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FIRST TAKE

The Newsletter of First Baptist Dalton

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 8 | ADVENT

from the

PASTOR



As we move into the season of Advent, we reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love that prepare our hearts for Christmas. This Advent I will not be preaching on this traditional theme, choosing instead to look at our past for inspiration by preaching four sermons from my predecessors, Earl Davis, Billy Nimmons, Bill Ireland, and Bill Wilson. In doing so, this will conclude our time spent looking at our roots. In the New Year we will focus on what is blossoming in the branches of our tree of faith at FBC Dalton.

What stories are you telling about Christmas? What stories have you told in the past? What are you hoping for this Christmas season? How do you proclaim Christ is coming?

What we learn from the Advent story is everyone has a story, a hope, an expectation of what Christ's coming will mean during this season. The first prophets to proclaim the coming of the Messiah had hopes for how God's arrival might change the world, too. Isaiah hoped that the Messiah would bring a new spirit of wisdom and understanding. He envisioned a resurgence of righteousness and a new day of justice and equity for the poor and the marginalized.

Much closer to the beginning of Christ's ministry, John the Baptist did the same thing. As he announced the arrival of the Messiah, John the Baptist hoped for a day when God would be revealed in new and powerful ways, and he encouraged his followers to prepare for the arrival of Christ through acts of generosity and by living with integrity.

And even as Mary was nurturing Jesus in her womb, she looked forward to a day characterized by God's mercy when the powerful would be humbled and the lowly lifted up—when the hungry would be filled and the rich sent away empty-handed.

What are you hopeful to see in your family, in our church, in our community, and in the world? What stories do you hope come to pass this Christmas season? Here are some of my hopes for us.

Hopes for our Families:

I want our families to be healthy and happy. I want God and God's love to be central to our families' lives. I want our family members to be understanding and forgiving of one another. We long for reconciliation and support—for restoration of frayed relationships.

Hopes for our Church:

I want a growing sense of togetherness and unity in our church. I want us to be a loving and welcoming community to all who come through our doors. I want us to know each other better and share in each other's lives more.

I hope that our church will be a leader in our community as we reach out to those who need Christ's comfort and encouragement. I want us to stand out and stand apart as we become more willing to take stands for Christ that distinguish us from the world. I hope for spiritual health today, for clear direction and purpose as we look toward our future.

Hopes for our Community:

I want us to continue to engage in our community, to be on the front line to help with hunger and poverty. I want us to continue to help the homeless and those on the margins. I want us to help find ways to unite us, not divide us.

Hopes for the World:

My hope for the world is that the world would know that God is love. My second hope is for peace. Peace meaning more than the absence of violence, but a genuine sense of harmony and fellowship among all people.

What are your hopes for this Christmas season? When we express our hopes about how Christ might change our families, our church, our community, and the world at Christmas, we begin to engage in prophetic work. But expressing God-inspired hope is only part of work. To finish the prophetic task, we must begin to do the things that will turn our hopes into reality.

At Christmas we tell stories and we are encouraged to hope. And, at Christmas, we are emboldened to act, knowing that God goes before us into the world.

Merry Christmas,

Jonathan Barlow
Dr. Jonathan Barlow

Please welcome the newest members to
FIRST BAPTIST DALTON

Andrew Barkley and Emma Barkley



Andrew joined First Baptist on October 9, 2022. Andrew comes as a professing follower of Christ and a transfer of membership. Emma comes with a profession of faith and seeks membership as a candidate for baptism. They bring with them their two sons: Forester and Mercer. Please welcome this family as they join our fellowship.

Cameron Holman



Cameron made a profession of faith earlier this year and was baptized on August 14, 2022. He is the son of Josh and Mandy Holman. Cameron is a very active participant in the youth group and has been faithfully attending the Church for years. Please continue to share words of encouragement with him.

Camden Miller



Camden made a profession of faith earlier this year and was baptized on September 4, 2022 with his brother. He is the son of Jeff and Adrian Miller. Please welcome Camden to the First Baptist family. Continue to be an example to him and his brother on how to be Christ to others.

Wanda McClellan



Wanda joined First Baptist on August 14, 2022, by transfer of letter. She joined the church after coming for several months. She greatly enjoys the friendships she has made, and the hospitality shown to her. Please welcome her into this church family.

Sandra Newberry



Sandra joined First Baptist on August 21, 2022, by transfer of letter. She joined the church after attending for several weeks. She is an active worshiper and has been a blessing to others. Continue to welcome her into this fellowship of believers.

Alex Miller



Alex made a profession of faith in May of this year and was baptized on September 4, 2022 with his brother. He is the son of Jeff and Adrian Miller. Please continue to welcome Alex to the First Baptist family and congratulate him for this incredibly important decision of commitment!

Jacob Elliott



Jacob joined First Baptist on September 18, 2022, by transfer of letter. He joined the church on the day his son, Oliver, was dedicated. Jacob has been attending the Church for several months and is already very active in several ministries. Please continue to welcome him into the FBCD family.

Welcome

MITCH HUSKISON

Mitch was called to First Baptist Church Dalton on October 9, 2022 to serve as our Minister of Music and Worship. Mitch began working at First Baptist Dalton on November 14, just five days before his birthday. (Happy belated birthday from First Baptist!) He eagerly started in November to prepare the music ministries for the Advent Season as they lead us in the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mitch is the youngest of four children to Neal and Virginia Huskison and was raised in Pontotoc, Mississippi. He was baptized at the age of six and was very involved in church with a special emphasis in all things music related. He graduated from Mississippi College and received his Master of Divinity in Church Music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mitch has twin sons Kennan and Carter. Kennan is a junior in the School of Architecture at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Carter is a computer science major with an emphasis in cyber security at North Carolina State University. Continue to welcome Mitch and his two sons as he begins the next chapter of his life serving the congregation of First Baptist Church Dalton.

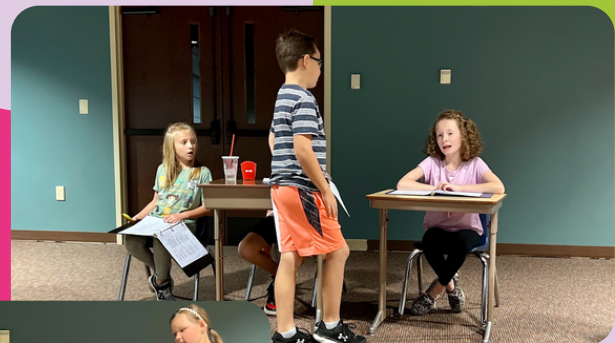
Fall Festival

We had a great time at Fall Festival on October 26th and enjoyed interacting with over 1,000 people from the Dalton community including lots of friends from Westwood, Brookwood, the CLC, and of course FBC Dalton! Thank you to all those who helped in so many different ways!



Christmas Play

Our children have been working hard each Sunday practicing for our Children's Christmas Play, "The Not So Silent Night" that they will perform on Christmas Eve during the family service at 4:00 pm. This creative retelling of the Christmas story is sure to make you laugh and reflect on the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth. We hope you will join us!



Serving Beyond Opportunities



Share Your Christmas
Friday, December 9, 2022

Share Your Christmas will be held on Friday, December 9, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at First Baptist Dalton. We are collecting non perishable goods to stock the shelves at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. You can drive thru to drop off your donations at the Youth Center.



Westwood Red Tub Dinner
Friday, December 9, 2022

We will be hosting some of our Westwood Red Tub families on Friday, December 9th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Each family will receive a Red tub, enjoy dinner and get a picture with Santa. We need volunteers to help with serving dinner and distributing red tubs.



Red Tub Delivery
Sunday, December 11, 2022

We will be delivering Red Tubs on Sunday, December 11th. If you are willing to deliver a couple of tubs to our Westwood families, please call the church to volunteer.



Kid City Family Night
Wednesday, December 15, 2022

Kid City is an afterschool program that serves DPS elementary schools. It targets children that are economically and/or academically challenged.

We are hosting the Family Night at FBCD this year on Thursday, December 15, 2022 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Each family will receive a Red Tub, Christmas dinner, and attend an art show. We need volunteers to help with serving dinner and distributing the red tubs.



North Georgia Fairgrounds
Saturday, December 17, 2022

Sharing is Caring is Dalton's community project designed to provide Christmas for children in Whitfield County who are living in poverty or whose family's circumstances might prevent them from receiving Christmas gifts.

We need FBCD volunteers to:

- * help parents as they shop for gifts in the Christmas Store
- * stock the shelves at the Sharing is Caring Store
- * assist families to their vehicles with their gifts

You can sign up for a shift from 9-12 or 1-3. Please see Suzanne for more information.



If you would like to serve as a Salvation Army bell ringer for two hours on December 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, please let Suzanne Hooie or the church office know.

Please join us this
ADVENT SEASON

CHURCH WIDE

- Nov. 27 - Hanging of the Green Service 6:00 pm
- Dec. 11 - Lessons and Carols 10:30 am
- Dec. 14 - Christmas Coffeehouse 6:00 pm
- Dec. 18 - Blue Christmas 4:00 pm
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Family Service 4:00 pm
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Silent Service 6:00 pm
- Dec. 25 - No Sunday School
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Morning Worship 10:30 am
- Jan. 1 - No Sunday School
- Jan. 1 - Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 am

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Dec. 4 - Christmas Movie Night 6 pm
- Dec. 11 - Youth Caroling & Christmas Party (\$10 White Elephant) 3:45-7 pm
- Dec. 13 - New Horizons (Serving) 5:30-8 pm

SENIOR ADULT

- Dec. 8 - Senior Adult Christmas Party 10 am-2 pm
- Dec. 13 - New Horizon's Christmas Banquet 6-8 pm

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Nov. 27 - Family Advent Wreath Breakfast, 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall (RSVP in midweek)
- Dec. 4 - Children's Worship 10:30am
- Dec. 11 - Children's Christmas Party, 4-7 pm (*Volunteers needed, RSVP to Jenni)
- Dec. 18 - Angel Breakfast, 9 am in the Fellowship Hall (RSVP in midweek)
- Dec. 18 - Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
- Dec. 24 - Children's Christmas Play, 4 pm (during Christmas Eve Family Service)



YOUTH RECAP

The Youth have had a great fall semester so far! We went to Amicalola Falls and hiked while we got reacquainted with nature and God's beautiful creation. We also went to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL after studying the Last Supper on the Moon. It was a blast to see and learn more about all that went into the Apollo 11 launch.



→ UPCOMING EVENTS

We have more exciting things ahead of us in the New Year! Be sure to save the dates and be on the lookout for more information and events as things are continually being added to our calendar!

- Youth Ice Skating - January 29, 2023
- Valentine's Banquet - February 12, 2023
- Youth Sunday - March 26, 2023
- Graduate Sunday - May 21, 2023
- Junior/Senior NYC Mission Trip - May 29-June 2, 2023
- Youth Mission Trip (St. Louis) - June 23-30, 2023
- Passport Youth - July 17-22, 2023

THANK YOU

to our First Baptist Dalton family

Thank you to the 175th Anniversary Committee, the Historical Preservation Committee, the Hospitality team, those who contributed to and created the history exhibit displays, those who decorated, the kitchen crew, the facilities crew, the audio/visual technology team, and all the musicians for making our Anniversary a wonderful event!

Thank you to the congregation for 175 years of faithful service. May God bless us with many more to come!



FIRST BAPTIST DALTON

311 North Thornton Avenue
Dalton, GA 30720

At the corner of Waugh Street and Thornton Ave.

WATCH OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

fbcdalton.org —————
10:30 a.m. every Sunday



FBCD

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First Take (Second Class Postage Paid/USPS 671-940) is published quarterly by First Baptist Church Dalton, GA. Periodicals postage paid at Dalton, GA 30722 Postmaster: Send Address Changes to: First Take c/o First Baptist Church P. O. Box 827 Dalton, GA 30722-0827