

# First Thoughts...

Bert Thorton, former CEO of Waffle House, had grown the restaurant to almost 2,000 locations at the time of his retirement. His desire was that people who entered 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, and folks in general could enjoy learning and serving the Lord together. We wouldn't have to agree on every issue to have fellowship with someone else. It would be enough to raise our voices and say, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

A few weeks ago, I completed a mid-week series on "The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms. It meant a great deal to discuss the historic Baptist principles of Bible Freedom, Soul Freedom, Church Freedom, and Religious Freedom.

Every now and then, it is important to revisit these important pillars of having a Baptist background and polity. There are always and ongoing challenges to the historic understanding of Baptists as a confessional, not creedal, people. I'm grateful that our church's personality is such that we seek to "keep the main thing the main thing" as it relates to knowing Christ and making him known in our community and world.

It's a good time to be connected with First Baptist Church. The month of May, in particular, provides some meaningful worship opportunities for us as a family of faith:

- 5th Senior Recognition
- 12th Mother's Day
- 19th Pentecost Sunday (wear red!)
- 26th Memorial Day remembrances

We're nearing the end of the academic year and graduations will soon provide occasions for excitement, tears, and celebrations. I'm grateful for the class of 2024 and know you'll join me in supporting them and their families as we acknowledge these milestones in their lives.

And, as always, thank you for your ongoing participation in the life of our church through your prayers, attendance, service, and financial support. I'm looking forward to a meaningful month together and hope you'll be part of it.

Pastor Danny



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



**Senior Sunday**  
Sunday, May 5  
8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.  
Our High School Graduates will be recognized during both morning worship services. There will be a luncheon following the 10:40 service in the Family Life Center for the graduates and their families.



**Youth Cabin Trip**  
Wednesday - Friday  
May 22 - 24  
Pigeon Forge, TN  
Grades 6 - 12  
\$75 per student  
Signed Permission Slip required.  
See Kris for more details.

## Girl's Day Out Trip to Build-A-Bear!



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

**Kids Church**  
Sundays  
During the 10:40 a.m. Service  
Church Library

**THE OLD TESTAMENT  
FAST FORWARD** ▶▶  
FBC Kids Musical  
Wednesday, May 8  
6:00 p.m.  
In the Sanctuary



**FOAM &  
PIZZA  
PARTY**  
(Age 3 - 5th Grade)  
Wednesday, May 15  
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Please come directly to the FBC  
Front Lawn! 6th graders join the  
youth for their summer kick-off.



**Vacation Bible School**  
SCUBA  
diving into friendship with god


**Monday, June 10 -  
Friday, June 14**  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Family Life Center  
Volunteers and Beach Décor  
needed. Contact Lauren Neal if  
you can help.



Women's Ministry Event  
**Erin's Meadow  
Herb Farm**  
Saturday, May 18  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
\$20 per person  
Call the Church Office to RSVP.

**Encore Picnic**  
Friday, May 24  
12:00 p.m.  
Norris Dam State Park  
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs  
There is no cost for this event.  
Please bring a side dish or dessert  
to share. Bring your lawn chairs if  
you wish. RSVP to the Church Office  
by May 22.

**Bob Holt and  
Betty Smith  
were voted King and Queen  
of the 2024 Spring Banquet!**

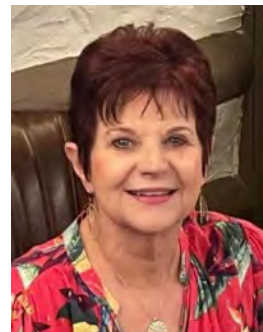


## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Delaine McGhee

Dana Worthington

Mary Williams



## C.S.C. March Report:

**Total:** 256 individuals served.  
6,304 food items were  
distributed.

764 clothing items  
82 miscellaneous items such  
as sheets, diapers, toilet paper,  
toiletries, etc.  
The CSC is accepting spring and  
summer clothes in good repair,  
shoes, sheets, etc. Bed pad,  
incontinent aids for both men  
and women are also greatly  
appreciated.

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

**Towers Movie  
Night**  
Sunday, May 18  
7:00 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome to join us  
for a movie and popcorn!

**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 Christian Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Ann McRae** (4/6).

## Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the altar in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 5, are in loving memory of **Miss Reba Gentry**, given by Jack & Carol Jones.

The flowers on the altar Sunday, May 12, 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 19, are in loving memory of **Mrs. Mary C. Hollingsworth**, whose birthday was May 23, given by Joe, Trey, and Nicci Hollingsworth.

The flowers in the baptistry on Sunday, May 26 are in loving memory of **Imogene Cheely**, whose birthday was May 25, given by daughters, Jean Cheely and Ann Hofmeister.

## From the Pulpit

**Sundays**  
**8:30 a.m.** Family Life Center  
**10:40 a.m.** Sanctuary  
May 05 Acts 1:1-11  
May 12 John 19:24-27  
May 19 Acts 2:1-12  
May 26 Matthew 26:6-13

## LifeGroups

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

## Wednesday Bible Study: Mark

**6:30 p.m.** Lower Auditorium  
May 01 Adult Bible Study  
May 08 FBC Kids Program  
May 15 Business Meeting  
May 22 Adult Bible Study  
May 29 Adult Bible Study



## It's A Boy!

Congratulations to Laurel and John Stair, Jr. on the birth of a baby boy, **Deacon Rust Stair**, born on

4/6/24. Also, congratulations to big brother, Shepherd, Grandparents, John and Sandy Stair, Aunt and Uncle, Jeremy and Holly Webb, and cousins, Riley and Hadley Webb.

You are invited to a  
*Couple's Wedding Shower*  
In Honor of  
**Kara Bradley & Jesse DeArmond**



**Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m.**  
In the Hearth Room  
RSVP by April 28th to Susan Treece  
at 865-607-0444.  
Registered at Amazon and Target.

## Combined Choir Program

Memorial United Methodist Church  
Choir & First Baptist Church Choir  
**Sunday, May 19**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
At Memorial United Methodist

## Memorial Day Recognition Service

**Sunday, May 26**  
**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.

## March Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 82,956
2024 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 15,473
2024 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 18,362
Budget Expense	\$ 84,205
March Deficit/Income	(\$ 1,249)
2024 Deficit/Income	(\$ 33,281)
TOTAL March 31	(\$ 34,530)

## Annie Armstrong & Global Missions Offering Goal: \$3,500

(SBC & CBF Combined)  
Annie Armstrong: \$1,156  
Global: \$811  
Total Received: \$1,967

## Business Meeting Report

March Minutes and Financials were approved. Additional cost of new FLC refrigerator was approved. The hiring of Mark Foust with **Upkeep Carpet Cleaning** to clean carpet on the track was approved. **Delaine McGhee** and **Mary Williams** were added to the church roll by transfer of letter.

## Deacons Meeting

**Tuesday, May 14**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
Lower Auditorium

## Business Meeting

**Wednesday, May 15**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
Lower Auditorium

## Memorial Day Closings

The Church Office, Family Life Center & W.E.E. Ministry will be closed on **Memorial Day, May 27.**

## Historical Moment:

Meetings at our church were suspended during the Civil War, but members met in homes and "prayed to God for mercy and help during the perilous times." The church building was unharmed during the war, but the Baptist school near the church was burned by soldiers. (*One Hundred Years – A Story of First Baptist Church, by Mary Weaver*)

THE FRIENDLY GUIDE - PO BOX 268 - CLINTON, TN - (865) 457-9353  
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paid at Clinton, TN



ONLINE  
GIVING



## Remote Area Medical

Coming to First Baptist Church,  
**Clinton November 2-3, 2024.**  
Please be praying about your involvement with this RAM. If you want to volunteer, please contact Amanda or the Church Office.



## Atlanta Braves Game

Church-wide Trip  
**Wednesday, July 24**  
**Leave FBC at 7:00 a.m.**  
**Game is at 12:20 p.m.**  
Cost: \$30 (includes ticket, transportation, and lunch)  
**Anyone is welcome to attend!**  
Please call the church office to reserve your ticket!  
30 spots available  
RSVP to the church office

# IN THE Heart OF CLINTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIENDLY GUIDE

MAY 2024

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

### CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

Isaac Benton	David Ortiz
Kaelyn Bowling	Eric Page
Sam Duggins	Abram Temple
Garrett Lee	Noah Weeks
Trey Meredith	

### ANDERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Jaylynn Bullock	Avery Hubbard
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## COLLEGE GRADUATES

**Jack Hutchins - University of Tennessee**

Masters in Computer Science

with emphasis on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence

**Andrew Shoopman - East Tennessee State University**

B.S. in Supply Chain Management

with a Minor in Accounting

**Anna Temple - University of Tennessee**

B.A. in Psychology with a Minor in Neuroscience

**Emily Bigler - Middle Tennessee State University**

B.S. in Political Science with Minors in Public Policy and Public Management, B.A. in Spanish with Minors in Political and

Civic Engagement and Honors Studies

**Jeana Partin - University of Tennessee**

PhD. in Education, Leadership Studies in Education

**Julianne Smith - East Tennessee State University**

B.S. in Rehabilitative Health Science