



First Baptist Church Montgomery

# BEACON

BRING THEM IN...BUILD THEM UP...SEND THEM OUT

Volume 78 | Week of **March 16, 2025** | Number 11

**MARCH 16 - 23**

## SPRING BREAK WEEK

*Sunday* March 16

8:30 + 11:00 AM Worship Service

9:45 AM Bible Fellowship

**NO PM SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES**

*wednesday* March 19


**NO PM SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES**

### STEP INTO THE STORY

**Annie Armstrong  
Easter Offering<sup>®</sup>**

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS  
**FBC GOAL: \$130,000**



 North American  
Mission Board

GIVE TO THE  
ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING



[MONTGOMERYFBC.ORG/ANNIE](http://MONTGOMERYFBC.ORG/ANNIE)



## ARE YOU GROWING (SPIRITUALLY)?

Every three months, I receive a reminder on my phone to measure the kids' height. On the inside doorframe of their closet, we mark each measurement with a line and the date. Some lines have large gaps between them, while others are close together. Nevertheless, it's really neat to see the progress of their growth.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could measure our spiritual growth in similar ways? Wouldn't it be nice to look back and see the physical progress of our spiritual growth? There's no metric that I know of to physically observe spiritual growth; however, we can reflect inwardly to determine if we are becoming more like Jesus each day.

Colossians 3 offers us guidelines for holy living: set your hearts on things above, put to death your earthly nature, clothe yourselves with godly character, let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and give thanks to God the Father.

Therefore, we have God's instruction in how to grow, but let's examine our growth rate with a couple of questions.

- 1. ARE WE GROWING IN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?** We should be ripe with love, patience, kindness, self-control, not displaying rotted joy, peace, goodness, faithfulness, or gentleness. How do you display love to the hurting, patience to the driver next to you, self-control at the ball field, or gentleness to your family? Sometimes it can be helpful to ask loved ones if they see you growing in these spiritual fruits.
- 2. ARE WE REPENTING OF SIN?** One key marker of our spiritual maturity is crucifying our fleshly desires. Are we fighting sin and finding victory over it, or do we continue to fall in the same ways over and over? Those who are growing spiritually are not perfect, but they are repenting of sin and growing in God's empowering grace.

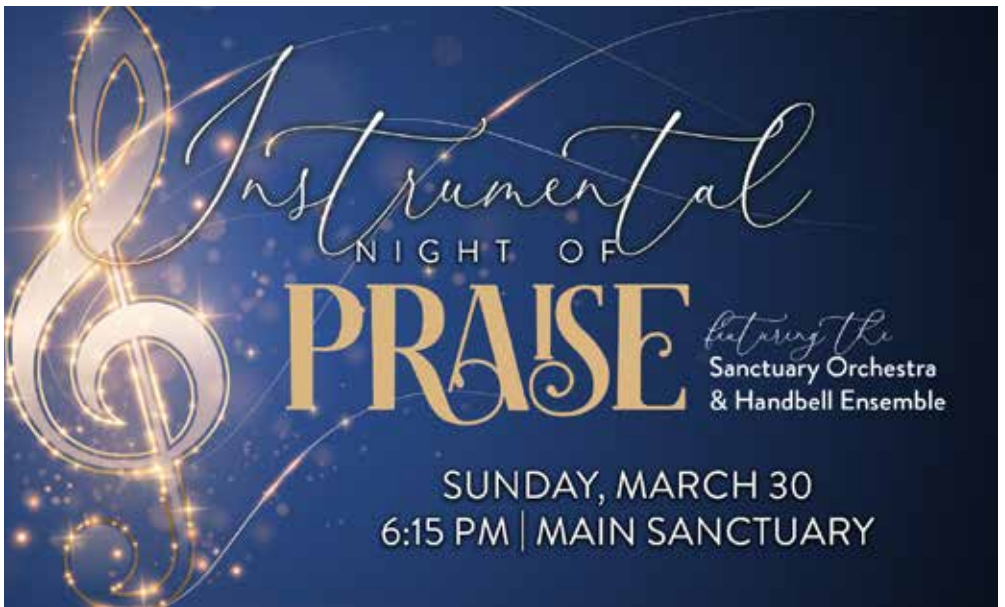
I aim to look more like Jesus each day when my head hits the pillow.

As I preached Sunday, my prayer for us has been to continually turn our eyes to Jesus and set our minds on things above while finding the things of earth and our flesh growing strangely dim. I also pray that we'd hunger and thirst for God's Word and righteousness.

Let's keep sharpening,  
encouraging, and growing to  
look more like Jesus together!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bethea'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M'.

**MARK BETHEA**  
Senior Pastor



## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Preschool + Children's Ministries

Calling all families with children in the first through sixth grades...Join us for a Family Mission Trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee on May 24-28. Our main responsibility will be running a day camp similar to VBS for local campgrounds in the area. Other activities may include organizing and preparing items for international workers, projects at a local ministry center, working with the Smoky Mountain Children's home, participating/leading in the campground worship service, helping with a block party, etc. **Registration deadline is Sunday, April 6.** Contact Carol Roberts at 318.8228 or [croberts@montgomeryfbc.org](mailto:croberts@montgomeryfbc.org) to sign up!

**Bags of Easter candy are needed for the Spring Celebration.** Collection bins are located at the Preschool Desk, on the 2nd Floor Children's Hallway, at the Information Desk, and at the Adams and Scott Street entrances.

### Vacation Bible School

**Save the Date for Vacation Bible School on June 23-27.** Volunteers are needed to share Jesus with our preschoolers and children. Sign up by contacting Judy Bryant (241.5166 or [jbryant@montgomeryfbc.org](mailto:jbryant@montgomeryfbc.org)) or Carol Roberts (241.5164 or [croberts@montgomeryfbc.org](mailto:croberts@montgomeryfbc.org)).

### Women's Ministry

**SAVE THE DATE...**The Blessed Banquet will be Thursday, May 8

**Download the 2024 State of the Church at [montgomeryfbc.org/publications](http://montgomeryfbc.org/publications) or pick up a copy in the Welcome Center this Sunday!**

at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Our guest speaker for this annual Mother/Daughter Dinner is Sophie Hudson.

## Senior Adult Ministry

Join us for an In-Home Ministry Volunteer Lunch on Sunday, April 6, in room 413 at 12:15 PM. Feel free to bring your spouse and enjoy a complimentary lunch while collecting Easter gifts to deliver to your in-home members. For more information, contact Ed Cleveland at 205.223.6418 or [ecleveland@montgomeryfbc.org](mailto:ecleveland@montgomeryfbc.org).

## Missions Ministry

An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, March 23, at 7:15 PM in the Welcome Center for the upcoming Brazil mission trip scheduled for July. If you cannot attend the meeting, contact Jim Johnson at 799.2978 for more information.

## FBC Foundation

**Medical students, seminary students, trade school students...we have scholarships for all areas of study!** The 2025-2026 First Baptist Foundation Scholarship Applications deadline is fast approaching. All completed applications must be returned by Monday, March 31. For an application, visit [montgomeryfbc.org/foundation](http://montgomeryfbc.org/foundation) or email Alissa Parrish at [aparrish@montgomeryfbc.org](mailto:aparrish@montgomeryfbc.org).

## Community Ministries

**The Caring Center needs canned vegetables** especially green beans, mixed vegetables, carrots, collards, diced tomatoes, and spaghetti sauce. Other needed items include linens of all sizes, size 4 and 5 diapers, and small toys. For more information, contact Rick Brenny at 241.5141 or [rbrenny@fbc-cm.org](mailto:rbrenny@fbc-cm.org).

**Sign up to receive the Community Ministries Newsletter** by contacting Madison Breeden at [mbreeden@fbc-cm.org](mailto:mbreeden@fbc-cm.org).

## NEW MEMBERS

### By Letter/Statement of Faith

**Ms. Bree Chester**  
8370 Fairhaven Lane  
Montgomery, AL 36117

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, contact Carolyn Bryan at 241.5120 or [cbryan@montgomeryfbc.org](mailto:cbryan@montgomeryfbc.org).

### Sympathy Extended to

Dr. Fran Hill in the death of her sister -in-law

Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Williams (Martha) in the death of her brother

### Encompass

Patsy Binford

### Capitol Hill Healthcare

Terry Yarbrough · Lillian Wilkinson

### John Knox Manor Rehab

Barbara Smith

### Oak Crest Health & Wellness

Robert Smith

### Congratulations Extended to

Mr. & Mrs. Austin Gaines (Jeannie) in the birth of a daughter

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Perry (Cindy) in the birth of a granddaughter

## Churchwide News + Events

Join us for the **FIRST Baptist - FIRST Tuesday - FIRST Tee Golf Event from April to August on the first Tuesday of each month.** Everyone is welcome, regardless of skill level. Each month, you'll be paired with a new partner and play at different courses. The first event is on April 1 at 5:40 PM at Emerald Mountain Golf Club, featuring a Two-Person Scramble with the theme "Jesus is Good for a Par." To register, email [mike.shirley@pga.com](mailto:mike.shirley@pga.com) by March 26. The green fee for nine holes, including cart and prizes, is \$40.



## REFLECTIONS HOMECOMING WORSHIP CONCERT

Sunday, March 23  
6:15 PM | Main Sanctuary

**LAS VEGAS** (March 22-27)  
Mitchell Bruce, Caden Lockett,  
Conner Jones, Ericka Hall

**INDIA** (March 14-22)  
Jay Wolf, Douglas McElvy,  
John Ashworth, Rob Ashworth

**BOSTON** (March 15-20)  
Ellen Bush, Elean Fajardo,  
Sam Hartzog, Chloe Helms

**UGANDA**  
Will Hardin + Mary Conley Teel

**PERU**  
Cary McMillan



## FBC FAITHFULNESS

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

### ATTENDANCE

**Bible Fellowship: Enrollment** 3389 | **Attendance** 1127

**Weekly Attendance** 1620 | **Discipleship Attendance** 894

### OFFERING

**Required Weekly** \$140,519.23 | **Received Sunday** \$178,190.25

**Required To Date** \$1,405,192.30 | **Received To Date** \$1,160,479.91

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** \$49,584.14



## THIS WEEK AT FBC

Visit [montgomeryfbc.org](http://montgomeryfbc.org) for the complete calendar of events.

### Sunday, March 16

NO PM SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES

7:45 Prayer Time *(Welcome Center)*

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Bible Fellowship

10:00 Pastor's Class

11:00 Worship Service

8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

### Monday, March 17

10:00 JOY Singers Rehearsal

5:30 Men's Bible Study

8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

### Tuesday, March 18

7:00 College Minsitry: The Gathering

8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

### Wednesday, March 19

NO PM SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES

8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

### Thursday, March 20

8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

### Friday, March 21

6:45 Friday Morning Men's Group

6:30 Kilby Correctional Facility Service

8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

### Saturday, March 22

8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

## FBC Livestreams

### Website

[montgomeryfbc.org](http://montgomeryfbc.org)

### Facebook

@montgomeryfirstbaptist

### App

First Baptist Church Montgomery

### Vimeo

[vimeo.com/fbcmontgomery](http://vimeo.com/fbcmontgomery)

### YouTube

First Baptist Church Montgomery

## IN-HOME MINISTRY MEMBER

### Jeanette Waldo

112 Ashwood Circle  
St. Mary's, GA 31558



305 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

First Baptist Church  
*montgomery*

## MARCH

But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Matthew 6:33-34

First Baptist Church Montgomery  
20 | SCRIPTURE  
25 | MEMORY

download resources at [montgomeryfbc.org/scripture](http://montgomeryfbc.org/scripture)

## Broadcast Schedule

**Frazer Channel 13** *(Montgomery & Prattville)*

**Bighthouse Channel 122** *(Elmore County)*

**Full Hour:** Sunday, 12:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Half Hour:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:00 PM

**WSFA-TV Channel 12**

**Half Hour:** Sunday, 10:30 AM

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