

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTON

Rev. R. Brady Henderson, Senior Pastor

Rev. Steve Kittrell, Interim-Associate Pastor

Sherrell Ott, Minister of Music

Velvet Lucas, Administrative Assistant

First Baptist Church
Gaston



Gather. Grow. Go.

DECEMBER 2024

Vol 50 ISSUE 12

December 2024	<h2>Brady Blog</h2> <h3>A Written Word from FBCG's Senior Pastor</h3>	Issue #46
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It seems like yesterday I was writing the Brady Blog article for the January Newsletter. A lot has changed since January. We started this year with the word 'Committed,' and throughout the year, I've tried to remind you that our commitment to Christ, the Church, and one another matters. While I feel there's still room for improvement in the area of 'commitment,' I'm thankful for all that God has done this year. So far this year, we've seen 28 people join our Church, with 15 Baptisms and still more Baptisms to do before this year ends. It truly has been a great year, but I think we are still just scratching the surface of what God can and wants to continue to do in our midst. As we gear up for 2025, I want each of us to get ready. This is going to be a BIG upcoming year in the life of our Church. We are planning to add staff, move further along in our building process, and try new things! I'm coming up on year 5 of being your Senior Pastor and I couldn't be happier with where we are as a Church, but we must not get complacent! There's still much Gospel work to be done.

Our word of the year for 2025 is going to be **selfless**. The Lord has led me to this word from John 3:30. 'He must increase, but I must decrease'. The Lord has laid this word on my heart for our congregation to focus on this year. As your Pastor, I feel that we as a congregation can be tempted at times to think more **inwardly** than we do **outwardly**. Myself included, we worry about our own needs, our own personal programs, our own opinions, and our own preferences among other things. May we not forget that Matthew 28:16-20 is the mandate that Christ has given us as the Church to follow. 2025 will be a year of growth and changes for our Church. As we enter this year, we will be faced with challenges galore as we add additional staff and begin the process of building a multi-purpose facility. The Lord has reminded me that as a congregation for HIM to do all that He will do in 2025 at FBCG, you and I must remain **selfless** and not **selfish**.

The 2025 preaching plan will be available for you to pick up sometime this month. Not sure when yet, due to the time I am writing this edition of the 'Brady Blog' the preaching plan is not yet completed. I will be making Bible Reading plans available for you to pick-up in the welcome center as well. Please be patient with me this month as I try to get all this done, on top of all my regular duties as your Pastor.

December is going to be a big month here at the Church! We are going to start our 3-part Christmas Sermon Series entitled 'History of the Christmas Hymns!' on Wednesday, December 4th. On Wednesday, December 11th our Children will be presenting their Christmas musical. On Friday, December 13th Eternal Vision will be back with us to put on a Christmas concert. We will take up a love offering and the concert will start at 7 PM. On Sunday, December 15th we are going to be having our first (of hopefully many) SEND Sunday. We are going to celebrate the call of God on the Burtons to enter full-time Missionary service in Southeast Asia, as well as Emily Furtick who will be joining her fiance' in the ministry that he has been called to as a Youth Pastor. On December 15th we will hear their testimonies of what God has done, how we can pray for them, and what it means to live a SENT life from Matthew 28:16-20. On Wednesday, December 18th, Hannah and I will read the Christmas story to the children, and we will have our drop-in event immediately following.

There will be no worship services or on-campus activities on Wednesday, December 25th, and on Wednesday, January 1st.

I can't wait to see what God is going to do next.


UPCOMING EVENTS



DECEMBER DEACONS ON CALL

- Dec 1 Chris Vidrine 803-513-4915
- Dec 8 Allen Ott 803-960-6820
- Dec 15 Dwain Smith 803-446-1595
- Dec 22 Glenn Pound 803-238-7477
- Dec 29 Tom Learn 803-429-1358

- Dec 1 NO children's Worship
 - Dec 1 Grief Gathering Group meeting at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
 - Dec 1 Children's Worship Team Members Quarterly Meeting 5:30 pm in CW room
 - Dec 4 Spiritual Warriors Luncheon at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall
 - Dec 4 Church Conference immediately following the service
 - Dec 6 Family Fun Night in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm-- dinner, devotion, Nativity craft
 - Dec 11 Children's Choir Performance at 7:00 pm
 - Dec 13 Eternal Vision concert at 7:00 pm
 - Dec 14 Gaston Christmas Parade, be at FMIS at 9:00 am, parade starts at 10:00 am
 - Dec 14 Christmas at the Caboose immediately after Christmas Parade
 - Dec 18 Pastor Brady & Mrs. Hannah share the Christmas Story at 7:00 pm. Refreshments after in the Fellowship Hall.
 - Dec 22 No Sunday School, Christmas Service & Communion at 11:00 am
 - Dec 22 Lottie Moon Missions March Goal is \$12,000
 - Dec 22 Christmas Caroling-lunch after church, caroling, & return to Fellowship Hall for donuts, milk, and hot chocolate.
 - Dec 23rd—27th Church office is closed for Christmas Holidays. Messages will be checked
 - Dec 25 NO Church Activities, MERRY CHRISTMAS!
 - Dec 29 NO Children's Worship
 - Dec 31-Jan 1st Church office is closed for the holiday. Message will be checked
- NO Women on Missions Meeting and NO Brotherhood Meeting in December**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Colson White	2 Addison Pound Jennifer Robinson Tyler Brant Scarlett Williams	3 Lee Willetts	4 Sampson Pound Brenda Spires Family supper -6:00 pm Youth Supper & Bible Study 6:15 pm to 8:00pm:GA/RA, Mission Friends 7-8 pm	5 Ray Smith	6 Garrett Phillips	7 Shawn Goff Debbie Cole Terry Pound
Lottie Moon Express Begins December 1st - December 22nd						
8	9 Trey Greene Stuart Pound	10 Ashley Chappell Matthew Dawkins Jonah Pound	11 Ricky Eberhart Brittany Walker Wendy Sanford ♥Matt & Kara Pound  Family supper -6:00 pm	12 George Autry Eden Barfield Jeremy Fallaw	13 Jason Furtick Faith Hanna Lisa Jumper Kim Reynolds	14 Madison Hook Allen Ott Patti Reynolds
15	16 Ashley Simms Connor Skinner ♥Chris & Vicki Vidrine	17 Debra Clackley Kyle Reynolds	18  Pastor Brady & Mrs. Hannah share The Christmas Story with the children. Refreshments will be served after.	19 Michelle Fallaw Noel Pound Ashleigh Rogers	20 Donna Estep	21 Melissa Goff Rhonda Smith ♥Thomas & Rebeka Lewis ♥Lee & Janice Willetts
22 Robbie Justice James Lucas Randell Wilson ♥Ken & Anita Nelson Christmas Service and Communion. NO Sunday School Lottie Moon Missions March	23 Brent Cole Thomas Dowd Sr. Tessa Kelly Vicki Vidrine	24 Jordan Hulon Nicole White	25 David Smith No Church Activities on Campus 	26 Jonathan Hutson Bo Hulon II	27	28 Judith Cooper Guy Gabriel Mills Paisley Hutto ♥Stephen & Karen Willetts
29 Kathy Fallaw Amber Pound William Godfrey	30 Robert Crapps ♥Marvin & Sara Rish	31 Christian Chavis Alton Sightler	1 NO Church Activities on Campus	2		



SPIRITUAL WARRIORS NEWS from Vicki Vidrine, Director

The monthly luncheon is Wednesday, December 4th at 11:30 am. We will be having pork loin and we ask that you bring a side and/or a dessert for the meal.



Dr. Sandra R. Pound has gifted the church another of the books she has written. The book, Lot 11, will be on the display shelf with other holiday titles. The story is about a young couple being led to Christ by a number of unlikely and dangerous events. Their friends join them in trying to end the evil that is happening in their town. Their friends lead them to believe in God as they face the struggles together. A really good read!

Merry Christmas!

LIBRARY NEWS: Marilyn Hook (email: marilyn.hook1@gmail.com)

No Brotherhood Meeting in December. Meetings will resume in January of 2025.



DECEMBER MUSIC NOTES

December is upon us and the Christmas season is so full of fun and exciting events!

On December 11th our children's choir will present "Follow the Star" at 7:00 PM –

The children and their leaders have been working very hard and they are always such a delight!



Another great event will be Friday night, December 13th at 7:00 PM at our church! Join us for a wonderful night of
Worship with Eternal Vision!

We have had the privilege of having them in concert before and you don't want to miss it!

Our choir, praise team and soloists will be singing throughout the month in worship celebrating this
wonderful season!

Merry Christmas, Sherrell



Thanks to everyone that helped collecting the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We collected just 361 boxes.
Your prayers and contributions were appreciated.

The Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering begins December 1st-8th.
We will have our Lottie Moon Missions March on Sunday, December 22nd. Our church goal is \$12,000, these funds go directly to International Missions to help in spreading the Love of Jesus. Please pray how you can be a part of supporting our missionaries around the world.

We have no ladies meeting in December.

We'll meet again on January 20th with guest speaker, Stephanie Sharpe.

Thank you for your prayers and support of all our WMU projects during the year.

We hope the new year will be just as exciting.



Women on Mission
Margie Rish,
Director



FBCG Kids Christmas Caroling!

Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 1:30 pm.

Lunch after church for the kids, caroling, and back to the Fellowship Hall for Donuts, milk, and hot chocolate



Making Christmas Memories

Family Fun Night!

December 6th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Dinner is provided & Fun activities!



Children's Church
meets on Sundays
in Room 203

Dec 1 NO Children's Worship

Dec 1 Team Members Quarterly Meeting at 5:30 pm, in CW room

Dec 8 Team 1 Sandy Drawdy, Sherry Rampey

Dec 15 Team 4 Emily Petrey, Stafford Johnson

Dec 22 Team 3 Traci Rish, Bonita Mishoe, Faith Cavarretta

Dec 22 Christmas Caroling, Lunch for FBCG Kids and families in the Fellowship Hall, then Caroling, starting at 1:30 pm. After Caroling, we will return to the Fellowship Hall for donuts, milk & hot chocolate.

Dec 29 NO Children's Worship



ATTENDANCE

November's Attendance

Sunday School Average: 185
Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church: 235
Wednesday Evening Worship: 160

SERVICES

Sunday,

09:30 AM.....Men's Prayer Group
09:45 AM.....Sunday School
11:00 AM.....Morning Worship
Children's Worship

Monday

12:30 pm.....Motivational Mondays

Wednesday,

06:00 PM.....Family Supper
06:15-6:45 ...Youth & Acteens Supper
06:45-8 PM.....Youth Bible Study
07:00 PM....Prayer Service, GAs, RAs,
Mission Friends & Acteens

DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY—2024-2025

Mike Rollison 803-269-3089 A-B	Keith Ray 423-823-2555 C-D	Troy Peele 803-673-5330 E-F	Tom Learn 803-429-1358 G-H
Dwain Smith 803-446-1595 I-J-K	Noel Pound 803-467-0382 L-M	Glenn Pound 803-238-7477 N-O-P	Chris Vidrine 803-513-4915 Q-R
Stafford Johnson 803-908-9090 Sa—Sm	Heyward Kelly 803-794-0723 Sn-T-U	Allen Ott 803-960-6820 V-W-X-Y-Z	

DECEMBER EXTENDED CARE SCHEDULE

Dec 1	Team 1 Collette Knight, Jo Lynn Martin, Wendy Sanford, Patti Reynolds, Pam Thomas, Erin Taylor
Dec 8	Team 2 Amie Cobia, Marissa Bailey, Rhonda Smith, Christian Chavis, Sammy Smith, Ally Sanford
Dec 15	Team 3 Sandy Poole, Bonita Mishoe, Aggie Sigh, Jim Thomas, Ginny Henderson, Bailey Speares
Dec 22	Team 4 Olivia Speares, Daniel Speares, Melody Sanford, Donna Estep, Linda Sightler, Reese Speares
Dec 29	Team 5 Bonnie McBride, Stacy Learn, Sherri Kelly, Lauren Brann, Debra Ray, Beverly Kelly

Contact Us

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Thank you to all the Extended Session workers for a great year. We are excited about the growth to our preschool department. We would like to add one more team to our extended session rotation. If you would be willing to volunteer and have completed the children safety requirements, please contact Lisa Pound 803-553-3004 or call the church office and the information will be sent to Lisa. We need 3 more volunteers to add one more team.



The year is winding down but we're just getting started in Upper Room. Here are some upcoming opportunities and events to forward to:

[The Lottie Moon Express mail exchange will run from Sunday, December 1 - Sunday, December 22. All donations go toward our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.](#)

On Saturday, December 14, students will have an opportunity to travel to Samaritans Purse in Charlotte, NC to help process Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. We will leave the church at 7:30am and return that evening. Wednesday, December 18 will be our annual "Upper Room Christmas". This is a special time each year where we eat together upstairs and have some time of reflection as we look forward to a new year. Sadly for us, December will also see us lose a vital part of our ministry team as Emily Furtick departs to begin a new ministry journey. We hate to see her go but we celebrate with her all of the great things God is doing in her life. She is dearly loved and will be greatly missed but we are so proud of her and the example of faith and obedience she sets for all of us. God give us more Emily's! If you have any questions or need more information about any of our upcoming events, please see Adam for all the details.



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