PEACHTREE CITY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ministry Update

October 25, 2026

We exist to make, mature, mobilize, and multiply disciples of Jesus Christ

A Word of Gratitude and Encouragement

As I reflect on the past six months of ministry, my heart is filled with gratitude for the incredible privilege of serving as your pastor and walking alongside such a faithful church family. I never want to take for granted the blessing of being part of a church family that so genuinely desires to walk with Jesus, encourage one another in the faith, and share Jesus with the world. Your faithful prayers, generous support, willingness to serve, and commitment to the mission God has entrusted to us are both encouraging and inspiring.

One of the greatest blessings of our church is the people God has brought together to accomplish His purposes. I am especially grateful for our dedicated ministry staff and the countless lay leaders and volunteers who faithfully give of their time, talents, and energy to serve our church family. Much of what they do takes place quietly, often behind the scenes and without recognition, but their faithfulness makes an eternal difference. Their love for Jesus, commitment to His Church, and willingness to serve others are gifts for which I continually thank God.

I am equally grateful for the spirit of unity, generosity, and prayerful dependence upon the Lord that continues to characterize our church. Ministry is never the work of one person or even a handful of leaders. It is the collective expression of God's people using their God-given gifts, working together in the power of the Holy Spirit, to fulfill the mission of Christ. And what a joy it is to see God at work in and through His people!

As you read this biannual ministry update, my prayer is that you will see more than a report of activities, accomplishments, and opportunities. I hope you will see evidence of God's faithfulness, the fruit of your partnership in the Gospel, and the tremendous opportunities that lie before us. While we have much for which to be thankful, I believe God has even greater things in store as we continue to seek His heart, follow His leading, and faithfully engage in His mission.

Thank you for your love, your prayers, your encouragement, and your partnership in ministry. I count it one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve the Lord alongside you. As Paul wrote to the Philippians, *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel"* (Philippians 1:3–5).

To God be the glory for all He has done, all He is doing, and all that is yet to come!

Blessings,

Pastor Joey

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Data from April 25, 2026 to October 25, 2026

Baptisms	16
Deaths	8
New Members	45 Individuals / 14 Family Units
Visitors	64 Individuals / 36 Families
Attended Starting Point	37 Individuals

DEACON MINISTRY

Matt Burton — Chair
Doug Barclay — Vice-Chair

Our focus this year has been supporting our pastors and mobilizing our Deacons to meet their needs. Just as the first Deacons in Acts 6 served so the apostles could devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word, we want our pastors to be free to shepherd and lead well.

Our Deacon body is healthy and engaged. We currently have 70 Active Deacons, along with 9 Emeritus Deacons, whom we continue to value for their wisdom, counsel, and years of faithfulness.

Our Active Deacons partner closely with the church's ministry leadership teams, and as those teams have grown, the Deacons have adapted alongside them. These partnerships are the primary way our Deacons come alongside each pastor and ministry leader. Your Deacons also continue to count it an honor to share in serving the Lord's Supper alongside our pastors.

On July 26, our Deacons gathered as part of the church-wide Leadership Summit. Pastor Joey joined us and met with the Deacons assigned to him to discuss the areas in which each of them serves.

Caring for Widows and Widowers: On Sunday, September 27, in partnership with Pastor Mark and the Widowed Ministry Team, we hosted a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall honoring the widows and widowers of our church family.

PERSONNEL TEAM

Chris Gregory — Chair
Brandon Conwill — Vice-Chair

Members: Ray Malcolm, Joe Hoyt, Sonya Lewis, Michelle Rathburn, and Scott Homan

Our team is committed to supporting our staff so they can thrive in their calling to serve and advance God's Kingdom. We are deeply grateful for the men and women God has called to serve in staff roles at First Baptist. Each team member brings diverse strengths, faithful service, and spiritual wisdom that are essential to fulfilling the mission and ministry of our church. Together, we strive to steward these gifts with excellence, integrity, and a shared commitment to Christ-centered service.

Key areas of focus over the past six months include:

Staff Personnel Benefits

Compensation

Reviewed all personnel salaries, implemented cost-of-living adjustments, and used market data to make targeted updates that ensure fair and equitable compensation within our local area.

Retirement

Transition complete to new, lower cost retirement plan that offers more investment options that has historically better returns.

Staff Structure

Our staff structure has been adjusted to enhance effectiveness and efficiency while maximizing the allocated personnel budget. We now have four senior leadership roles:
Operations, Worship Arts, Family Life, and Missions/Care.

Personnel Continued ...

Recently Filled Staff Positions
Adult Ministries Pastor, Communications Director, Young Adult Ministry Associate, Operations Ministry Associate, Family Life Associate &; Apprentice for Pastor Rodgers (Howard Tisdale Apprentice).

Current and upcoming focus areas:

New Medical Plan/Life & Disability Plan
Evaluated and implementing new benefits package to optimize costs, preserve coverage, and improve overall effectiveness for employees. Onboarding begins this fall to match open enrollment dates.

Student Pastor Search
Baptist Search Partners selected to aid in search process for vacant Student Pastor Position.

Key Person and Disability Life Insurance Policy
Further due diligence is needed, but this type of policy appears to be beneficial for the church.

Personnel Policy Review
Personnel Policy review and updates needed in several areas including, but not limited to harassment reporting, dispute resolution, and medical leave.

Artificial Intelligence Policy
Currently in the nascent stages of developing an Artificial Intelligence Policy.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Dale Rinkenberger Chair | Natalie Thompson Vice-Chair | Mike Bell Treasurer

Members: Tommy Statham, Ken Takekawa, Terri Allison, Rodney West & Glenda Hix

We thank God for the faithfulness and generosity of our FBC Peachtree City church family. Through your giving, you share in the work of helping people know Jesus and grow as His followers. The Stewardship Team's desire is to care faithfully for all God has entrusted to our church so that our ministries can grow and carry out our mission to influence all people into intimate followship with Jesus.

We ended the 2025–26 fiscal year on July 31 with $3,796,057 in offerings toward our $3.51 million Stewardship Plan. Including investment and interest income, total income was $3,819,330. Expenses totaled $3,587,845, resulting in a year-end surplus of $231,485. We are grateful for the generosity behind these gifts and for the ministry they make possible, both within our church and beyond our campus.

Much of stewardship happens quietly, as we care for the places where ministry takes place. During this reporting period, we replaced the roofs of The Bridge Community Center and the church Café, renewed the Toddler Playground's surface and drainage, and repaired the ground around the prayer room and landscaping in the prayer garden to help keep groundwater from entering the basement. We also installed a new security camera system in the First Kids/FBC Weekday area. Together, these improvements help preserve welcoming, well-cared-for spaces where children can learn about Jesus, families can find community, and people can gather for prayer and encouragement.

Stewardship Continued ...

The new deck replacing the 500 Hall footbridge is now complete, providing space for both large and small outdoor gatherings. We look forward to the conversations, friendships, and opportunities for discipleship that can grow there. Continued improvements to the office area also help our growing staff team work together as they equip volunteers, support our ministries, and care for our church family.

Behind each of these projects is a shared purpose: to support the people and ministries through whom others encounter the love of Jesus. As we care for our campus and steward our finances, we want to help our church welcome those who are new, nurture those who are growing in faith, and reach those who have yet to know Him.

We also continue to pursue the sale of the Rock Church property. After the previous prospective buyer was unable to complete the purchase this summer, we evaluated additional options for leasing the property to other churches or like-minded ministries. Following that review, the MLB decided to move forward with efforts to sell the property. We have engaged a broker to help evaluate opportunities and guide the sale process. We are in the process of negotiating a new offer, and several other parties have expressed interest in the property. We remain hopeful that a sale can be completed before the end of the year and ask for your prayers for wisdom as this process continues.

The year-end surplus is being added to our capital reserve fund to prepare for future ministry and facility needs. Following the substantial maintenance and improvements completed, we expect to spend the next couple of years rebuilding available reserves toward our goal of 20% of our annual budget. Setting aside these funds is part of caring faithfully for what God has entrusted to us, helping us address future repairs while continuing to support the ministries of our church.

Thank you for giving, serving, and praying so faithfully. We are grateful to serve alongside you and trust God to use what we offer together to draw people to Himself.

MISSIONS & CARE

Pastor Mark Matson

MISSIONS

- **ENGAGE Weekend & Sunday:** We celebrated a highly successful ENGAGE weekend August 29-30th. Church groups deployed across the community to serve alongside our local ministry partners. On ENGAGE Sunday, we recognized 30 of our local partnerships during the service, with most hosting connection tables in the gathering place to engage with our congregation.

- **Short-Term Mission Trips:** We wrapped up our 2026 Short-Term Mission season in September. Our final teams traveled to Utah and Oregon to support new church plants and continued partnership.

- **Looking Ahead to 2027:** As we enter a new season, we will begin building our 2027 teams by hosting informational meetings in the gathering room on January 10th and 17th. All trips are now open for people to get on board with where God sends them.

Widowed Ministry

On Sunday, September 27, we hosted our Fall Widowed Luncheon. We had a wonderful turnout of 47 widowed members, who were lovingly cared for by a dedicated team of 19 volunteers. The widowed team continues to actively minister to and love these cherished members during this specific season of life.

Shower the Tree & Community Outreach

- **School & City Commissioning:** We kicked off the school year in July by hosting our annual back to school luncheon for local school administrators. On Sunday, August 2, we

Missions Continued ...

held a dedicated time of prayer and commissioning for the upcoming school year, our city officials, and local first responders.

Life Groups & 'Kedron Bags' Ministry: In September, our Life Groups launched their community service initiatives. A major highlight is our Kedron Bags ministry. Volunteers from three different Life Groups gather weekly to assemble basic food bags, which are distributed to children every Friday to help sustain their families over the weekend.

Pastoral Care:
This has been a bittersweet season. While we rejoice that they are face-to-face with their Savior, we deeply feel the absence of some of our most faithful members. We continue to grieve and remember often.

How You Can Help Us Care: Our goal is to ensure no member of our church family walks through a difficult season alone. To help us stay informed: Please contact Pastor Mark or the missions office regarding any new or ongoing care needs. Please include Pastor Mark in all Life Group email lists. This allows him to better monitor the needs of the congregation and offer support where it is needed most. Email: markm@fbcptc.org and donnab@fbcptc.org

Legacy Builders (Senior Adults)
We launched a fresh season of our Joy Lunch in September with a brand-new approach. Our theme focuses on simple, "front porch conversations" with friends and neighbors, featuring Shirley Rush beautifully playing the role of Aunt Bee.

- **Recent Highlights:** We enjoyed wonderful conversations with Joel & Jerri Cowan (one of Peachtree City's founding couples), as well as Mary Maud-Hiestand and Jim Fulton (founding members of FBC PTC).

Missions Continued ...

- **Upcoming Events:** Future lunches will feature our own church veterans sharing stories of their military service, festive Christmas carols, and a sing-along with the Coram Deo Choir.

  Leadership Transition: Beginning in January and continuing through the remainder of the church year, we will transition leadership for the Legacy Builders. While Pastor Mark will always stay personally connected to this community, we are excited for Pastor Jeremy Robbins to step in, challenge, and grow this ministry according to God's vision.

The Bridge Community Center

Pastor Jacob Sparks

Summer Recap & Volleyball
We wrapped up a busy summer with our annual volleyball and basketball camps, moving directly into our Upward Volleyball season, which served 80 young girls. We are incredibly grateful for God's provision of coaches, hosts, and volunteers.

Upcoming Basketball Season
Registration opened in August, generating an incredible response. Demand has been so high that we are adding teams and expanding to a third gymnasium. In addition to our ongoing partnership with St. Paul, we are looking to add games now at Kedron Elementary. We trust the Lord will continue to provide the space and volunteers needed to support this growth.

18th Anniversary
This October, The Bridge hit a major milestone celebrating 18 years of ministry! Daily activities continue to expand, and we frequently host outside community groups. This open-door policy gives us regular opportunities to build relationships, serve our neighbors, and share Christ.

Gym Floor Replacement Update
We experienced a delay in replacing the gymnasium floor, which is now scheduled to begin in mid-February. While initially frustrating, we now clearly see this timing as a blessing and a provision from God to protect our winter sports schedule.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Pastor Rob LaLiberte

Summer Highlights

Our worship ministry helped prepare music and worship elements for Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School, working alongside our First Kids team. Our June 7 VBS Sunday introduced the children and our church family to the theme of God's nature and faithfulness.

On June 28, we celebrated America's 250th birthday with patriotic worship services and a church family picnic. This was an opportunity to give thanks for our nation while remembering that our ultimate hope is found in Jesus Christ.

Growing Our Ministry

We continue to look for opportunities to involve musicians in the life of our church. We're adding an additional pianist, percussionist, and violinist to our worship band ministry. We are also exploring children's choir opportunities with our First Kids team, including possible participation in our Christmas program.

Looking Ahead to Christmas

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 6! Our Christmas Kickoff at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. will feature our worship ministry's choir, band, and singers, with special guests Denver and the Mile High Orchestra (DMHO). Then join us at 6:00 p.m. for a Christmas concert with DMHO! This Nashville-based band brings Christmas favorites to life with soaring horns, soulful vocals, and big-band swing, blending jazz, pop, and gospel influences. Expect high-energy music and the joyful message of Christmas. Bring your family and invite friends and neighbors to celebrate the birth of our Savior! Christmas Eve services are planned for December 24 at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

We are thankful for the continued dedication of our choir, musicians, and tech team, and for the support of our church family. It is a joy to serve together as we seek to lead our congregation in Christ-centered worship.

GUEST SERVICES

Director, Erin Hicks

Guest Services serves the church family through Starting Point, Serving by Grace, membership, and Guest Services teams. Please continue to pray for our church's health and growth as we press forward into the remainder of 2026 and into 2027.

Starting Point
Since March 2026, we have held 3 Starting Point classes (May 2026, August 2026, and October 2026). Across these classes, we welcomed 37 attendees, and 26 new members joined our church family (plus 19 children)! It's such a blessing to see our church growing, and we are excited for all that God is doing through our church.

Serving by Grace
Serving by Grace has been relaunched as a digital evaluation designed to help members discover their spiritual gifts and find meaningful ways to serve within our church. The new format is easy to complete at your convenience and provides immediate results to help identify areas where you may be best suited to serve. A special thank you to Matt Burton for helping bring this new design to life!

Membership
Our church is preparing to transition from Realm to TouchPoint in 2027, bringing a more modern and updated membership platform to our church. Behind-the-scenes work is already underway to help ensure a smooth transition. Thank you to everyone who submitted updated contact information so we can ensure the most current information is transferred to our new system. Be on the lookout for more information and updates as we get closer to making this transition in 2027!

Guest Services
Guest Services consist of our Ushers, Greeters, Guest Connections, Information/Welcome Desk, Parking, and Connections Café.

We are excited to be working on several improvements within Guest Services, including relaunching a parking team to help welcome guests and direct them to the main entrance, along with new signage and clearer designated guest parking to make their first visit even more welcoming. We are also working on giving our Connections Café a fresh new look with some updates and additional seating. If you enjoy painting, have tiling experience, or would like to lend a hand with these projects, please see Erin Hicks! We are grateful for everyone who is willing to share their time, talents, and ideas as we continue improving our spaces and serving our church family and guests.

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

Pastor Jeremy Robbins

Men's Ministry

Our Men's Ministry continues to provide opportunities for men to grow in their faith and build meaningful relationships. This fall, we enjoyed a wonderful fellowship night with over 60 men in attendance, including several from our Deaf Ministry. We have been especially encouraged to see some of these men begin attending our Wednesday evening Bible study with the help of an interpreter.

Our Wednesday night study through 1 John has also been strengthened by a faithful group of men who serve each week through preparing meals, teaching, and leading table discussions. We are grateful for their investment in this ministry and look forward to continuing to build opportunities for men to grow together in God's Word and in fellowship with one another.

Women's Ministry

Our Women's Ministry has enjoyed a wonderful season of Bible study, fellowship, and encouragement as women come together to deepen their walk with Christ. Under the leadership of Shanna Hester, women gather regularly for Bible study on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings, creating opportunities to study God's Word and encourage one another in their walk with Christ.

In addition to these weekly studies, Shanna has organized monthly gatherings for fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual growth among women of all ages and stages of life. We are grateful for Shanna's leadership and the many women who faithfully serve and participate in this ministry. We look forward to seeing these opportunities continue to strengthen relationships and deepen discipleship among the women of our church.

Life Groups

Our Life Groups continue to play a vital role in the discipleship and community life of our church. Over the past several months, several groups have entered new seasons under new leadership, and we have been excited to launch a second Life Group specifically for young married couples.

We have also begun strengthening our ministry structure through the development of divisional directors who will provide additional support, encouragement, and care for our Life Group leaders and members. As we look ahead, our desire is to continue developing and equipping leaders, helping new people find meaningful connections, and strengthening our Life Groups as places where people grow together in God's Word and care for one another.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Pastor Cedric Beckles

It has been an exciting and encouraging season in our Student Ministry! As I continue serving as Interim Student Pastor, I'm grateful to report that things are going well. Our students are growing, relationships are being strengthened, and we continue to see God at work in meaningful ways. I want to especially thank our Student Ministry Transition Team, whose leadership, commitment, and hard work helped make this past summer such a smooth and successful season. Their willingness to step up and serve has been a tremendous blessing! Meanwhile, our search for a new Student Pastor continues.

We are prayerfully seeking the person God has prepared to lead this ministry into its next chapter, and we ask that you continue praying for wisdom, discernment, and God's perfect timing throughout this process.

This Fall has already given us so much to celebrate! Our Middle School Fall Retreat was a tremendous success, providing students opportunities to deepen friendships, grow in their faith, and be reminded of God's goodness. We're now looking forward to our High School Fall Retreat, where we'll continue encouraging students to develop a genuine, wholehearted relationship with Christ.

I'm also incredibly proud of our students for their enthusiastic participation in helping assemble 1,000 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! What a beautiful picture of young people putting their faith into action and participating in something much bigger than themselves. Through our weekly gatherings, retreats, and opportunities to serve, we are intentionally helping students understand that following Jesus isn't simply something we do at church; it's a life we are called to live every day.

Student Ministry Continued ...

Looking ahead, preparations for DNOW (Disciple Now) are well underway and on track! This is always a significant opportunity for spiritual growth, discipleship, and community among our students.

In the coming weeks, please watch for communication about ways you can help make this event a success. Whether through volunteering, serving, or praying, there will be opportunities for our church family to invest in the next generation.

I'm reminded of Galatians 6:9, which encourages us, "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." What a wonderful reminder that every prayer, every act of service, and every investment in a student's life matters. Thank you, church family, for continuing to love, support, and invest in our students.

We aren't simply preparing students for the future; we're helping them follow Jesus faithfully today!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Lisa Sims, First Kids Minister

The Lord has been so faithful to First Kids Ministry! Faithful to our kids, to our families and to our team. We continue to see new families visit, our volunteer team grow and LOTS of new babies. We are thankful for the Lord's blessings!

Some highlights since the last update would be the celebration of two Parent/Child Dedication Services, the addition of a new class for Preschool on Sunday mornings, Terrific Tuesday play days with families and a fun Promotion Sunday moving up to new classes for the school year.

In June we hosted another successful Vacation Bible School for FBC! Our attendance for PreK to 3rd grade grew from previous years so much that a waitlist was needed to accommodate as many children as possible. We had lots of gospel conversations, teaching moments and learning God's Word together. Plus, a whole lot of FUN! We are thankful that God moved in the heart of one First Grade little boy and he gave His life to Christ! God is so good!

In August we shared a special Sunday with our Elementary kids through a Backpack Blessing. For this time of blessing, the kids were divided into groups and rotated through three stations where they participated in an activity to pray for their teachers, to pray for their schools and to pray for their friends. After the stations, we all came together to pray for our children and for their new school year. To end our day of Backpack Blessing each child received a backpack tag to attach to their school bag. The tag displays our theme and verse for the year, "God is good - For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:5". Looking ahead, we anticipate a fun Fall Fiesta night with trunks, games, hayride, petting zoo and lots of candy! We are expecting about 500 in attendance!

Weekday Education

Director Rachel Jones

Ministry through the FBC Weekday program has continued to thrive this year. We have had the privilege of serving 154 children and their families, as well as 31 teachers and staff members. Each teacher has a heart for children and shares the love of Jesus with them daily.

Daily the children engage in learning activities, many through play, crafts and song. In addition to the classroom schedule the students also have an opportunity to attend PE and Music class weekly. A new addition this year is the monthly assembly for our PreK 3-Kindergarten students. These activities are designed to prepare our students for the next step in their education, wherever that may be.

We also strive to set our students up for educational success at each level by following the GELDS (Georgia Early Learning Development Standards). We adhere to these standards when choosing curriculum and creating lesson plans for our students ages 1-Kindergarten to ensure a strong foundation in educational milestones.

The goal of FBC Weekday is to help children to grow in Christian ideals as well as allowing them to develop their social, emotional and physical bodies as well.

We look forward to seeing God work through the seeds planted here at FBC Weekday.

SMART Vision Team Update

Strategic Mission and Realization Team

Seeking God's Direction for Our Future

I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the first phase of our SMART Vision Team's five-phase strategic planning process. Our initial phase of Discovery was designed to help us take an honest and comprehensive look at our church by identifying our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as we prayerfully seek God's direction for our future.

Through numerous personal interviews, eight sensing sessions, three assessments, and several written submissions, approximately 200 people participated in this important discovery process. I am deeply grateful for your willingness to share your perspectives, insights, concerns, and hopes for our church. Your thoughtful and honest engagement has provided invaluable information that will help shape our ministry priorities and missional direction for the years ahead.

Currently, our SMART Vision Team is entering Phase 2: Evaluation and Discernment. During this phase, the team will carefully review the findings, identify recurring themes, draw meaningful conclusions, and begin addressing weaknesses and opportunities that warrant immediate attention. This work will also prepare us for Phase 3: Strategic Planning, when we will begin developing specific strategies and actionable plans to strengthen the various ministries and operational areas of our church.

Our ultimate goal is not simply to develop another strategic plan, but to prayerfully discern God's direction and establish a clear, unified, and actionable seven-year missional plan that will position our church to make disciples, strengthen families, engage our community, and multiply our Gospel impact for generations to come.

I ask that you continue to pray for our SMART Vision Team as they seek God's wisdom, evaluate our present realities, and consider the opportunities before us. I also encourage you to remain engaged and be ready to participate as opportunities arise to help shape and implement the next chapter of our church's ministry.

Finally, I want to express a special word of appreciation to Curtis Weaver and Doug Jones for their faithful leadership in guiding our SMART Vision Team through this process, and to Rob Peters and the Corpus team for their specialized guidance, expertise, and encouragement. Their investment in our church and commitment to helping us pursue God's best for our future are deeply appreciated.

The best way to honor God's faithfulness in our past is to faithfully follow His leading into our future. I am excited about what lies ahead and grateful that we have the privilege of pursuing it together!

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