A large, colorful stained glass window is the background of the image. It features several panels. The top panel shows a banner with the text 'MONTGOMERY'. Below it, a central panel depicts a figure with a long red beard and blue robe, possibly a prophet or saint, holding a book. To the right, another panel shows a figure in a purple robe holding a staff or scepter. The bottom panel shows a figure in a purple robe holding a scroll. The window is made of many small, multi-colored glass pieces in shades of blue, purple, yellow, and red.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MONTGOMERY

**2025
STATE
OF THE
CHURCH**

By the numbers...

SALVATION & SPIRITUAL IMPACT

- 56 baptisms through church membership
- 36 students surrendered their lives to Christ at Team Night
- 20+ students baptized through Student Ministry
- 5 students surrendered to Christ at Youth Camp
- 3 members stepped into mid-term mission assignments
- 586 Professions of faith & rededications through Prison Ministry
- 3,675 Gospel presentations through the Caring Center



THE 2025 STATE OF THE CHURCH



The State of the Church document is filled with beautiful reports on the ministry and mission of First Baptist Church of Montgomery. I hope it fills you with joy and excitement not only about what has been accomplished but also about what we can all continue to do together. Yet, like any annual report, these pages are only a tiny fraction of the depth and breadth of ministry happening among the body of Christ here at FBC Montgomery.

There are many numbers on the document's pages, but behind each number are names, transformed lives, and servant-hearted friends who live out God's calling in incredible ways. As you read, let your heart be attuned to gratitude and thankfulness!

As awesome as these reports are, the work is far from over. There is still an urgent need all around us. As I've considered what has made our church in downtown Montgomery a healthy, unified body of believers for 196 years, I believe it boils down to a few things. We have maintained a strong commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Both are the driving forces behind our mission and purpose. We care deeply about our Montgomery community while sending people to the ends of the earth. The gospel needs are urgent, and we have a passion for mobilizing people to live out the mission God has for them.

That mission of bringing people in (evangelism), building them up (discipleship), and sending them out (missions) is our calling and remains at the heart of nearly everything we do as a church. That mission will continue.

I'm thankful for Community Ministries and the opportunities we have to meet human needs in the name of Jesus. I'm thankful for our church plant and mission partners who are doing great Kingdom work in hard places. I'm thankful for the hundreds of volunteers who faithfully use the gifts God has given them to make these moments possible.

We have a unique calling where God has planted us. We are committed to advancing the gospel as individuals and as a church. I'm thankful to the Lord for a fantastic 2025, and I look forward with deep anticipation to a Christ-exalting 2026!

Let's push forward together!

MARK BETHEA
Senior Pastor

By the numbers...

GENEROSITY & STEWARDSHIP

- **\$90,000+ given to local & global mission partners**
- **\$400,000+ distributed through the FBC Foundation**
- **\$75,000 in scholarships awarded through the Foundation**
- **\$40 million+ anticipated future legacy gifts**
- **\$10 million foundation assets stewarded**

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



4,849

MEMBERSHIP



181

NEW MEMBERS



56

BAPTISMS

3,222

ENROLLED
IN BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP

382

BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP
TEACHERS

810

ENROLLED IN
VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL



19

CHURCH PLANTERS
SUPPORTED BY
FIRST BAPTIST



60

TONS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED AT
THE CARING CENTER



3,675

PRESENTATIONS OF
THE GOSPEL AT
THE CARING CENTER

25+

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED
AT ESL & CE

243

STUDENTS &
LEADERS AT
YOUTH CAMP

810+

GOSPEL TRACTS
GIVEN OUT IN THE
CITY, STATE, & NATION

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!



**BUDGET
TOTAL**
\$7,307,000



**BUDGET
RECEIPTS**
\$7,964,364

TOTAL OVERAGE

\$657,364.00

SPLIT BETWEEN:

**COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES GIVING**
\$197,209.20

**MISSIONS
CAUSES**
\$328,682.00

**DEPRECIATION
CAUSES**
\$131,472.80

UNDERSPENT FUNDS

\$207,624.00

SPLIT BETWEEN:

**MISSION
CAUSES**
\$35,000

**SALARY
CONTINGENCY**
\$75,000

**DEPRECIATION
CAUSES/BROADCAST**
\$47,624

**200TH ANNIVERSARY/
PROGRAM SUPPORT**
\$50,000

MISSIONS OFFERINGS

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

\$107,776

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

\$279,049

MYERS-MALLORY
STATE MISSIONS
OFFERING

\$41,166

**GLOBAL HUNGER
RELIEF OFFERING**

\$6,122

**ALABAMA BAPTIST
CHILDREN'S HOMES**

\$3,882

**INDIA
MISSIONS**

\$109,591

**DISASTER RELIEF
OFFERING**

\$7,762

**TOTAL MISSIONS
OFFERINGS GIVING**

\$1,123,831

**ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES GIVING**

\$142,889



DISCIPLESHIP

Our Discipleship Ministry strengthened our church family through Bible Fellowship, classes, and intentional equipping—building believers in God’s Word and preparing them to live on mission for His glory.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

In 2025, our Bible Fellowship Groups continued to be a vibrant place of connection and growth. We welcomed **181 new members and prospects**, with an **average weekly attendance of 1,184**. An incredible **382 members faithfully served as teachers**, pouring into others each week. By year’s end, total group **enrollment reached 3,222**, reflecting the strong commitment of our church family to growing together in God’s Word.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Sundays and Wednesdays remained key opportunities for “building one another up.” Throughout the year, **538 adults participated in 18 discipleship classes** designed to deepen their understanding of the Gospel and apply biblical truth to everyday life. These offerings included in-depth Bible studies, family-focused classes on parenting, grandparenting, and marriage, and practical training in areas such as evangelism, grief, divorce, and anxiety—along with the always-popular *Return to Mayberry*.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SESSIONS

This year, we reimagined our Wednesday night gathering as a dedicated time of adult discipleship. Our pastor addressed real-life topics that families face each day, including alcohol, gender and sexuality, anxiety and depression, and more. He also led a focused study on *The Baptist Faith and Message*. These sessions were well received and resulted in a **significant increase in weekly attendance**, reflecting a growing hunger for biblical truth and practical teaching.



By the numbers...

NEXT GENERATION IMPACT

- 810+ VBS registrations
- 203 students at Youth Camp
- 200 students at Disciple Now
- 118 highest-ever attendance at The Gathering
- 148 average Children’s Bible Fellowship attendance
- 90+ children in Bible Buddies & Bible Drill
- 79 Kids Kamp participants
- 58 RAs & GAs average attendance
- 27 children in New Christian Class
- 41 High school graduates celebrated

OUTREACH + EVANGELISM

Our Outreach and Evangelism Ministry continued to open doors for Gospel conversations, welcoming new members, mobilizing volunteers, and creating strategic moments where lives were changed and Christ was boldly proclaimed.

MEMBERSHIP

Throughout 2025, we praise the Lord for another year of lives changed and people joining our faith family. **One hundred thirty-five new members** were received, with **56 individuals professing their faith through baptism.**

TEAM NIGHT

Team Night 2025 welcomed **900 high school football players** from **10 area schools** for an unforgettable evening of worship and Gospel proclamation. **Super Bowl–winning quarterback Trent Dilfer** shared a powerful message, **2,000 slices of pizza were served**, and the response was overwhelming. **One hundred sixty-two students indicated a decision**, and **36 surrendered their lives to Christ**—many of whom were later baptized at First Baptist.

WELCOME TEAM

Intentional investment in hospitality continued throughout the year as **40 new volunteers** joined the Welcome Team. This growth strengthened our ministry presence, bringing totals to **53 greeters, 42 ushers, and 15 golf cart drivers**, all helping create a warm and inviting first impression for guests.

DISCOVER FIRST BAPTIST

Through **six Discover New Member classes** in 2025, **57 individuals** learned more about First Baptist, connected with our church family, and explored meaningful opportunities to serve.





PRESCHOOL + CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Our Preschool and Children's Ministries created meaningful opportunities for families to grow together in faith, fellowship, and fun.

COLLABORATED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

SPRING FAMILY CELEBRATION

Approximately **70 families** participated in our Spring Family Celebration. This picnic-style event included inflatables, games, egg hunts for all ages, food, and wonderful fellowship as families gathered to celebrate together.

FAMILY ADVENT + EASTER BAGS

At both Christmas and Easter, families received **Family Devotion Bags** filled with supplies and resources to guide weekly devotions and activities centered on the true meaning of these holidays. These tools helped equip parents to lead faith conversations at home.



PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Two Parents Night Out events were held during the year, welcoming **more than 40 children** for an evening of fun activities, games, and a meal—providing families a valuable opportunity for connection and rest.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School was a tremendous success, with **over 810 registered participants**. Centered on the theme “**Magnified**,” children learned about the greatness of God through engaging Bible teaching, worship, and activities.

FALL FESTIVAL

Although rain moved the 2025 Fall Festival indoors, participation remained strong, with **646 individuals** attending for an evening filled with food, fellowship, and family fun.

MY FAVORITE THINGS

Mothers from the Preschool and Children’s Departments gathered for fellowship and encouragement during *My Favorite Things*, highlighted by a **devotional led by Judy Bryant**, Minister to Preschoolers and Parents.

STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

Around **75 families** gathered on a Wednesday evening for Stories of Christmas, celebrating the birth of our Lord through carols, games, and a retelling of the Christmas story.

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Our Preschool Ministry continued to nurture our youngest members and support their families through biblical teaching, worship care, missions, and meaningful fellowship.

PRESCHOOL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

We ended the year with **174 preschoolers enrolled** in Bible Fellowship and an average weekly attendance of **139 children**. Our **82 dedicated teachers** faithfully shared the love of Jesus each week through engaging, age-appropriate lessons.

During Sunday worship services, more than **100 volunteers** served in our Worship Care Ministry, providing loving care for



children (eight weeks to four years old). God also blessed our church family with **13 precious babies** born in 2025.

KLUB KID

During Wednesday nights in the summer, preschoolers participated in Klub Kid, focusing on John 13:34 and learning how to love as Jesus loves. The program averaged **14 children (ages 3 through kindergarten)** each week.

PRESCHOOL MISSIONS

We were excited to launch a new **Mission Friends class for two-year-olds**, led by three new teachers and averaging **10 toddlers weekly**. Overall, Mission Friends averaged **42 preschoolers (ages 2–5)**, led by **15 dedicated leaders** who introduced children to missions through hands-on activities and prayer. A highlight of the fall was the **Lottie Moon Art Auction**, where preschoolers helped raise **over \$475** for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

Summer provided joyful opportunities for families to build relationships through events such as visits to the Montgomery Zoo, a Storybook Cruise on the Harriott II Riverboat, a swim party, and fun at Newtopia. These gatherings strengthened friendships among both new and returning families.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Our Children's Ministry continued to disciple and equip the next generation to know, love, and follow Jesus through weekly gatherings, special events, and mission opportunities.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Our **44 dedicated teachers** faithfully shared the love of Jesus each week through engaging lessons and activities. Sunday attendance **averaged 148 children**, reflecting steady growth and commitment to biblical teaching.

YOUNG WORSHIPPER'S CLUB

Sixteen children participated in Young Worshipper's Club, leading in Scripture reading, prayer, and worship while learning to serve confidently in corporate worship.



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND

“What does worship look like in your home?”

In January, the Family Discipleship Weekend brought together **41 families** gathered for a powerful weekend of training and fellowship centered on one theme – WORSHIP.

Parents were equipped by **Adam and Chelsea Griffin of the Family Discipleship Podcast**, while children were led by **Jason Houser and Seeds Family Worship**.

Together, families were encouraged to make worship not just a Sunday activity – but a daily rhythm in their homes.



BIBLE BUDDIES + BIBLE DRILL

More than **90 children** participated in Bible Buddies and Bible Drill, where 1st–6th graders developed Bible skills and memorized key passages through interactive learning. **Ten children** represented FBC at the **Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions Bible Drill**, demonstrating the fruit of their hard work and preparation.

INCREDIKIDS CAMP

Led by **Caden Lockett**, IncrediKids Day Camp welcomed **over 100 participants** as children learned to *Grow in the Son* by building strong roots and following Jesus.

SUMMER CLASSES

Cooking2gether remained a favorite summer offering, as children “traveled” to Italy and learned to prepare and serve an Italian meal for their families.



On Wednesday nights, *Battle Ready* focused on the **Armor of God**, equipping children to stand firm in their faith, with an average of **20 participants weekly**.

KIDS KAMP

Kids Kamp 2025 engaged **79 participants**, with **Barrett Willingham** of First Baptist Trussville serving as camp pastor and **Hudson Cornett** leading worship. Children were challenged to build their lives on Jesus as their solid rock foundation.

DAY TRIPS

Summer day trips to **Butter and Egg Adventures** and **Great Wolf Lodge** brought together more than **40 participants per trip**, combining fellowship and fun.

CHILDREN'S FAMILY MISSION TRIP

Fifteen families partnered with **Great Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries** in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, serving through a Memorial Day block party and leading three Campground Bible Schools. Children and adults worked side by side to share the love of Christ.

BIG CHURCH TOUR

Seventeen first graders participated in the annual Big Church Tour, enjoying lunch, a conversation with Pastor Mark, and a tour of the church building. Each child was recognized during evening worship and presented with a new Bible.





NEW CHRISTIAN CLASS

In the fall, **27 children** participated in the New Christian Class, led by **Chris Anderson** (1st–3rd grade) and **Sarah Hall** (4th–6th grade). This class helps children understand their decision to follow Christ and grow in their faith.

THANKFUL BASKETS + SPREAD THE JOY

More than **50 participants** gathered for *Thankful Basket Make n' Take* and *Spread the Joy Sunday*, preparing and delivering care bags to homebound senior adults. The fellowship shared with these seniors proved to be a blessing to all involved.

CHILDREN'S FAMILY FELLOWSHIPS

Two family fellowship events were held to celebrate what God is doing in Children's Ministry and to strengthen connections among families.

CHILDREN'S MISSIONS

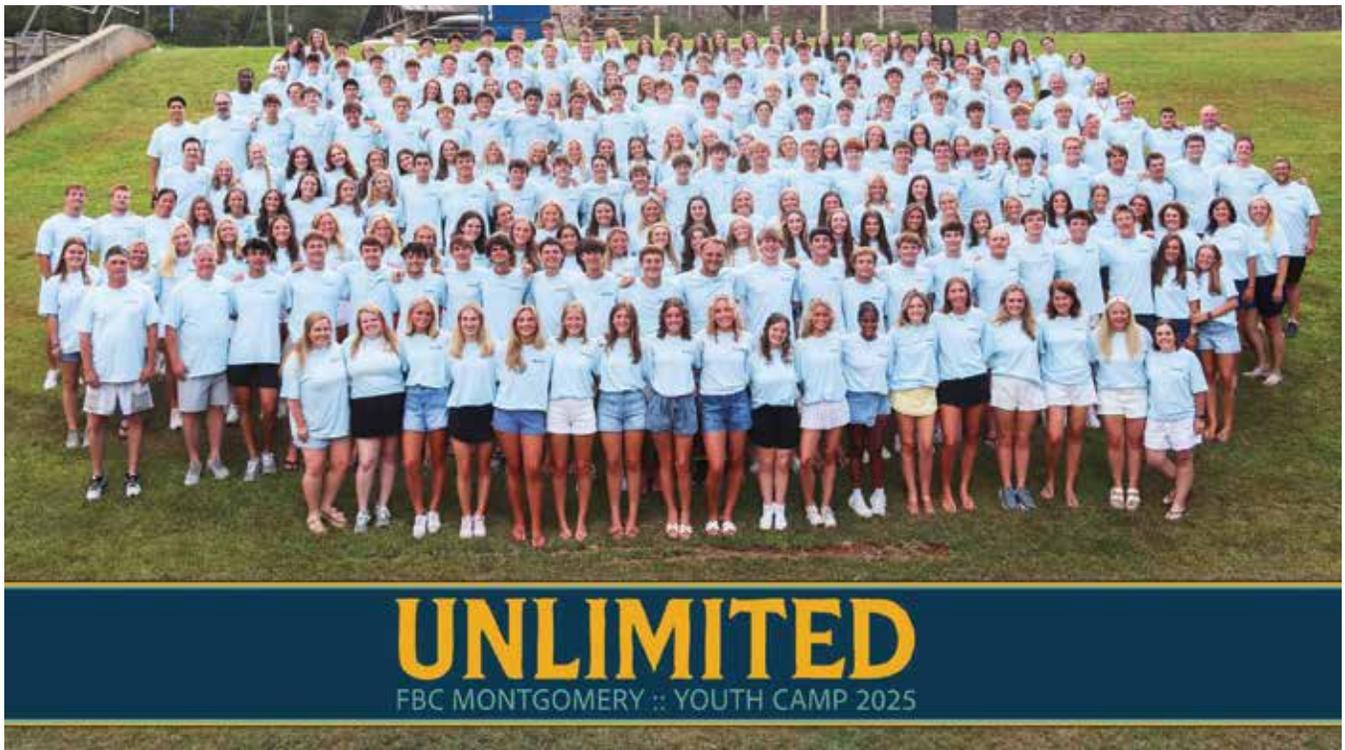
Royal Ambassadors (RAs) and Girls in Action (GAs) continued to thrive, with an **average attendance of over 58 children**, fostering missions education and a heart for the nations.

7UP SUMMER SMALL GROUP

Throughout the summer, the Children's and Student Ministries partnered for **three special gatherings** designed to help rising 6th graders transition smoothly into the Student Ministry. These Bible study and fellowship events provided meaningful connection, encouragement, and relationship-building as students prepared for this important next step.







STUDENT MINISTRY

Our Student Ministry continued to see God move in powerful ways as students grew in their faith, shared the Gospel with friends, and took bold steps of obedience through worship, discipleship, and mission opportunities.

SALVATIONS AND BAPTISMS

In 2025, God worked in powerful ways in the lives of our students. More than **12 students placed their faith in Christ**, and **more than 20 publicly professed that faith through baptism**. We are encouraged by the spiritual movement happening among young people across our nation—and grateful that **First Baptist Montgomery is experiencing this revival firsthand**. We continue to pray expectantly for even more in 2026.



DISCIPLE NOW 2025

Disciple Now was an incredible way to begin the year, bringing together **200 students, 40 leaders, and 13 host homes** for a weekend of worship, discipleship, and fun. Centered on the theme “**Anchored**,” students explored the truth of the Gospel through an apologetics lens, strengthening their confidence in Christ and His Word.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION

In May, we celebrated **41 graduating seniors** representing **10 different high schools** and heading to **12 different colleges**. During their first semester away, we were grateful to learn that nearly every graduate had already found a church to call home—an encouraging testament to the foundation built during their time in Student Ministry.



SUMMER INTERNS

Will Hardin and Allison Grant faithfully served as Summer Youth Interns and did an outstanding job leading, encouraging, and investing in our students throughout the summer months.



BEACH ADVENTURE

In late May, students and leaders traveled to **Panama City Beach, Florida**, for our first-ever **Beach Adventure Retreat**, welcoming **120 participants** for a weekend of worship and fellowship. This retreat replaced Outdoor Adventure and intentionally included rising 7th graders, helping them transition into Student Ministry. The weekend was a great success, fostering meaningful relationships across grade levels.



YOUTH CAMP

This summer, **203 students and 40 leaders** attended camp at **Shocco Springs. Solomon Hall**, a former FBC Montgomery student, led worship, and **Eli Byrd**, a professor from New Orleans Seminary, served as the speaker. With the theme **“Unlimited,”** students studied the limitless nature of God and the power available to believers through Him. During the week, **five students surrendered their lives to Christ, three sensed a call to future ministry**, and several students were baptized upon returning home.



SUMMER SMALL GROUPS

Throughout the summer, **12 small groups**—organized by grade and gender—met for five Monday nights. Led primarily by college students, these groups focused on the Old Testament and provided meaningful discipleship and connection, drawing students closer to Jesus.





CARVER HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

In our second year serving the **Carver High School football team**, we partnered with Trinity Presbyterian Church to provide pregame meals. These gatherings opened doors to share the Gospel and pray with the team before and after each game. We rejoiced as **several young men gave their lives to Christ** through this ministry.



POWERHOUSE

Powerhouse, our weekly Wednesday night student worship service, experienced one of its strongest years yet. During the fall, average attendance reached **165 students**, with many guests joining regularly. Throughout the year, students invited friends who encountered Christ—resulting in **salvations, baptisms, and new families joining the church.**



BALDWIN BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday afternoon, approximately **60 students from Baldwin Middle School** gathered for Baldwin Bible Study. In the spring, students studied the **Fruit of the Spirit**, and in the fall, the **Parables of Jesus**. For many of these students, this Bible study represents their **only exposure to the Gospel and the Church**, making it a vital and impactful ministry.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

Our College Ministry experienced meaningful growth in missions, worship, discipleship, and campus engagement, as students were challenged to live on mission for Christ wherever God has placed them.

MISSIONS

In 2025, college students participated in **three mission trips** through spring break and summer opportunities. Spring break teams served in **Las Vegas with Joseph Gibbons and Favor City Church** and in **Boston with Kevin Scott and Church at the Well**. During the summer, a team traveled to **New York City**, serving alongside **Wes and Ashley Costello and Alonza Lewis**. Each trip helped students grow in their understanding of God's mission and how to live it out on their own college campuses.



THE GATHERING

God continued to move powerfully through **The Gathering**, our weekly Monday night college worship service. Average attendance grew to **90 students**, with a record **118 students** attending in November—the highest in the ministry’s history. Students studied the book of Romans and began a new teaching series, *Tracing God’s Story*, designed to help them see the grand narrative of Scripture and how all of it points to Jesus. The Gathering remains the primary on-ramp for college students connecting to First Baptist. Student engagement in worship and the Word continues to grow.

DISCIPLESHIP + SMALL GROUPS

During the spring and fall semesters, **multiple student-led small groups** met weekly on college campuses to study Scripture and grow in community. Approximately **60 students** participated in small groups throughout the year, deepening their faith and leadership.

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

College Ministry students represented **all four major colleges and universities in Montgomery**, a significant and ongoing win for the ministry. Partnerships with campus administrations continued to develop, with a strong emphasis on **reaching student-athletes**, who make up a large portion of the ministry. One highlight of the year was partnering with Huntingdon College to sponsor and co-lead a campus-wide worship night.

CONFERENCES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Throughout the year, students participated in conferences and fellowship opportunities designed to build community and spiritual growth, including the **Passion Conference**, **Pursue Conference**, Sunday lunches, ice cream socials, campus sporting events, ice skating outings, and a **Friendsgiving Dinner**.





SINGLE ADULT MINISTRY

Our Single Adult Ministry continued to see growth as individuals were connected, disciplined, and sent on mission through Bible study, service, and outreach.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Bible Fellowship Groups remain one of the primary ways single adults connect at First Baptist. Through participation in the **Young Professionals Class, Henley Class, and Blast Class**, single adults were brought in, built up, and sent out on mission. We are grateful for strong leadership within these groups and look forward to continued growth in 2026.

SERVICE + MISSIONS

Single adults faithfully served across the life of the church in ministries such as **Children’s Ministry, Student Ministry, Community Ministries**, and major events including **Living Christmas Tree, Choir, Vacation Bible School, and Broadcast Ministry**. Many also participated in mission opportunities throughout the year, serving locally and globally.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY

Single adults played a key leadership role in the Back-to-School Block Party at the Nehemiah Center, helping distribute **216 backpacks filled with school supplies**, providing lunch, and **sharing the Gospel with families throughout the Chisholm community**. This event continues to be a meaningful opportunity for single adults to lead, serve, and mobilize the broader church family in missions.

By the numbers...

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

- 26 mission teams sent
- 19 church planters supported globally
- 900 high school athletes at Team Night
- 2,000 slices of pizza served at Team Night
- 50+ volunteers at Back-to-School Block Party
- 216 backpacks distributed at Nehemiah Center
- 15 families on Children’s Family Mission Trip





SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Our Senior Adult Ministry of First Baptist Church Montgomery provided a wide range of opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, service, and outreach, both on campus and throughout the community.

BIBLE STUDY + DISCIPLESHIP

Beginning in January, senior adults participated in **seven Bible study gatherings each month**, held at Oak Grove Inn, Wesley Gardens, John Knox Manor, Haven Memory Care, and Eastview Retirement Center. In addition, a special in-depth Bible study on *Joshua: The Faithfulness of God* was held January 27–29, featuring teaching from **Ed Cleveland, Kenny Hoomes, Jeremy Smalley, Dale Huff, and Jay Wolf**.

SERVICE + CARE MINISTRIES

The **SMART Team, chaired by Jim Johnson**, completed countless projects throughout the year, faithfully serving the needs of the church. The **REACH IN Ministry** also continued, providing blank cards and envelopes for senior adults to write notes of encouragement to in-home members, the sick, and those in need of care and prayer.

The **In-Home Ministry, led by Debby and Scott McLaughlin**, coordinated Easter and Christmas gift deliveries to in-home members. Each week, **Ginger McMichael and her team** delivered fresh flowers repurposed from Sunday worship services.

FELLOWSHIPS + SPECIAL EVENTS

Highlights included the **Senior Adult Valentine's Banquet** on February 11, featuring *Elvis and Company* with **Ken Loomis**, and a meal by **Alexis Aday**.

An **In-Home Ministry Volunteer Luncheon** was held on April 6, and **"The Big Meeting"** on September 16 brought together more than **50 senior adults** for vision, leadership, and fellowship.

The year concluded with a well-attended **Senior Adult Christmas Banquet** on December 9, featuring music by **Edd Brasher** and a festive meal provided by **Alexis Aday and John Longpre**.

TRAVEL + ENRICHMENT

Senior adults enjoyed a **five-day trip to Nashville** in May, a **day trip to the National Infantry Museum** in July, and a fall trip to Pigeon Forge in October to attend **the Celebrators Conference**.

SENIOR ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Senior Adult VBS was held in May, welcoming more than **70 participants** for a joyful time of Bible study, fellowship, and games in the fellowship hall.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our Music Ministry led our church in worship through a wide range of choirs, ensembles, and instrumental groups—using music to glorify God, disciple believers, and share the Gospel locally and beyond.

STUDENT CHOIRS

The **One Heart Middle School Choir**, led by **Greg Steele**, traveled to **Nashville** in June for their annual choir tour. **Nineteen students and six chaperones** served the community and led worship in venues such as assisted living facilities and homeless shelters.

The **One Voice High School Choir** experienced a strong year of growth and service. During their annual tour in June, **67 students and 20 chaperones** traveled to **Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas**, where they led





worship in local churches and served alongside First Baptist Keller, First Baptist Lake Dallas, and Mission Arlington.

The **Reflections Ensemble** continued to rehearse and minister throughout the year, preparing for their March trip to **Savannah, Georgia**. The group sang and served at North Salem Baptist Church and led Sunday morning worship at First Baptist Opelika, experiencing God's blessing through their ministry.

PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Our **Preschool and Children's Choir Program**, coordinated by **Jenny Renner**, included three preschool choirs, two children's choirs, and a dedicated team of volunteers. These choirs regularly led in worship throughout the year and participated in multiple morning services. Additionally, **14 children's choir members were accepted into the ALSBOM Children's Honor Choir**.



JOY SINGERS

The Joy Singers presented a **Spring Concert** in May, sang at local assisted living centers, and participated in the **Senior Adult Choir Festival** at Lakeside Baptist Church in Phenix City. The Joy Singers and Adult Handbell Ensemble also led worship during the **Advent Worship Concert** in November.



HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Led by **Jenny Renner**, the **Handbell Ensemble** contributed to worship in several services, with a special emphasis during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The ensemble also joined the orchestra on multiple occasions to enhance corporate worship.



SANCTUARY ORCHESTRA

The **Sanctuary Orchestra**, conducted by **Greg Steele**, faithfully provided worship leadership each week. In addition to regular rehearsals and services, the orchestra participated in **the Living Christmas Tree and Palm Sunday Night of Worship**.



LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

The 2025 Living Christmas Tree involved **129 singers, 40 instrumentalists, and more than 200 volunteers**. Our entire church family rallied together to present a powerful, Gospel-centered message. God's presence was clearly felt, and many attendees shared that they were encouraged and spiritually impacted by the experience.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

First Baptist Church Montgomery continued to live out the Great Commission through prayer, sending, partnership, and generosity, engaging our church family locally, nationally, and globally.

PRAYER INITIATIVES

Prayer remained a cornerstone of our mission and spiritual life. The year began with a **Journey of Prayer**, followed by a **church-wide Week of Prayer** that united our congregation in worship, petition, and renewed dependence on the Lord. These rhythms helped set the spiritual tone for a year marked by faith, obedience, and global engagement.

MISSIONS & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Our commitment to missions continued to flourish through a wide range of local and international initiatives.

CHURCH PLANTERS

In 2025, our church provided financial and prayer support to **19 church planters** serving around the world. These faithful servants have seen hundreds come to Christ and be baptized, expanding God’s Kingdom in their communities. We also continued to support our sent-out planters—**Wesley and Ashley Costello, Alonza Lewis in New York, and Mary Conley Teel in Uganda**—who faithfully serve as missionaries sent from our congregation.

MEXICO

In Mexico, what began as a small seed has grown into a thriving church of **over 50 baptized believers in just three years**. Missionaries are now expanding into nearby towns, continuing to see God move in powerful ways.

ONION PRAYER CONFERENCE

The **Onion Prayer Conference** served as a meaningful time of worship and intercession, strengthening our commitment to pray for the Z people and seek God’s heart for unreached communities.





MISSION TRIPS

During the year, **26 mission teams** were sent across the United States and around the world, including destinations such as **New Orleans, Tennessee, Montana, Boston, Las Vegas, Romania, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, France, and Uganda.** These teams supported long-term partners and lived out the Gospel through service, evangelism, and discipleship.



MID-TERM CALLINGS

In 2025, three members stepped into mid-term mission assignments:

- **Cary McMillan** (Peru)
- **Will Hardin** (Uganda)
- **Mary Conley Teel** (Uganda)

Their obedience expanded our global reach and encouraged others to prayerfully consider God’s call on their own lives.



NEW MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

God continued to open doors for new and deepening partnerships. Our church completed a **second mission trip to France**, serving alongside **Patrick and Katie Thompson**, resulting in a marriage conference, prayer seminar, and multiple outreach efforts.

In **Uganda**, our partnership with **Mary Conley Teel and Will Hardin** continued to grow as teams served together in a rapidly developing mission field. We also began exploring new partnerships in **Toronto, Portugal, and London**, seeking God’s guidance toward additional strategic and unreached regions.



DOMESTIC MISSION ENGAGEMENT

Across the United States, college students and adults served through mission trips to **New York City, Las Vegas, Montana, Tennessee, and New Orleans**, strengthening long-term partnerships and sharing the hope of the Gospel. Locally, the church mobilized in meaningful ways, including the Back-to-School Block Party and Serve September.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP & IMPACT

Through the faithful generosity of our church family, **more than \$90,000** was given to local and global mission partners

in **Montgomery, Chisholm, Las Vegas, New York City, Romania, Peru, New England, and India.** These gifts supported church planting, humanitarian efforts, evangelism, and Gospel-centered ministry around the world.

WOMAN’S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU)

The 2025 theme for Women’s Missionary Union was “What Joy!”, grounded in the words of Jesus: “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” – John 15:11

WOMEN ON MISSION (WOM) GROUPS

Throughout the year, mission needs were faithfully met both locally and globally through the dedicated work of **seven Women on Mission (WOM) groups**, along with our children’s mission groups. In addition to serving within their individual groups, WMU members came together for shared activities that strengthened fellowship and expanded their collective impact.

“ROCKIN’ WITH JOY”

Our annual ladies’ event brought women together for a joyful time of encouragement and connection. The event featured **Paige Hughes** as the speaker, beautiful table décor, and meaningful fellowship that reflected the heart of the WMU theme.





CHRISTMAS BACKPACK MINISTRY

Women on Mission groups also led our church in responding to the **Christmas Backpack Ministry**, providing backpacks for children and teenagers living along the Mississippi River—a tangible expression of Christ’s love during the Christmas season.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY

An **International Mission Study focused on Brazil**, highlighted by a creative and inspiring recreation of the *Christ the Redeemer* statue by **Bob Adams**. This immersive experience invited participants to learn more about mission work in Brazil and to pray intentionally for the country’s needs.

ESL MINISTRY CHRISTMAS GATHERING

One of the season’s highlights was partnering with our **ESL ministry** for a special Christmas gathering that included crafts, refreshments, and the presentation of the Christmas story by international students—beautifully reflecting the joy of Christ shared across cultures.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

Sharon Windham, our Women’s Ministry Coordinator, along with the Women’s Ministry Leadership Team, prayerfully sought ways to encourage friendship, fellowship, and faith among the women of First Baptist. With a desire to see women actively engaged in the church’s mission to bring, build, and send, the ministry emphasized living out spiritual disciplines such as praying, studying, worshiping, serving, giving, going, and resting.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

We are grateful for the faithful leadership of the Women’s Ministry Leadership Team: **RachelAnn Burkett, Megan Deal, Sara Denney, Trista Griggs, Cheri Love, Kelley Phelps, Lisa Powell, Leah Stephens, Katherine Webb, Rachel Webb, and Sandra White**. Below are highlights from a year filled with growth, connection, and service.

THE BLESSED BANQUET

The annual Mother/Daughter Dinner was held in May, in the Fellowship Hall and welcomed approximately

215 women. Our speaker, **Sophie Hudson**—author, podcaster, and blogger—shared encouraging truths from the book of Exodus. The evening included a meaningful children’s presentation of “*Mother’s Love Is*,” Scripture readings from Proverbs 31 by high school juniors and seniors, and the faithful service of **21 table hostesses and 17 men** who helped plate and serve the meal. It was a beautiful celebration of generations gathering together.

ALABAMA BAPTIST CHILDREN’S HOME LUNCHEON

In August, the Women’s Ministry hosted a special luncheon in the home of **Cheri Love** to raise awareness of the ministry of the **Alabama Baptist Children’s Home (ABCH)**. Dr. Chip Colee, Chief Administrative Officer, shared about ABCH’s mission and how individuals and churches can partner to care for Alabama’s foster children in the name of Jesus. Participants were reminded that “*not everyone is called to foster, but everyone can make a difference*,” and were encouraged to **pray, serve, and give** through ABCH’s Foster Care, College Care, and Family Care programs.

ECCLESIASTES 4 MENTORING

Year two of the Ecclesiastes 4 Mentoring Ministry launched in August, with a kickoff breakfast at the home of **Lil Conoly**. From **September 2025 through February 2026**, mentors and mentees meet every few weeks for intentional discipleship using *Growing Together* as their guide. **Twenty-four women** are participating in this session, and the group gathered mid-way for a **Friendsgiving Dinner** in November, strengthening community and connection along the journey.

APPLES OF GOLD

Apples of Gold is a nurturing mentoring ministry for young married women, built around the principles of **Proverbs 25:11 and Titus 2:3–5**. During the Fall 2025 session, the group included **16 mentees, 15 mentors, and 7 host homes**. Six women taught Bible lessons on kindness, loving one’s husband and children, submission, purity, and hospitality, while eight additional women led practical programs such as bread making, flower arranging, and becoming a wife and mother of prayer. Meeting over seven Tuesday nights (September–November), these gatherings became affectionately known as “**Titus 2 Tuesdays**.”

SERVE SEPTEMBER

Women’s Ministry hosted the **second annual churchwide Day of Service** in September, known as **Serve September**. Volunteers served at numerous locations including the **FBC Caring Center, Children’s**





Learning Center, Café Americana, Medical Outreach Ministries, First Choice, Flatline Church, LifeSouth Bloodmobile, MPD Headquarters, and local fire stations. Activities ranged from sorting clothes, practicing English with ESL students, and reviewing medications, to yard work, blood donation, and delivering homemade baked goods to first responders—demonstrating Christ’s love throughout our city.

LADIES WHO READ

The Women’s Ministry Book Club met **four times in 2025** to discuss books focused on heroes of the faith, including *The Hiding Place*, *No Compromise: The Life Story of Keith Green*, *A Lineage of Grace (Tamar & Rahab)*, and *The Insanity of God*. *The Insanity of God* served as a powerful reminder of **Christ’s command to go**, the importance of being the hands and feet of Jesus, and the truth that faith not only survives—but thrives—even in the face of persecution. We are grateful to **Mary Ruth Wolf, RachelAnn Burkett, and Sara Elizabeth Granthum** for faithfully leading these discussions.

LADIES WHO BAKE

Ladies Who Bake launched in August 2025 as a new opportunity for fellowship through a shared love of baking. **Seventeen women** attended the first gathering, where **Cheri Love** led a delightful class on making macarons. In November, **Katherine Webb** shared her legendary cheesecake expertise with a group of about **20 women**.

LIFEWAY WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP FORUM

In November, **Sharon Windham, Carol Roberts, Kelley Phelps, and Leah Stephens** attended the **Lifeway Women’s Leadership Forum** at Long Hollow Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Centered on the theme “**Trustworthy**” from Psalm 19:7, the forum offered rich teaching through general sessions and breakouts led by speakers such as Jeff Iorg, Sarita Lyons, Jennifer Rothschild, and Ruth Chou Simons. The team returned encouraged, equipped, and deeply grateful for the church’s generosity that made this opportunity possible.



COMMUNICATIONS + MEDIA MINISTRY

Our Communications and Media Ministries continued to amplify the Gospel—both inside our walls and far beyond them—through broadcast, digital platforms, and strategic storytelling.

BROADCAST MINISTRY

Our Broadcast Ministry faithfully delivered Sunday worship services each week through **WSFA, Frazer TV, our website, and social media platforms** including **Facebook, YouTube, and Vimeo**. In October, **Greater Love TV** assumed operational oversight of Frazer TV.

Our dedicated volunteers remain essential to this ministry, helping extend worship to members who are homebound, traveling, or engaging online from across the country and around the world.

To better serve our congregation, we upgraded our **WaveCAST Hearing Assist system** and launched **Polyglossia real-time translation** in October. Services are now accessible in **English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Laotian, and Thai**, helping ensure that language is not a barrier to hearing the Gospel.

CHURCHWIDE COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Ministry works diligently to keep members and the broader community informed and engaged through **social media, email marketing, printed materials, the church app, and our website**.

Our website, **montgomeryfbc.org**, continues to serve as a central hub for up-to-date information, ministry resources, and event registration—equipping our church family to stay connected and involved.



COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Our Community Ministries truly thrived, as God worked powerfully in our city, our communities, and our families. Through the faithful service of staff and volunteers, lives were touched physically and spiritually across Montgomery and beyond.

THE CARING CENTER

Through your generosity, neighbors received clothing, food, financial assistance, and the hope of the Gospel. In 2025:

- **102 tons of clothing** distributed to 6,425 households
- **60 tons of food** provided, equaling over 80,000 meals
- **\$73,525** in financial assistance
- **3,675 Gospel presentations**
- **500 neighbors** participated in Bible study
- **5,700 volunteer hours** served weekly by an average of 46 volunteers

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER

The CLC provided weekday childcare and biblical education for approximately **65 children** daily, led by **13 staff members**. Through Abeka and Pinnacle curriculum, weekly chapel, and daily Scripture engagement, children were nurtured spiritually and academically. Thanks to the generosity of the FBC Foundation, **460 scholarships totaling over \$55,000** were awarded to families in need.

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

Our ESL and Conversational English programs served students from **more than 25 countries**, with over **280 total enrollees** across multiple class levels.

Café Americana averaged strong weekly participation, offering hospitality, friendship, and Gospel conversations. The **ESL Christmas program**—supported by Women on Mission—beautifully shared the story of Christ across cultures. The **International Bible Fellowship Group** continues to meet faithfully each Sunday.



THE MASTER'S GARDEN

After a year of rest for the primary garden beds, preparations were made for a fruitful 2026 harvest. The Peace Garden continued to bless the Chisholm community with muscadines, blueberries, figs, grapes, pecans, and chestnuts. We welcome **Andrew Lindsey** as the new committee chairman as this ministry moves forward.

THE NEHEMIAH CENTER

Our Christian Community Development ministry in Chisholm continues to provide holistic care in the name of Jesus.

- **ESL & Moms and Mentors** averaged **20 women** weekly for language development, parenting enrichment, and discipleship.
- **Adult Education** offered GED preparation, job readiness, and academic coaching, serving 15 enrolled students with personalized mentorship.
- **Nehemiah Kids Club** (enrollment: 38) provided daily after-school tutoring, discipleship, and mentorship, building long-term relationships with children and families.
- **Camp Nehemiah** welcomed 58 children during the summer, offering academic enrichment, daily meals, discipleship, and new opportunities like the Mountain Bike Club.
- **Tutoring Ministry** averaged 33 students weekly, supported by 20 volunteers. Santa's Workshop allowed children to shop for more than 250 gifts for their families, creating lasting memories.

PRISON MINISTRY

First Baptist continues to play a leading role in prison ministry across Alabama. In 2025:

- Ministry expanded to **five state prisons and two youth facilities**
- **586 professions of faith or rededications** (71% increase over last year)
- **579 altar responses**
- **9,848 total attendees**

The **Angel Tree ministry** blessed **51 families**, and approximately **14 professions of faith** were recorded through this outreach.

As doors continue to open, the need for additional volunteers remains critical to sustain and expand this growing ministry.

Through food, education, discipleship, and Gospel proclamation, Community Ministries continues to reflect Christ's love in tangible ways. There is more to do in 2026—and together, as one body, we will continue serving faithfully for His glory.



CHILDREN'S HOPE

Children's Hope faithfully brought the love and hope of Jesus to Jacmel, Haiti, providing care, education, healthcare, and Gospel-centered support in the midst of great need.

Haiti continues to face profound challenges, including political instability, escalating violence, rising inflation, and widespread displacement. The nation remains one of the most fragile environments in the world, making faithful, Gospel-centered ministry more urgent than ever.

Yet even in the midst of uncertainty, **Children's Hope remains steadfast in its mission**—providing love, care, and opportunity in the name of Jesus to the community of Jacmel.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Children's Home:** A safe, nurturing environment for **64 children**, offering stability, love, and hope.
- **Medical & Dental Clinic:** Essential healthcare services provided to **more than 8,000 patients**.
- **Education Initiatives:** Over **600 students** served through three schools.
- **Community Development:** Ongoing programs including senior food support, pastor training through the Bible Centre, prison ministry, and mental health services.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and generous support as we care for children, strengthen families, and serve the people of Jacmel with the hope of Jesus.

FIRST BAPTIST FOUNDATION

The First Baptist Foundation faithfully stewarded nearly \$10 million in assets, receiving generous gifts that will continue to yield an eternal impact for years to come.

KINGDOM IMPACT

The Foundation distributed **more than \$400,000** to support and strengthen ministries across First Baptist Church. These funds helped fuel **Community Ministries**, invest in **families and marriages** through Kingdom-focused events, and provide vital support for **counseling and care**.

MISSIONS & MINISTRY SUPPORT

In addition to local ministry investments, the Foundation provided funding for **mission efforts from our neighborhoods to the nations**, helping advance Gospel work both locally and globally.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND EDUCATION

A significant investment of **\$75,000** supported the educational advancement of **more than 60 scholarship recipients**, equipping students to pursue their callings with confidence and faith.

LEGACY PLANNING

The Foundation continued its partnership with the **Baptist Foundation of Alabama**, offering legacy planning services to church members. Through these efforts, **anticipated future gifts exceeding \$40 million** will further extend the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church for generations to come.



MEET OUR TEAM

Alexis Aday

Church Hostess

Tiffany Alewine

Ministry Assistant

Chuck Ashley

Interim Associate Minister for
Discipleship

Mark Bethea

Senior Pastor

Brad Brand

Minister of Music + Worship

Madison Breeden

Community Ministries Administrator

Kelda Brenny

Director of International Ministries

Rick Brenny

Community Ministries
Assistant Director

Joy Brown

Organist

Carolyn Bryan

Ministry Assistant

Judy Bryant

Minister to Preschoolers + Parents

Shirley Case

Receptionist

Charlotte Cearley

International Ministries Teacher

Ed Cleveland

Minister to Senior Adults

Beth DeBardeleben

Ministry Assistant

Elean Fajardo

Associate Minister to Students

Steven Faulkner

Property Manager

Brian Gay

Minister of Missions

Ryan Gray

Minister to College Students +
Single Adults

Charles Hamilton

Community Ministries
Executive Director

Kim Herbert

Children's Learning Center Director

Kenny Hoomes

Associate Pastor for Spiritual
Maturity

Melanie Hudson

Ministry Assistant

Jill Johnson-Leach

Bookkeeper

Gwen Keene

Bookkeeper

Mike Kyser

Broadcast Director

Scott Lamb

Security Director

Chuck Latham

Prison Ministry Director

Caden Lockett

Ministry + Outreach Associate

Russell McCrory

Minister to Students

Ruth McKinney

International Ministries Teacher

Alissa Parrish

Foundation Stewardship Coordinator

Jenny Renner

Pianist / Children's Choirs Director

Carol Roberts

Minister to Children + Parents

Barret Rush

Digital Media Specialist

Patti Shoemaker

Church Administrator

Amanda Smith

Communications Director

Greg Steele

Orchestra Director/
One Heart Choir Director

Eddie Stewart

Director of Ministry Operations

Mike Talley

Property Manager

Rhonda Thompson

Nehemiah Center Director

Pat Thurman

Ministry Assistant

Rita Tidwell

Audio + Technical Assistant

Sharon Windham

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