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# First Baptist Church Builder

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Volume 83 Issue 1

January 3 2025

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Grace and peace to you!

I trust you had a great Christmas with your family and friends, celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus. As a church, we focused on John 1:1-18 over our last three Sunday's, examining the glorious truth of the incarnation. We also enjoyed the program that our choir presented as well as the Christmas Eve candlelight service. Overall, our church had an excellent Christmas season, and I trust you were blessed through these events, and that Christ was honored.

As we move into the New Year, I wanted to share an excerpt from the sermon that I preached on New Year's Eve last year. The passage was **Psalm 127**, which begins- "**Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain...**" Here is part of what I had to say about that verse-

"Here we have a great reminder that all of our work must be done in God's power or it will amount to nothing. Solomon, who wrote this Psalm, uses the image of a house to demonstrate that idea- the builders may work and work, but if the Lord isn't behind it, they labor in vain. That means it amounts to nothing! It is empty! Maybe they won't ever finish the house at all, or maybe after all of the building effort, there is a house, but because the Lord was not involved, that house will not have any eternal impact, any lasting effect, any real significance...

What are we to do with this realization? First, we must make sure we are laboring for things that God would naturally empower. In your personal life, you could put all of your time, energy, effort, money, and whatever else, into things that amount to nothing, or you could use those things for God's glory and have confidence that God's power is behind your labor, and that it won't be in vain. Before you work toward something, ask yourself- 'Is this a good use of my labor? Does it honor God? Does it advance Christ's kingdom? Does it sanctify me? Does it line up with His Word?'

Second, we must pray for God's power. If we have determined that what we are working toward is worthwhile, it will still be in vain if God does not energize it. Paul told the church that he prayed to the Father in **Ephesians 3:16**- "**that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.**" We must pray the same!

Third, we simply trust God with the results. If we are basing our efforts on what we believe to be God's will, based on His Word, and we are doing so with prayer for power to accomplish what he wants for us, then we don't have to worry ourselves with the results- we can trust that God is getting done what he intends to get done." I hope this reminder will encourage you to totally depend on God for all that you do in the year 2025.

In Christ,

Bro. Dalton Adger

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**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

I want to express a heart-felt “thank you” to those who have made this Christmas season and programs possible. I do not have the space or the words to adequately thank everyone who took part, but thank you all for your faithfulness and your willingness to serve.

I have heard many comments about how beautiful the choir presentation was. Every person who has spoken to me about the program has pointed to a different aspect of the evening. Not one particular thing stood out to them, just that the entire program was a blessing. So, thank you to **Bro. Dalton Adger** for your continued support and assistance in bringing life to the Scripture narrative. Thank you **Keith Bolton** and **Marc Stratton** for taking on the task of projection and sound. Thank you to the “men behind the cameras” — **Dan Crowder, David Nichols, and Billy Stone** for your masterful work in the television booth. Thank you also to all who so beautifully decorated the Sanctuary. A special thank you to **Erin Bolton and Janine Tiner** for your skills at the keyboards. I am grateful to the **Sanctuary Choir** and **Handbells** for your musicianship and attitudes. Thank you, **Larry Daniel** for helping transport some of the percussion equipment from White Hall Middle School. It has been a real blessing to have worked with each of you. God has given each of us an incredible gift, His love through Jesus Christ. We can only give back the best we have because of Who He is.

From the Bolton family, thank you for a wonderful and memorable year as your minister of music and children! We deeply appreciate all the cards, monetary gifts, holiday goodies (what is left of them), and words of encouragement you have presented to us this Christmas. It has been an amazing journey working and serving alongside you for the past 15 years. We eagerly look forward to seeing what God has in store for year 16!



**Attention FirstKids Sunday School, Nursery, and Extended Teaching Care Volunteers!**

We will have a meeting on Sunday, January 5, 2025, immediately after morning worship in Room 202 for all current and prospective volunteers.

With the expansion of the Kids' Wing, we are seeking more dedicated men and women to serve in this vital ministry. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 534-4741 or via email at [bbolton@cableynx.com](mailto:bbolton@cableynx.com), or simply join us at the meeting on January 5th.



**The FirstKids Ministry Resource Hub**

**Attention Parents!**

Visit the Resource Hub in the Foyer of the church or contact me at 534-4741 for more information. The FirstKids Ministry

is here to help you navigate the joys and challenges of parenting with confidence and grace.

Additionally, we have a dedicated webpage for Parent Resources. This page provides families with practical ideas and tools to help parents become the primary disciple-makers in their homes. You can find the link to this webpage at [www.fbcpinebluff.org/first-kids-ministry/](http://www.fbcpinebluff.org/first-kids-ministry/).



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[www.facebook.com/themusicministry](http://www.facebook.com/themusicministry)

**Deacon of the Week**  
**BLASIOUS AWONSANG**

January 5, 2025

**KENNY BONDS**

January 12, 2025

**TROY COLE**

January 19, 2025

**DAN CROWDER**

January 26, 2025

**First Record**

**December 1, 2024**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,964.98
Budget Receipts .....	\$11,680.00
TV Receipts .....	\$450.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$12,357.19
Other .....	\$1,945.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$26,432.19</b>

**December 8, 2024**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,964.98
Budget Receipts .....	\$7,665.00
TV Receipts .....	\$265.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$250.00
Other .....	\$3,340.69
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$11,520.69</b>

**December 15, 2024**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,964.98
Budget Receipts .....	\$24,005.00
TV Receipts .....	\$5.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$2,050.00
Other .....	\$3,648.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$29,708.00</b>

**December 22, 2024**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,964.98
Budget Receipts .....	\$19,140.88
TV Receipts .....	\$5.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$50.00
Other .....	\$2,935.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$22,130.88</b>

The Admin. Board will meet on Sunday, January 19 at 4:00 pm

The Deacons will meet on Sunday, January 19 at 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 19, 2025

will be



SUNDAY

Undesignated offering will go to Neighbor to Neighbor.



Evening Service at Trinity Village Sunday, January 26, 4:00 pm Trinity Village Great Hall

SYMPATHY To family and friends of Louise Kelley, who passed away in TX. To Glenn Crain, in the loss of his sister, Darlene Tomboli, who passed away in Pine Bluff, AR.

Thank You

Your commitment and dedication are greatly appreciated! "May the Lord reward your work"...Ruth 2:12. The number of boxes from the PB Drop Off. 2015=1904 boxes, 2017=2125 boxes, 2020= 1395 boxes

Thank you so much for your help in fulfilling the Great Commission and taking The Gospel to the ends of the earth with Operation Christmas Child/ Samaritan's Purse. We had a total of 2,133 boxes collected at the Family Church Pine Bluff Campus Drop Off Location for 2024. Total of 15,972 boxes from Stuttgart to Dallas. See you next year.

Merry Christmas Betty Brown and Elaine Hutcheson



The Key Project of 2025

As we prepare for the new year, we are updating our records regarding who has keys to our church buildings. Over the years, many years have been distributed, and we are now at a point where we need to ensure proper documentation of who has access to the facilities.

If you currently hold a key to either of our church buildings, please contact the church office as soon as possible to inform us. This will help us maintain an accurate list of key holders for security and operational purposes.

Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Financial FYI

Do you ever look at the numbers on page 2 and wonder what they mean? Each line represents a different aspect of the church's financial picture, helping to keep track of both regular and special contributions, as well as how funds are being allocated for specific needs. By reviewing these lines, church leadership can assess financial health, ensure resources are being directed appropriately, and make adjustments if necessary.

The first line is the budget needs for the week. The second line are the actual gifts received each week. The third line is what we receive to apply to the TV ministry, mainly from viewers. The fourth line goes directly to Capital Needs for repairs and large one time purchases. The fourth line is for any other designated gifts, memorials, funds from the Foundation trusts, Neighbor to Neighbor 3rd Sunday. Any funds that are not budgeted line items. Please call the office anytime you have questions.





**Regular Schedule  
for Weekly Services**

**SUNDAY:**  
 6:00 am TV Broadcast on KARZ 42  
 (one week delay)  
 9:00 am TV Broadcast on FOX 16  
 (one week delay)  
 9:00 am Prayer room open  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Morning Worship Service

**MONDAY:**  
 6:00 pm Sanctuary Handbells  
 Rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY:**  
 12:00 pm Prayer Meeting  
 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir  
 Rehearsal

**THURSDAY:**  
 6:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 3:00 PM Griefshare  
 6:00 pm Griefshare

**Deacons 2024**

Blasious Awonsang 318-278-4208  
 Kenny Bonds 540-7001  
 Troy Cole 540-7393  
 Dan Crowder 501-944-1236  
 Larry Daniel 540-7534  
 Lynn King 540-7400  
 Roger Minyard 540-7836

David Nichols 692-8462  
 Mac Norton 718-2895  
 Jim Simpson 692-3282  
 Marc Stratton 329-6906  
 Rodney Rodgers 543-9936  
 Vernon Walker 489-2683

**News  
from  
the  
Pews**

Hannah Rose Work, grand-daughter of *Linda Work*, graduated from Central Baptist College with her degree in Education.

**STAFF PHONE NUMBERS**

**Dalton Adger**  
 (318) 489-3106  
**Bryan Bolton**  
 489-8970



Our website is live and online giving is available again. Listed below are the steps you should follow.

1. Click the GIVE button on our church website: [www.fbcpinebluff.org](http://www.fbcpinebluff.org)
2. Click the Give Now button.
3. Enter the amount you want to give.
4. Give to the fund pre-selected for you or choose a different fund from the drop-down menu.
5. Select a frequency.
6. Enter your email address.
7. Click CONTINUE.
8. Select your account type:  
 Credit/Debit Card  
 ACH/Checking Account

Enter your payment information to complete the transaction. You'll receive email confirmation of your gift.  
 If you choose ACH, be prepared to give the routing number of your bank and the account number.



*Our 170th Year*

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**BUILDER**

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 First Baptist Church Builder, 6501 S. Hazel St., Pine Bluff, AR 71603-7823  
 Office: 870-534-4741 FAX: 870-534-4743 E-mail address: [fbcpinebluffar@gmail.com](mailto:fbcpinebluffar@gmail.com)