

## A DEVOTION FROM THE FLOOR

Happy February, faith-family,

It's hard to believe that the year is already passing so quickly. I remember when I was younger, hearing older men and women tell me, "Just wait," and one day the time will really begin to speed up. Well... I guess I have arrived at where they were because the days, weeks, and months are slipping like sand from my grasp, never to be gathered back again. Thankfully, I am spending my days doing what I love the most: leading, serving, and loving you.

That's right, I love you all and spend much of my time asking the Lord to bless you, move you, and inspire you to love Him, love people, and multiply disciples. Through leading and serving you, the Lord has authored some unique opportunities for me to represent our church in other places, among other leaders and pastors, and in a plethora of venues that are altogether new to me.

One of those places was having the opportunity to serve as Pastor of the Day at the State Capitol. Rep. Jaclyn Ford asked me to share a devotion from the House floor. It was a great honor, one I never anticipated, but one that made me think deeply about service, standing in the gap, appreciating all people from all walks of life, and leaving room to develop friendships in hopes of a door opening for the gospel.

I want to share with you the devotion I penned for them and hope you will be encouraged and spurred on to serve, stand, and love for the sake of Christ.

*Growing up, I was blessed to occasionally share the dinner table with my great-grandmother, a true-blue Roosevelt Democrat, and my grandfather, a die-hard Reagan Republican. As you can imagine, the dialogue around the table was at times very passionate and sectarian. There would be great discussion about candidates, fiscal policy, and the role of government in the lives of everyday Americans.*



*Now, to be honest, I don't know if they were that lively because of the divided political lines or because that's just how mothers-in-law and sons-in-law can be. But I do know this: they would share dessert at the end of those talks. Regardless of how tough and tense a conversation might be, they would have some pound cake from the counter and coffee, and life was good.*

*I dream of a day when, regardless of political party, we can have dessert again, and life can be good.*

*2 Samuel 23:11-12, "And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the*



**TJ MAULDIN**  
Lead Pastor

Continued.

Philistines. But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the Lord worked a great victory.”

We live in a world where it often feels as though the safety of our communities, literacy rates, housing affordability, economic pressures on our farmers, and even unseen dividing walls are pressing in, threatening to overrun the field full of good things and distract us from the many blessings we still get to experience.

**BUT** praise be to God, as I look around this room, I see leaders like Shammah who have chosen to stand in the gap, to defend and advocate for your communities and to serve in humility the people you love and represent. The hard work and heart work you do is often thankless, tough, and life-altering. Yet you are the defenders standing when others are running. When others say it’s a lost cause, that politics are too murky, too difficult, you have taken the risk and stand bravely in the midst of a great opportunity that you have determined will not be stolen.

So as a servant, I have three encouragements and a promise.

The first encouragement is not to grow weary. There is hope in the Scripture that we will reap if we do not grow weary and lose heart.

The second is that you don’t grow bitter. Working with people who can praise you one minute and then tear you to shreds the next can wound your heart and tempt you to grow bitter. Don’t give way to bitterness, but let it bring you to prayer: “Father, forgive me of my trespasses and those who have trespassed against us.” I believe that may be the bitter-fighting prayer Jesus told us to pray.

Third, you would never stop loving. Love covers a multitude of sins. Love transforms, bonds, and provides strength. Love outlasts the negative and is a firm foundation to build on.

And here is the promise: If we will stand without growing weary, refuse to grow bitter, and fully love, **THE LORD WILL WORK A GREAT VICTORY.**

However, I would be remiss to drive all the way from South Georgia just to make us the hero. If I came to say one thing, it’s that when life is tough, when it is not just our communities facing hardship, difficulty, or strain, but our own lives confronting the thief of doubt, fear, or weariness, we must remember there is a **BETTER SHAMMA**, and His name is Jesus.

He did more than stand. He stepped into our field, took our place, bore our sin, and secured a victory we could never win on our own. And because Jesus Christ the Righteous has done this, we can stand free, redeemed, and filled with hope in the presence of a loving God who never leaves, never forsakes, and brims with love for His children.

Pray with me...

If you’ve read this far, would you pray that these words of the gospel would anchor in the hearts and minds of the state legislature and that the Lord would redeem, rescue, and encourage someone today? While we are praying for them, let’s pray for ourselves too, because I am sure many of you could resonate with this devotion as you spend your days loving and leading others.

Blessings and much love,



## FIRST FACTS & FIGURES

JANUARY 2026

### BUDGET GIVING

Monthly Offering	\$228,556.00
Offering to Date	\$228,556.00
Expenses to Date	\$248,853.99
Budget to Date	\$272,878.00

### SANCTUARY RENOVATION

Contributions to Date	\$1,333,681
Total Cost	\$2,300,000
Loan Balance Owed	\$1,025,000

WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE

**1854**  
average

SMALL GROUP  
ATTENDANCE

**628**  
average



**MARK MYERS**  
Minister of Recreation  
and Senior Adults

## TIRED OF BEING CALLED A SENIOR ADULT?

No one seems to want to be known as a "senior adult"... even some of my 90-year-olds! Our Senior Adult Ministry, which involves all adults aged 55 and over, enjoys getting together to worship, fellowship, serve, and travel with like-minded senior adults. If YOU are looking for a fun group of believers who enjoy doing things for the glory of the Lord, we want YOU to join us. As an adult over 55, YOU can also have a say in what YOUR ministry is called. We are looking for a new name in glory, so here are some suggestions from our Senior Adult Committee as to what this ministry should be called. Please vote for your favorite name:

Legacy Builders • Tried 'n True • Young at Heart • Wise Owls • Seasoned Warriors

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thomasville Day Trip – March 14

Depart FLC at 10:00am • Return before dinner

Enjoy shopping, dining, and fellowship downtown. Bring a friend and come hungry!

### The Cove Retreat – Asheville, NC – May 18-20

Early-bird pricing begins March 1

Transportation provided by Eagle Christian Tours (22-passenger van)

### Peach State Summer Theatre – Valdosta State University

June 13 – Anything Goes

June 27 – Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat

Depart FLC at 11:00am • Lunch at Cheddar's • Show at 2:00pm

Tickets: \$20 presale • \$25 after 14 reservations • \$30 after June 1 (if tickets are still available)

Sign up at the FLC desk to reserve your spot.

Mark



**KENNY MILLER**  
Executive & Groups  
Pastor

## MEN'S MINISTRY CHILI COOK-OFF

The ultimate test of chili-making skills!

Do you have a secret recipe that can claim the title of **Chili Champion**? Or do you just love great food and fellowship? Join us for a night of friendly competition, a devotion from the word, great door prizes, and plenty of chili to sample.

Join us for the ultimate test of chili-making skills at our Men's Ministry Chili Cook-Off! Show off your secret recipes and compete for the title of Chili Champion, or just come hungry and ready to judge! We will also have some great door prizes, so come and bring some friends.

### Event Details:

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Location: FBC Ministry Center

### Team Information if competing:

- Teams must have 4 members. (Take this as an opportunity to bring others on your team who are not connected at FBC Tifton)
- Each team must have a theme to go along with your chili. Get creative because this will be required to win the Grand Champion Chili Award.
- Presentation will go a long way, so decorate your table and create a great team name.
- Each team is responsible for preparing a crock pot of chili for attendees to sample.
- Bring your chili in a Crockpot. (Power outlets and tables will be provided.)
- **The Award for the Grand Champion Team is a 4-man half-day Quail hunt at Southern Woods Plantation including 12 birds and lunch.**

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY at [www.fbctifton.org/events](http://www.fbctifton.org/events)

Kenny

• SYMPATHY •

Suzanne Johnson in the passing of her husband, **Tommy Johnson**.

TJ Mauldin in the death of his uncle, **Lacey Fraser**, of Lee County.

The family of **Willette Martin**.

The family of **Jackie Spradley**.

Mary Price in the passing of her sister, **Nancy Lowry**.

• NEW MEMBERS •

Mariam Agubilah; Samantha Bowen; Josie Brightwell;  
Melissa Carroll; Christi Evans; Anna Evans; Anna-Lisa Franklin;  
Foster Kangben; Gabriel Kearney; Eric Lee; Heather Massey;  
Parker Massey; Mckinley Massey; Whitley Massey;  
Whit Massey; Katelyn Murray; Ethan Sammons;  
Mary Logan Tostenon; Maggie Yates

• APPRECIATION •

From **Darby and Todd Veazey**

From **Donna Brodgen**

From **Susan, Joe, Joe William, and Samuel Sheffield**

# ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING®

OUR GOAL: **\$25,000**

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR BEACON VIA EMAIL ONLY?

Let us know by calling the church office at 382.6063  
or emailing Ansley Griner at agriner@fbctifton.org

CONNECT  
WITH US!



## THIS WEEK AT FBC

MARCH 2-8, 2026

MON	10:30am	Staff Meeting (MSH)
	1:00pm	Game Day for Senior Adults (Concourse)
TUE	10:00am	Facilities Team Meeting (Conference Room)
	10:30am	Joyful Sound (Choir Room)
	3:00pm	FUSE Preteen Ministry (Red Door)
	6:00pm	PAL - Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (S.S. Annex)
	7:15pm	Red Door College Ministry (Ministry Center)
WED	4:30pm	Elementary Choirs War Room (C105)
	5:30pm	Kids Open Gym
	5:45pm	Kids Recreation or Art
	6:00pm	<b>How to Have a Gospel Conversation</b> (Chapel) Middle School Gathering (Gathering Room)
	6:15pm	Kids Mission Classes
	6:45pm	Adult Choir (Choir Room)
	7:00pm	High School Gathering (Ministry Center)
THU	6:30pm	Celebrate Recovery (MSH/Chapel)
FRI	12:00pm	Church Office/FLC Closed
SUN	8:30am	Connection Worship I Service (Ministry Center)
	9:50am	Small Groups for all ages
	11:00am	Cornerstone Service (Sanctuary)
		Connection Worship II Service (Ministry Center)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAR 1&8** Starting Point - New Member Class
- MAR 12** Men's Chili Cook-off
- MAR 15** CentriKid Spaghetti Fundraiser

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS,  
MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, VISIT  
**FBCTIFTON.ORG/EVENTS**

THE BEACON (USPS 548-820) is published  
monthly by First Baptist Church, Tifton  
404 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
THE BEACON, 404 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE PAID  
at TIFTON, GA

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Mark Myers, *Minister of Recreation & Sr. Adults*  
Matt Howell, *Student Pastor*  
Marcia Staub, *Kids Minister*  
Jose Lopez, *Hispanic Pastor*  
Barry Cook, *Minister of Facilities & Worship Support*  
Daniel Gibson, *Worship Pastor*  
Kiet Le, *Vietnamese Pastor*