

Birmingham, AL 35209
2209 Lakeshore Drive



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK DR. JIM COOLEY



There is something about a New Year. As the calendar progresses into 2017, we feel a sense of starting over. Yesterday's regrets can be put behind us, to be replaced by hopes for the coming year. Yesterday's heartaches can be exchanged for tomorrow's promise. As we enter a new year, my prayer for you is that you make a commitment to keep Christ central in your life during the year to come.

"Let Me Tell You About My Church" is the theme I have chosen for First Baptist for the coming year. We are blessed with one of the finest church families to be found in the city of Birmingham. So many people could be blessed by the worship, fellowship and ministry opportunities of First Baptist. All that is necessary is that we let the people around us know what God is doing in our midst. This year, we are going to celebrate our church. I am going to begin the New Year in the most important place. I will be preaching a series from the Roman Road to salvation. I am calling this series "Let me tell you about my church: Its Foundation is the Gospel." I encourage you to make your plans to hear every message in this series, beginning on January 8.

I cannot let the opportunity go by without expressing again how blessed we have been this past Christmas Season. We reached and exceeded our Lottie Moon Offering. We were blessed beyond words with the presentation of "The Messiah." Every Sunday was a special time of worship, which came to a fitting conclusion with Christmas Eve Communion and a Christmas Day Celebration. I cannot think of anywhere in the world I would rather have spent Christmas than at First Baptist Birmingham, and I cannot think of anywhere I would rather have the privilege of being Pastor than right here with each of You. I look forward to a New Year of serving our Lord together with you.

JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

January 1	Combined Sunday School	Fellowship Hall	9:00am
January 2	Church Office Closed		
January 3	Precept Study Resumes	Room G02	10:00am
January 8	Ordination Council	Room 175	4:00pm
January 9	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 152	6:00pm
January 15	Deacons Meeting	Room 175	4:00pm
January 15	Deacons Leadership Study	Room 175	5:00pm
January 15	Missions Speakers: The Bouchers	Room 168	5:00pm
January 18	Church in Conference		
January 18	WMU Round Table Meeting	Room G02	9:30am
January 24	WMU Bible Study	Room G02	10:30am

MENU

January 11
BREAKFAST BAR!

January 18
Crisp herb chicken with black eyed peas, collard greens, corn bread, salad bar, & dessert

January 25
Chicken noodle soup with grilled cheese, salad bar, and cookies & brownies

Like our page: facebook.com/firstbaptistbirmingham

Live stream our sermons: fbcirmingham.org/live
Archives: www.ustream.tv/channel/fbc-birmingham-worship

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday
8:45am Library Open
9:00am Sunday School
10:15am Morning Worship Service
4:00pm Handbell Choir - 164
4:45pm Library Open
5:00pm The Gathering - 168
5:00pm Children's Bible Drill - G02

Wednesday
10:30am Library Open
11:00am Prayer Service & Lunch - FH
5:00pm Family Supper - FH
5:30pm Library Open
6:00pm Prayer Service - FH
6:00pm Choir Rehearsal - 168
6:00pm Children's Activities - G02
6:00pm Youth Ministry - 271

OUR STAFF

- Dr. Jim Cooley**
Pastor
205-901-3218
- Dr. Rich Hutchens**
Associate Pastor
205-401-0605
- Dr. Joe Hopkins**
Minister of Music
- Rev. Nathan Lyon**
Youth Minister & Music Ministry Associate
334-301-8607
- Cyndy James**
Pastoral Administrative Assistant
- Nancy Chesser**
Financial Assistant
- Kellie Kema**
Ministry Assistant
- Melvin Robertson & Ron Farms**
Custodians

CONNECTIONS MINISTRY (60+)

Discover the Magic City!

Thursday, January 19, 9:00am-2:00pm

For the next three months, the FBC seniors will “Discover the Magic City!” On each third Thursday in January, February, and March, we will take an excursion to a Birmingham attraction. On January 19, we will plan to leave the church at 9:00am, explore our mystery destination (all activities will be indoors), eat lunch, and return to the church by 2:00pm. The cost is \$10 plus the cost of lunch. We will be taking a 15-passenger bus with a center aisle. Space is limited so sign up in the front office by January 15 if you would like to attend.



YOUTH NATHAN LYON



What a wonderful year!! From Choir Tour, to painting houses in Arkansas with World Changers, to playing instruments with the orchestra at our church here in Birmingham, 2016 was a year filled with service and spiritual growth. Our theme for the year was Christ-Follower and I believe the challenge of what that means on a daily basis was taken seriously by the youth.

We look forward to the opportunities the Lord has in store for 2017 and to growing together as a church family. Thank you for your support, love, and care. Happy New Year!!



NOTES ON MINISTRY DR. JOE HOPKINS

A giant THANK YOU to everyone involved in our many Thanksgiving and Christmas music events. This is a great season at FBC, and you helped to make it more meaningful and memorable.

We have heard glowing reports on the presentation of Messiah from people far and wide. We had wonderful participation in the service, over livestream, and through the continuing archived broadcast online. Yes, you can still watch by going to the website and clicking on “Media,” then selecting “Messiah.”

I cannot think of a Christmas season that was more special or where I felt more a part of a church family than this. Thanks for the way you have embraced our family and for the family you are to our community. Your music and ministry are a powerful expression of love, and the Gospel message of this church is truth that can change the world.

Blessings for a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year!

Thank you,
Joe

WMU

Round Table Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 9:30am - G02

Mothers of the Bible Speak to Mothers of Today by Kathi Macias will be presented by Deborah Meador. This New Hope publication, recommended by National WMU, allows its readers to meet ordinary women of their day who, by God’s incomparable grace, were used for extraordinary purposes. Today’s Moms have much wisdom to gain from true examples recorded in Scripture. The same God who has shown His faithfulness to Mothers across time is faithful still to Mothers today.

Bible Study

Tuesday, January 24, 10:30am - G02

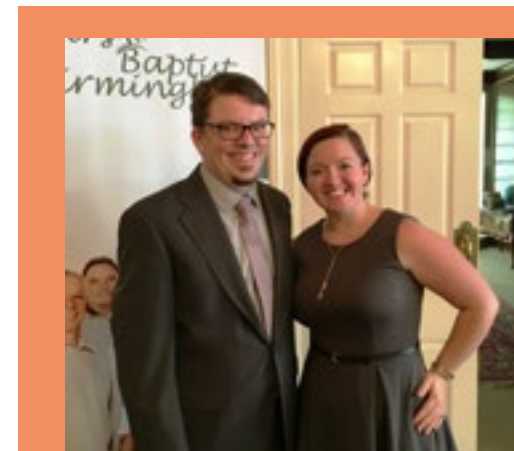
When gifts become a burden! Choosing the best from good, better, best through the eyes of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew. The Lord gave His children the Sabbath and He gives us our daily bread. Is He the Lord of our Sabbath? Come and learn with us. Join us for this study and a time of fellowship with lunch to follow!

NOTE: Going forward, we will no longer have Round Table meeting in the months we have General Meetings.

A WORD FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR DR. RICH HUTCHENS

New Year’s is a time for new plans, fresh beginnings. Even if you don’t do the traditional “resolutions”, you probably have some changes you’d like to make in 2017. Diet and exercise seem to top the list of most folks, but fewer than 8% of us actually follow through consistently. A recent article in Forbes magazine suggested that instead of resolutions we should try ‘questolutions’ – asking basic but actionable questions to shift the way you think. For example, instead of saying, “I will exercise more in 2017” you might ask yourself, “How can I fit exercise into my day this next year?” By posing a question to yourself, you spark creative, flexible thinking to solve your problem. Now apply that to your walk with the Lord this next year. But rather than making up your own questions, try answering some key questions that Jesus asked in the Gospels. There are seven that can help guide us in this next year; I challenge you to pick at least one, then let it stir you to action in 2017.

1. “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” (Matthew 9:28 “How can I trust God more with my life?”)
2. “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 8:26 “How can I grow in my faith this year?”)
3. “What do you think about the Christ?” (Matthew 22:42 “How can I learn more about Christ?”)
4. “Do you love Me?” (John 21:17 “How can I show my love for Christ this year?”)
5. “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord’, and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46 “In what ways can I be more obedient to the Lord?”)
6. “What do you want Me to do for you?” (Luke 18:41 “What do I need to ask the Lord to do in my life?”)
7. “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3 “How can I humbly help my brother or sister is Christ in 2017?”)



Chris & Angela Evans

Welcome New Members!



Penny Moss

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

First Baptist Family,

Thank you SO much for your tremendous support of the Alabama Baptist Children’s Home this past Christmas! Because of your great love, we were able to bless 10 children and 4 mothers that are experiencing tough times. We also were able to include extra gift cards for other foster families to use during the year. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ as you searched for the perfect gift for these children. Please pray for those on the front lines caring for foster children...their social workers, teachers, transporters and foster families. May we not forget His command to “care for the orphans and widows.”

WOMEN

Women of First Baptist...

Come join with women across our city as we walk in a DEEPER relationship with the Lord. We’ll meet each Tuesday at 7pm, beginning January 10, at Southeastern Bible College for a time of worship, teaching by Jena Forehand, and small groups. You are welcome to come by yourself, but what a great way to grab a few friends as we grow DEEPER in our relationship with Him. It’s totally free but you’re encouraged to register at jenaforehand.com. We look forward to experiencing the Lord move in our lives and throughout our city. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Amy Snow or email her at amyclarksnow@gmail.com.