

Minutes and Reports



**Quarterly Business Meeting
February 15, 2026**

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Minutes of Quarterly Business Meeting February 15, 2026

The First Baptist Church of Cleveland met in regular quarterly business meeting on Sunday, February 15, 2026, in Heritage Hall of the church with a quorum present. Moderator Sam Pelletier presided, while, in the absence of church clerk Edna Holcomb, administrative assistant Donnie Filaski recorded the minutes. The moderator called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, followed by an opening prayer by John Reynolds.

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the minutes of the previous quarterly business meeting on November 16, 2025, were distributed, along with copies of the November 30, 2025, called business meeting; members were given an opportunity to review the documents. There being no corrections or additions noted, Mitchell Martin moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Scott Zorn. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

ITEM 2: REPORTS

☐ **Ministry Reports.** Copies of written reports from the senior pastor (*Attachment A*), the associate pastor (*Attachment B*), the associate pastor of students and families (*Attachment C*), and the children's ministry director (*Attachment D*), covering the period of November 16, 2025, to February 15, 2026, were distributed to the church members. Children's Ministry Director Donnie Filaski touched on upcoming events and activities that were noted in the Children's Ministry Report. A motion to approve all three ministry reports was approved unanimously by voice vote.

☐ Committee Reports

A. Membership Committee. Administrative Assistant Donnie Filaski spoke on behalf of the membership committee: since the previous business meeting in November 2026, the church has terminated the memberships of the following: by death—Doris Powell and Reba Fricks.

B. Finance Committee. For the Finance Committee, financial administrator Terry Goodger spoke to the written report (*Attachment E*), copies of which were distributed to attendees. He gave the annual financial report for the entire 2025 year, showing that total receipts were less than the amount budgeted by \$32,082.28, and total expenses were less than the amount budgeted by \$70,438.70. In summary, the December 31, 2025, income statement shows a total income for the year of \$725,077.98 and total expenses of \$686,721.56, resulting in an excess of income over expenses of \$38,356.42. The church has a current fund balance of \$337,747.56. The finance committee report was approved by voice vote.

ITEM 3: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None noted.

ITEM 4: NEW BUSINESS

A. Membership Committee Recommendation. Administrative Assistant Donnie Filaski, on behalf of the membership committee, recommended that full rights of membership be vested upon the following candidates, who have met all requirements for membership:

- ***By profession of faith and baptism:* Lily Arreguin, Chuck Fenton, Cindi McNeal**
- ***By statement of faith and previous baptism by immersion:* Layne McNeal**
- ***By letter of transfer from another Southern Baptist church:* MaryAnna Jenkinson, Miriam McKown, Rodney and Debbie Willis**

The recommendation was approved unanimously by voice vote.

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Donnie Filaski
Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS

Ministry Reports

Attachment A

Report of Senior Pastor (December 2025 – February 2026)

Dr. Phil Weaver

Dear First Family:

While winter has hampered our gatherings and mobility to some extent, nothing can keep God's Spirit from moving in our midst!

New Members This Past Quarter: We are so thankful for the addition of seven new members: Deb and Eric Forman (watch care); Layne McNeal (statement) and Cindi McNeal (baptism); Lily Arreguin (baptism); Miriam McKown (letter); Chuck Fenton (baptism).

Sunday Mornings This Past Quarter: We continued with the sermon series from the book of Nehemiah titled "No Matter What: Committed Service to a Holy and Faithful God." Messages over the past quarter have included the following: Part 24, "Backs Turned, but Hands Still Reaching" (Neh. 9:26-31) on November 23; Part 25, "Beyond Discipline: A Confession of Grace" (Neh. 9:32-37) on November 30; Part 26, "Signed, Sealed...but Delivered?" (Neh. 9:38-10:31) on December 28; Part 27, "The Heart of Worship Involves a Heart of Giving" (Neh. 10:32-39) on January 4; Part 28, "Daring to Move with a Mind for Missions" (Neh. 11:1-19) on January 11; Part 29, "No Little People, No Little Places: The Ordinary Serving the Extraordinary" (Neh. 11:20-36) on January 18; Part 30, "Worship on the Wall: Dedicating Our Lives to a Legacy of Service" (Neh. 12:1-20) on February 8 [with the new wall dedication afterwards]; Part 31, "From Ruin to Rejoicing: The Sound of Joy When God's People Celebrate" (Neh. 12:31-47) on February 15. This series will be ongoing through the remainder of the book of Nehemiah (another 3 weeks).

During December, we also had a three-part sermon series titled "Immanuel": Part 1, "Immanuel: God with Us" (Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; Jn. 1:14) on December 7; Part 2, "Immanuel: God for Us" (Ps. 27:1-3; Is. 41:10; Rom. 8:31) on December 14; Part 3, "Immanuel: God before Us" (Deut. 31:6-8; Is. 52:11-12; Jn. 10:2-5, 7-10) on December 21. The CFBC Choir and Orchestra presented "A Christmas Celebration of Praise" on Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 PM, with a great time of food and fellowship afterwards! On December 24, we also celebrated a wonderful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service as we sang and discussed the topic of "Avoiding a Blue Christmas" (Ecc. 3:1-4; Ps. 42:11; Mk. 10:45; Is. 53:5; 9:6-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Heb. 13:5; Phil. 4:19). [Our ice and snow dates were January 25 and February 1.] Dr. Mael Disseau will share a message on Sunday morning, February 22, in my absence.

Wednesday Evenings This Past Quarter: We continued with our study in the book of Romans titled "Roamin' through Romans." This verse-by-verse study has not been "just a casual stroll through Scripture." We will be concluding this study with a review session on February 25. Please join us at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays. Sonny Hartmann, one of our newer members and a TMU student, will be leading a Bible study from Philippians 3 on February 18 in my absence. Sonny feels a call to ministry and hopes to pastor once he returns to Germany. Please pray for him!

Outreach Events This Past Quarter: Our Good News Club at Tesnatee Gap Elementary School has gone great this year, with over 60 children enrolled! Our last club meeting for the year is Thursday, February 26.

We will have a “Good News Club Celebration” during our morning worship service on March 22, followed with a luncheon for the children and their families. Grand Friends, the monthly outreach to Laurel Lodge, continues to go well. We also have had a successful outreach to Truett McConnell University through “Campus Coffee and Donuts” on November 20 and the TMU International Students Thanksgiving Meal on November 25. Other outreach events included the Cleveland “Christmas in the Mountains” Parade (Dec. 7), Kids’ Drive-in Cinema—*The Polar Express* (Dec. 12), White County Library “Tour of Churches” (Dec. 13), and Food and Supplies Distribution at The Bridge (January 27-28, 30). The White County Baptist Association Wild Game Dinner will be held at Mt. Yonah Baptist Church on February 21 at 5:30 PM. We still need some volunteers to help serve food at this dinner and clean up after the event. Please contact Lee Underwood if you are available to serve in this capacity.

New Wall Landscaping Project Update: The new wall and landscaping project has been completed. Thanks to everyone who contributed! We are also grateful for the skilled work and partnership of Rooted Landscape Management (Jerry Smith and Joe Davis) and Owens Welding (Kevin Hill) in the completion of this project. We were pleased to have Jerry, Joe, and Kevin join us for our worship service and dedication on February 8. We presented each of them with a commemorative program and a framed photo of the church with the new wall and lettering (photo by Diane Fenlason).

New Church Directory Update: Copies of the new “CFBC 2026 Family Directory” is available (\$10 each to offset the cost of printing). Thanks to Diane Fenlason for her skilled work in taking the portraits of our congregation. In addition, we appreciate the time dedication and creative design of Kim Weaver in the final design and production of the directory. Matthews Printing Company in Gainesville did a great job in completing the printing of the directories for us, too.

Kim and I are blessed to serve you and to serve with you at CFBC for the glory of Christ!

Pastor Phil



Attachment B

**Report of Associate Pastor
Rev. Dennis Turner**

Senior Adult Ministry

The Senior Adult Ministry finished the final quarter of 2025 on a strong and encouraging note. We continue to see growth and consistent attendance at our monthly luncheons and trips, reflecting both the faithfulness of our senior adults and the ongoing interest in opportunities for fellowship, and spiritual development.

Our ministry at Laurel Lodge Assisted Living facility has been notably meaningful and successful. Our group is warmly welcomed, and our presence there continues to be met with appreciation and genuine connection. Through regular visits and engagement, we have been able to build relationships, offer encouragement, and share Christ’s love with the residents. This outreach has become an important part of our Senior Adult Ministry.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped to make the Senior Adult Ministry such a success this past year—those who prepared, drove our bus, served, and prayed, as well as everyone who participated so faithfully. We also extend sincere thanks to the church for its support, encouragement, and commitment to this ministry throughout 2025. Looking ahead, the Senior Adult Ministry is already well underway for 2026, with plans in place for exciting and meaningful opportunities for this year.

We welcome all adults, fifty-five and older, to participate in our Senior Adult activities.

Pastoral Care

One of the strengths of our church family is the care we share with one another. Please continue to let the pastors and church office know when needs arise; care can be provided.

If you have medical or personal concerns you would like to include on the weekly prayer list, please be sure to notify the church office. We strive to keep this list as current as possible. Thank you for the many thoughtful ways you minister to one another through calls, cards, meals, and visits; it truly reflects the love of Christ within our church family.

Administration

Upcoming Door and Alarm Code Changes: As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain the safety and security of our church, the door access code and alarm code will be changing in March. To receive a new code, contact the church office. To help us maintain a current and accurate list of those with access, we kindly ask that you do not share your code with others but refer them to the church office for this information.

Additionally, during the week, please refrain from letting any unknown person into the building. These visitors should be directed to use the intercom so the church office is aware of who is entering the building and can provide access as appropriate.

The current code will work until March 15, at which time the new code will become active. The new code will be available starting on March 9; however, it will not work until March 15.

Change of Mailing Address for the Church: This year, the church's mailing address will be transitioning from a post office box to our physical address at 25 Church Street. During this transition period, mail may still be received at both locations, but we encourage you to begin using the new address as soon as possible.

May 2026 is the date for the completion of the transition. Thank you for your attention to this.



Attachment C

Report of Associate Pastor of Students and Families Rev. Manning Minton

During this quarter:

Our youth and college students kicked off the season by teaming up to fold Operation Christmas Child boxes on November 12th, sending hope around the world!

- On November 16th, our students joined others from across North Georgia for an incredible night of worship at Cultivate, hosted by Skitts Mountain.
- We gathered for a fantastic "Friendsgiving" feast on November 19th. It was a wonderful night of sharing food, playing games, and reflecting on our many blessings.
- We enjoyed a fun night of pizza at the church before heading out to experience the stunning Magical Night of Lights on December 13th.
- Twenty of our students and adults had a life-changing experience at the Winter Xtreme Conference in Gatlinburg, TN, from December 27-29.
- On January 14th, our dedicated students worked together to beautify the church courtyard by clearing away the winter leaves.

Upcoming Events:

- Join the team! We're looking for volunteers (ages 18+) to help out at Winter Jam on Friday, February 20th.
- Our youth and college students are heading to the Generate Conference at Lakewood Baptist Church on February 27-28 for a weekend of growth and inspiration.
- Mark your calendars for May 3rd! We'll be honoring our high school and college graduates during the morning worship service. Please let us know if you have a graduate to celebrate!

- This summer (June 29 - July 3), we're heading to the Fort Mountain Retreat Center in Chatsworth, GA! The cost is \$230, with a \$75 deposit due by March 1st. If you'd like to change a student's life by sponsoring them, please reach out to me!



Attachment D

**Children's Ministry Director's Report (November, 2025 – February, 2026)
Donnie Filaski**

The CFBC Children's Ministry is looking forward to an active 2026. Since our last business meeting in November 2025, we are pleased to highlight the following events, activities, and announcements.

Events and Activities since November 16, 2025

- **Kids Drive-In Movie**

On Friday, December 12, 2025, the children's ministry hosted a drive-in movie in our parking lot featuring the movie "The Polar Express." Though the weather forecast throughout that week did not look promising, the Lord blessed us that day with sunny skies and mild temperatures. It was then topped off with a deserving sunset. While the movie played, guests enjoyed an opportunity to roast marshmallows and make s'mores over an open fire. Hot cocoa, popcorn, and a surprise visit from Santa made the evening all the more memorable. Members of the Good News Club were invited along with an outreach to other schools within our community. Attendance was certainly strong, with a sizable portion being made up of guests. Flyers introducing CFBC were handed out along with a verbal invite welcoming guests to our church. Thank you to everyone who volunteered in making that memorable event a success.

- **Kids Craft Night**

During the regularly scheduled Children in Action program on Wednesday, February 4, the kids participated in an outreach to the residents of Laurel Lodge. where they created colorful folding paper hand cutouts with the words "Jesus Loves You" pasted on the inside. Snacks of cookies, cupcakes, biscuits, and chips were served, along with milk and juice.

- **2026 Illumination Station, VBS Planning Meeting**

This year, the CFBC Children's Ministry hosted a VBS planning meeting immediately following the worship service on Sunday, February 8. The original date for the meeting was scheduled for Sunday, January 25, but was moved due to the effects of the recent ice storm. The meeting included an introduction to this year's VBS program, along with ideas, suggestions, and goals. Nearly thirty people were in attendance, and a light lunch consisting of hamburgers and chips was served. Thank you to all those who volunteered and to everyone who attended. VBS will be held June 8-12, 2026.

- **CFBC Children's Ministry "Breakfast Club"**

"The Breakfast Club" is the newest outreach program from the CFBC Children's Ministry. This monthly gathering began on Sunday, February 15, and will continue every third Sunday each month. Kids and their parents are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and a time of fellowship before Sunday School, which will give parents and kids a consistent, scheduled event to connect and build community.

Upcoming Events and Activities

- **Spring Festival**

On Saturday, April 4, 2026, the CFBC Children's ministry, along with other volunteers, will host a churchwide event in our parking lot similar to that of our annual fall festival. Like the fall festival, the spring festival will also include food, games, crafts, music, inflatables, and more. An outreach throughout our community is currently underway.

• **Mother’s Morning Out**

The CFBC Children’s ministry has begun the process of implementing a mother’s morning out program here at CFBC. Administrative logistics have been completed, including online and paper registration, a webpage, flyers, and most importantly, volunteers. The program is set to begin Friday, April 17, 2026, with more information to follow.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Cleveland First Baptist Church’s part-time Children’s Ministry Director. It is my pleasure serving the children and their families in a safe, welcoming environment and to lead them to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

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Attachment E
Financial Report

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

Financial Report as of 31 December 2025

Stewardship report

Budget Goal: \$757,160.26
Budget Receipts: 725,077.98 96%

Under Budget: \$32,082.28

Year to date 2025 Budget vs Expenses

Budget: \$757,160.26
Expense: 686,721.56 91%

Expenses are less than budgeted: \$70,438.70

Income Statement 31 December 2025

Income: \$725,077.98 96%
Expenses: 686,721.56 91%

Income in excess of expenses: \$38,356.42

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CLEVELAND, GEORGIA**

**Balance Sheet
31 December 2025**

Current Assets

1-000-0 General Fund: \$422,559.38

\$422,559.38

Total Current Assets **\$422,559.38**

Current Liabilities & Fund Balance

Current Liabilities

Accrued Annuity:	2,783.33
Designated Funds:	<u>82,028.49</u>
Total:	\$84,811.82

Total Current Liabilities **\$84,811.82**

Fund Balance

General Fund \$337,747.56

Total Fund Balance **\$337,747.56**

Total Liabilities and Fund Balance **\$422,559.38**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Cleveland, Georgia

2025 Budget versus Expenses

	Budget	Expenses	
<u>Administration</u>			
1-150-0 Convention Expense	5000.00	1081.62	
1-200-1 CPA Budget	5000.00	2975.00	
1-212-9 Subs for Music Director	1800.00	320.00	
1-311-0 Postage	2700.00	2718.70	
1-312-0 Office Supplies & Printing	3600.00	5940.18	
1-314-0 Stewardship-Envelopes	700.00	545.46	
1-501-5 Subsplash	3000.00	6162.89	
1-502-0 Insurance GL, WC, Auto, Umbrella	16,500.00	14,703.00	
1-509-4 Computer/AV Supplies/Repair	2,750.00	1,978.16	
1-520-0 Safety Deposit Box	100.00	114.70	
	41,150.00	36,539.71	89% spent
<u>Education</u>			
1-301-1 Literature for Sunday School	6,000.00	6,656.92	
1-308-0 Children's Ministry	3,000.00	2,242.67	
1-319-0 College & Career	2,600.00	1,320.53	
1-320-0 Youth Ministry	3,400.00	3,285.70	
	15,000.00	13,505.82	90% spent

Outreach

1-305-1 VBS Expense	2,000.00	1,099.77	
1-305-2 Fall Festival Expense	2,000.00	2,238.21	
1-305-3 Good News Club Expenses	2,000.00	1,532.47	
1-313-0 Advertising & Promotion	2,270.00	870.79	
1-321-0 Outreach & Evangelism	2,500.00	2,774.45	
1-325-0 Fellowship	3,000.00	2,516.87	
1-505-0 Kitchen & Hostess Supplies	3,500.00	4,084.92	
	17,270.00	15,117.48	88% spent

Missions

1-101-0 Cooperative Program	56,990.00	53,575.00	
1-102-0 White County Baptist Association	4,000.00	4,000.00	
1-104-0 Georgia Baptist Children's Home	1,500.00	1,500.00	
1-118-0 Church Mission Projects	1,500.00	275.00	
1-302-0 Women on Missions	2,000.00	799.52	
1-303-0 Deacon Ministry	300.00	254.65	
	66,290.00	60,404.17	91% spent

Benevolence

1-107-0 WC Senior Center Meals on Wheels	600.00	600.00	
1-108-0 WC Caring & Sharing, Inc.	1,200.00	1,200.00	
1-116-0 Catalyst Christian Learning Center	1,000.00	1,000.00	
1-511-0 Cleveland Historic Cemetery	1,200.00	1,000.00	
	4,000.00	3,800.00	95% spent

Facilities Operation

1-501-0 Electricity	39,000.00	39,714.26	
1-501-2 Water, Sewer & Garbage	5,000.00	5,514.01	
1-501-3 Telephone, Internet & Security	4,200.00	5,258.05	
1-501-4 Propane for Kitchen Range	1,200.00	1,220.02	
1-504-0 Cleaning Supplies	4,400.00	3,715.28	
	53,800.00	55,421.62	103% spent

Facilities Maintenance

1-506-0 Property Maintenance	12,000.00	6,947.68	
1-506-2 HVAC Replacement/Repairs	12,000.00	12,738.64	
1-509-1 Elevator Maintenance	2,400.00	2,517.00	
1-509-2 Copier Maintenance	3,000.00	4,426.72	
1-509-3 Pest Control	1,000.00	696.00	
1-509-7 Lawn Maintenance	14,500.00	14,140.56	
1-510-0 Transportation Repair	2,500.00	4,974.73	
	47,400.00	46,441.33	98% spent

Worship

1-315-0 Baptism, Communion, Worship	1,500.00	1,182.00	
1-318-0 Music Ministry	2,700.00	3,211.32	
	4,200.00	4,393.32	105% spent

Staff Salaries

1-200-3 Ministerial Staff package	305,261.09	305,261.08	
1-200-4 Non-Ministerial Staff Compensation	171,558.92	124,066.61	
1-200-5 Discretionary Comp & Staff Anniversary	7,800.00	6,928.69	
1-200-7 Staff Ministerial Allowance	10,000.00	5,035.25	
1-200-8 Matching FICA	13,430.25	9,706.48	
	508,050.26	450,998.11	88% spent

Total Budget **\$757,160.26**

Total Expense **\$686,721.56 91% spent**