

The First Baptist Evangel

November 30, 2014

Advent



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 Christmas Ministry Fund offering ends today. All gifts made today will be matched up to our goal of \$2,000.

Handbells will meet today. Joyful Noise will meet from 4:00-4:45 PM. Adults will meet at 4:45 PM.

Practice for the joint Christmas Cantata will take place in the sanctuary this evening at 6:00.

This Wednesday will be the last of our Family Nights for 2014. They will start back in February of 2015.

Deacon Elections will be next Sunday, December 7th. Joe Downs, Thomas Hill, and David Kerr are the nominees standing for election. See pages 10 & 11 for more information on the nominees.

Children Worship the Christ Child is next Sunday night. Please make plans to join us as our children lead us in worship.

The WOM Christmas meeting will be at Pal Reeves' home on Monday, December 15th. Please remember to bring goodies for shut-in bags, pajamas for children and food.

Ministry Leaders

Nursery Workers

Today: Karen Hill

Next Sunday: Dianne Hester

December 14: Catherine Curry

PEW Ministry Leaders

Today: Ann Kerr & Janice Dallas

Next Sunday: Jerri & Chuck Smith

December 14: Brad McLain &
Thomas Hill

Offertory Prayer Leader

Today: Donny Bolton

Next Sunday: Dantz Frazer

December 14: Jack Combs

Chuck Smith is responsible for the opening and closing of the church during the month of **November** followed by Joe Hill in December.

Weekly Schedule of Activities

Sunday, November 30th

9:45—Sunday School

11:00—Worship

4:00—Children's Handbells

4:45—Adult Handbells

6:00—Christmas Cantata Practice

Wednesday, December 3rd

5:30—Prayer Meeting

6:00—Family Night Supper

Menu: Chicken Amandine

6:30—TeamKID

Youth 4/12

6:35—Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 7th

9:45—Sunday School

11:00—Worship

4:00—Children's Handbells

4:45—Adult Handbells

6:00—Christmas Cantata Practice

It will be said on that day,

*“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for
him, that he might save us.*

*This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”*

— Isaiah 25:9

Celebrating the Presence and Love of God in Worship

November 30, 2014

The First Sunday of Advent

11:00 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM TUCKER

ENTERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

HANDBELLS

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

CALL TO WORSHIP

TOM TUCKER

You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

— Romans 13:11–12

PRELUDE

DANIEL SMITH

For your meditation:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

— Jeremiah 33:14–16

INVOCATION

TOM TUCKER

PSALM

DEBRA DOWNS

Psalm 65

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID. A SONG.

¹ Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.

² O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.

³ When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.

⁴ Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!

- ⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
 O God of our salvation,
 the hope of all the ends of the earth
 and of the farthest seas;
- ⁶ the one who by his strength established the mountains,
 being girded with might;
- ⁷ who stills the roaring of the seas,
 the roaring of their waves,
 the tumult of the peoples,
- ⁸ so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.
 You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it;
 you greatly enrich it;
 the river of God is full of water;
 you provide their grain,
 for so you have prepared it.
- ¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly,
 settling its ridges,
 softening it with showers,
 and blessing its growth.
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
 your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
- ¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
 the hills gird themselves with joy,
- ¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
 the valleys deck themselves with grain,
 they shout and sing together for joy.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GREETING THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

— Revelation 1:4–5

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE (#79)

FOREST GREEN

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We give thanks for the light of Christ, shining in the lives of all God's people.

With the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, we watch and wait for the coming of Christ who will bring light and peace to all the world.

Light of Jesus (*echo*: light of Jesus), show the way (show the way).
Shine in us forever (shine in us forever); this we pray (this we pray).

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I hear a voice crying in the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**I believe every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;**

**I believe the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.**

**I believe the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,**

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

—based on Isaiah 40:3–5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

TOM TUCKER

O God, we live in darkness, ignoring the power of the Light of the world.

Lord, have mercy.

We live in ignorance, failing to acknowledge the Wisdom of your Word.

Christ, have mercy.

We live in turmoil, shunning the peace that passes all understanding.

Lord, have mercy.

May Christ, who came long ago, come to enlighten our hearts and to grant us true wisdom and peace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

TOM TUCKER

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

— Isaiah 40:1–2

GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

TOM TUCKER

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is

good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

—Ephesians 5:6–11

MISSIONS MOMENT

LINDA COMBS

OFFERTORY HYMN (#208)

BEECHER

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

DONNY BOLTON

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

FBC CHOIR

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.

(Children ages 3-5 may leave for PEW Ministry during this hymn.)

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

TOM TUCKER

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

HOWARD BRYAN

Isaiah 64:1–9

- ¹ Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
- ² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
- ³ When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- ⁴ From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
- ⁵ You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
- ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

HOWARD BRYAN

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

JOE DOWNS

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when

the rooster crows, or in the morning—³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

SERMON

TOM TUCKER

HYMN OF RESPONSE (#464)

CLOSE TO THEE

“Close to Thee”

DEPARTING TO SERVE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND REACHING OUT

- Today is the last Sunday to make a contribution to the Christmas Ministry Fund.
- Joyful Noise practice today at 4:00 and Adult Handbells at 4:45.
- Christmas Cantata practice today at 6:00 PM.
- This Wednesday is the last Family Night of 2014.
- Next Sunday is Deacon election and Children Worship the Christ Child.

PASTORAL PRAYER

TOM TUCKER

THE CHARGE

TOM TUCKER

Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

— Mark 13:33

BENEDICTION

TOM TUCKER

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

— Romans 15:13

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@fbcwestpoint.com.

Deacon Nominees

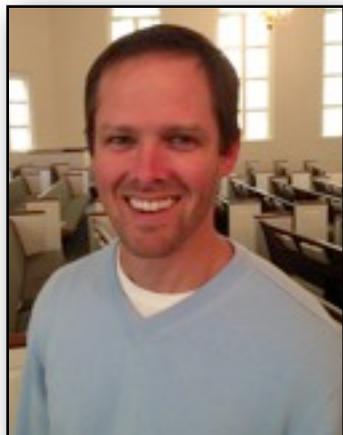
Next Sunday, December 7th, we will be electing deacons prior to the morning worship service. There are three men standing for election, and you may vote for as many as you believe are qualified for the office of deacon, up to all three. Below are brief biographical sketches of the three nominees. Please prayerfully consider the casting of your vote.

Joe Downs

Born in Newnan, Joe grew up in West Point. He met Debra at the University of Georgia where his parents also met. Their three children Will, Emily and Ellen have resulted in four grandchildren, Ally, Corinne, Dexter, and Betty; and Ellen is expecting her first child in California in May of 2015 .

Within a year of joining First Baptist, Joe was baptized and ordained as a deacon back when deacons met in the oldest men's Barraca class down in the basement in 1982.

Joe graduated from West Point High School in 1970, the University of Georgia in 1974, and the Medical College of Georgia in 1978. After completing an internship and residency at Medical College of Georgia hospitals, he has worked in the private practice of internal medicine in this area since July 1981. He has become board certified in two subspecialties of Internal Medicine which are Geriatric, and Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine.



Joe serves as a West Point City Councilman and is involved with Chattahoochee Hospice. At FBC, he has served as a Sunday School teacher for elementary and middle school children. Now the senior adults are trying to teach him in Sunday School. Joe chaired the last two pastoral search committees of First Baptist and is also an active choir member and handbell ringer.

Thomas Hill

Thomas was born on April 2, 1982 in LaGrange, GA and grew up in West Point. He and Ashlee were married on October 24, 2004 in Auburn, AL. They have three children; Thomas Jr. (age 9), Tristan (age 4) and Tanner (age 3).

Thomas joined the FBC West Point on September 29, 1991 and was baptized a short time later. He

graduated from Springwood School in May of 2000 and went on to college, graduating from Troy University in May of 2004 and obtained his Masters degree in December 2007. He has coached at Springwood since 2005 and is now the head coach, a responsibility he undertook in 2013. He is also a Social Studies teacher at Springwood.

Thomas was ordained to the diaconate on December 12, 2010 and has served one term as a deacon. He is a Sunday School teacher of the Older Elementary Class and is a leader in the PEW ministry.

David Kerr

Born in Wichita, KS on October 10, 1954, David grew up in Carrollton, GA. He and Ann were married on August 17, 1974 at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Carrollton. They have one child, Beverly (married to David Boehm) and four grandchildren; Kaitlyn Smalley (age 7), Catherine Smalley (age 8), Jacob Boehm (age 12), and Joshua Boehm (age 14).

David and Ann became members of our church on October 2, 1988 moving their membership from Tabernacle Baptist in Carrollton. He was ordained as a Deacon on November 3, 1991 in services at First Baptist, West Point.

David graduated from Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda, FL in June 1972 and went on to complete undergraduate studies and obtained a BS degree in Criminal Justice from the University of West Georgia in Carrollton in December 1982. He obtained a MSA in Justice Administration from Columbus State University in Columbus, GA in May of 1990 and a PhD in Organization Management from Capella University in Minneapolis, MN in August 2006.

David retired from law enforcement in January of 2010 after serving as Chief of Police in West Point for 22 years and now serves as assistant professor with Columbus State University. He has been and is still very involved in community activities with the Boy Scouts of America, the Lions Club, Project Lifesaver, LaGrange Amateur Radio and Magnolia Dance Club. He served as a CID Special Agent in the U.S. Army from August 1975 until August 1980.

He has served 5 terms as Deacon here at First Baptist and can often be found working in the kitchen or with the sound system of the church.



Nourishing Persons in Faith and Discipleship

Caring for One Another

As you intercede for others this week please lift up these particular concerns from here in our own congregation:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Mildred Shaver | • Emma Myers |
| • Geneva Bartlett | • Lillian Barber |
| • William & Margaret Breedlove | • Charles & Mary Clark |
| • Florine Henderson | • Richard & Pat Kemp |
| • Dot Jacobs | • Paul and Ann Fiquette |
| • Byron & Mary Ann McEachern | • George Hester |
| • Jessica Bolton | • Justin Graben |
| • Margaret Bartlett | • Roger Hales |

Wednesday night activities resume this week for our final Family Night of the year.

Reaching Out to the Community with Christ's Unconditional Love

Today is the last Sunday for the Christmas Ministry Fund Offering which is an annual event at First Baptist Church. We have an offer to match any funds that are given today, up to our goal of \$2,000. To date we have received \$1,249.37.

These funds help to provide Christmas gifts to those in need. For many Christmases now we have been able to express the joy of Christ through gifts to the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes' Meansville Campus and Good Shepherd Riding Academy, children involved in the foster care programs of Morningstar, and some local families.

This year the needs are great. The Georgia Baptist Children's Homes have started a new ministry at their Meansville Campus helping women and their children who are without a home. Our goal is not a great amount in the face of the current need. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were to exceed \$2,000?

When donating please designate for the Christmas Ministry Fund on the memo line of your check or outside of an envelope.

The Bulletin Board

Looking Ahead to December:

Children Worship the Christ Child

December 7th at 6 PM

Breakfast in Bethlehem

December 13th at 9 AM

The Annual Joint Christmas Cantata

December 14th at 6 PM

Dear Church Family,

I appreciate you entrusting me with the money that you give back to God!

Thank you for the monetary gift, the cards, and all the good wishes written and spoken on the occasion of my 30 year anniversary.

At a time like this, we also remember the ones that have gone to their heavenly home who mean so much to us. It is a pleasure to work for First Baptist Church of West Point. Thanks be to God!

Love to each of you,

Jane & Phil Abercrombie

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