

pastor's perspective



Ho Ho Ho and Merry Christmas!

Can you believe that Christmas is only a few days away?! I hope you've been able to take care of the holiday preparations whether it's buying presents, attending end of semester parties, or checking things off the mountainous to-do list. But more than anything, I hope you've found a little time to slow down, rest, and sit in the beauty and awe of this special holiday season.

Christmas at FBC is such a meaningful and joy-filled time, and this year has been no exception. At the beginning of the month, we were encouraged with another uplifting Celebrate Christmas concert - our 12th one and it may have been our best yet. Incredible music, unbelievable solos, the orchestra, scripture, carols...all of it helped usher in the Christmas spirit. It's an event I look forward to every year because it reminds me so clearly of who we are as a church and what we celebrate.

Beyond the sanctuary, Christmas has been in full swing all around us. Our Deacons served over 75 gallons of hot chocolate at the Downtown Christmas Parade and it was a huge hit! If you ever need advice on making the perfect cup of hot chocolate, just ask Kurt England...he is officially the "Hot Chocolate King." Our youth have gathered for parties, our children joyfully celebrated Jesus' birthday, and Sunday School classes have shared meals and fellowship together. The joy of the season has been felt everywhere, and we're not done yet!

One of the most intimate and meaningful worship experiences I believe we share as a church is **Carols, Candles, and Communion** on **Christmas Eve**. This year, we will gather at **5:30 PM in the sanctuary** as families and friends come together to worship and celebrate the birth of Christ. We'll sing familiar carols, hear a brief Christmas devotion, share in Communion together, and end the evening by lighting candles...filling the sanctuary with a warm, soft, flickering glow. If you are able, I hope you'll make plans to join your church family and friends for this special time of worship.

As 2025 comes to a close, I want you to know how grateful I am to be your pastor. This year has had its own set of challenges and obstacles, yet you have remained faithful...committed to God and to one another. You have shown up with your time, your energy, and your generosity. You continue to give faithfully not only to our general budget but also to our Building Fund, helping us move steadily toward reducing our building debt. If you weren't with us this past Sunday, you missed an exciting announcement: we now owe only **about \$159,000** on our loan. What a tremendous blessing and something truly worth celebrating! Thank you for being such a generous church in all areas.

FBC is a wonderful church, and there is so much for which we can give thanks. My prayer is that you and your family experience a joyful, peaceful, and Christ-filled Christmas. I look forward to all that God has in store for us as we head into the new year together - with renewed energy, hope, and excitement. Merry Christmas,

Walter of William

Senior Pastor



memorials & honorariums

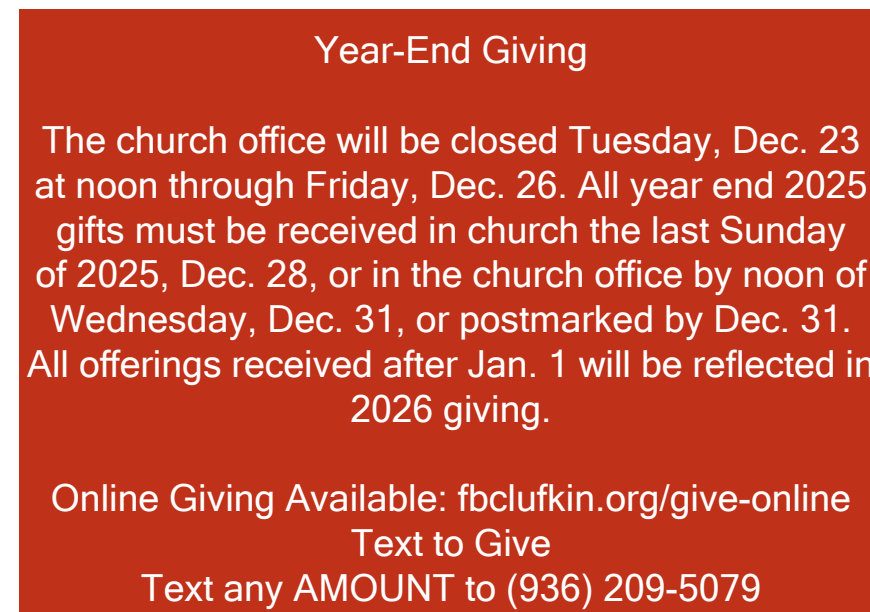
Memorial and Honorarium
Gifts have been given to the following Funds & Ministries of FBC:

Building Fund

In Memory of:
Bubba Wood
John Henry Tatum
Franklin Spruiell
June Clement
Jeannene Courtney
Sarah Rich
Vivian Crowson

Building Fund

In Honor of:
Liz & Richard Byler



Deacons for the month of January

Sid Roberts
936-674-6074 (cell)

Catherine Roberts
936-676-9926 (cell)

Elizabeth Perkins
936-465-3773 (cell)

(936) 634-3386 / www.fbclufkin.org

new members



Alfred and
Lucy Moye



Eddie and
Linda Smelley

Sympathy to

Burl and Lois Richardson
and Richard and Cindy
Richardson in the loss of
Delbert Richardson, brother
and uncle.

Church Office Hours

M - Th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed during the lunch hour
(12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Financial Report
Year to Date

Budget	\$1,701,483.35
Budget Receipts	\$1,547,269.59
Building Fund	\$267,558.26
Other Designations	\$135,620.89
Other Receipts	\$122,270.07

Staff

Walker McWilliams,
Senior Pastor

Katie Baker,
Minister to Preschool & Children

Truett Newton,
Minister to Students

