

The Beacon



a monthly **ONLINE** publication of New Boston's First Baptist Church

January 2026

Volume 2 Issue 1

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe another year has come and is almost gone.

As I sit at the computer, working on this Beacon, with Christmas music playing, I'm reminded of Christmas's past with family and friends; home cooking, large family gatherings, the telling of the Christmas story and anticipating Santa's visit.

The new year is almost upon us, 2026, how can that be? Looking back, it's been a whirlwind of events. Camps, VBS, XYZ trips and lunches. Don't forget singing at the nursing homes, King's Table events, WOW lunches, musicals, fellowship meals, Thanksgiving events and of course Christmas. (Thanks to the Flower and Decorations Committee for making the Sanctuary so beautiful at Christmas time.).

Looking forward in the new year, I know it will be just as busy all year here at FBC. Be sure to read all the articles inside to see some of the future events being planned and a reflection of past events this year.

Wishing everyone the merriest of Christmas's, and the happiest of New Year's.

Be Safe and see you at church.

Paula



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Special points of interest

- Calendar of Events

Music Ministry



Happy New Year to all of our wonderful FBC Church Family! I pray that you have had a Merry Christmas and that you are off to a great new year. We have had a blessed 2025, and though it's hard to believe, 2026 is upon us! I am so excited about what this new year has to offer us and what God has in store!

The New Year is a time to consider NEW opportunities!

Please ask the Lord where He can use you this year and consider using your gifts in a new Ministry!

We have multiple CHOIRS that sing praises to the Lord on a regular basis!

We have INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL Ensembles that play their instruments and sing for God's glory!

We have Hand Bell CHOIRS that ring and rehearse on a regular basis.

We sing at local Retirement Communities on a regular basis.

We participate in Music Camps and Retreats throughout the year.

We have Musical Mission Trips scheduled for 2026.

WE have opportunities for all our church member to get involved in!

Proverbs 16:3.....Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established!

Here's to a great year in Christ,
Chris

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:25 am Worship Team Rehearsal
9:45 am Bible Study Groups
11:00 am Worship in the Morning

Tuesday

4:30 pm Bible Drill
6:00 pm Men's Bible Study

Wednesday

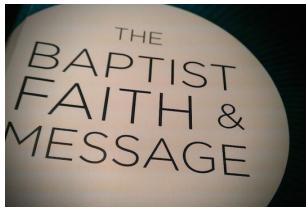
6:00 am Men's Bible Study
4:30 pm Children's Handbells
5:15 pm Fellowship Supper
5:45 pm Kids Worship Arts
Adult Handbells
6:15 pm Youth
6:30 pm KBAM
Abundant Life
Adult Bible Study
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Youth Ministry

December is a favorite for FBC NB Youth! We had a packed month, full of Advent Cheer. Students started the month with Angel Tree shopping. In teams of 3, students utilized a budget and information about their Angel to purchase Christmas gifts for children in need. We also decorated the Sanctuary tree, which is always a favorite! Our annual Christmas party was held with plenty of fun, games, and our White Elephant gift game. December finished out with our end of semester gathering where we met for fellowship and enjoyed a Charlie Brown Christmas. To kick off the New Year, students will be traveling on a Mission/Ski Trip to St Louis, Missouri. We will leave December 31 and return January 4th. Please be in prayer for safe travels, and for the students as they start spring semester. We are busy and blessed in FBC Youth, and thankful to the Lord for all He is doing. If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact me.

Aaron Skinner, Student Minister

Pastoral Ministries



Dr. Patrick Hunter

As we continue to cover our basic Baptist

beliefs, let's take a look at our understanding of salvation.

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

1. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

2. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual perfection through the pres-

ence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

3. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love..

A complete copy of the full Baptist Faith & Message adopted by our church is available in the foyer. I encourage you to take time to read this as what we believe determines how we act. By knowing our essential beliefs we are more likely to live out a life pleasing to the Lord.

WOW ... 
our Second Chapter
Ministry for widows, others, and widowers

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026! Our Prayer for Guidance for you ...
"Lord, as I step into this new year, light my path and guide my steps. Help me to walk in wisdom, make choices that honor You, and trust Your timing in all things."

In scripture ... "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." — Proverbs 3:5-6

Please join us as we gather to start this new year, Monday, January 12, at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We share in fellowship and a meal all blessed by the Lord. Our ministry team (Bro. Patrick Hunter, Frank and Janet Buchanan, David and Linda Daniel, and Craig and Julie Spears) welcomes you to reach out if we can assist you in any way.



Abundant Life/King's Table

THANK YOU - Thank you to all King's Table volunteers this past year, but it's again time to rekindle your volunteer spirit for 2026 and reenlist. If you missed out in 2025, you could get on board for the coming year. Call Carol Beth Davis (903-276-3590) to become a King's Table server for the first time.

Sunday School:

ABUNDANT LIFE

Sunday School Class

Fellowship, Bible Study, Singing

The King's Table will meet on the following Tuesdays in January:
13th & 27th

We meet in Fellowship Hall from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. We have devotionals, Games, crafts and Fellowship.

Future Events

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS EVERY WEDNESDAY

WOW Luncheon

Jan. 12th

The King's Table

Jan. 13th

XYZ

Jan. 21st

MISSIONS

MARY HILL DAVIS

\$5,000.00 goal

LOTTIE MOON

\$6,000.00 goal

ANNIE ARMSTRONG

\$6,500.00 goal

VBS

CENTRIKID CAMP

YOUTH CAMP

Operation Christmas Child

The OCC ladies are getting ready for 2026. We have some new ways for you to participate in our mission to spread the gospel around the world.

Starting in January, you can have a shoebox prepared in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Recognize their birthday, anniversary, or any other occasion. We will send a card and post the recognition on our board. You can contact any OCC lady or LeAnn Miller (903-277-5257).

We will have an OCC donation box in the front hallway.

Things you can donate are:

Stuffed animals/Beanie Babies (6 in. or less)

Small baby dolls

Small toys like from Happy Meals

One yard or more fabric pieces

Hot Wheels cars

You can also donate money year round. Mark your envelope for OCC or bring it to the church office.

Thanks again for your support.

FBC Shoebox Ladies



King's Kids Happenings-K-6th

King's Kids wish you all a Happy New Year!



Recent New Members



*Bruce & Martha
Fenner*

Who will you invite to become part of God's family here at First Baptist?



Our member in the Spotlight is Julie Spears.

She is a Bowie County native; born in Texarkana TX to Billy and Ottis Fox. She attended NBISD and East Texas State University @ Commerce. She graduated with a BS degree in Computer Information Systems and Health. Julie also has a Master's degree in Education with many certifications. She's a retired teacher and administrator.

Julie and her husband Craig met while at ETSU during Intramural sports activities.

They have 3 children but no grands.

Craig is a coin collector/seller and helps his fellow veterans. (We thank him for his service.)

Julie enjoys hiking, yardwork, and reading adventure/mystery books.

When asked how worship at FBC impacted her life, she replied, "Having been raised in FBC as a child until I graduated, it set my foundation of Christian life. Since retiring and returning, I'm reunited with fellow members in worship, fellowship and serving."

Julie and Craig stay busy at FBC. They participate in the WOW min-

istry, and other areas as needed (athletic meals, VBS Family night, Trunk or Treat, cooking, and King's Table).

She is a member of the Dorcas class (teacher).

Julie is involved in the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) through the local chapter (Western Bowie County Retired Teachers Association, a board member of the New Boston Education Foundation, as well as being a United Fund of New Boston board member.

Julie and Craig are Army Black Knights and Texas Longhorn fans.

Thanks, Julie for being our member in the spotlight.

If anyone would like to be in the member spotlight, or would like to suggest/nominate someone, please let me know. Contact the church office or send me an email at

paula@fbcnewboston.com.

Until next year, Paula

Member Spotlight





Christmas is such a busy and joyful time of year—full of fun, family, and special events! Over the past month, Kingdom Builders has been learning about the birth of Jesus and focusing on the true reason for all the excitement and celebration this season.

This month, we hosted our very first Kingdom Builders event! We transformed our classroom into a movie theater and enjoyed watching *The Star* together. *The Star* is an animated film that tells the story of Jesus' birth from the perspective of the animals. The kids had a wonderful time enjoying popcorn, hot dogs, candy, and juice or lemonade. We also celebrated with a special “Happy Birthday, Jesus” cake! It was absolutely precious to watch the children’s excitement when baby Jesus finally arrived. Oh, to see and worship the King with the faith and wonder of a child again!

We are so grateful for all the donations and support that made this event possible. Thank you to everyone who helped—Kingdom Builders truly enjoyed this special celebration!



**Next Lord's
Supper:**

**January
25th**

BOWIE MISSIONS SUPPORT FROM FBC (line item 2003 in budget)

Because you gave we were able to give this much money:

November

Randy Sam's

\$969.03

Dear Friends,

We want to express our deep gratitude for the way you have faithfully stood with us this year. Your prayers have carried us more times than you could ever know, and your generosity through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has made it possible for us to live and serve here in Namibia. Because of your partnership, we have been able to plant our feet firmly in this beautiful nation and share the hope of Jesus with those who are searching for Him.

It has truly been a remarkable year. We have witnessed people from every background step into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. We've watched youth, some very young in their own faith, courageously share Jesus with their family and friends, becoming lights in their communities. Also, our church here has grown in spiritual depth, unity, and hunger for God's Word. We have seen the kind of transformation that reminds us that God is always at work, weaving His story of salvation into the hearts of the Namibian people.

Thank you for praying. Thank you for giving. Thank you for believing that God can use your faithfulness to touch lives on the other side of the world. We could not do this without you, and we are honored to serve as your missionaries.

With huge gratitude, Bryan and Dana Bullington

(These missionaries serve through IMB in Namibia and have been here at our mission house.)



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THE MONTHLY ONLINE EDITION
OF THE BEACON, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO:
paula@fbcnewboston.com.