



Happy Birthday

BETTY MCLEMORE	JANUARY 9
BECKY INMAN	JANUARY 13
JAMES KINMAN	JANUARY 14
JOAN TOWNSEND	JANUARY 14
LAUREN BEAN	JANUARY 15



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY
8:00am - 5:00pm

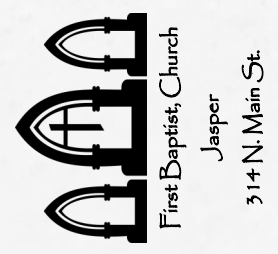
Friday
Closed
(until we secure office staff)



wednesday night fellowship supper

January 15th	January 22nd
M's Buttery Chicken	Taco Soup
Mashed Potatoes	Mexican Cornbread
Peas and Carrots	Green Salad
Dessert	Chips & Queso
	Dessert

*\$5 a person for adults
Children under 18 eat free*



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First Baptist Church, Jasper.....	409-384-2527
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Woody Wade, Minister of Music and Senior Adults.....	409-382-5575
Allison Knight, Children's Ministry Director.....	409-594-9104
Conner Marx, Interim Youth Leader.....	409-384-2527
Beth Penney, Financial Secretary.....	409-384-2527
Christian School.....	409-384-7033

Thank you

A special thank you to Colleen Garcia and her helpers for their hard work in decorating the church for Christmas. The church looked beautiful. It is clear how much time and effort you all dedicated to making it a special place for everyone this season.

I know that your contributions made this Christmas extra meaningful for all who visited. Thank you for sharing your talents, your time, and your spirit of generosity.

First Baptist Church

January 9, 2025 VOL 23, ISSUE 1


THE COMPASS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JASPER

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

of those that passed away in 2024

Kathryn Brown
Richard Chamberlain
Jane Edwards
Todd Knight
L.K. Smith
Bill Walker
Betty Anthony



I've Been Thinking...

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe but 2025 is here. Yes, it seems like yesterday that we turned the page to 2024. Just like mother used to say, "The older we get, the faster the years go by." But, I'm excited about 2025. We have left that awful Covid year further behind and, I believe, we are ready to move forward in positive ways this year as a church. One of the biggest positive movements will begin to open for us this Sunday. This Sunday we will be voting to call Aubrey Bond as our new minister of Students and Discipleship. Of course, we have not voted yet. The actual vote is an important step of Baptist polity. However, the talk around the church on Aubrey (and Bryanna, his wife) is very positive. I look forward to Sunday and the church making this important step. We have gone almost a year without a full time person in this position. It will be great to have another minister helping us live into our vision.

2025 will be important for us as a church. We have been in slow numerical decline for many years. We are all aware of that and we are all ready to reverse that trend. Of course, we cannot do it in our own power. We can only do it by the work of the Holy Spirit among us. But, we are ready. We have the vision. We know the need. We have been praying for a great movement of the Lord. And soon, God willing, our staff will be in place to help us reach families, and youth, and the lost of our city and county.

There are many ways that each of you can help. Yes, pray. Yes, faithfully worship. But I challenge you to invite a friend to come with you. Many surveys have shown that people welcome an invitation from a friend to attend church. Further, research shows that most people who visit a new church do so at the invitation of a friend. Who can you invite? Who is the one that you can bring? Please invite them and when they come, please introduce them to me.

I can hardly wait . . .

Brother Donnie



"Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18: 3-4

In his book, Robert Fulghum wrote, *"Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox as I began my education."*

He went on to talk about those bits of wisdom he learned:

- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
- When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

So many today have frankly overcomplicated life when what we really need to do is get back to the basics. That's what Jesus was talking about in the passage in the passage in Matthew: to live with humility and simplicity—just like a child. If life's gotten overcomplicated for you, then simplify. Get back to the basics of the Christian life by loving God and loving others. When you do, everything else will fall into place. Pray that God would help you maintain a childlike humility and simplicity in your faith.

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago.
Taking children on His knee, saying, "Let them come to Me."*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

You are loved,

Bro. Woody

Church Family,

It is hard to believe we left Jasper a year ago this March. My family has thought about you often. The longer we are here, the more thankful we are for our time with you at FBC. Our time with you has prepared us for this. Faithfulness to the Word, caring for the brothers and sisters in Christ, gentleness, diligence in prayer, and love for one another were modeled well for my family by all of you. We have nothing but fond memories. Our vision here in South Asia remains the same as it is in Jasper. We just focus more on the latter part these days. "To see every life in Jasper transformed by Christ, resulting in an impact in His name that is felt to the very ends of the Earth." We are an extension of you and still seek to serve the Church and surrounding area while we are here. We even have a college student from FBC Buna who is planning to serve with us this summer! I praise God for the opportunities we have to mobilize.

Jaclyn and the kids are doing well. I go to language study in the mornings while Jaclyn homeschools John and Josiah. James and Julia continue to do online school through Liberty University and James is also currently studying for the ACT. He will take it in February. Jaclyn then goes to language in the afternoon's and I help the boys wrap up what they did not finish in the morning. We have been steadily building relationships with nationals since we have been here. We are part of a small Hindi-speaking church that meets in a small house. They are all Hindu background and have great joy in following Jesus. Throughout the week we have scheduled nights that we do evangelism, discipleship meetings, and pastor trainings. I enjoy my time on Tuesday afternoons with my house church Pastor, Ramesh. He is a great encouragement to me. Other than that, all three boys are involved in soccer and Julia loves spending time with the college girls that serve on our team and baking. Life looks different than it did a year ago. Following Jesus is certainly an adventure. We continue to pray for you as you lean into the vision that God has given. Happy New Years Church! We love you.

Jim (The Slaton's)

