

# First Baptist Church of Boaz

*A family committed to love God, grow in Christ, & live His mission.*

First Baptist Church of Boaz

225 South Main Street P.O. Box 337  
Boaz, Alabama 35957  
256.593.8580  
www.fbcboaz.org

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## FIRST FACTS

Sunday, December 2, 2018

### The People Came...

Sunday School	386
9:00 AM Worship	439
PM Worship	104

### The People Gave...

Budget Receipts	\$	28,975.00
Building Fund	\$	170.00
Other non-budgeted receipts	\$	15,133.75
Weekday Preschool Wages & Taxes	\$	23,787.40
Total Receipts	\$	68,066.15
Budget Receipts to date	\$	1,045,513.18
Budget Requirements to date	\$	1,095,230.88
Budget Expenses to date	\$	974,182.33
Lottie Moon Offering to date	\$	15,843.00

Sunday, December 9, 2018

### The People Came...

Sunday School	382
9:00 AM Worship	424
PM Worship	54

### The People Gave...

Due to sickness numbers are not available at this time

Sunday, December 16, 2018

### The People Came...

Sunday School	352
9:00 AM Worship	363
PM Worship	88

### The People Gave...

Due to sickness numbers are not available at this time

Lottie Moon Offering to date \$38,753.00

## CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Aaron D. Johnson, Pastor  
Rev. Jonathan Lancaster, Associate Pastor  
Jill Arrington, Children's Minister  
BJ Faucett, Student Minister  
Curtis Burtram, Interim Minister of Music  
Pam Whitt, Pastor's Ministry Assistant  
Mary Moore, Financial Ministry Assistant  
Dana Hill, Programs Ministry Assistant  
Carolyn Ledbetter, Weekday Preschool Director  
Luke Ledbetter, Building Superintendent

### DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, January 6  
4:45 PM in Chapel

### Our Newest Member: By Baptism (2-3)

Hunter Preston  
395 Aurora Rd  
Boaz 35956 PH: 257-622-6753  
Deacon: Tony Turner

Kathryn Norton  
PO Box 1270  
Boaz 35957 PH: 256-499-2707  
Deacon: Steve Machen

### KEENAGERS

Monday, January 7  
11:30 AM  
Fellowship Hall  
Spaghetti Lunch

Program:  
Marsha Chadwick  
Healthy Aging

### Deacons On Call Dec 23

Paul Taunton  
Laine Spruiell

### Deacons on Call Dec 30

David Putman  
Josh Creech

Sincere Christian Sympathy is extended by the staff and church family to ... The family of Janet Haynie, wife of Billy Haynie, mother of Kelly (Larry) Ray, grandmother of Madison & Tyler Ray.



### 2 Sundays Remain in 2018 to Give Your Tithes and Offerings

All 2018 Contributions must be brought to the office by December 21, put in the offering on December 30, or postmarked by December 31 to get credit on your 2018 Contribution Record

Volume 27

Issue 19

December 19, 2018



### Sunday, December 23

9:00 AM Worship  
No Sunday School  
6:00 PM Christmas Vespers

### Wednesday, December 26

No Service or Activities  
Enjoy time with your families

### Sunday, December 30

9:00 AM Worship  
No Sunday School  
No PM Service



### HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Church office will be closed during the Christmas Holidays  
December 24-January 2

Our ministerial staff are on call and available if needed.

One Morning Worship Service will continue in January

MORNING WORSHIP AT 9  
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:15



“...they will call him  
Immanuel”  
— which means,  
“God with us.”



Matthew 1:23

# FROM THE PASTOR...

Aaron D. Johnson

Dear Church Family,

This will be our last newsletter for the year. Each year time seems to accelerate. The year has passed and left us with sweet and bitter memories. Some of our family have been called home, while new members of our family have arrived. With eight babies in our nursery now, we can easily see God's providential hand in our church. Thank you for making the last year such a blessing.

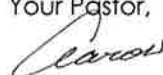
The worship time seems to be a great success! It is good to have everyone together for worship. It is exciting and there is a special energy when the room is full. At the same time meeting in one service has several challenges. We are caught in an odd place where our auditorium is too small for one service and too large for two. In one worship service seating is at a premium. The only vacant spots are in the balcony and all on the far right.

For a moment consider being a first time visitor coming in and looking for a seat. The only obvious way to our balcony is by the stairways INSIDE the auditorium. In order to access either of them, one would have to walk to the front of the auditorium and then up. The back way is not well marked and is at best confusing. Please do your part and help us provide seating for all. Be flexible and surrender your favorite seat. Help someone find a seat who is obviously looking. Go out of your way to make our guests feel more at home.

This brings me to our newest ministry; the First Impressions Team. If I had to point to one area where we are most challenged, this would have been it. We are challenged with multiple entrances and none are obvious to a first time guest. Our main entrance is well hidden and is only visible if you are directly in front of it. Michael Marsh has taken the lead in this ministry and he is to be encouraged and thanked for that leadership. Michael has a team of folks in the parking lot welcoming folks as they arrive. The team uses the golf cart to transport people from the parking lots to the entrances. We MUST make this team successful. If you would be part of this team please let Michael know! We need more members to make a good first impression. We still need more workers on the inside of the church greeting and the need for a welcome center is equally needed. We only have one opportunity to make a good impression. Join me in making the most of it.

I hope you will join me in making the final few days of the year significant. We have an ambitious goal for Lottie Moon but we can make it! We are close to finishing the year on budget, and we can do that too! Please make a commitment to participate with your church family as we close out 2018. And join us in finding your place of ministry for 2019!

Merry Christmas!!

Your Pastor,  
  
 Pastor Aaron

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jill Arrington

Together we are guiding children to Jesus

**Merry Christmas** from our Children's Ministry team ~ we thank you for praying for and supporting the Children and parents of our community throughout the entire year. These boys and girls not only need to know about Jesus but to know Him personally.



**"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people."**  
 Titus 2:11

### CHILDREN'S MISSION EXPLOSION, Huntsville

for kids grades 1-6

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019

Cost \$5 (includes lunch)

T-shirts may be order for \$10

—sign up by email:

jilla@fbcboaz.org or church foyer

14 spots available Deadline Jan 20, 2019



What a wonderful year 2018 has been for the children here at First Baptist. Please stop and thank God for the families in our community as you read this review of a few of last years' opportunities.

Each week, the children have an opportunity to diligently dig into God's Word in Sunday School, Monday Celebrate Recovery Kids Class, Tuesday Kids Bible Club, and in our Wednesday evening CREW class. C.R.E.W. = Children Relying on God's Everlasting Word. The children learn through a variety of activities; music, Mission emphasis, games, stories and in relationship with their peers and faithful leaders. **Spending time in God's Word and in relationship with believers is of utmost importance in the children's ministry.** We know that God uses His Word to transform us into His likeness & others to encourage us.

Our children's ministry offered three Vacation Bible Schools, which ended with several salvations! We gave away many bibles and discipleship materials. Our children's mission-focused groups have written encouraging notes to those in need of hope. The boys and girls gathered gifts for children across the world through their participation in Operation Christmas Child. Through the help of several adult volunteers, we continue to offer an Afterschool Kids Bible Clubs. We celebrated with our community through the Fall Festival **Telling people about Jesus is another important part of Children's ministry.**

Of course, **each opportunity is begun and sustained in prayer,** we want **God's Spirit to guide and empower** us in every endeavor of the children's ministry. Thank you to everyone to let's God use you in children's ministry!

I look forward to year 2019 as we continue to partner with parents in leading their children to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and growth along that journey of a lifetime!

Jill

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Jonathan Lancaster

Church Family,

Our promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for International Missions is in full swing. For most of us, this is par for the course during the Christmas season. If you've been a part of our church for any length of time, you know that missions giving and going are part of our DNA at FBC Boaz. You may know that your gifts help IMB sustain the 3500+ missionaries that are currently on the field. In addition, your gifts will train and send about 300 more in 2019. Do you know, however, that your giving to LMCO is making a significant impact for the Kingdom of God?

In just the last year...	
811	PEOPLE GROUPS ENGAGED BY IMB
46,495	PEOPLE BAPTIZED
14,817	NATIONAL PASTORS TRAINED
12,005	NEW CHURCHES PLANTED

This Christmas, your gift given here to LMCO will travel around the world to do the work of Christ. Please consider what the Lord would have you give to His mission!

Grace & Peace,

*Your gifts transform lives.*



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

— for international missions —

CHURCH GOAL: **\$65,000** imb  
 Given to Date: **\$38,753**



# Celebrate Recovery®

## THE MOST DEADLY DENIAL

Just a couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of kicking off teaching our way through our lessons at Celebrate Recovery here at FBC Boaz. The lesson was DENIAL.

Identifying and coming out of denial is the first step to dealing with any problem, whether addiction or other. Jeremiah 6:14 spells it right out for us, "You can't heal a wound by saying it's not there" (TLB).

However, I think possibly the most deadly denial that we're faced with is not the denial of the addict, but the denial of communities.

Not only our state, but our congressional district is the worst in the nation for opiate (narcotic pain medication) prescriptions per capita with 1.66 prescriptions per person. Oh, and let's not forget the fact that our peaceful little community has earned herself the moniker of "Meth Mountain".

The statistics don't lie. It literally does not get any worse than we have it here. Our children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors are dying in droves and somehow the enemy has lulled us into apathy. One thing I didn't mention about denial – by its very nature, you don't know when you're in it.

And this is not just happening in Boaz and Marshall County Alabama – in the nation that consumes over 80% of the world's opiates, practically nothing is being done to help those trapped in addiction. Why is that??

The wound is there that needs to be healed; what would God have you do to help heal it?

CR will NOT meet on December 24

## Celebrate Recovery Schedule

**Monday Evenings**

Meal - 5:30 PM (\$2)

Large Group - 6:30 PM

Open Share Groups - 7:30 PM

For more information, contact Chris Amos  
 256.572.7580, chris@fbcboaz.org.