

First Thoughts...

The former CEO of Waffle House, Bert Thorton, had grown the restaurant to almost 2,000 locations by the time he retired. His desire was that the people who enter a Waffle House would always feel welcomed and know what to expect. He also wanted to help his employees. Thorton said, “We take people from where they are and give them a chance to rise up within the company.” The secret of the company’s success? “The people working at Waffle House usually have a sense of humor and like having fun together.”

What would happen if churches were like that? You wouldn’t have to be perfect to join in, and we wouldn’t have to agree on every issue to have fellowship with other people. It would be enough to raise our voices and say “Jesus Christ is Lord.”

For me, Easter Sunday provided a taste of that kind of experience. The refrain of “He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!” echoed through our buildings. It didn’t matter what our individual backgrounds or biases happened to be. It was enough to show hospitality to those who entered our doors to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The arrival of May signals the end of another school year. Graduations will soon occur and will be occasions for excitement, tears, and celebrations.

It’s hard to believe, but Lori and I have two members of the class of 2025 in our family. Matt is finishing Pellissippi and heading off to Tennessee Tech this Fall. Lucy is completing her undergraduate degree at ETSU and will be staying there for graduate school. Like many other parents, we marvel at how quickly time gets away from us. The axiom holds true: “The days can be long, but the years are short.”

And, of course, Mother’s Day will soon be upon us. We don’t all approach this holiday with the same emotions. Not every woman is married or is a mother, and not every person has a good relationship with their mom. There will also be those who are spending the day without their mom for the first time. It’s an emotional day on a number of levels, and I hope that it will be made more meaningful by our being together as a family of faith.

Memorial Day Sunday marks a time when we read the names of those in our church who have died since this time last year. It too can be a profoundly meaningful time to be together. It’s an opportunity to give thanks for those who have modeled the graces of faith, hope, and love in this church.

I mentioned this on Easter Sunday; I have started a podcast called “Elisha’s Bears.” It can be found on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. I’m publishing thoughts on a weekly basis and am grateful for those who are following and listening to it.

The replacement of the Family Life Center outside steps has begun and will take about a month to complete. Thank you for your patience as this work is being done. We will provide signage and instructions on how to access the FLC during this time.

Finally, Katrina Duggins is celebrating her 25th anniversary as Office Coordinator. She has been and remains an integral part of the life and ministry of First Baptist Church. She is pleasant, professional, and promotes our church’s mission and ministries effectively and well. Katrina provides hospitality *to* us as well as *for* us, often providing the first impression of our church to outsiders. I know you’ll want to express gratitude to her for her friendship and faithfulness.

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!

Senior Recognition

Sunday, May 4

High School graduates will be recognized during the 10:40 a.m. service.



Youth Summer Kick-Off

Wednesday, May 14
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Youth, grades 6-12, join us at the Family Life Center for the Video Game Truck, Pizza, & Kona Ice!



Pastor Danny

has just started a podcast called “Elisha’s

Bears.” It’s about faith, the Bible, theology, and Baptist life and the church in general, but it’s also likely there will be references to his favorite sports teams and coffee preferences. He’ll have conversations with guests about various topics from time to time, too. You can follow the podcast on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



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

Kids Church

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

FOAM & PIZZA PARTY

(Age 3 - 5th Grade)
Wednesday, May 14
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Please come directly to the FBC Front Lawn! Parents bring a lawn chair and stay to watch the fun!



FBC KIDS SUMMER POP-UP EVENTS

July 02 Sweet P’s Snowball Shack
July 09 Chunky Monkey (Clinton)
July 16 Lake Front Splash Pad
July 23 South Clinton Park



Congratulations to **Carl Morrison** on his retirement after 40 years of service at First Baptist Church! We love and appreciate you and wish a very happy retirement!



Congratulations to **Katrina Duggins** on 25 years of Service at First Baptist Church!

Christian Service Center Distributions for March 2025

Total: 130 Families served. (227 Individuals)
5171 food items
618 clothing items
164 miscellaneous items
The CSC Clothing Closet is accepting clean, non dry clean, summer clothing only! Please drop items off in the CSC Bin located in Central Park - lvl 1.

***The C.S.C. will be closed on May 27 and June 3. ***



Atlanta Braves Game

Church-wide Trip
Wednesday, July 23
12:15 p.m.
Cost: \$25
Travel and Lunch Provided!
Anyone is welcome to attend!
Please call the church office to reserve your ticket!

Encore Seminar & Luncheon

Thursday, May 15
12:00 p.m.

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 Happi Hostess. Cost for lunch is \$10.00 per person. *RSVP to the Church Office by May 12.*

Women’s Summer Bible Study

Mondays in June
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Lower Auditorium
Refreshments provided
June 9 - Sandi Tomlinson: Mary, Mother of Jesus
June 16 - Becky Rosenbaum: Ruth
June 23 - Jill Whitaker: Tamar
June 30 - Shelley Phillips: Abigail

Christian Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to family of **Johnny Duggins** (4/4), to the family of **Jim White** (4/7) and to Catherine Hoskins, whose husband, **Joe Thames**, passed away (4/18) in Florida.

From the Pulpit in May

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center
9:30 a.m. LifeGroups
10:40 a.m. Sanctuary
04 John 21:17-22
13 2 Timothy 1:3-5
20 Dr. Vicki Violette
27 John 14:1-16

Wednesdays in May

Wednesdays
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium
07 Tracks of a Fellow Struggler
14 Tracks of a Fellow Struggler
21 Business Meeting
28 Tracks of a Fellow Struggler

Tracks of a Fellow Struggler

Living & Growing through Grief By John R. Claypool
New Bible Study - Wednesdays
6:30 p.m.
Led by Pastor Danny
Book Cost: \$10.00

Memorial Day Recognition Service

Sunday, May 25
8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.
During the worship services the names of church members that have passed away since last Memorial Day will be read aloud. When your loved one or friend's name is read you may go forward and move a flower from the basket to the vase.

Memorial Day

The Church Office, Family Life Center, and WEE Ministry will be closed on May 26.

Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the altar in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 4, are in loving memory of **Miss Reba Gentry**, given by Jack Jones.

The flowers in the baptistry on Sunday, May 4, are in loving memory of a wonderful wife, mother and friend, **Linda Liles**, given by Charles H. (Tony) Liles.

The flowers on the altar in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 11, are in loving memory of **Richard Buckner's** birthday, May 20, given by his wife, Marilyn Buckner and children, Jaci Harris and Michael Buckner.

The flowers on the altar in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 18, are in loving memory of **Mrs. Mary C. Hollingsworth**, whose birthday was May 23, given by Joe, Trey, and Nicci Hollingsworth.

The flowers on the Sanctuary altar, Sunday, May 25, are in loving memory of **Les Swann's** birthday which was May 24, given by Jo Anne & Lesley Swann .

The flowers in the baptistry on Sunday, May 25 are in loving memory of **Imogene Cheely**, whose birthday is May 25, given by daughters, Jean Cheely and Ann Hofmeister.

Donuts with Your Deacon

Sunday, May 4
Drop-In 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Central Park - level 1
LifeGroups will meet but may start late or end a little early. We hope everyone drop-in to see your deacon!

Men's Prayer & Coffee

Thursday, May 1
8:00 a.m.
Family Life Center, Lobby
Led by Pastor Danny



Mar. Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 72,369
2025 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 14,093
2025 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 18,542
Budget Expense	\$ 74,955
March Deficit/Income	(\$ 2,586)
2025 Deficit/Income	(\$ 46,859)
TOTAL March 31	(\$ 49,445)

April Business Meeting Report

March Minutes and Financials were approved.

The Deacons made a proposal to be voted on at the May Business Meeting.

The joint recommendation from the Trustees and Youth Committee to add a camera to the FLC stairwell was approved.

The Trustees recommendation to approve selling the old church van to Jason Taylor for \$2,100 was approved.

Church Council Meeting

Monday, May 12
5:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

Spring Banquet

Anna Belle King
& Johnny Thomason
were voted as Ms. FBC & Mr. FBC!



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.

Annie Armstrong & Global Missions Goal: \$3,000 (combined)

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.

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, May 13
5:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

Business Meeting

Wednesday, May 21
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

THE FRIENDLY GUIDE - PO BOX 268 • CLINTON, TN • (865) 457-9353
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FRIENDLY GUIDE

MAY 2025



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

DALLAS BEETS

Clinton High School

ALEX DUGGINS

Clinton High School

ASHER LEWIS

Fulton High School

COLLEGE GRADUATES

LUCY CHISHOLM

B.S. in Digital Media

East Tennessee State University

MATT CHISHOLM

A.A. degree in Mass Communications

Pellissippi State Community College

HANNA HICKS

B.A. in Elementary Education

Carson-Newman University

AVERY HUBBARD

Cosmetology License, Certifications in Spray Tanning,

Hair Extensions, and MUD Make Up Program

Tennessee School of Beauty (January 24, 2025)