

## First Thoughts...

They found Gus on a beach last month in Australia. Gus (affectionately named) is a malnourished adult emperor penguin who is 2200 miles from his home in Antarctica. Aaron Fowler, a surfer, found him at the tourist beach town of Denmark in the Southwest corner of the continent.

The penguin has become a local celebrity, despite the fact he is 50 pounds underweight and struggling in his new environment. Several persons came to his aid, spraying him with chilled water to help him deal with the warm climate. Fowler said, "He tried to slide on his belly, thinking it was snow, I guess. Then he just face planted in the sand and stood up and shook it off."

Gus found himself in absolutely the wrong place--he wasn't where he was supposed to be.

Sometimes we're not where we're supposed to be either. For many, the holidays are a time of great joy and celebration. There are a lot of parties, special events, and occasions for fun, fellowship, and laughter. For others, it can be a time of difficulty and sadness while grieving the loss of a loved one—perhaps for the first time. It can be hard to know where we're supposed to be or how to feel.

Advent is an opportunity to find our place once again. It is a four-week season of preparation culminating on Christmas Day. Each Sunday, beginning with December 1, offers a different emphasis about the birth of our Savior. We'll light candles on the Advent wreath, each one reflecting the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The highlight of the Advent season occurs on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ candle.

On that note, special thanks to those who are getting things ready with Christmas decorations! I am thankful for their efforts in helping us prepare for the arrival of the Christ child once again.

The decorations, traditions, and familiar biblical narratives offer stability and reassurance. I encourage us all to be part of the life and activity of our fellowship these next several weeks. It's a time for us to come together around the miracle of "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1.14).

Not everything stays the same, however. For the last 40 years, Mike Fraker has been a fixture on the Audio-Visual team. Most of his work has been behind the scenes, primarily in the sound booth on Sundays but also for other important moments in the life of First Baptist Church (funerals, weddings). Mike has had to adjust to changes in technology, live-streaming, and different kinds of audio and visual approaches. He has been steady, reliable, and faithful.

Mike has indicated his desire to transition out of this role (he'll stay busy with the Christian Service Center!) at the end of the year. I know you'll join me in expressing gratitude to him for his faithfulness and dedication for four decades of service to the Lord and our church.

I also wanted to thank the Finance Committee for the 2025 operating budget. It reflects less than a 1% increase from last year's budget, while utilizing existing designated funds for a variety of ministry areas. Also included is a 2% cost of living increase for the staff. I appreciate their efforts and encourage support of our new budget.

As we finish a calendar (and fiscal year), let's finish the current budget strong! Remember also our Missions Goal which supports your choice of CBF or SBC causes.

On behalf of Lori, Cally, Lucy, and Matt, thank you for being in our lives this past year. It is a blessing to live in Clinton and be part of First Baptist Church. From our family to yours, "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Pastor Danny



### Youth Ignite

**Wednesdays (no Ignite on December 25, January 1 & 8)**

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

FLC Youth Room

Grades 6-12

Free Dinner, Games, and Bible Study!



### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Wednesday, December 18**

**5:30 p.m.**

Grades 6-12

FLC Youth Room

Please join us for Pizza, Games, Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest and Dirty Santa (Gifts Provided).



Visit the Angel Tree located in the Main Church Building, Garden Room (level 2).

If you need help selecting a child from the tree or have any questions please contact Beth Green or Sondra Davis. If you don't have time to shop, monetary gifts are appreciated, and we will shop for you! Gifts need to be returned to the church by **Monday, December 9.**



### 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 (no FBC Kids on December 25, January 1 & 8)**

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

Dinner, Music, Bible Study & Games



### Clinton Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

**Online Registration is Open!**

(early registration fee is \$90, after November 9, fee is \$100)

December 30 – Practices Begin

January 11 - Games Begin

March 1 - Last Games

March 3 - Upward Celebration at Second Baptist Church.

### FBC Kids Christmas Party

**Wednesday, December 18**

**5:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.**

Drop off directly to the main building, 3rd floor.

Pizza and a Movie!

Pick up at 7:15 p.m.

Want to donate?

Add to our

party with holiday

treats and drinks!



### Christian Service Center Report October 2024

**Total:** 184 Families served.

(370 Individuals)

8542 food items

1900 clothing items

125 miscellaneous items

CSC volunteers greatly appreciate

your continued support of this

ministry through prayers,

donation items, and financial

support.

### CSC Christmas Food Box Distribution

**Tuesday, December 17**

**8:00 a.m. Drive-Thru**

First Come, First Serve

**Bring Photo ID or CSC Punch Card**

*(CSC Closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 & 31)*

### Towers

#### Movie Nights

**Sunday, December 1 & 8**

**Saturday, December 14**

**6:00 p.m.**

Christmas Movies

Everyone is invited to join us for

a movie, popcorn, cokes, hot

chocolate, and Christmas treats!

### Towers Craft

**Third Thursday, Monthly**

**2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Led by Julia Spradling

### Photography Group

**Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays,**

**Monthly, 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.**

Family Life Center, Hearth Room

### Spirit Sisters

(Widows Support Group)

**1st Monday, Monthly**

**6:00 p.m.**

Family Life Center - Hearth Room

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Tuesdays @ 5:30 p.m.**

Family Life Center - Level 2

### WEE Santa Breakfast

**Friday, December 6**

**6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.**

Family Life Center, Gym

You are invited to attend and

bring your children or

grandchildren for pictures with

Santa, breakfast, and fun

Christmas crafts with the WEE.

### Clinton Christmas Parade

**Saturday, December 7**

**6:00 p.m.**

Come see the FBC Kids Float!

### Longest Night Service

**Wednesday, December 18**

**5:30 p.m.**

Sanctuary

### Christmas Caroling

**Thursday, December 19**

**5:30 p.m.**

Join us for caroling to our

homebound members. Please

call the church office and let us

know if you plan to participate

so that we can put caroling

teams together. Meet in the

glassed-in lobby of our main

church building. Dress warm

and bring a flashlight!

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Tuesday, December 24**

**5:00 p.m.**

Sanctuary

There will be a String Quartet

and we will observe the Lord's

Supper.

### Combined Service

**Sunday, December 31**

**8:30 a.m.**

Family Life Center

Dr. Vicki Violette will be

preaching. There will be no

LifeGroups.

## THANK YOU!

When we first talked to Stan Brock and Remote Area Medical about a clinic at FBC in 2010, they were skeptical about our ability to meet their criteria for a clinic. Rev. Stan Elliott was adamant that the Church could do it and we forged ahead with our first (2011) clinic – serving over 1000 patients. Since that time many churches have followed our lead.

RAM has changed and FBC has changed, but the need for the RAM Clinic services has not changed. The cost of our 2011 clinic was less than \$25,000 and in 2024 expenses will be in the \$40,000 range.

We offer a special thanks to all of the FBC participants, but also want to recognize our major donors:

**Madison Insurance Group (MIG) - \$7,500 and Smile180 - \$5,000.**

MIG insurance offers full insurance coverage and wanted to help attendees with questions about Medicare coverage. Early, day of, repositioning of RAM groups, moved MIG to an area that was not conducive to helping individuals at RAM as they had hoped. If you have questions about Medicare, MIG stands ready to help with questions in that regard. Al Coleman, their local agent, is still available if you have questions on Medicare.

Smile180 is a foundation formed by Delta Dental. Clinton's dentist – Phil Wenk is our benefactor. If you have contact with Dr. Wenk, please thank them for their support.

Civitan, various local churches and business entities also contributed to the success of our 2024 Clinic.

Thank you FBC for your financial support and presence making this clinic a success. We served 310 patients and RAM's estimation of service costs were \$268,000. We hope – after you have rested – you were blessed by this "Mission Action" project at FBC.

RAM Leadership Team: Kevin Bowling Jo Anne Swann, Amanda Taylor

## Christian Sympathy

is extended to the family of **Hazel Johnson** (10/30).

## From the Pulpit

**8:30 a.m.** Family Life Center

**9:30 a.m.** LifeGroups

**10:40 a.m.** Sanctuary

**December 1:** Dr. Michael Prince

**December 8:** Dr. Danny Chisholm

**December 15:** Rev. Jason Taylor (8:30 a.m.) and Christmas Program (10:40 a.m.)

**December 22:** Dr. Danny Chisholm

**December 29:** Combined Service (8:30 a.m.) Dr. Vicki Violette (no LifeGroups)

## Adult Bible Study

**Wednesday Nights**

**December 4 & 11**

**6:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

Led by Pastor Danny

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



JESSE BALL



RICK & DEBBIE WADDLE

## Holiday Closings

**The Church Office and Family Life Center will be closed December 24 -26 and January 1.**

**The WEE Ministry will be closed December 24-25 and January 1.**

**The CSC will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 & 31.**

**No Wednesday night activities on December 25 and January 1.**

## October Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 165,615
2024 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 19,137
2024 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 18,362
Budget Expense	\$ 81,555
October Deficit/Income	\$ 84,060
2024 Deficit/Income	(\$ 55,148)
TOTAL October 31	\$ 28,912



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

## November Business Meeting Report

October Minutes and Financials were approved. FM George will rekey the outside doors of the FLC. Trustees voted to withdraw their previous recommendation regarding Committee Training. The 2025 WEE Ministry Budget was approved. Ernie Bowles' resignation from Deacons was approved. The resignations of Laura Bowles from WEE Committee and Ernie Bowles from Trustees Committee were approved. We added Jady Letner (by Baptism), Jesse Ball (by Statement) and Rick and Debbie Waddle (by letter).

## 2025 Deacon Eligibility

Please call the church office if you would like to have your name removed from the 2025 Deacon Eligibility List. This list will be mailed to church members the first of January. Nominations will be due back by January 31.

## Baptism Day

**Sunday, December 1 10:40 a.m.**

Candidate: Jady Letner

## 2025 Budget Vote

**Sunday, December 8 8:30 and 10:40 a.m.**

## Business Meeting

**Wednesday, December 18 6:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

***There will be no Deacons Meeting in December.***

**Christmas Memorials  
Poinsettias \$10  
Wreaths \$25**



Memorial for: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Given: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to FBC, P.O. Box 268  
Clinton, TN 37717

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# IN THE Heart OF CLINTON

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIENDLY GUIDE

DECEMBER 2024



Christmas Program  
*O God Beyond All Praising*

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

10:40 A.M.

IN THE SANCTUARY

A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FEATURING OUR  
ADULT CHOIR, FBC KIDS CHOIR, HANDBELLS  
AND OTHER INSTRUMENTALISTS

THE CHURCH IMAGE WAS DRAWN BY ELMER TURNBILL  
FROM AN ORAL DESCRIPTION BY C.C. BOWLING  
AND OTHERS OF FBC IN 1840.