

The First Baptist Evangel

January 25, 2015
State of the Church Session



First Baptist Church of West Point is seeking to be a caring community of faith under the leadership of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Celebrating the presence and love of God in Worship,

Nourishing persons in faith and discipleship, and

Reaching Out to the community with Christ's unconditional Love.

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CCLI #2561039

Welcome

We welcome you to worship at First Baptist this morning. Please help us be more faithful in our ministry to you, and get to know you better, by taking the time to put your name on the attendance pad found on your pew.

Visitors, please feel free to leave as little or as much of the information requested on the pad. We promise to only contact you if you ask us to, and to only send information as you request.

Members, if you have had a change to your mailing address, email, or telephone number please let us know by supplying that information on the pad.

Please Especially Note for Today...

The last of our Three Nights Together will be held tonight at 6:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church. The Reverend Jerry Ledbetter will be preaching. A time of fellowship will follow in the Zachary Center.

Wednesday night, February 4th, we will resume our Family Night Suppers, Prayer Meeting, and Children and Youth Activities.

A special nominating election for the vacant deacon position will be held on February 8th. A sample ballot will be printed in next week's *Evangel*.

Ministry Leaders

Nursery Workers

Today: Dianne Hester
Next Sunday: Karen Hill
February 8: Catherine Curry

PEW Ministry Leaders

Today: Jeri & Chuck Smith
Next Sunday: Ann Kerr & Janice Dallas
February 8: Brad McLain &
Thomas Hill

Offertory Prayer Leader

Today: Joe Downs
Next Sunday: Chuck Smith
February 8: David Kerr

Weekly Schedule of Activities

Sunday, January 25th

9:45—Breakfast
10:30—State of the Church Session
6:00—TNT at FUMC

Wednesday, January 28th

6:00—Choir Practice

Sunday, February 1st

9:45—Sunday School
11:00—Worship

Joe Downs is responsible for the opening and closing of the church during the month of **February** followed by **Donnie Bolton** in **March**.

*The Church Covenant
of the
First Baptist Church of West Point*

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We pledge, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, doctrines, and discipline; to observe the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all the nations.

We also pledge to maintain family and private devotions; to nurture children in the faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment. Humbly relying on the aid of divine Grace, we solemnly promise by lives of sobriety, uprightness, integrity, and godliness, and by all other means in our power, to labor for the promotion of God's glory among our fellow men.

We further pledge to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

We additionally pledge, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

2015 State of the Church Session

January 25, 2015

10:30 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM TUCKER

CALL TO WORSHIP

TOM TUCKER

Commit your work to the LORD,
and your plans will be established.

Let us render service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

—Proverbs 16:3; Ephesians 6:6, 7

PSALM

DALE FRAZER

Psalm 127

A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF SOLOMON.

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.

² It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sleep.

³ Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.

⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.

⁵ Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

INVOCATION

TOM TUCKER

HYMN OF PRAISE (#2)

NICAEA

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

...A CARING COMMUNITY OF FAITH...

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

— 1 Corinthians 12:27

RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH COVENANT (*See page 3*)

CHURCH CLERK'S REPORT

(This report is printed on page 8.)

JANICE DALLAS

CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

(Statics from this report can be found on page 8.)

ANN KERR

BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE

TOM TUCKER

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

(See handout.)

JOE DOWNS

THE RECOGNITION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

HOWARD BRYAN

Brothers in Christ, having already been solemnly ordained to the office of Deacon, you do now present yourselves, in response to the voice of this congregation, to be installed again for the discharge of the active duties of your office?

I do.

Do you accept the office of Deacon in this congregation, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof?

I do.

Do you promise to pursue the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

I do.

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive these persons as Deacons, and do you promise to yield them all honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord, to which their office, according to the Word of God, and the constitution of this Church, entitles them?

We do.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church, I do now declare you to be inducted into the office of Deacon in this congregation, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DEACONS' REPORT

(This report is printed on page 9.)

TOM TUCKER

CELEBRATING THE PRESENCE AND LOVE OF GOD

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe....

—Hebrews 12:28

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

(This report is printed on pages 9-10.)

HOWARD BRYAN

NOURISHING PERSONS IN FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

—Matthew 28:19-20

HYMN (#344)

CHINA

“Jesus Loves Loves Me”

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY REPORT

JERRI BOLTON

(This report is printed on page 10.)

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

TOM TUCKER

(This report is printed on page 11.)

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

“You are the salt of the earth...”

—Matthew 5:13a

WOM REPORT

LINDA COMBS

(This report is printed on page 11.)

SUMMARY OF CHURCH-WIDE MISSIONS

TOM TUCKER

(See pages 11-13.)

...UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GOD...

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

—Revelation 3:17-18

PRESENTATION OF THE 2015 CHURCH BUDGET

DONNY BOLTON

(See handout.)

OFFERTORY HYMN (#389)

LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

“To Worship, Work, and Witness”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

JOE DOWNS

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

TOM TUCKER

Ephesians 4:1–16

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience,

bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

PASTOR’S STATE OF THE CHURCH MESSAGE

TOM TUCKER

HYMN OF RESPONSE (#384)

SKILLINGS

“The Bond of Love”

THE CHARGE

TOM TUCKER

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

—Galatians 6:9–10

BENEDICTION

TOM TUCKER

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Romans 15:5–6

POSTLUDE

DANIEL SMITH

The pastor is available after the service at the front of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to talk more about today’s message, learn about faith in Christ, or for prayer.

You may also make an appointment by calling the church office at 706-645-2969 or emailing him directly at tucker@sbcwestpoint.com.

Church Clerk's Report for 2014

The annual State of the Church Service of FBC West Point was held in the Gold Room on Sunday, January 26, 2014.

We began the service with the renewal of the Church Covenant.

Reports from the Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Finance Committee, Music and other departments in the church were heard.

During this session, a budget of \$201,998.00 for 2014 was approved and accepted as presented by Donny Bolton, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

At the beginning of 2014, our resident membership stood at 119. Since that time we have had 3 dismissals all of which were by death and 1 addition by baptism which brings our current resident membership number to 117.

November 9th Joe Down, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented its slate of General Officers, and teachers for the Sunday School hour and Wednesday Night Family Night activities. This was approved and accepted by unanimous vote.

Also on November 9th, nominations for deacons were made and on December 14th, Joe Downs, Thomas Hill and David Kerr were elected to serve 3 year terms beginning January 2015.

—Janice Dallas
Church Clerk

The Church Treasurer's Report

2014 General Fund Budget:	\$201,998.00
Received	\$170,616.47
Disbursed	\$178,349.46

Designated Funds

Beginning balance	\$42,800.96
Ending balance	\$58,684.58

Special Offerings and Designated Gifts

Food Closet	\$3,140.00
International Missions	\$3,266.00
North American Missions	\$140.00
State Missions	\$125.00
Christmas Ministry Fund	\$3,122.00
Rockridge Offering	\$792.00

Deacons' Report

Joining the Deacon body for a three-year period starting this month are Joe Downs, Thomas Hill, and David Kerr. All of these men have served in this capacity in the past, and their service has been and will be appreciated.

Howard Bryan, Joe Hill, and Dantz Frazer are serving second terms as chairman, vice chairman, and secretary, respectively. Deacon family lists are being updated and you should hear from your assigned deacon within the month.

The Deacon body presently has a vacancy which needs to be filled. The election of 2013 resulted in only two deacons being elected to fill the three vacancies. In February we will hold a special election for a deacon who will serve a two-year term. The nominating election will be held February 8th and the final election is tentatively set for February 22nd.

The Deacons have also voted to hold a series of congregation-wide discussions exploring the possibilities of either reducing the number of Deacons or including Deaconesses in the diaconate of FBC.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to Jack Combs, Roger Hales, and George Hester for their service to this church as deacons over the past three years.

Music Ministry Report

2014 was a good year for the church's music program. Jerri Bolton, Jeri Smith and Ashlee Hill worked diligently with the children's choir. Their performances throughout the year have been very meaningful. Debra Downs, Ann Kerr and Jeri Smith have ably developed our young ringers. We see evidence of that every Sunday morning when two of them call us to worship with the chiming of the hour.

Our choir members and Daniel have worked hard throughout the year. Their commitment is to be applauded. They have gone out of their way to be at rehearsal every Wednesday night all year. We have new members but there is always room for more. Carolyn and Brian Scannell helped make our Christmas Eve Service meaningful.

For the third year we joined the Presbyterian choir for our Christmas music. The choir members from both choirs gave up their Sunday evenings from October to December for rehearsals. Noelle Peek was our rehearsal pianist. She taught us where the notes were. Pal Reeves and Skinner McLane added depth and meaning to the program with their narration. Next year the program will be at the Presbyterian church.

Picking hymns from Sunday to Sunday is an interesting task. Please feel free to make suggestions.

—Howard Bryan
Director of Music Ministry

Music Committee Report

The Music Committee for 2014 consisted of: Catherine Curry, Phoebe Graben, Erica Hagood, Jerri Bolton, Justin Graben, Linda Combs, Ann Adams, and Howard Bryan. The first order of business was to select a chairman. Ann Adams agreed to serve as chairman. The second order was to find a musician. The following was to make contacts and each member was assigned the task of contacting various possibilities. Catherine to contact her friend, Rebecca of Columbus, Jerri to

contact Auburn University, Howard to contact Dr. Cartwright at Point University, Ann contacted LaGrange College and Linda contacted Lewis Moore's wife.

Dr. Tucker, Howard and Ann interviewed two possibilities and had both play for the choir during practice. After the interviews and much discussion, we agreed to hire Daniel Smith from Auburn University.

There has been no activity since hiring Daniel.

—Ann Adams
Music Committee Chairman

The church budget proposes **\$8,720** of the General Fund go toward the music and worship related ministries.

Children's Ministry Report

Two thousand fourteen was a good year for children's ministry. We worked hard to keep our focus on the spiritual development of our children. Our children's journey in faith is always center stage for what we plan and prepare. We had our Sunrise Celebration for the Easter season and Breakfast in Bethlehem as a part of our Christmas celebration. We had a spring musical called, Journey of Praise with Scripture, readings and worshipful music. In December, our children led our Christmas worship with the musical, *Signs of Christmas*. The early part of the summer keep us busy with involvement in VBS.

Sunday mornings are filled with music, Bible stories and follow up activities. This past year on Wednesday nights our older children were involved in an international mission study, as well as North American mission study. We also worked on Scripture memorization and catechisms, along with Bible drill type activities.

We rejoice that Catherine Smalley made a public profession of faith and was baptized into our family of believers.

We give thanks for each and every one from our church family who helped us in children's ministry. Teaching, leading, preparing, cooking, working with children during Sunday morning worship time—we truly appreciate everyone. We have some new people from our congregation who joined in this year in leadership roles—we welcome them and give thanks.

We look forward to this year as we read the Bible chronologically. Tom has ordered new Bibles/ devotional books for our children to join us in reading the Bible. I encourage you, parents and grandparents, to share what you are learning with your children. Please work with your children on Scripture and catechism memorization. It is so important that we instill God's Word in the minds and hearts of our children. I pray that God will bless all of our efforts for His kingdom and His glory.

—Jerri Bolton
Children's Ministry Director

The church budget proposes **\$3,600** of the General Fund go toward the children's ministry.

Youth Ministry Report

Our youth have engaged in several studies over the past year. In the spring we looked at the doctrine of God as creator and the implication of that for us and our lives. This past fall we did a six-week study with the Robertson family of Duck Dynasty fame exploring various characteristics of the Christian life. Then we finished the fall semester with a four-week study entitled *The Basics* which looked at salvation, baptism, communion, and growth toward maturity. For Sunday School we have been taking a deeper look at the Ten Commandments.

We have a committed core of youth who have been faithful on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Please pray for them and their growth in the faith and as followers of Jesus. Also pray for wisdom, direction, and volunteers to work with our youth. The church leadership continues to weigh the feasibility and affordability of hiring a youth minister. Please make this a part of your prayers for our church in the coming year.

—Tom Tucker
Pastor

The church budget proposes **\$15,510** of the General Fund go toward the youth ministry.

Women On Mission Report

The Women on Mission had meetings each month where we prayed for missionaries, studied about some specific ones, and planned ministry projects.

The projects for this past year were:

1. Provided money and support with letters to Rob who is our prison ministry.
2. Collected paper products and cleaning supplies for ladies at the Hosanna Home in LaFayette.
3. Assembled and delivered goodie bags for shut-ins of the church.
4. Delivered pajamas and crocheted toboggans to the children of the Hosanna Home for Christmas.
5. Purchased and delivered all the food for a Christmas meal for residents of Hosanna Home and their children. (Adult A helped pay for the food).

Members of the WOM group committed to pray for Sarah Auler who came to share with us about her missionary appointment. She will be in a part of the world for 4 years where she cannot give the location.

—Linda Combs
Women on Mission Leader

The Caring Special Fund

We spent \$2,935.54 this year helping 42 individuals and families in their times of need with matters such as filling drug prescriptions and paying utility bills.

The Caring Special Fund was also used to support the efforts of the West Point Area Youth Project's *Tutoring 4 Life*.

You can support this fund through special offerings collected during Communion services or by making a designated gift to the Caring Special Fund.

The Food Closet Report

In June of this year the Food Closet began purchasing food from “Feeding the Valley,” an organization that is federally subsidized. Our approximate cost for feeding the families the prior year was \$45.00 per family. With the new program we are able to feed the families with more food and additional items such as bread and meats. Each family currently receives approximately 55 pounds of food at an approximate cost of \$11.00 per family.

The Closet has received canned goods and/or donations from the following:

Departments of the City of West Point—canned goods

PowerTech—monetary

Interface Carpets—canned goods

Valley Christmas parade—canned goods and monetary

West Point Lions Club—monetary

West Point Elementary School—canned goods

Jack Combs & The Vegetable Patch on E 8th—fresh vegetables

We have been able to purchase 6 garden carts for filling and carrying out food which makes it much easier for the older people to handle and does not damage our church.

Since we have been able to add frozen food including bread, we purchased an additional freezer.

The Lord has surely blessed us. From June 2014 thru December 2014 we have fed 365 families or a total of 742 individuals.

—Ann Adams

Co-Director of the West Point Area Food Closet

This year our church gave \$3,140 to the Food Closet. Please continue to support this vital ministry which we undertake with other churches in our area. We ask that you give a regular gift above your tithe and designate it to the Food Closet.

The Troup Baptist Association and Denominational Work

The Troup Baptist Association is a diverse group of 51 Baptist churches in Troup, Harris, Heard, and Meriwether counties which associate together based upon their affirmation of the ancient Christian faith and certain Baptist distinctives. They seek to work together to be a presence for Christ in our area through fellowship, support, training, accountability, and mutual edification.

In 2013 the TBA moved into the the former facilities of Southwest Baptist Church. This has opened the door to new and varied forms of ministry. FBC West Point is committed to working with other believers in our area in the name of Christ, particularly our Baptist brothers and sisters. In 2014 we gave \$3,412.37 to the Troup Baptist Association.

As a part of our commitment to minister beyond our own four walls, and to further strengthen the work in our area which the TBA does, the proposed budget for the coming year increases the level of giving to the Association from 2% to **2.5% of all General Fund receipts**.

We will further extend our greater cooperation with Baptists worldwide by increasing our Denominational level giving from 4.5% to **5% of all General Fund receipts** for 2015.

Lynn Smith & Glad Tidings

Glad Tidings Holy Land Designs, Inc. is an outreach to the physically challenged and underprivileged in the Holy Land. Located in the hills of the Roman city of Philadelphia, now

modern day Amman, Jordan, Glad Tidings Workshop currently trains and employs around 20 full-time workers. Lynn is a co-founder of this ministry and spoke at our church in 2009.

Contributing to the ministry helps us to accomplish our mission of reaching out to the worldwide community with Christ's unconditional love. And gives us a very direct contact in this important part of the world.

In 2014 we were able to send \$1,706.21 to aid Lynn and Glad Tidings.

The 2015 budget proposes that we continue this relationship and support by giving **1% of all monies received for the General Fund.**

Christmas Ministry Fund

This offering, which is collected every November, goes to purchase Christmas gifts for children in the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes Good Shepherd Therapeutic Center and Meansville campus, children in the Therapeutic Foster Care program of Morningstar, and local families here in the West Point area.

This year we set a goal of \$2,000 and received \$3,122! In 2013 we received \$1,435, which means that we more than doubled the amount of money we gave this year over last. We were able to purchase twenty-five \$50 gift cards for the children at the Meansville Campus and Good Shepherd Center of the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes. Another gift card of \$450 was sent to them to help purchase a Christmas meal for the homes and other household items.

We also sent \$1,100 to the Christian Service Center in Valley to be used for purchasing Christmas gifts for children in need here in West Point. Finally, a gift of \$300 was given to Morningstar in Brunswick.

This was a great year of Christmas generosity. In 2015 we will be looking at moving this offering back a month or two to give more time between it and the Offering for International Missions. Let's keep up the good work, and ask the Lord to continue to use us to bless others in these ways.

The goal for next year's offering is **\$2,500.**

Offering for International Missions

We have been on a two-year journey to double what we give to international missions. In 2012 we gave \$1,340 for our International Missions Offering. In 2013 we increased that to \$2,361.09. This year, in order to reach the mark of doubling our 2012 gifts, we set our goal at \$2,700. We gave \$3,266! Thanks be to God!

Let us not shrink back, but press forward in giving; doing our part to ensure that the nations hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Remember, every penny of this offering goes to missionaries serving in countries around the world. It is a very real and tangible way in which we each are taking part in Christ's command to go and make disciples of all nations.

Once again, consider putting aside a set amount every month toward this offering, so that we might continue to excel in giving to international missions.

The goal for next year's offering is **\$3,300.**

Church Staff

Dr. Thomas J. Tucker, Pastor
tucker@fbcwestpoint.com
706-773-3461

Mr. Howard Bryan, Director of Music
bryan@fbcwestpoint.com

Mrs. Patti Scalf, Church Secretary
patti@fbcwestpoint.com
706-645-2969

Mrs. Jane Abercrombie, Financial Secretary
jane@fbcwestpoint.com
706-645-2969

www.fbcwestpoint.com