE: INVITE, INVEST, PRAY

Here's how you can join what God is doing:

1. **Keep praying** — for boldness, wisdom, and divine appointments.
2. **Invest in relationships** — reach out, initiate deep conversations, be present.
3. **Make invitations personal** — bring someone with you.
4. **Support our visibility efforts** — signage, billboards, media — they create credibility, so when you invite, the person already knows "who, what, when, where, why."
5. **Be ready to welcome** — help us create a warm, relational environment so that first-time guests feel seen and cared for.

We believe God is opening doors. But He doesn't force them open; He invites us to partner by faith, courage, and persistence.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

In past movements, spiritual awakenings always required boldness—and cooperation. In 1949, when Billy Graham's Los Angeles crusade was originally scheduled for three weeks, it was extended to eight weeks due to overwhelming response. During that campaign, an estimated **350,000 people attended** and **3,000 made decisions for Christ**.

Those numbers remind us: God can do much more than we ask or imagine when people say "Yes" and act in faith.

The rising tide of spiritual openness is not coincidental. God is doing something. The question is: will we lean in or treat this moment as another "season" that passes?

*Let us choose to lean in.
Let us invite with boldness.
The harvest is before us.*



Zach
Pastor Zach



FBFIRST
CENTRAL NASSAU

FBFIRST.COM

by Josh Wood
Central Nassau Campus Pastor

FBFirst Central Nassau Launches Midweek Services

For the past 20+ months, FBFirst Central Nassau has been a beacon of growth and faith in our community, steadily expanding in both numbers and spiritual impact. As our campus family continues to flourish, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our Midweek Services, on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. This new service is a significant milestone in our journey, providing more opportunities for our faith family to connect, grow, and be encouraged beyond our spirit-filled Sunday morning services. With our eyes set on opening the doors to our new facility next Fall, these Midweek Services mark a pivotal step toward deepening our community's faith and reaching even more people in Central Nassau.

Our Midweek Services are designed to foster spiritual growth and community connection for all ages. For children, birth through 5th grade, we are offering engaging discipleship ministries, ensuring they are nurtured in their faith from an early age. For adults, the evening will include a powerful time of prayer, worship, and a Discipleship Training Class led by our worship team and myself. This class will provide practical tools and biblical insights to help attendees grow in their walk with Christ and spread the Gospel throughout their spheres of influence.

Students are an integral part of our Midweek Services, with flexible options to suit their needs. They are welcome to serve alongside our FBKids team in children's ministry, gaining valuable leadership experience while investing in the next generation. Alternatively, students can join the adult Discipleship Training Class to deepen their understanding of faith. For those seeking a dedicated student ministry experience, we encourage continued participation in FBFirst Students at our Island Campus, led by Pastor Gabe and his exceptional team. This balance ensures our students have multiple avenues to stay engaged and grow spiritually.

If you live in the Central Nassau area or feel God stirring your heart to join us in reaching this community, we warmly invite you to be part of our Midweek Services on Wednesday nights from 6-7pm or our Sunday morning services at 9:15am or 11am. Come experience the joy of growing in faith, connecting with others, and being part of a movement to share God's love in Central Nassau. We can't wait to worship with you and see how God will use this season to transform lives!

A Celtic Christmas

COME EXPERIENCE THE WONDER AND JOY OF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



FBFirst Worship Ministry presents

“A Celtic Christmas”

Saturday, December 13th &

Sunday, December 14th

6PM | Island Campus

This free choral and orchestra concert will feature beautiful Irish inspired music, traditional Celtic instruments, and heartwarming blessings designed to lift your spirits this season and well into the New Year.

Invite your family and friends to join you for this memorable evening of faith, fellowship, and festive cheer!



VETERANS CELEBRATION



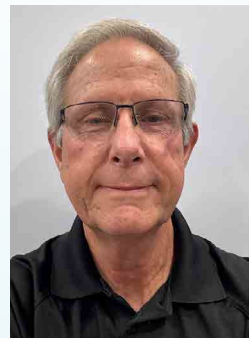
The Fernandina Beach Christian Academy will present its special program honoring all veterans and active-duty military on **Thursday, November 6th**, at 9am in the Auditorium. This is the 12th year that the FBCA students will recognize and honor those who have protected and defended each generation since our country was founded. Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the blood stream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." We take this to heart as the students sing and speak of the sacrifices of those defending us.

Special recognition will be given to each branch of the United States Armed Forces and also to the first six major wars — Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War I — as those defenders, too, are not forgotten.

Invite your family and friends to this special tribute for veterans and active-duty military! All are welcome!



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



John Sauer

We're excited to welcome our new Community Outreach Coordinator at FBFirst!

John has been serving as the Outreach Director at a nonprofit in Yulee and previously worked in various areas of retail. He and his wife of 42 years have five wonderful children and have called Fernandina Beach home for the past eight years.

John's heart for serving others and sharing Christ's love is a huge blessing to our church family and community. Join us in praying for him as he steps into this new role!

If you see him around campus, be sure to say hello and give him a warm FBFirst welcome. We're so glad to have you on the team, John!

Surviving the Holidays

A Special One-Day Class

by Sarah Howard
Assimilation Ministry/Adult
Ministry Assistant.

As the holiday season approaches, many of us look forward to joyful gatherings and festive traditions. But for others, this time of year can bring stress, sadness, or a sense of loneliness.

The holiday season can be especially difficult for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one or walking through the pain of divorce or separation. While others are celebrating, you may be feeling sadness, loneliness, or anxiety about facing the holidays alone—or in a completely new way.

We invite you to a special one-night class, “Surviving the Holidays,” on **Wednesday, November 19th**. It will offer encouragement, practical tips, and hope as we prepare for the weeks ahead. You don’t have to face it alone.

Wednesday, November 19th
6pm-7:30pm

Surviving the Holidays for GriefShare
Room A-19

Surviving the Holidays for DivorceCare
Room A-18

Childcare for all ages.

Feel free to bring a friend—everyone is welcome. Whether your loss is recent or from years past, this evening is for you. Healing and hope are possible, even during the holidays. Let’s face the season together with faith, strength, and support.

Email Sarah Howard with any questions at sarah@fbfirst.com.

GRIEF SHARE®
DIVORCE Care®



HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

by Stacy McKenzie
HR and Operations Director



In early September, a team of seven from FBFirst spent eight days in Honduras serving alongside our long-time ministry partner, Bibles & Biscuits. This ministry, founded in 2002 by George Johns, exists to share the hope of Jesus and a warm meal with those in need—especially children, the most vulnerable in Honduras. FBFirst has partnered with Bibles & Biscuits for nearly 20 years, and in recent years we've renewed and deepened our commitment. Pastor Frank played a key role in commissioning these missionaries through Blackrock Baptist Church and continues to faithfully support and encourage George and his work.

Our mission team was led by David Murray and included Mary Murray, Paul Braeger, Toni Goad, Tatum Goad, Laura Dotson, and Allison Talbird. The trip was intentionally scheduled during Honduras' National Children's Week, providing the perfect opportunity to

pour love and encouragement into the children and families of three villages—Guayabo, Las Mesas, and Lago Yojoa. The team participated in worship services, hosted joyful celebrations complete with piñatas bursting with candy, shared meals, and witnessed the life-changing moment when Esperanza accepted Christ!

Over the years, FBFirst has helped Bibles & Biscuits purchase land, build a home, and construct a church (2006–2015). We are excited to continue this partnership for years to come. Currently, Bibles & Biscuits has purchased new land atop a mountain near the communities they serve, with plans to grow and sell coffee to become more self-sustaining. One urgent need is a 4-wheel drive vehicle, which would cut travel time in half and free up more hours for ministry. The cost is \$10,000, and your prayers, encouragement, and support mean the world as we partner together to reach these precious children and families with the love of Christ.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

by Sarah Howard
Adult Ministry Assistant

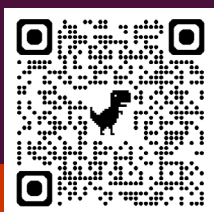


Each week, something extraordinary happens behind the scenes at FBFirst — a team of dedicated kitchen volunteers come together with aprons tied, sleeves rolled up, and hearts wide open. These selfless individuals work tirelessly to prepare, cook, and serve meals for hundreds of people inside and outside our church. They arrive early, stay late, and handle every dish with love and care. Whether it's chopping vegetables, stirring pots, plating food, or washing dishes, their commitment never wavers. Our kitchen isn't just a place where food is made — it's for Christian fellowship! These volunteers do more than cook; they create a warm, welcoming space that nourishes both body and spirit. Their cheerful service is a ministry in itself, and every meal served is a testament to their compassion and faith in action.



To our kitchen team: thank you! We are grateful for your time, your talents, and your hearts. Your work makes a difference every single week. The meals you prepare are a blessing to so many — and so are you.

Begin Serving at
FBFirst Today!
Scan here:





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Begins November 2nd



PACKING PARTY EVENT:

Saturday, November 8

9am-12pm

All are welcome.

Location: Gym

DROP-OFF due date:

Sunday, November 16

CHILDREN RECEIVE A TANGIBLE GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE AND A GOSPEL MESSAGE



THANKSGIVING

✕ *Low Country Boil* ✕

SUN | NOV 23 | 5PM

This will be a special time to come together as a church family in gratitude, share a delicious meal, and celebrate God's blessings. We are thankful for all He has done—and we look forward with joy to all He has yet to do. Bring your family and invite a friend!

Let the good times boil!

Senior Adult Ministry

Mark your calendars!

by Frank Camarroti
Senior Adult Pastor



Senior Adult Dinner

Our next Senior Adult Dinner is **Saturday, October 25** at 4PM in the B-Wing. We'll enjoy a fun German-themed evening—feel free to wear Bavarian or German-inspired attire if you'd like (but no worries if not!). Carol's kitchen team will be serving a delicious German-style dinner. No reservations necessary, come and enjoy the fun.



Kennedy Space Center

We're tentatively planning a bus trip to the Kennedy Space Center, in Merritt Island, FL before the end of the year. Stay tuned—details and dates will be coming soon!



North East Florida Association Luncheon

Join us for our quarterly meeting and luncheon on Thursday, November 20 at Ephesus Baptist Church, Hilliard, FL. to hear updates from our North East Florida convention.

Christmas AT FIRST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th

A Night of Christmas with John Glosson
& Friends Concert • Ticketed Event • 7pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th &

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th

A Celtic Christmas Choral Concert • 6pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

Christmas Eve Services • 3pm & 5pm



JOIN US FOR
OUR CHILDREN'S

Christmas Program

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12
11:30am (Doors open 11am)

Family Reunion & Central Nassau Groundbreaking



by Josh Wood
Central Nassau Campus Pastor

On the evening of September 21st, over 300 people from our two campuses came together for an exciting groundbreaking service at FBFirst Central Nassau. This event was the exclamation mark on our Family Reunion Sunday! We spent the day reflecting on our church's 167 year history! The groundbreaking was a powerful show of unity and camaraderie, with everyone fired up to see God move. Three baptisms kicked things off, each one a bold testimony of lives transformed, sparking cheers across the crowd.

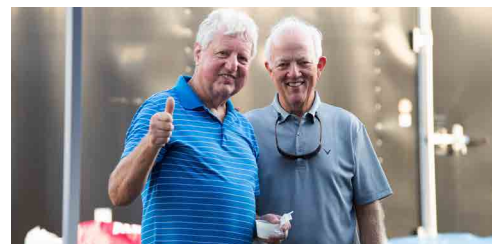


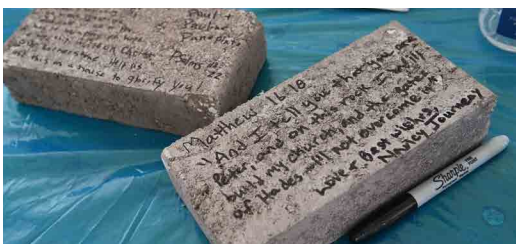
We prayed over the property, asking God to use it for His purpose. Everyone got involved, writing prayers and Scriptures on bricks for the foundation—a clear statement that Jesus and His Word are the bedrock of this campus and all we do. Verses like Psalm 127:1, *"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain,"* guided our focus.



We also shared a catered meal, connecting and celebrating as a church family. Kids had a blast in bounce houses, while guided tours of our current campus showed how far we've come together. This night and the building we are so eager to see built are only possible because of the faithfulness of our Savior and the steadfast commitment of His people.

Looking ahead, our new 12,500+ square foot campus will be a vital tool to advance God's kingdom. It's a launchpad for reaching more people, growing disciples, and impacting our region for His glory. Let's keep pushing forward, united in faith, to see God do even greater things!





FALL FESTIVAL

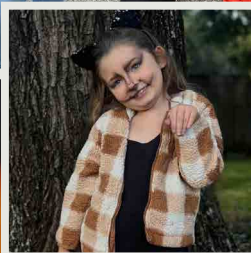
by Zach Zettler

Children's Pastor

The air is getting a little cooler, and the heat of the day is quickly fading into Fall. I am always thankful to welcome the changing of seasons.



Each Fall, hundreds of children and their families from our community join us for our annual Fall Festival. It's a fun night of laughter, kids in costumes, creativity, and of course, candy. Throw in a few inflatable games, a dunking booth, and some great food - and we have an exciting night as a church family to come together and engage with our community. For many who attend, this may be the only time they come to our church campus. For others, this is a time to provide their families with a safe place to trick-or-treat and show off their costumes. No matter the reason, many will gather on our campus for the evening, and we get to connect with them and hopefully begin developing a relationship.



Last year, I remember meeting one family who had just moved to Yulee and had researched "Fall Festivals" and "Trunk or Treat" on Google. What popped up was our event information and an invitation for them to join us! In learning more about them that evening, I found out they live right down the street from our Central Nassau campus and connected them to members of our team.

Fall Festival really is more than candy and trick-or-treating for kids. It might be a person's first step in exploring a church, or even their second or third step. Regardless, our Fall Festival is a fun way to welcome others to our church campus and prayerfully help move them along a pathway of finding community in the body of Christ.

Are you ready to make an impact in the community? Please consider joining us at this year's Fall Festival. It requires lots of candy (over 50,000 pieces), and it takes more than 100 volunteers to make the night a memorable one for those who attend. I would love to have you as a part of this fun evening and help some take their next steps toward exploring the church and finding community in Christ!

Join Us For

Fall Festival

31
OCT

**Trunk or Treat
Games, Food, Music,
and fun for all ages.**

6
PM

**It's a fun and family-friendly evening!
Come in costume (nothing spooky, please!)
and enjoy a safe and festive night. Bring your
friends, and invite your neighbors –
it's going to be a blast!**

**Want to decorate a trunk or volunteer?
Email Zach Zettler at zachzettler@fbfirst.com.**

**SCAN TO
VOLUNTEER**



**FREE
ADMISSION**

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT
FBFIRST.COM**





FBFirst Christmas Outreach

We're doing something new this year! We will collect items for our Homeless Ministry. Join us in blessing our homeless community by bringing in NEW blankets, jackets, gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats to help them keep warm in this Winter.

Donations may be dropped off in the bins around campus **Nov. 19 - Dec. 7**. Contact Pastor Shad with questions shadgoltz@fbfirst.com.



You can also donate canned and dried food, such as mac n' cheese, pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, cans of fruit & vegetables, snack-size bags of chips & crackers, breakfast bars, and cereal. This will help us provide more meals and snack-packs on a weekly basis.

End of Year Giving

What a strong year we've had! We can't help but give thanks for all God is doing through First Baptist Church. God has blessed us with a record year on all fronts. We invite you to help us finish the year strong and prepare ourselves for an exciting 2026 by prayerfully considering an end-of-year financial gift. Year end giving is an opportunity to focus on the biblical principals of giving. You can give online (fbfirst.com/give), in person or by mail. You can give in various ways - cash, check, stock, and digital currency.

Another giving option is for "Lottie Moon," our annual international missions offering. This goes directly to missionaries in the field to fund the expansion of the Gospel around the world.

Gifts received by December 31 will be recorded on your 2025 giving statement.

waysto
give



Give Online

Send your gift on our App or website. And, Digital currency.



Give In Person

Collection boxes are located throughout our Worship Center.



Give By Mail

First Baptist Church
Fernandina Beach, 1600 S 8th Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

2025 Calendar Highlights

OCTOBER

- 25 Senior Adult Dinner
- 31 Fall Festival

NOVEMBER

- 5 Surviving the Holidays
- 9 Growth Track Class
- 23 Low Country Boil
- 27 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 7 John Glosson Christmas Concert
- 13-14 Christmas Choral Concert
- 24 Christmas Eve Service

* Schedule subject to change. Visit fbfirst.com for the most current information.

Island Campus

1600 South 8th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
904.261.3617 | [FBFIRST.COM](https://fbfirst.com)

SUNDAY WORSHIP | 9:00AM and 10:45AM
WEDNESDAY | 6:00PM (5:00PM Dinner)

Central Nassau Campus

86050 Hamilton Street, Yulee, FL 32097
904.261.3617 | [FBFIRST.COM](https://fbfirst.com)

SUNDAY WORSHIP | 9:15AM and 11:00AM
WEDNESDAY | 6:00PM