

# First Thoughts...

"In one sense, the road back to God is a road of moral effort, of trying harder and harder. But in another sense it is not trying that is ever going to bring us home. All this trying leads up to the vital moment at which you turn to God and say, 'You must do this. I can't.'"

This quote from C. S. Lewis reminds me of a familiar passage near and dear to many us (especially lifelong Baptists). The Apostle Paul wrote, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast (Eph 2:8-9).

There is a natural progression from our salvation experience to our serving the Lord. Paul adds, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (v.10).

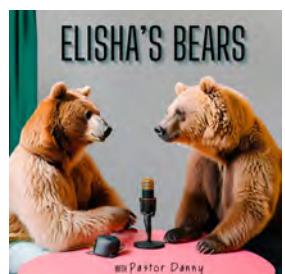
January 2026 is here, and it's absolutely hard to fathom that we're starting another year. And, there are those of us who typically make New Year's resolutions with the absolute intention of keeping them. Sometimes these commitments last a while, but usually around Ground Hog Day there's a significant attrition rate!

It's good to have goals, but it's also good to remember our relationship with Christ is not based upon how much we do and our planning and efforts. It is based upon God's grace and goodness in our lives; our service to the Lord is not about gaining favor but about being faithful to live one day at a time in obedience to Jesus.

I hope you'll continue to make involvement in church part of your New Year's resolutions—either to continue doing so or begin once again your connection with our family of faith.

There are some things only God can do. But, there are some things that we can do. May we learn this important difference and trust God with the results.

It's a privilege to start a new year in this town. I'm also grateful to serve the Lord with you as your Pastor, and look forward to what the Lord has in store for us as a family of faith this year. So, from my house to yours, "Happy New Year!"



**Pastor Danny** has a podcast called "Elisha's Bears." It's about life, faith, and the Bible, and the church in general. He'll have conversations with guests about various topics from time to time, too. You can follow the podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcast and Amazon Music. His most recent conversation was with Trey Ogle, Organist at Central Baptist Church, Bearden and Elaine Streno, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee.

## Congratulations!

Rev. Amanda Taylor has served as Minister of Missions and Director of Creative Ministries for **10 YEARS** on January 1, 2026. Please take time to congratulate Amanda and thank her for all her hard work here at FBC.



## Congratulations!

Marlon Smith received his degree of **Master of Divinity** from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on December 12.



## FBC KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM CAROLS & COCOA



## FBC Kids

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. -

7:15 p.m.

Free Dinner,  
Music, Bible Study

Parents sign in children in the FLC Lobby between 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. to eat dinner.

Resumes January 14.



## Kids Church

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



## Basketball & Cheer

Practices will begin the week of January 5, 2026 and the first game will be Saturday, January 17, 2026. Last games are March 7, 2026. Upward Celebration is Monday, March 9, 2026.

## Youth Ignite

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

FLC Youth Room

Grades 6-12

Free Dinner, Games, and Bible Study!

Resumes January 14.



## WEE Ministry

had a great December with ...  
The Santa Breakfast



a visit from the Grinch...



a ride on the Polar Express...



and all the Christmas Parties!

## Encore Trip to Niagara Falls & Toronto

7 Days 6 Nights

May 24 - May 30

Cost: \$950\*

\*Per Person Double Occupancy  
Add \$254 for single occupancy.

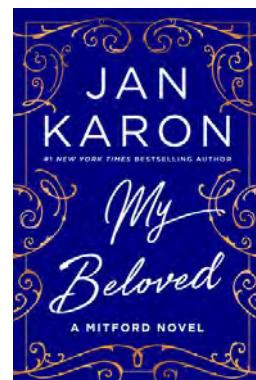
**\$75.00 DUE UPON SIGNING UP**  
**(Deadline to sign up is January 24, 2026 in the Church Office)**

**Final Payment Due: March 17**

Checks should be payable to DIAMOND TOURS.

YOU MUST HAVE A VALID U.S. PASSPORT OR U.S. PASSPORT CARD FOR THIS TRIP

IF YOU WANT TO PURCHASE TRAVELERS INUSRANCE , WHICH IS RECOMMENDED, IT SHOULD BE PURCHASED WITHIN 14 DAYS FROM THE DATE ON THE DEPOSIT CHECK.



## Women's Book Club

Book of the Month:

**"My Beloved"** by Jan Karon

3rd Tuesday

11:00 a.m.

Family Life Center, Hearth Room

## Spirit Sisters

(Widows Support Group)

**1st Monday, Monthly**

6:00 p.m.

FLC - Hearth Room

**3rd Monday, Monthly**

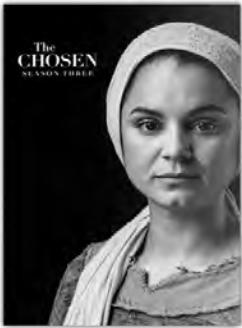
Outing TBA

## From the Pulpit in January

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center  
9:30 a.m. LifeGroups  
10:40 a.m. Sanctuary  
Jan 04 Matthew 2:1-12  
Jan 11 Matthew 3:13-17  
Jan 18 Matthew 4:1-11  
Jan 25 Acts 6:1-6

## Wednesdays in January

07 No Bible Study or Activities  
14 Pastor Danny  
21 Business Meeting  
28 Pastor Danny



## The Chosen Season 3

Sunday Bible Study  
Sundays, January 11, 18, & 25  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Lower Auditorium  
Led by Amanda & Jason Taylor



## Photography Group

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, Monthly  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
FLC - Hearth Room  
Photo taken by Albert Earle on the  
group's field Trip December 7.



## Angel Tree Report



### 81 Total Served

32 Families, 6 moms, 75 children  
Thank you to everyone who  
provided presents or monetary gifts  
for these families. Special Thanks to  
our Angel Tree Coordinators, Beth  
Green and Sondra Davis!

## Deacons' Meeting

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

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesdays  
5:30 p.m.  
FLC - Level 2

## Towers Craft

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

## Nov. Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 71,865
2025 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 15,383
2025 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 18,542
Budget Expense	\$ 80,994
November Deficit/Income	(\$ 9,129)
2025 Deficit/Income	(\$ 132,245)
TOTAL November 30	(\$ 144,374)



## 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.

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

## Lottie Moon & Global Missions Offering Goal:

**\$7,000** (FBC goal combined)  
Lottie Moon: \$952.00  
Global Missions: \$325.00  
Total received to date: \$1,277.00

## December Business Meeting Report

November Minutes and Financials were approved. Housing Allowances for Danny, Jason, Kris and David were approved. The Youth Committee recommendation to pay the remainder of the Youth Spring Break Trip was approved. Christmas bonuses for the Church Staff was approved. It was approved to provide a monthly health insurance stipend for employees with no other available insurance coverage for a period of January - March, 2026. Mike Cook and Kay Hannah resigned from Finance Committee. Whitney Denton resigned from Personnel Committee. Jo Anne Swann and Whitney Denton were added to the Finance Committee. The church clerk recommendation to remove Rusty and Darla Fritts from the church roll, and adding Morgan Hammer, Caleb Harold, Logan Harold, Noah McGeorge, Aiden McGeorge, and Gael Reyes were approved.

## Offering Envelopes

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

## Finance Committee Recommendation

Results from Special Called  
Business Meeting Dec. 7.  
YES 72 (54%) NO 61 (46%)

## Business Meeting

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

## Christian Service Center Distributions for October 2025

357 individuals served (151 families)  
89 Children, 165 Adults,  
103 Seniors, 45 New Clients (29%)  
225 Turkey Time Boxes  
300 Coats for the Cold coupons  
The CSC volunteers deeply  
appreciate all your support.  
**If you would like to volunteer or  
sub in the Clothing Closet on  
Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 3  
p.m. - 5 p.m., please call or text  
K.K. at 865-805-1752.**



## FRIENDLY GUIDE

## JANUARY 2026

The Church Office, Family Life Center, and  
WEE Ministry will be closed on Thursday, January 1.  
There will be no Wednesday Activities on January 7.

The Church Staff would like to wish everyone a  
Happy and Blessed New Year!