

Birmingham, AL 35209
2209 Lakeshore Drive



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK DR. JIM COOLEY

The Season of Thanksgiving

November is the season when our minds are drawn to all of the reasons we have to be grateful to God. I should not have to be reminded of what a blessed man I am. I am grateful that the Lord blessed me with Judith as my wife who shares life and ministry with me in such an amazing way. I am blessed with two children who are great people with strong values. I am grateful every day for the constant evidence of God's love and provision in my life.



Among the things I am truly grateful for is the privilege of serving as pastor of First Baptist Church. Our church family has become such a vital part of my life, and I count it a privilege to share God's Word and to provide spiritual leadership for our church. I am grateful for those who teach the Bible every Sunday, for Deacons who help lead the way, for Music that brings us all before the throne of Grace. I am grateful to serve alongside ministers and staff who are truly the best to be found anywhere I know of. Most of all, I am grateful that I do not count you as members but friends.

During the month of November, I will be preaching from the final phrase of Isaiah 43:19 where the Lord promises "Rivers in the Desert." I am going to preach a series I am calling "Rivers of Gratitude." I hope you are there for each service. Remember that we will share our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 20, at 5:00pm.

Finally, I want to share a very special Thank You for all of the expressions of encouragement and love that have come my way during Pastor Appreciation Month. You are so gracious to remember and encourage me and all of our Ministry Team. You are a true blessing!

NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

November 3	Ladies Day Out	Christmas Village	10:00am
November 6	Daylight Saving Time Ends		
November 13	Green Springs Food Drive Ends		
November 14	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 152	6:00pm
November 17	Third Thursday Excursion	Gorham's Bluff	9:00am
November 20	Deacons Meeting	Room 175	4:00pm
November 20	Churchwide Thanksgiving Meal	Fellowship Hall	5:00pm
November 22	WMU Bible Study	Room G02	10:30am
November 23	No Meals, Services, or Activities		
November 24	Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed		
November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed		

MENU

November 2*

Classic Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert, Salad Bar, Buttermilk Biscuits

November 9*

Grilled Chicken Breast, Collard Greens, Mac & Cheese, Homemade Yeast Rolls, Dessert, Tossed Salad

November 16*

Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese, Salad Bar, Cookies & Brownies

November 23

Thanksgiving Break - No Meal

November 30*

Pork Chops, Baked Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Salad Bar, Cheddar Biscuits, Dessert

*Chicken Fingers for Kids

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
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Associate Pastor
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Dr. Joe Hopkins
Minister of Music

Rev. Nathan Lyon
Youth Minister & Music
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Cyndy James
Pastoral Administrative
Assistant

Nancy Chesser
Financial Assistant

Kellie Kema
Ministry Assistant

**Melvin Robertson
& Ron Farms**
Custodians

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CONNECTIONS MINISTRY (60+)

Gorham's Bluff Third Thursday Excursion Thursday, November 17

This month the Connections Ministry will be taking a day trip to Gorham's Bluff! We will leave the church at 9:00am and arrive at the Lodge at Gorham's Bluff for lunch around 11:15. After lunch, we will drive into Scottsboro to shop at the Unclaimed Baggage store. We will arrive back at the church around 5:00-5:30pm. The cost of the trip is \$15, payable to the church. Sign up in the front office.



The Senior Adults had a great time at Old Baker Farm last month!

WMU

Green Springs Food Drive October 30-November 13

Just down the road, the Ministry Center at Green Springs reaches out to Birmingham's multicultural community. WMU is asking that we now help stock the Green Springs' food pantry to help provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for these, our neighbors in need. Items needed most include sweet potatoes, stuffing, gravy packages, canned vegetables, soups, orange, red and green jello, fruit juices, spaghetti sauce, pasta, chili and cereal. Tables are set up outside Room 152 and the Fellowship Hall. Again, please give generously to this worthy cause.

Bible Study Tuesday, November 22, 10:30am - G02

Continuing the theme of "Knowing Who You Are," this Bible study will focus on the book of John. Deliberate - Planned - Intentional as we follow His lead. Will we choose to walk in His steps in spite of our feelings, our doubts, our discouragements? Join us for this study and a time of fellowship with lunch to follow!

NOTES ON MINISTRY DR. JOE HOPKINS

If you haven't noticed, the music ministry is moving at full speed. Folks of all ages are involved in music ensembles through choir, handbells, and orchestra. We would love to welcome you for any of these activities.

Many have asked about the organ, and we have great news. Thanks to our friend Barry Norris, a team of friends, and their labor of love, this wonderful instrument will soon be ready to contribute to services. The entire electrical system and wiring has been replaced, and you will soon hear sounds and combinations that have never been possible. All of this was accomplished at a remarkably economical cost, thanks to Barry.

Work will continue as we refine, tune, voice, and even add portions over the coming months; however, we anticipate being able to use the instrument in services beginning in the next few weeks. I look forward to all this will add to our time in worship. Evie Morris has committed to make the transition to organ, so she is taking lessons and learning to play with her feet as well as her hands! Thanks, Evie!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our organ fund thus far. We aren't quite finished with those expenses, but we are drawing closer. The days ahead are sure to be a blessing, so don't miss a Sunday.

It is a joy serving with you at FBC, and I look forward to every Sunday together!



YOUTH NATHAN LYON

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." We are currently studying this passage from Galatians 5, pursuing a better understanding of these fundamental aspects of living a Spirit-filled life, and seeking to truly comprehend what God would have us know from His Word.

It was great to see the youth leading with the orchestra this past month. Thank you for your support and encouragement in training up leaders of worship. Lastly, be sure to wish Maggie Mills Rose (17th) and Jveon Love (22nd) a happy birthday this month.

A WORD FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR DR. RICH HUTCHENS

Farsighted and nearsighted – I still can't remember which is which, but now it's a moot point. When someone asks me, "Are you farsighted or nearsighted?" I can honestly say "Both!" First it was not being able to read well; then I progressed to squinting to read road signs. Prescription glasses – which help me keep the world in focus, both far and near – are now my daily apparel.

In our walk with Christ we often face the same problem. Our vision diminishes, and we desperately need something to bring our world back into focus. Well, I have just the prescription for all of us. One will help with our distance vision and the other with life that is "up close and personal."

For distance I would recommend paying close attention to Peru. This month our church is sending down a team to Lima, Peru. This aptly named "vision trip" is to "see" if we at First Baptist can find some ways to partner with Donny and Jennifer Barger in the work of church planting among their people group. We'll look forward to bringing a report back later this month. Pray for Dr. Cooley, Kimberly Lenoir, Grace Cook, David Taunton, and Susan and me as we take a look at this distant ministry opportunity for our church.

Closer to home, during this month of November, we'll be hosting a training session for those interested in the Apartment Ministry. As you may know, we are involved in three apartment complexes in our community. Without the need for a passport or translator, you can find a place to focus your mission vision right here in our own backyard. Join me in praying for our church to have a 20/20 focus on the world!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY GLORIA WHITLOCK



October has been a very good one for the Children's Ministry. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:10). On Sunday, October 10, not only did we, her church family, rejoice, but also there was great joy in heaven (Luke 15:7) as Emily Owen made public her confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. As you can see from the pictures, John David and Amy Owen were thrilled that their precious little daughter made the commitment to trust Jesus as her Savior. FBC is proud to welcome Emily as our newest member!

The Children's Ministry Team decided to open the filling of the Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes to our entire church family. We gave out close to 100 boxes, and so many were thrilled at being able to bring joy to a child on Christmas through these boxes. Pray for the child who opens your box that he or she

will come to know the love of Christ through the love you had in gathering items for their box. Thank you, church family, for your support of the children's ministry. Keep praying for our children, teachers, and the Ministry Team.

