



CALHOUN

FIRST BAPTIST

news & views



January
2026



411 College
Street



706-629-7714



calhounfbc.org



FirstBaptistCalhoun

Calhoun First Baptist Church

is a *multigenerational*
family of faith

living in pursuit

of the Great Commandment
& the Great Commission.



We work together to

Gather & Grow

so that we can

Serve & Share

CONTENTS

Pastor's Article	3
Music Ministry Article	4
Discipleship & Administration Article	5
Youth Ministry Article	6
Children's & Preschool Ministry Article	7
Sunday School Information	8
Monthly Church Information	9
Prayer List	10
Events & Updates	11



CHURCH STAFF

Dr. John Barber

Senior Pastor

john.barber@calhounfbc.org

Dr. Lance Cole

Minister of Music

lance.cole@calhounfbc.org

Dr. Steven Waters

Minister of Discipleship
& Administration

steven.waters@calhounfbc.org

Rev. Andrew Crawford

Minister of Students

andrew.crawford@calhounfbc.org

Mr. Travis Hurd

Children's Ministry

travis.hurd@calhounfbc.org

Mrs. Emily Hurd

Preschool Ministry

emily.hurd@calhounfbc.org



Dr. John Barber **SENIOR PASTOR**

Happy New Year! Our first Sunday of the year was a good start for our First Family as we had good attendance and a strong spirit of worship. I hope one of your resolutions for the New Year is a strong connection and commitment to your First Family. This strong connection and commitment honors the Lord, strengthens your church, and blesses you.

2025 was a very strong year for us in terms of our giving. We have surpassed our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$29,000 with gifts of \$39,020.000 because of FBC's heart for missions. In June of 2025, we also celebrated paying off our Faith Forward indebtedness. Doxology!

As for our Budget Offerings, I am pleased to report we exceeded our Budget Requirements of \$1,281,625 by more than \$200,000. From our General Offerings, we gave more than \$121,690.83 to our Cooperative Program and more than \$50,000 to Local Missions and Benevolence. All of these numbers represent our First Family's commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, locally and globally.

January marks the 11th year of service for Travis Hurd as our Children's Ministry Director. On behalf of our First Family, we thank you, Travis, for all you do to love and lead our ministry to the children of this church. We are blessed to have you as part of our ministry team.

On Sunday night January 25th, I will be sharing a report and a recommendation on behalf of our Facilities Assessment Team. Our report will include visuals and descriptions of a facilities concept that we believe represents our best plan to meet our current and future facility needs. We will ask the church to approve key next steps needed to fully develop this concept into an actionable project. This will be a very important meeting for our First Family and I encourage you to be present!

Through the month of January I will be preaching messages intended to help us start the New Year on the right track. This Sunday we will look to Psalm 90 and ask the Lord to "teach us to number our days and gain a heart of wisdom."

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday.

Blessings!
Pastor John

Dr. Lance Cole

MUSIC MINISTRY

As we've wrapped up our Christmas music celebrations, I am happy to share news for this new year in the area of our music ministry.

A change is coming in the area of Children's Choir. We are thankful for the leadership of Grace Hudgins over the past year and a half and we wish her well as she begins her student teaching in one of our local schools. We are also extremely grateful for the leadership of Casey Parker over the past semester. As Grace steps away and Casey begins a new role at work, Robin Cole will begin to lead the Children's Choir. Robin has many years of experience with leading children's music in schools and in church. Casey Parker will continue to partner in leadership with this choir as she has been. A big shout out also goes to Sharon Alexander and Teresa Bishop as they keep things moving smoothly with the group. Lastly, know that Travis Hurd has been a key figure in helping our musical leaders as they minister to these children. Children's Choir is a team effort and these children are in great hands!

Our Worship Choir and Band will continue to prepare for and lead in worship each Sunday, and will also begin rehearsals for Easter music. Easter comes early this year (April 5th), and as such, our special Easter music and Lord's Supper will take place on the morning of Palm Sunday, March 29th. Please mark your calendar for this meaningful time of worship. While you have your calendar out, our preschoolers and children will present a special time of singing and worship on Wednesday evening, May 6th, in the sanctuary.

As a new year begins, many of you renew your commitment to a time of devotion with Christ each day. While this rightly will include scripture and prayer, I encourage you to also include a time of singing. It does not matter how you feel about your singing quality! Not only does Psalm 100 begin with, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord," but verse two says to "come into His presence with singing." God delights and inhabits the praise of His people, even when it is just you!

May the Lord bless you and yours in this coming year as we seek to serve Him with gladness!

Joyfully,
Lance

GENERAL INFORMATION

Adult Worship Choir

Wednesday Rehearsal

6:45 PM in the Choir Room

Children's Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal

6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor

Preschool Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal

6:00 PM in the CLC 2nd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

Easter Music Special

Sunday, March 29

Children's Choir Special

Wednesday, May 6

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

lance.cole@calhounfbc.org



IMPORTANT DATES

Facilities Team Presentation (Called Conference)

Sunday, January 25

VBS

June 22-26

Children's Camp

June 8-12

Mission Trip

June 15-19

Youth Camp

July 6-10

DECEMBER BAPTISMS

Annabelle Crawford

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

steven.waters
@calhounfbc.org



Dr. Steven Waters **MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & ADMINISTRATION**

Happy New Year!

As we step into 2026, we are reminded that time itself is a gift from the God. A new year does not simply mark the turning of a calendar—it invites us to renewed faithfulness, deeper obedience, and intentional growth as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Scripture calls us to press forward in our walk with Christ: *"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Discipleship is not a seasonal activity or a short-term resolution; it is a lifelong pursuit of following Jesus in every area of life.

As Christians, discipleship always centers on the Word of God. As a church family, we grow best when we commit ourselves to regular Bible reading, faithful prayer, and active participation in the life of our church. The new year is a wonderful time to renew habits that keep us rooted in Christ—daily Scripture intake, consistent worship attendance, and meaningful fellowship with other believers.

Jesus' command in the Great Commission remains our guiding mission: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19). Making disciples begins with being disciples. This year, let us commit not only to personal spiritual growth but also to walking alongside others—encouraging, teaching, and modeling a Christ-centered life in our homes, workplaces, and community.

As we look ahead, may this be a year marked by spiritual maturity, gospel faithfulness, and obedient love. Let us pray for hearts that are teachable, lives that reflect Christ, and a church that is committed to growing deeper and reaching wider—for the glory of God alone.

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
(2 Peter 3:18).

Blessings,
Steven

Rev. Andrew Crawford

YOUTH MINISTRY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth Activities

Wednesdays
5:45 PM on the 3rd Floor

Sunday School

9:45 AM on the 3rd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

FCA Courts for Christ

January 14 @ 6 PM

Youth Retreat

January 23-25

Mission Trip

June 15-19

Youth Camp

July 6-10

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

andrew.crawford
@calhounfbc.org



Student Ministry Update

A new semester is underway, and with it comes a fresh start for our students and teachers. Please keep them in your prayers as they return to a normal rhythm of the last half of the school year.

Sunday School: Tracing the Story of Scripture

Our Sunday School small groups have begun a yearlong journey through the storyline of the Bible. Each week, students are exploring how the books of Scripture connect and how the message of redemption runs from beginning to end. It's been encouraging to watch them engage with the big picture of God's Word and see how it shapes their own walk with Christ.

FCA Courts for Christ – January 14th at 6:00 PM

Next Wednesday evening, Calhoun High School will host FCA Courts for Christ at 6:00 PM. This gathering is completely student-led, and several of our First Baptist students will be helping lead the night. We can't wait to see how God uses this event!

Winter Retreat Registration Still Open – January 23–25

There's still room for Winter Retreat, and we'd love for every student to be part of it. The retreat runs January 23–25 and offers a focused time away to grow spiritually, build friendships, and reset before the spring semester picks up speed. You can register your student at linktr.ee/calhounfbcstudents.

Travis & Emily Hurd

CHILDREN'S & PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Parents,

We are excited about getting back to our regular schedules. Keep in mind we start Wednesday night activities with children's choir starting at 6:00 PM and Teamkids starting at 6:45 PM.

I am stressing with the kids the importance of daily prayer and Bible reading. These are two important principles that help grow our relationship with Christ.

May God Bless,
Travis

Parents,

I am so excited to start a new year together with you and your child! I spoke with one parent this weekend about how they were making Sunday school attendance a priority for this year. What a wonderful goal!

I hope that you will take a moment as we begin a new year to pray about ways you can become more involved in church, whether it be regular attendance, joining a Sunday school class, or finding ways to serve within the church. Sunday school begins at 9:45 each week and choirs and missions begin at 6:00 PM on Wednesday nights. I hope you will find a place to join us soon!

God bless,
Emily

GENERAL INFORMATION

Children's Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal
6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor

Teamkids

Wednesdays
6:45 PM on the 2nd Floor

Preschool Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal
6:00 PM in the CLC 2nd Floor

Mission Friends

Wednesdays
6:45 PM in the Preschool

Children's Sunday School

9:45 AM on the 2nd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

Children's Camp

June 8-12

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

emily.hurd@calhounfbc.org

travis.hurd@calhounfbc.org





Sunday School Information

GROW WITH US

We also offer Sunday School classes for every age group!

Children / Youth

- Babies
- Toddlers and 2's
- 3's and Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- First Grade
- Second Grade
- Third Grade
- Fourth Grade
- Fifth Grade
- Sixth - Eighth Grade Girls
- Sixth - Eighth Grade Boys
- Ninth - Twelfth Grade Girls
- Ninth - Twelfth Grade Boys

College / Adult

- College & Careers
 - Young Single Adults
- Young Married Adults
 - Young Adults Co-ed
- Fish Finders
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Vine and Branches
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Genesis
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Cornerstone
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Joy
 - Median Adult Ladies

Senior Adult

- Fishers of Men
 - Senior Men
- Mary-Martha
 - Senior Ladies
- Becomers Co-ed
 - Senior Co-ed
- New Men
 - Senior Men
- Faithseekers
 - Senior Co-Ed
- Mattie Lou Strain
 - Senior Ladies
- Becomers Ladies
 - Senior Ladies

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunday School begins at 9:45 AM on Sundays and will dismiss just before the Worship Service starts at 11:00 AM.

We have classes for every age – from babies to our wisest of senior adults, there is a small group that is perfect for you!

We also have a nursery service for our youngest members and visitors.

See the welcome desk for more information!

Monthly Church Information

Deacon of the Day

Jan.	4	Harry Harwell
	11	David Repp
	18	Chet Utz
	25	Jesse Vaughn

Usher Group of the Day

Jan.	4	Group I: Craig Mashburn
	11	Group VI: Jason Hawkins
	18	Group V: David Repp
	25	Group II: Harry Harwell

Building 'B' Greeters

Jan.	4	Tom & Carol Shanahan
	11	Harry & Jean Russell
	18	Mary Ann Berryman
	25	Laura & Stephen Ralston

CLC Greeters

Jan.	4	Dena Wright
	11	Kim Hall
	18	Logan & Wes Alexander
	25	Clint & Jenny Hayes

Children's Ministry Hall Greeters

Jan.	4	Laura & Stephen Ralston
	11	Gina & Robbie McCorkle
	18	Logan & Wes Alexander
	25	Sharon & Dennis Alexander

Golf Cart Drivers

Jan.	4	Tyron Johnson / Mike Barton
	11	Alan Krudzlo / Mike Hall
	18	Joe Jones / George Walraven
	25	Tommy Holden / Michael Renfro

Shuttle Bus Drivers

Jan	4	Jeremy Bray
	11	Michael Schutz
	18	Brian Nation
	25	Aaron Paradis

OFFERING UPDATES

Offerings for December 2025

Budget Requirement Monthly	\$ 106,802.08
Budget Offering	\$ 174,705.48
Faith Forward Giving	\$ 20,810.00
Other Designated	\$ 65,675.00
Total	\$ 261,190.48

Year-To-Date

Budget Requirement thru 12/31/25.....	\$ 1,281,624.96
Budget Offering Given as of 12/31/25.....	\$ 1,477,703.27
Faith Forward Fund Balance as of 12/31/25.....	\$ 90,072.81

SERVE WITH US

Upcoming Opportunities:

Night to Shine

(February 13th)

VBS

(June 22nd - 26th)

Ongoing Opportunities:

Worship Choir

Nursery

Women on Mission

C.R.O.S.S. Team

Backpack Buddies

DECEMBER WORSHIP AVERAGE: 418

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE: 315

FIND US ONLINE



www.calhounfbc.org



[calhounFBC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



[FirstBaptistCalhoun](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistCalhoun)



[@cfbcxstudents](https://www.instagram.com/cfbcxstudents)



Prayer List

FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Christine Bennett, Sharon Black, Tanya Johnson, Jean Warren, Nicki Faulkner, Elaine McDearis, Andrea Smith, Linda Ruddell, Gary Reese, Rebecca Brown, Sylvia Brumbelow, Martha Miller, Harry Russell, Charlotte Beard, Yvonne Elrod, Max Mashburn, Donald Gallman, Clint Hayes, Geneva Owens, Rebecca Owen, Joan Holcomb, Bob Bullard, Mary Ann Berryman, Judy Thomason, Annette Thomas, Randy Mcentyre, Charlie Reeves, Jane Silvers, Harriett Koen, Dan & Pat Autry, Steve Warren, Carolyn Holbert, Norma Highfield, Madeline Erwin, Ron Hayes, Mike Miller, Grant Glaze, Ginger Worde, Milton Kean, Kayanne Walraven, Nona Lunsford, Jim Lay, Ramona Reese, Wesley Daniel, Kyle Holbert Brown, Truett and Peggy Grogan

FROM CHURCH FAMILY

Adam & Elizabeth Offutt, Randy Cone, Thomas & Jennifer Pass, Regina Kinnie, Larry Young, Scott Weaver, Harold Crump, Francis Payne, Charlene Henderson, Nicole Carter, Tony Crunkelton, Chris Mulkey, Marlin Sullivan, Tammi Faulkner, Juanita Smith, Tim Smith, Cody Henderson, Marie Jarrett, Daryl Goble, Charles Avery, Monica Perkins, Bill Bryson, Julia Stansell, Drew Walraven, Herman Westbrook, Lisa McDonald Braden, Lou Helen Warren, Miller Creel, Darrell Goble, Penny Baker, Mike Earnest, Randy McCorkle, Lisa Holden, Tom Ramsey, Wesley Burgess, Robert McConnell, Lloyd Pack, Larry Garner, Kurt Cowell, Mark Waters, Zoey Adolphi, Carol Cross, Jane Bennett, Alice Ann Mullins, Shirley Willis, Ava Price, Aaron Jones, Margie Moss, Tricia Crump, Danny Elrod, Charlie Williams, Kaisley Miller, Elaine Powell, Evan Koen, Turner Rogers

All previous digital newsletters can be accessed in the online library at calhounfbc.org.

(Under the **CONNECTIONS** tab, click **Newsletters**.)

10 You can also scan this code to access the library on your mobile device!



Events & Updates



INFORMATION REGARDING PLACING FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to have flowers placed in honor/memory of someone or for a special occasion, please contact the church office to make these arrangements.

Please note, we cannot always guarantee the flowers will be placed on the communion table, depending on the time of year and other factors.

We will continue to list the information regarding the flowers in the bulletin each week but will *no longer read aloud the information during the morning announcements.*

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL

WHEN: Every other Wednesday

SERVING TIME: 5:15 until 6:00 PM.

COST: \$8 adults, \$5 children under sixth grade.

Reservations required - announcements will be sent out via church email system.

