

First Thoughts...

Happy New Year!

The word "January" comes from Roman mythology. The god "Janus" had two faces--one face looked ahead, and the other face looked back. For this reason, January is called a "two-faced month." It's a time for transitions and new beginnings.

Mike Glenn recalls a story in Christianity Today in which he learned the difference between wishing and wanting:

"Several years ago, I was playing golf with a very talented man. I stood up and hit my drive and like usual, the ball went way right of where I was aiming. While I was trying to watch my ball to see where it would come down, I heard my friend laughing.

Now, I don't know if you know this, but it's very rude to laugh at another player's bad shot. So, I asked my friend, 'What are you laughing at?' 'I'm laughing at you,' he said. 'Why are you laughing at me?'

'Because, he said, 'you don't do anything in your swing to make the ball go where you want it to go. You just stand up here and wish.'"

Many Americans will make New Year's Resolutions. The more popular ones are about losing weight, going to the gym, and reading the Bible. Most of them will be broken by Ground Hog Day. We may wish for change but not want it enough to do what's necessary to bring it about.

You've heard me use this John Claypool quote before but it's appropriate as we begin another year together: "Life is a Gift."

Whether making a resolution or not, let us aim and work towards having a greater appreciation for the blessings and gifts of family and friends this upcoming year.

This month, I'll begin an Adult Bible Study series on the book "The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms." It's a good time to review the importance of these Baptist distinctives as a congregation. We need to remember who we are as Baptists.

During the study, we will meet as usual on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, but I'm adding a 10:30 AM time as well. Both sections will meet in the Lower Auditorium and books can be purchased in the church office.

Looking back upon 2023, I can now say that many things occurred that none of us could have anticipated. These unexpected events added to the joys, sorrows, trials, and triumphs of the past year. I suspect the same will be true for 2024.

Let's be grateful for life, and our shared life together as the people of God known as First Baptist Church Clinton.

Pastor Danny

2024 Offering Envelopes

are available for pick up in the hallway behind the Sanctuary.



Youth Ignite
Wednesdays
Resumes January 10
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
FLC Youth Room
Grades 6-12
Free Dinner, Games,
& Bible Study



Youth Cabin Retreat

Gatlinburg, TN
Friday, January 12-
Sunday, January 14
Cost: \$75.00 per student (cost includes lodging, all meals, and transportation) Bring your Bible, appropriate swimwear for indoor pool and hot tub, and money for shopping at Tanger Outlets. The theme is "We Are The Clay." Scholarships available - see Kris. Chaperones: Kris Hicks, Garry & Johanna Whitley and Hanna Hicks

Youth Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 11
Time TBA
Family Life Center
Flag Football, Super Bowl Game, and Food!



Church Trip

Friday, June 14
7:00 p.m. CST
First Horizon Park
Nashville, TN
Ticket Cost:
\$35 per person
Must be paid in full to reserve your ticket by January 8.
We have 50 tickets available!



Wednesdays
Resumes January 10
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Free Dinner, Music, Games
& Bible Study

Kids Church

Sundays during the 10:40 a.m.
Service in the Church Library.

Baby Presentation & Parent Dedication



Zachary and Taylor Page
and **Hudson Briggs Page**
on Sunday, December 10.



Kris Hicks'
Ordination to the
Gospel Ministry
Sunday, February 18
4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary



KEYBOARDS

at Easter

Sunday, March 3
3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Tickets (free) will be
available soon!
8 PIANISTS 4 PIANOS

Christian Service Center November Report:

77 Children 152 Adults 82 Seniors

Total: 311 individuals and 165 families plus 250 Turkey Boxes on November 20, 2023.

6,642 food items were distributed in the 3 weeks the CSC was open
1,131 clothing items
98 miscellaneous items such as sheets, diapers, toilet paper, Depends, etc.

The CSC is accepting clean winter clothes in good repair, shoes other than sandals, and coats. All items should be washable. Heavy wool winter coats will be accepted but no other wool items.

Thank you for your contributions toward these mass distributions and for your continued generous support of this ministry. The CSC is a volunteer ministry, and your support through donations and prayer is greatly appreciated.



First Baptist Church Drawing

by Al Rodd '87

If you would like to purchase a drawing of First Baptist Church for \$10, you can pick them up in the church office. The funds raised will go towards creating an additional Historical Room.



Deacon Emeritus Recognition

Greg Fay named Deacon Emeritus on Sunday, November 12. Thank you, Greg, for your years of service as Deacon at First Baptist, Clinton.

Christian Sympathy

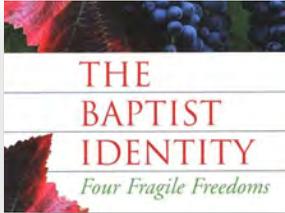
Sympathy is extended to Charlotte Bounds, whose parents, recently passed away, **Charles Hughes** 11/27 and **Ellen Hughes** 12/20.

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center
10:40 a.m. Sanctuary

LifeGroups

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.
We have LifeGroups for all ages.



Pastor Danny will be leading a study on "The Baptist Identity - Four Fragile Freedoms" by Walter B. Shurden on **Wednesdays**.
January 10, 24, 31
February 7, 28
March 6, 27

TWO TIMES TO CHOOSE FROM:
10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Auditorium.
Book Cost: \$10.00
Please contact the Church Office at 865-457-9353 if you want to order the book.

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays in January
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium
03 No Bible Study or Activities
10 The Baptist Identity Begins
17 Business Meeting
24 The Baptist Identity
31 The Baptist Identity

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesdays
5:30 p.m.
Family Life Center - Level 2

NEW LIFEGROUP

The Bridge

This LifeGroup is for Young Adults in their 20s who are Single or Married and will be taught by Lori Chisholm.
Sundays, beginning January 7, 2024 9:30 a.m.
In Room B303 - Level 3

Angel Tree Report



The 2023 FBC Angel Tree served **69 angels**: 6 mothers and 63 children.

The names came from a variety of sources in our area; Clinton City School System, Head Start, Mist Program and specific known needs.

We are able to be a blessing to the Clinton community and beyond because of your generosity. Thank you to all who picked angels, shopped, and contributed funds to make this year's Angel Tree a success.

Special thanks to our Angel Tree Coordinators, **Beth Green, Sondra Davis, and Laura Bowles!**



SAVE THE DATE:

Remote Area Medical at First Baptist Church Clinton
Saturday, November 16, 2024.

November Financial Summary

Budget Receipts \$ 64,644
2023 Receipts/Wkly Avg. \$ 16,640
2023 Weekly Budget Req. \$ 17,315
Budget Expense \$ 75,811
November Deficit/Income (\$11,167)
2023 Deficit/Income (\$34,607)
TOTAL November 30 (\$45,744)

FBC Missions Offering Goal: \$8,000



Received to date: \$5,776
CBF: \$2,305 SBC: \$3,471
The FBC Missions Goal for **CBF Global Missions and SBC Lottie Moon** is \$8,000 (combined). Please mark your envelope to indicate whether you want your money to go to CBF or SBC. Scan the QR Code for more info.

Business Meeting Report

The **November** Financials and Minutes were approved. Electrical work for the renovated elevator was approved. The purchase of an additional server for the new camera system was approved. First Baptist Church will host a RAM event on November 16, 2024. **Augusta and Mackenzie Ridley** were added to the church roll 11/19 by statement. The **2024 Budget Vote** results were 129 yes and 5 no.

Business Meeting

Wednesday, January 17
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, January 9
5:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

2024 Deacon Eligibility

The Deacon Eligibility List will be mailed to church members the first week of January. Please return your nominations to the church by January 31. If your names was inadvertently left off the list or if you wish to have your name removed, please contact the church office.

THE FRIENDLY GUIDE - PO BOX 268 - CLINTON, TN - (865) 457-9353
POSTMASTER: Please send change of address notices to The Friendly Guide
PO Box 268, Clinton, TN 37717. Friendly Guide (USPS# 210-520) published monthly
by First Baptist Church, 225 North Main Street, Clinton, TN 37716. Periodical postage
paid at Clinton, TN



ONLINE
GIVING

Towers Craft

Third Thursday, Monthly
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Led by Julia Spradling
At the Towers
Volunteers Needed

Spirit Sisters Meeting

(Widows Support Group)
1st Monday, Monthly
6:00 p.m.
FLC - Hearth Room

FBC is on the Air!

Sunday morning worship services are aired on WYSH 1380AM & also on WGAP 1400AM.
Services are aired at 11:00 a.m. and are on a one week delay. Services can also be viewed live on our Facebook Page.

IN THE Heart OF CLINTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIENDLY GUIDE

JANUARY 2024



UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING

Practices begin the first week of January.

THE BAPTIST IDENTITY

Wednesdays, beginning January 10
10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium
Led by Dr. Chisholm

NEW LIFEGROUP "THE BRIDGE"

See details inside Friendly Guide

The Church Office, WEE Ministry, and Family Life Center will be closed Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day and Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King Day. The Christian Service Center is closed Tuesday, January 2. No Wednesday night activities January 3.