



# IN THE KNOW

May 2026 - Volume 1, No.3

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FERNANDINA BEACH





# Come Apart Before You Come Apart

*Spiritual Rhythms for a Season of Growth*

It is hard to believe summer is already upon us. As the days grow longer and the pace of life on Amelia Island shifts, I find myself reflecting on what the Lord has been doing in our midst — and what He is preparing to do next. Our journey through the book of Romans has stirred something in this church. We are reaching new people, yes, but more importantly, we are seeing a fresh excitement and a renewed spiritual growth among those who have been walking with Christ for years. The Gospel is doing what the Gospel always does: it is making old things new.

Yet seasons of growth come with a hidden danger. When the Lord is moving, and the calendar is full, we can mistake activity for vitality. We can mistake busyness for fruitfulness. Summer, with its slower professional pace and its built-in pauses, is a gift from God for precisely this reason. It is an invitation to recalibrate.

## **The Rhythm Jesus Modeled**

In Mark 6, after the disciples returned from a season of intense ministry, Jesus said to them, “Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while.” He did not commend their productivity and send them back out. He pulled them aside. The language carries the sense of withdrawing on purpose — a deliberate stepping away from the crowd in order to be present with the Savior.

Vance Havner, the great Southern Baptist evangelist, summarized the principle in one of his most often-quoted lines:

*“Come apart, or you will most certainly come apart.”*  
— Vance Havner

Few of us argue with the principle. Most of us struggle to practice it. So let me say this plainly: if you

are able to take a vacation this summer — take one. Get away. Sit with your spouse. Walk on the beach with your children. Read something that is not on a deadline. The world will keep spinning without you for a week, and your soul will thank you for the silence.

### **Disciplines That Travel**

A vacation is not a vacation from Jesus. The same spiritual rhythms that sustain us in February will sustain us in July — they simply travel with us. As you plan your summer, plan your soul as well.

Open the Word every morning, even on the days you are not setting an alarm. Pray without ceasing, even from a beach chair. Worship the Lord in a local body wherever you find yourself on Sunday — and if you are home, gather with us at FBFirst. Memorize a passage of Scripture during your trip; the road and the porch are wonderful classrooms. Keep a journal of what God is teaching you. These small disciplines, repeated over a season, are how the Lord shapes the deep places of a life.

“

Your neighbor at the pool, the family in the next condo, the new coworker, the parent on the next bleacher — these are not interruptions to your summer. They are assignments from your Father.

”

it is becoming a beachhead for the Gospel in a community that desperately needs a strong, biblical, Christ-centered church. Please continue to pray for the launch team, the leadership, and the families the Lord is already preparing to call that campus home.

We are also on track to baptize a record number of people this year. Let that sink in. Every name represents a life the Father drew, the Son redeemed, and the Spirit awakened. Every story is a testimony that the Gospel still saves. If you have been part of inviting, discipling, praying for, or celebrating with even one of those new believers — thank you. You are the reason this church looks the way it does.

### **A Church on the Move**

While we rest, we do not retreat. The mission of FBFirst continues to gain momentum, and there is much to celebrate as we look toward the back half of the year.

Our Central Nassau Campus is on schedule to open in the early fall. What began as a vision is becoming brick and mortar, and more importantly,

### **INVEST and INVITE**

As we move into the summer, let us double down on the simple strategy God has blessed: INVEST in relationships with people who are far from the Lord, and INVITE them to come and see what He is doing at FBFirst. Your neighbor at the pool, the family in the next condo, the new coworker, the parent on the next bleacher — these are not interruptions to your summer. They are assignments from your Father.

And be aware: summer in our part of Florida brings a steady stream of visitors. New faces will fill our pews who have never set foot in a Baptist church before — and some who have not set foot in any church in years. One thing I have learned in a growing church is that people assume you have been here forever, even if you have only recently begun attending yourself. So do not wait on the staff. Do not wait on the deacons. Do not wait on someone with a name tag. Take the initiative. Show hospitality. Be the first to extend a hand, learn a name, and offer a seat. You may be the reason a family decides to come back next Sunday.

### **Find Your Place to Serve**

Summer at FBFirst is anything but slow. Vacation Bible School will fill our halls with the laughter of children and the sound of the Gospel set to music. Summer camps will take our students into environments where the Lord routinely changes the trajectory of a life in a single week. Mission trips will send our people across the state, across the country, and across the world to make Him known.

Find your place. Whether you are pouring lemonade for a VBS volunteer, chaperoning a bus full of middle schoolers, packing a suitcase for a mission trip, or quietly praying down heaven on behalf of those who go — your role matters. The Lord multiplies what we offer Him; He always has.

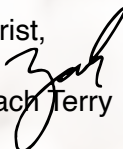
### **A Word of Gratitude**

Brothers and sisters, I am honored to be your pastor. I look forward with great expectation to what the Lord will do in the days ahead — in our homes, in our hearts, and in our church.

Come apart this summer. Sit at His feet. Walk in His Word. Carry His name to the next person He puts in your path. And then come back ready, because the best is still ahead.

In Christ,

Dr. Zach Terry



# Building Momentum in Central Nassau

## From Blueprint to Breakthrough

By Josh Wood  
Central Nassau Campus Pastor

If you've driven by the Central Nassau property lately, you've probably slowed down a little just to look. It's hard not to. What used to feel like a future plan is now a real structure you can stand in front of and picture full of people.

The building is moving faster than we expected. The structure is up, framing is done, and now crews are inside working on drywall and the finishes that will start to make it feel like a church, not just a construction site. Next up will be the parking lot and paving, which somehow makes it feel even closer. We're still on track for a fall opening, and right now, ahead of schedule.

But the building isn't the story—it's just where the story is going to keep unfolding.

We're growing. Not in a vague, "things are going well" kind of way, but in real, visible ways. More families, more new faces, more people stepping into membership and baptism. Easter Sunday was a clear moment for all of us with 250 people in attendance. That's the largest crowd we've had, and it didn't feel like a one-time spike. It felt like a glimpse of what's coming.

What's been especially encouraging is where people are coming from. Central Nassau, of course, but also North and West Duval, and even Southeast Georgia. People are driving, inviting others, bringing their families, and settling in. That says

a lot about what God is doing here.

Our ministries are feeling that growth too. The student ministry, for example, recently had a paintball outing that brought together students and families from both Central Nassau and the Island Campus with over 60 people showing up. It was loud, a little chaotic, and exactly the kind of thing that builds real relationships. More than anything, it reminded us that we're still one church. Different locations, yes, but shared mission, shared culture, shared purpose.

That kind of collaboration matters. It's how we stay connected as we grow. It keeps things from drifting into "two separate congregations" and instead strengthens what we've always been—one body serving different parts of our community.

Looking ahead, there's a lot to be excited about. The building opening this fall is a big milestone, but right alongside that is the continued focus on discipleship—families growing together,



small groups forming deeper connections, people taking real steps in their faith.

There's a sense right now that we're in the middle of something, not at the end of it. Things are still forming, still growing, still gaining momentum.

And honestly, it's just a good time to be here. Not because everything is perfect or finished, but because you can see God at work—in the construction, in the conversations, in the lives being changed week by week across Central Nassau County and beyond.



# The North Property

## A New Home for Community Outreach | Island Campus

By John Sauer  
*Community Outreach Coordinator*

We're excited to share how God is moving through FBFFirst as our North Property becomes the new home for our Community Outreach efforts. What was once an overgrown, unused space has been transformed into a functional, welcoming area—now ready to serve as a hub for ministry and connection.

This incredible transformation didn't happen by accident. Through the leadership of Carl Lee and the hard work of a dedicated team of deacons, the property has been cleared, prepared, and reimaged for a greater purpose. A special thank you goes to Steve Simmons for generously providing the use of his John Deere tractor and investing countless hours to help bring this vision to life. Because of their faithfulness, this space is now positioned to make a lasting impact.

But this is more than just a physical transformation—it's a step forward in our mission.

As we look ahead, our vision for the Outreach Center at the North Property is to meet real needs in our community—from housing and mental health support to access to vital resources. Our heart is to create a place where people don't just learn how to survive, but are equipped to truly thrive. We want to walk alongside individuals and families, helping them take meaningful next steps—whether that's growing closer to God, finding employment, or navigating life's challenges with encouragement and guidance.

We're not just pointing people in the right direction—we're committed to walking with them every step of the way. And through it all, our ultimate goal remains the same: building relationships that lead people to Christ.

We're already seeing God at work through ministries like Midweek Meals. **Over the past 12 weeks, participation has increased by 16%, with 286 additional meals served—including around**



**60 meals delivered each week to homebound individuals** in our community. What a powerful reminder of how practical acts of service open doors for meaningful ministry.

Thank you to everyone who faithfully serves—those who order, prepare, serve, deliver, and clean up each week. Your dedication is making a difference in ways that truly matter.

The “before and after” pictures of the North Property tell part of the story—but the real story is just beginning. With this new space, we are better equipped than ever to serve our neighbors and step into the opportunities God is placing before us.

We invite you to come see it for yourself, 1080 Olive Street.

# Christian Heritage Celebration

## Christian Heritage Parade and Faith Festival

One of our favorite celebrations on Amelia Island is our Christian Heritage Celebration. It begins Saturday, June 27 at 5pm in Central Park with the 3rd annual Christian Heritage Parade and Faith Festival. Our purpose is to unite the community around the message of Jesus Christ, celebrating faith, freedom, and 250 years of American heritage through a visible, city-wide expression of hope, unity, and truth. Join us for a day of fun, food, music, and fellowship! Celebrate our Christian heritage and patriotism by registering or becoming a sponsor; scan the QR code to register or visit [fbfirst.com](http://fbfirst.com).



**CHRISTIAN**  
**HERITAGE PARADE**  
FERNANDINA BEACH, FLORIDA



**REGISTER TO  
PARTICIPATE  
IN THE  
PARADE**



## Christian Heritage Sunday

Christian Heritage continues on Sunday, June 28, as our church family joins others across the community to reflect on the faith that has shaped our nation and the freedoms we enjoy today. It's a time to thank God for His hand in our history and to remember the biblical truths that helped form our foundation—truths now entrusted to us to live out in our generation. Join us immediately following the second service at our Island Campus. This special FBFirst tradition includes uplifting patriotic music, a message from our Senior Pastor, Dr. Zach Terry, and lunch in the B-Wing at 12:15 pm, with guest speaker, Jared Price. We'd love for you to be part of this meaningful time of fellowship, encouragement, and renewed vision—and to invite someone to come with you. Lunch tickets are \$10 and available via the QR code, at [fbfirst.com](http://fbfirst.com), or at the Welcome Desk. Seating is limited, so be sure to get your tickets soon!



**SCAN FOR  
TICKETS**

## Guest Speaker

Jared Price served 10 years as a Navy SEAL and has spent more than 15 years in ministry, giving him a unique perspective on leadership, discipline, and faith. Today, he serves as Co-Founder and Chief Operations Officer of Military to Ministry, helping equip leaders to carry out God's mission with purpose and clarity.



# SUMMER

at FBFIRST

Some think summer months are slow and unproductive times in the annual church calendar. Not so here. Great things are happening this summer at FBFirst! These are just some of the special events that will take place this summer. Invite someone to join you at one of these events. And, don't forget to have fun this summer!

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12

## **VBS SUNDAY**

Sunday, June 13

## **FATHER'S DAY**

Sunday, June 21

## **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE PARADE**

Saturday, June 27 | 5:00pm

Faith Festival | 6:00pm

## **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY**

Lunch with guest speaker Jared Price

Sunday, June 28

## **FUGE YOUTH CAMP**

Black Mountain, NC

Sunday, June 28 - Thursday, July 2

## **NO MIDWEEK IN JULY**

We'll be back August 5

## **BEACH BAPTISM**

Sunday, July 12

## **CAMP FREESTYLE**

Monday, July 20 - Thursday, July 23

## **MOVE-UP SUNDAY**

BOTH CAMPUSES

Sunday, August 2

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Looking for a way to invest in more than 500 kids with the gospel? VBS is right around the corner! This year our theme is Rainforest Falls. Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into

a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. Will you join the team TODAY? Do so at

[FBFirst.com/vbs](http://FBFirst.com/vbs)



**June 8-12 @ FBFIRST**  
**8:45am - 12:15pm**

# A Life of Faithful Service

## Susan's Story Through Vacation Bible School

For over two decades, Susan has been a steady, joyful presence in Vacation Bible School (VBS), shaping the lives of children and volunteers alike. What began as an unexpected calling has grown into a lifelong ministry marked by passion, transformation, and unwavering faith.

Susan's journey into VBS didn't start with a natural inclination toward children. Early on, she admits she "didn't like children," but everything changed when a need arose for someone to lead music. She stepped in reluctantly, and what followed was transformative. "God called me and then gave me what I needed," she reflects. "I didn't learn to love children—I instantly loved children."

That moment became the foundation for 20 years of faithful service.

At the heart of Susan's ministry is a deep belief in the spiritual openness of children. She has seen firsthand how their excitement and curiosity create opportunities for the Gospel to take root. "When I see the kids... their eyes get wide and they light up because they understand Jesus—that's why I'm there," she shares. For Susan, VBS is more than a program—it's a sacred opportunity where seeds of faith are planted.

One story stands out among many. Over several years, a young boy attended VBS, returning each summer with more questions about Jesus. Though Susan only saw him during those brief weeks, each conversation built on the last. Eventually, after years of curiosity and growth, the boy chose to follow Christ and was baptized. It was a powerful reminder that even short, consistent moments of ministry can lead to eternal impact.

Behind the scenes, Susan leads what she calls "organized chaos" in the worship rallies. From choreographing songs and training teenagers to planning every detail, her goal is clear: create an environment where children are engaged and focused on Jesus. By involving teenagers on stage, she gives younger children role models they can look up to—bridging generations through shared faith.



But Susan's vision extends far beyond the stage. She sees VBS as a vital outreach to the community. In a world filled with noise and distractions, VBS offers children something rare: genuine care and attention. "They have somebody looking them in the eye and caring about them as a person," she explains.

That care is intentional. Susan and her team strive to reflect the love of Jesus in every interaction—welcoming each child, calming anxieties, and creating a space where they feel seen, valued, and safe.

Her passion also extends to those considering volunteering. Susan emphasizes that you don't need special skills or experience—just a willing heart. "You don't have to know anything," she says. "God will give you everything you need to be whatever that child in front of you needs you to be."

Her story is a powerful testament to what happens when someone says "yes" to God. Through her obedience, countless children have encountered the love of Jesus—and the ripple effects of those moments will continue for generations.

# SUMMER AT FBFIRST

WHERE FAITH AND FUN MEET!



By Zach Zettler  
Children's Pastor

The months of June, July, and August are some of the busiest in the church calendar. So much happens, and many of these moments have eternal impact as kids grow in their relationship with Christ and deepen friendships. Summer is an absolute blast at FBFIRST!



June kicks things off as we prepare for **VBS 2026 – Rainforest Falls!**

Kids step onto campus and into a rainforest where they grow in their understanding of God's character. Throughout the week, children entering Kindergarten through completed 5th grade are immersed in the Gospel through Bible study, crafts, snacks, music, and more. It's more than just fun—it's intentional teaching of God's deep love for them. Each day, leaders help kids understand that God the Creator knows them and His love is forever.

But it doesn't stop at VBS—it carries into **CentriKid**. This "away camp" is for kids who have completed 2nd through 5th grade. This year, we're heading back to Brewton-Parker College, **July 6–10**, for a week designed to help kids understand who is writing their story—Jesus. Through games, Bible study, and worship led by college students, CentriKid is an unforgettable experience. Cost is \$375 per camper.

We also know not every child is ready for overnight camp—that's why we're bringing camp to our community! **Camp Freestyle, July 20–23**, offers a similar experience with worship, Bible study, and intentional relationships. Each day runs from 9:00am–4:30pm and is designed for kids to have a blast while parents are at work. Space is limited to 200 campers, so be sure to register soon. Cost is \$249 per camper and open to children ages 5 through 5th grade.

At the end of July, we usually wind down—but this year, we ramp up! **Promotion Sunday is August 2**, bringing new classrooms, teachers, and curriculum. We'll also celebrate with a **Back to School Bash on July 31**. It's a fun way to wrap up the summer with family and friends and get excited for the Fall. Sign-ups begin at VBS, so mark your calendar!

The FBKids Ministry exists to make disciples. While it may look different than adult discipleship, the goal is the same: helping kids know Jesus and make Him known, while equipping parents to live Gospel-centered lives. If you'd like to be part of what God is doing, contact Children's Pastor Zach Zettler ([zachzettler@fbfirst.com](mailto:zachzettler@fbfirst.com)) to get involved in discipling the next generation.

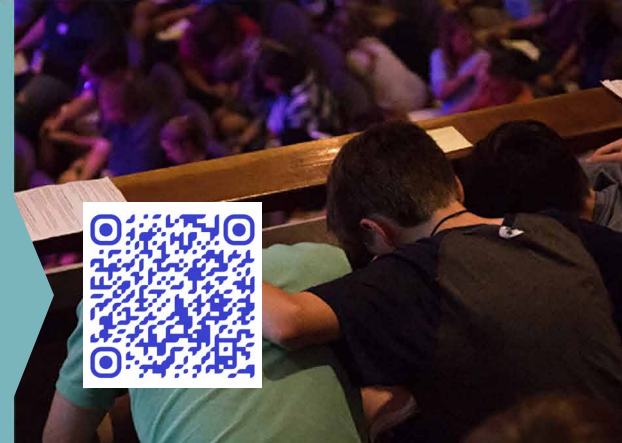
# FUGE CAMP



## JUNE 28 – JULY 2

Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC  
This year will be our **LARGEST** group yet, and we need your help to make sure every student has the opportunity to experience this life-changing week of worship, discipleship, and community.

Scan the QR code to **SPONSOR A STUDENT OR GIVE ANY AMOUNT** — every gift brings a student one step closer to camp and an opportunity to grow in their faith. Don't wait — invest in the next generation today!



July 20-23  
9am-4pm

- K-5th grade
- Cost is \$249

Best staff, inflatables,  
games, and more!

Register at  
[FBFIRST.COM/KIDS](http://FBFIRST.COM/KIDS)



## WOODLANDS FREESTYLE CAMP



# Celebrating Faith in the Little Moments

## At Jack and Jill Preschool

By Serena Fleming  
*Jack & Jill Director*

At Jack and Jill Preschool, each day is filled with small, meaningful moments that often go unseen—but they are shaping hearts in lasting ways. As a daily preschool ministry serving children ages 2, 3, and 4, we are blessed to welcome over 70 students each year into a place where they are loved, nurtured, and guided.

While much of our work happens in quiet classrooms through songs, stories, play, and prayer, we are reminded that those little moments matter more than we can always see.

Recently, we experienced a beautiful reminder of just how impactful this ministry can be. One of our sweet students made the decision to follow Jesus—a moment that will forever shape her life. She comes from a Baptist church, and it was a joy to see the connection between what she is learning at home, at church, and here at preschool. Her teachers, Mrs. Sandie O’Conner and Mrs. Katie McClucas, had the special privilege of being part of this important step by attending her baptism. It was a meaningful and emotional day, seeing firsthand how the seeds planted in her young heart are already growing.

We share this as a praise report, giving thanks for the opportunity to be part of something so much bigger than ourselves. At Jack and Jill Preschool, we may



be working with little hands and little hearts, but we serve a big God who is always at work—even in the smallest of moments.

.....

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”

– Proverbs 22:6

.....

# DISCOVER A WORLD OF LEARNING & WONDER!



We are grateful for every child entrusted to our care. Our gifted and experienced teachers nurture, instruct, and invest in the lives of our students every day.

**Committed to Excellence!**  
**904.261.0881**

# Finding a Church Home— and a Renewed Faith

By Jackie Paisley  
Member

My name is Jackie I was baptized as an infant, growing up Catholic alongside my sister. We attended the same Catholic school our mom and aunts had, and church was always a part of our lives. Every week, we sat in the same pew with Mom, Nana, and Pop-Pop, listening to Mass. I feel so fortunate to have known Jesus from an early age.

In high school, I joined a youth group that changed everything for me. It was there that my faith truly grew. I fostered a relationship with Jesus in a way that felt real and personal. But after college, life got busy, and before I knew it, I had become a “holiday Catholic.” During this time, I was praying but I wasn’t actively pursuing my relationship with God. That went on longer than I’d like to admit.

About two years ago, my husband and I started searching for a church we could call home, one where we could worship together. The journey was frustrating, and I started to wonder if we’d ever find the right place. Then, a coworker suggested we try FB First. From the very first sermon, something clicked, and my eyes were opened. Pastor Zach preached the Word in a way that I had never experienced before. It was alive, powerful, and personal. I wasn’t just hearing the Bible—I was understanding it. I found myself looking forward to Sundays in a way I never had before.

That summer, the church announced a beach baptism. At first, I struggled with the idea. Wasn’t I already baptized? Does the first one not count? The more I listened to the sermons each week, and the more I prayed, I realized that I had been missing out all these years on knowing and understanding Jesus’

teachings. Baptism is a personal act of obedience, a way to publicly declare my faith now as an adult. The beach baptism felt like the most authentic way to do this.

Standing in the ocean, surrounded by the vast beauty of God’s creation, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace. It is my testimony to my inward change and commitment to following Jesus. I am so thankful to Pastor Zach and the community of faith leaders at FB First. My family now has a church to call home and that fills me with great joy.

After the baptism we were gifted this beautiful, handmade, wooden cross. This gift was so meaningful and a visual reminder of not only the day, but that Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for me. I want to extend a warm thanks to the anonymous individual who gifted these.



*Jackie & Matt*

.....  
“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”  
– Proverbs 22:6  
.....

## BEACH BAPTISM

If you or someone you know is ready to be baptized, we’d love to talk with you! To learn more, send an email to Sarah Howard at [sarah@fbfirst.com](mailto:sarah@fbfirst.com) / call 904-775-5448 to get started or visit [fbfirst.com](http://fbfirst.com).

Join us Sunday’s at 5 pm at Peters Point Beach.

Upcoming Dates:

July 12th  
August 16th  
September 20th



Scan to Register

# Senior Adult Ministry

*Fellowship. Faith. Growth.*

Our Senior Adult Ministry continues to provide opportunities for fellowship, and spiritual growth.



## UPCOMING EVENT

### KENNEDY SPACE CENTER TRIP

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Join us for an exciting day of discovery and inspiration.



If you are interested please contact Pastor Frank.





## SAVE THE DATE

### Senior Adult Dinner

**JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

with a theme  
*"Patriotic Celebration"*



**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR SENIOR ADULTS** and the many ways they strengthen our church family through volunteering, mentoring, and encouraging others.



**LET'S CONNECT!** Contact Pastor Frank at [fcamarotti@bellsouth.net](mailto:fcamarotti@bellsouth.net). We hope to see you at our upcoming events!

If you are not receiving emails with senior adult information, please contact me so we can add you to our list.

## More Than a Meal

### Building Community at Hope House

By John Sauer  
Community Outreach Coordinator

Hope House continues to be a meaningful opportunity for us to serve those in need within our community. FBFIRST volunteers serve on the 4th Monday and the 1st Friday of each month, providing meals and building relationships.

Recently, our staff stepped up in a special way by bringing both energy and joy as they prepared and served hamburgers and hotdogs to more than 100 guests. It was more than just a meal; it was an opportunity to connect. We shared conversations with individuals we may never have met otherwise, reminding us of the importance of presence, compassion, and community.



We're grateful for the chance to serve and for the relationships that continue to grow through this ministry.



# HOW YOU CAN PRAY

Puerto Rico  
Mission Trip  
June 13-19

This summer, our Student Ministry is heading out on mission, and we're asking our church family to come alongside us in prayer. These trips are more than just a week away—they are opportunities for students to step out in faith, serve others, and grow deeper in their relationship with Christ.

Throughout the week, students will be engaging in hands-on ministry, building relationships, and sharing the love of Jesus in practical ways. As they go, we believe God will not only work through them—but also in them.

## **Here are some specific ways you can be praying:** **Pray for spiritual growth**

Ask God to draw each student closer to Him. Pray that their faith would be strengthened and that they would clearly see how God is working in and through their lives.

## **Pray for boldness and unity**

Pray that students would have courage to share their faith and serve with confidence. Ask for unity within the group—that they would encourage one another and reflect Christ in how they work together.

## **Pray for safety and health**

Lift up safe travel and protection throughout the entire trip. Pray for strength, good health, and energy as they serve each day.

## **Pray for lasting impact**

Pray for the people and communities they will serve—that hearts would be open to the Gospel and that relationships built during the week would have an eternal impact.

## **Pray for leaders**

Ask God to give wisdom, patience, and encouragement to the leaders guiding this group. Pray they would lead well and invest meaningfully in each student.

Thank you for being a church that supports and sends the next generation. Your prayers matter more than you know.



## Wondering What's Next? **GROWTHTRACK**

The class is designed to guide you in discovering your redemptive purpose and in return make an impact for the kingdom. With three steps, Growth Track invites you to encounter Jesus, understand why we believe what we believe, connect with other believers and empower others through serving.

### SPIRITUAL STRENGTHS

Dive into the uniqueness of your personality. You will discover the gifts God has given you and the purpose God has for you.

### PERSONAL LEADERSHIP

We're better together!! Explore the ministry of FB-First, and find out how to connect with others and grow in your walk with Christ.

### LOST PEOPLE MATTER

It's our heart to bring the hope of the gospel into every city, whether big or small, by crossing every divide to live united as Christ & make a difference in the lives of others.

Our Growth Track Class guides you to discover your purpose and live the life God created for you.

Choose which Sunday works best for you.

**June 7, September 13, November 15**

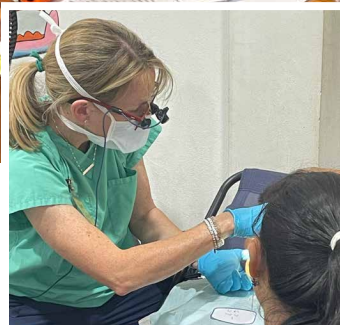


We can't wait to see you there!  
Have Questions? Contact:

Sarah Branch Howard  
sarah@fbfirst.com  
904-775-5448

SCAN TO  
REGISTER

# Ecuador Mission Trip



By Shad Goltz  
Adult Pastor

I just returned from a one-week mission trip to Montanita, Ecuador, and I can honestly say it is a week I will not forget!!

Our team partnered with Pate Ministries, a faithful organization serving children and families throughout Ecuador. We went with a simple but powerful goal—to meet real needs through medical and dental clinics while also sharing the hope of the Gospel. What God did far exceeded anything we could have planned.

I was privileged to serve alongside a team of doctors, dentists, nurses, and ministry leaders, including Pastor Gabe. Together, we set up clinics that provided much-needed care to people in the community who often have limited access to basic medical and dental services.

One moment that stands out to me was a mother who traveled over two hours by bus just so her child could be seen by a pediatrician. That kind of determination and need stayed with me. It reminded me that what may feel routine to us can be life-changing for someone else.

But even more than the medical and dental care, what I will carry with me are the spiritual moments.

Throughout the week, as people were being treated, we had the opportunity to share the Gospel. Conversations opened naturally, prayers were prayed, and hearts were softened. We saw people respond to the message of Jesus Christ, and we witnessed 23 salvations take place. That is something I will never take lightly.

By the end of the week, it became very clear that God was doing far more than providing healthcare—He was drawing people to Himself.

This trip reminded me in a powerful way that the Church is called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, both in our own communities and to the ends of the earth. I saw that lived out in real time through every clinic room, every conversation, and every act of service.

I am grateful for FB First and the way God continues to use our church family to impact lives globally. There is still so much more to do, and I truly believe this is a great time to get involved—whether that's praying, giving, or going.

I will never forget what God did in Ecuador in 2026!!

And I believe He is only getting started.

# Mother's Day

## Our 4th Annual Celebration

For the fourth year, our Mother's Day Celebration at FBFirst continued to blossom into something truly special — a time dedicated to caring for, encouraging, and celebrating the women of our church. Mothers, grandmothers, young women and those who have experienced loss, this event was designed to remind every woman how cherished mothers are and valued she is. A heartfelt thank you to our incredible team of volunteers and workers who helped bring every detail to life and made the day so meaningful for so many.



# Parent Child Dedication

We love moments like these—when families stand before the church, committing to raise their children in faith, and our church family comes alongside them in prayer and support. It's a powerful picture of what it means to do life together and to point the next generation to Jesus.

We are so grateful for every family who participated and for the promise of God's faithfulness over each child dedicated. May they grow in wisdom, strength, and a deep love for the Lord.

Join us in praying for these families as they continue this journey of faith together.



## Welcome! Anne Lacey Whitaker



Anne Lacey holds an MBA and brings more than 20 years of experience in communications and leadership development. She loves FBFirst because it combines the reach of a large church with the warmth of a

close-knit family. Outside of ministry, Anne Lacey enjoys golfing with her dad, long walks with her Momma, spending time near the ocean and serving alongside the FBFirst family.

## A Weekend of Worship & Song

Are you a woman in Florida who loves to sing and worship? We have exciting news just for you! Introducing the Florida Baptist Women's Choir — Serenity Songbirds! You're invited to our 2nd Vocal Retreat this summer in beautiful Fernandina Beach, **Thursday, July 23 – Saturday, July 25!**

Join women of faith from across the state for 3 incredible days of:

- Worship & Fellowship
- Voice Workshops & Choir Rehearsals
- A Welcome Dinner, Shared Meals & Afternoon Tea
- Participate in a Public Concert on Saturday Night

Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to lift your voice in praise, this is your moment to grow, connect, and glorify God with music.

For more info, visit [fbfirst.com](http://fbfirst.com) or contact Jennifer Hudson at [jenniferhudson@fbfirst.com](mailto:jenniferhudson@fbfirst.com)

We can't wait to sing with YOU this summer!



**JULY 23 – 25**  
**Fernandina Beach, FL**  
**Registration is limited!**

FAREWELL



# SEASONS CHANGE, BUT GOD REMAINS

## SO THANKFUL FOR THIS SEASON OF MINISTRY

many of you stepped in to care for me in ways I will never forget. Thank you for truly being the Church.

Seasons come and go. Sometimes we see them coming; other times, we don't. We know change is a part of life, but we don't always know when it will come or how long it will last. What I do know is this: my time at FBFirst has been a wonderful season—one I will always hold with deep gratitude.

Continue to be faithful, church. God is doing powerful things through you. Continue to pray for your leadership as they seek the Lord and walk alongside you in fulfilling His calling for the Church.

And as always, Soli Deo Gloria

*Gabe Zavala*

Gabe Zavala  
Students Pastor

## THIS IS THE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

I shared with our students as I announced that the Lord is leading my family and me to a new ministry assignment.

I have had the blessing of serving in student ministry for a little over 14 years, and it has been an incredible journey. I've been privileged to have a front-row seat to lives being transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Right before coming to FBFirst, I thought my time in student ministry was coming to an end—but God had a different plan. He knew there was one more assignment for me here at FBFirst, and what a gift it has been.

FBFirst Student Ministry has truly been a blessing in my life. Church, you have incredible students who are living out their faith in ways that both challenge and inspire me. If I'm honest, this has been one of the most joyful seasons of student ministry I've experienced—not because there were no challenges, but because your students and leaders have been so faithful in their walk with Jesus. That faithfulness has made the work of equipping the saints a true joy.

I also want to thank you, the body of Christ, for the way you have welcomed, received, and cared for me. This church loves well, and you have certainly loved my family and me well. There are no words to fully express how grateful I am. Even during a season when I was dealing with a physical injury, so

## Join the Team at FBFirst

Have you ever wanted to serve and work at FBFirst? As our church continues to grow and expand ministries, we're always looking for passionate, mission-minded individuals who want to use their gifts and talents to make an eternal impact.

Working at FBFirst is more than just a job—it's an opportunity to be part of a team dedicated to helping people know Jesus, grow in their faith, and serve our community. If you're interested in learning more about current or future opportunities, we'd love to connect with you.

### WHAT TO DO:

- Scan the QR code
- Fill out your contact information
- Upload your resume



Our team will review your information and reach out if a position matching your experience and gifts becomes available.

Thank you for your interest in being part of what God is doing through FBFirst!

## 2026 Calendar Highlights

### JUNE

- 7 Growth Track
- 8-12 VBS
- 14 VBS Sunday
- 21 Father's Day
- 27 Christian Heritage Parade
- 28 Christian Heritage Sunday
- 28-Jul 2 Students Fuge Camp

### JULY

- No Wednesday Services
- 6-10 CentriKid Camp
- 12 Beach Baptism
- 20-23 Camp Freestyle

### AUGUST

- 2 Move Up Sunday
- 9 Back to School Sunday
- 12 Fall Wed Night Classes begin
- 23 CN Ribbon Cutting



JOIN PASTOR ZACH **WEEKDAYS**

**RADIO BROADCAST**

**Outreach Mission**

The Truth 91.7/91.9 FM  
Jacksonville | 7:30 am

WBTG 1290 AM/106.3 FM  
Northwest Alabama | 9:30am

WRZN 720 AM/103.5 FM  
Gainesville/Ocala | 6:00 pm

WTLN 990AM/105.7FM Orlando | 6:30 pm

WTMN 1430 AM/96.3 FM  
Gainesville/The Villages | 6:00 pm

### Island Campus

1600 South 8th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
904.261.3617 | [FBFIRST.COM](http://FBFIRST.COM)

SUNDAY WORSHIP | 9:00AM and 10:45AM  
WEDNESDAY | 6:00PM (5:00PM Dinner)

### Central Nassau Campus

851035 Hwy 17, Yulee, FL 32097  
904.261.3617 | [FBFIRST.COM](http://FBFIRST.COM)

SUNDAY WORSHIP | 9:15AM and 11:00AM  
WEDNESDAY | 6:00PM