

First Thoughts...

In her article, "In Defense of Church Hoppers," Michelle Van Loon wrote:

"My husband and I have been through periods of church hopping during our 33-year marriage. It would have been more pleasant to skip the Sunday morning visitor routine and go out for brunch or take a hike, but our desire for community and meaningful corporate worship overcame our newbie fatigue every time."

She talks about several friends who might be considered church hoppers. "These wanderers do long to stay put, but face steep challenges when it comes to finding a church home." Michelle mentions several obstacles but concludes, "Despite a negative experience with a toxic church, despite loneliness, despite facing a lack of hospitality or ministry resources, each of these friends continues their hop with the hope of finding a church home."

I don't believe they had church hoppers in the first century. There weren't that many churches to choose from and I would imagine commuting great distances would be slow and difficult. Some churches suffered losses due to persecution, while others experienced loss of fellowship out of apathy, conflict, and other reasons.

The writer of Hebrews challenged the church to remain faithful and hold on to their confidence in Jesus Christ, even when others around them did not. He told them to "not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (10:25).

I still remember when we went "virtual only" due to the pandemic. I looked through a tiny camera on my laptop to livestream Wednesday Bible Study and another one on the Sanctuary balcony for Sunday mornings. The technology enabled us to "stay together, even when we're apart."

In the aftermath of that unusual season, I've had conversations with those who were once active in church and have since stopped their participation. The popular response has been, "I guess I just got out of the habit of going."

Yes, we've had some bad weather to attend to last month. But beyond this, I want us to give some thought to our own involvement in our fellowship. Your presence and participation make a difference to our church family, as well as guests who are looking for a church home.

I remember hearing about a woman in a wheelchair who went to the gym to work out. She'd been an athlete and prided herself on staying in shape, but found it difficult to resume a level of fitness in the aftermath of her injury. It was challenging to navigate around the machines and she felt self-conscious about people noticing her difficulty.

The woman decided she would quit rather than put herself (and the others) through this awkward and embarrassing situation. As she prepared to leave the weight room, the trainer came over and sat on a bench next to her. He looked at her and simply said, "You're inspiring me." This one interaction helped her "keep on keeping on."

Life in church is a habit, but more importantly it's a spiritual discipline. It's not always a sermon or a song that speaks to us. It can be an uplifting or humorous word from a friend, a shared tear, a hug or a fist bump.

I'm grateful to be part of our family of faith and look forward to what the Lord has in store for us this year. Stay encouraged.

Pastor Danny

**Youth Ignite**
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
FLC Youth Room
Grades 6-12
Free Dinner, Games,
and Bible Study!



Youth Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 9
5:00 p.m. - End of Halftime
Family Life Center
Flag Football, Super Bowl Game,
and Food!

Youth Baptism Day

Sunday, February 23
10:40 a.m.
Sanctuary



Encore

Seminar & Lunch
Thursday, February 6
11:00 a.m. Seminar
12:00 p.m. Lunch
Lower Auditorium

Hiding in Plain Sight Understanding Human Trafficking

Presented by Dr. Beth White,
Oak Ridge Institute for Science
and Education (ORISE) Senior
Project Manager assigned to
the U.S. Department of
Homeland Security.
Lunch will be catered by Apple
Blossom Cafe and the cost is
\$10 per person. Please call the
church office to RSVP by Feb. 3.



Kids Church

Sundays during the 10:40 a.m.
Service in the Church Library (next
to the nursery) for Age 3 - Grade 5.

FBC Kids

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

FBC Kids Sing

Wednesday, February 19
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

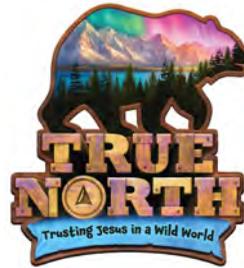


March 1 - Last Games
March 3 - Upward Celebration
at Second Baptist Church.

SAVE THE DATES:

FBC Kids Sing in Worship
Sunday, April 27, 10:40 a.m.

FBC Kids Spring Musical
Storms by Mark Burrows
Wednesday, April 30
6:00 p.m.



Vacation Bible School
Monday - Friday, June 9-13
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

Christian Service Center Report December 2024

Total: 98 Families served. (191
Individuals) Two weeks only.
4033 food items
487 clothing items
48 miscellaneous items
We also served 244 Families with
a total of 3172 additional food
items at the Christmas Food Box
Distribution.

CSC volunteers greatly appreciate
your continued support of this
ministry through prayers,
donation items, and financial
support.

CSC 2024 End of Year Report

We serviced:

*Total Individuals: 1064/ Total
Families 458*

Children: 294

Adults: 538

Seniors: 232

Distributed:

Total Food Items: 81,671

Church Food: 52,013

USDA: 29,658

Total Holiday Boxes: 494

Food Items: 6422

Total Clothing Items: 11,199

Total Miscellaneous Items: 1092

Expenses:

Total: \$46331.70/year

Average: \$3860.98/month

Towers Movie Nights

Saturday, February 15
6:00 p.m.

At the Towers

Everyone is invited to join us for
a movie, popcorn, cokes, hot
chocolate, and treats!

Towers Craft

Third Thursday, Monthly
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

At the Towers

Led by Julia Spradling

Congratulations, Terri King on your Retirement!



Terri King retired as Minister of
Music as of December 31, 2024.
She and Lynn will continue to
serve and worship at First
Baptist Church!

Retirement Letter from Terri:

As of December 31, I am
retiring from my position of
choir director at First Baptist
Clinton. Just as when I retired
from my public school teaching
career, I know it is time to step
away. I love my job, I truly love
my precious choir, and I love
this church. God has given me a
new season in which to follow
His leading. I have prayed daily
to know what is the next step
for me, and for Lynn and me. It
is time to stop working and
enjoy this time I have been
given. Lynn and I want to be
free to travel more, and retiring
will allow us to do that.

Lynn and I plan to stay in
this great church, and serve as
God leads. Saying "thank you"
for all this church has given to
my life is insufficient. God
placed First Baptist Clinton in
my life in 2018 when I wanted
to serve God through music. I
have truly been blessed beyond
words. Thank you to each
church member and especially
all of my choir members who
have blessed and enriched my
life.

I look forward to serving
and worshiping with First
Baptist Clinton for a long time!

Christian Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Ron Eslinger** (12/25), to the family of **Greg Roettger** (12/25), to the family of **Aaron Harber** (1/7), to the family of **Ruth Worthington** (1/8), and to the family of **Bobbie Webber** (1/10).

From the Pulpit

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center

9:30 a.m. LifeGroups

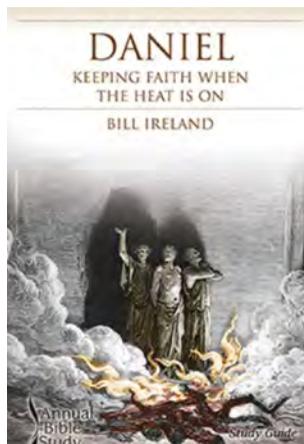
10:40 a.m. Sanctuary

February 2 Luke 19:1-10

February 9 Matthew 4:1-11

February 16 Habakkuk 3:16-19

February 23 Ephesians 3:14-19



Adult Bible Study Daniel - Keeping Faith When The Heat Is On

Led by Pastor Danny
Adult Winter Bible Study
Wednesdays

TWO TIMES TO CHOOSE FROM:

10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5

6:30 p.m.

Sanctuary



Memorial Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 2 are in loving memory of **William Berry Pace**, whose birthday was February 1, given by Joanna Pace.

The flowers in the Sanctuary Sunday, February 9 are in loving memory of **Bill Pace** and **Herbert** and **Chloe Ann Ward**, given by Joanna.

FAMILY LIFE CENTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please contact Jason if you would like to volunteer at the FLC Desk from **9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** (4 hours **once a month**).

2025 Offering Envelopes

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

Photography Group

1st & 3rd Thursdays, Monthly

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

FLC - Hearth Room

Spirit Sisters

(Widows Support Group)

1st Monday, Monthly

6:00 p.m.

FLC - Hearth Room

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesdays

5:30 p.m.

FLC - Level 2

FBC Is On The Air:

The broadcast is heard on WYSH which is on AM 1380, FM 101.1, FM 99.5 and World Wide on wyshradio.com.

It is on a one week delay and airs from 11am -12 noon each Sunday.

Dec. Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 125,517
2024 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 19,191
2024 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 18,362
Budget Expense	\$ 83,365
December Deficit/Income	\$ 42,152
2024 Deficit/Income	(\$ 2,047)
TOTAL December 31	\$ 40,105



ONLINE
GIVING

Giving options to FBC Clinton include the offering envelope system (checks and cash), scanning the QR code (digital giving), or by setting up a recurring bank draft through the church office.

Lottie Moon and Global Missions

FBC Missions Offering Combined

Goal: \$7,000

Lottie Moon: \$2,600

Global Missions: \$1,650

Total Received to Date: \$4,250

December Business Meeting Report

December Minutes and Financials were approved. Changes to the Church Bylaws were approved. The change to the bylaws is to make the Moderator as the chairperson of Deacons for all business sessions. In the chairperson's absence, the responsibility will revert to, in this order, vice-chair of Deacons, or other person elected by the church to preside. Kris Hicks's housing allowance was set at \$3,700 for the year. Dr. Chisholm's and Jason Taylor's amounts will stay the same as 2024. The Music Minister (2nd service) Search Committee names were approved: Beth White, Whitney Denton, Larry Gann, Mike Aiken, and Kay Hannah.

Business Meeting

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

Alaskan Cruise Meeting

Sunday, February 2

5:00 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

Church Council Meeting

Monday, February 3

5:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, February 11

5:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

Christian Service Center

The C.S.C. is not accepting clothing donations until further notice due to lack of space. Clothing donations can be taken to KARM. If you tell KARM that you want FBC Clinton to receive credit for your donation they will send us KARM Gift Cards that we can give to C.S.C. clients when we don't have an item they are in need of. Thank you.

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

IN THE Heart OF CLINTON

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIENDLY GUIDE

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

**SEASON 1
8 WEEK STUDY**

THE CHOSEN

**Beginning
February 23
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium**

Led by Amanda & Jason Taylor

Nursery Available

ADULT WINTER BIBLE STUDY
Daniel
KEEPING FAITH WHEN THE HEAT IS ON
Led by Pastor Danny
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Both in the Lower Auditorium