



*FOLLOWING GOD PRAYERFULLY AND PASSIONATELY!*

## **“Carry the Commission!”**

What is your most tremendous burden right now?

I realize that each of us may answer the question differently. I hope that, regardless of your needs, you know that our Lord is more than able to address the problems that people face! There is absolutely NOTHING that is outside of the authority and power of the One who created all things (Romans 11:33-36)! His divine power provides all that is needed, helping us at every step as we grow in our relationship with Him (2 Peter 1:3-8)! My burden for First Baptist Church in the upcoming year is that we both *realize* who we are in Christ and, with that understanding, grow in our *responsibility* to help others receive the life-giving truth as well!

It is tempting to hear about the Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission and feel guilty. We think we have failed, so we try to ignore it or forget about it.

What if the answer to our obedience issue is less about unrealistic expectations and more about ownership? Let me show you what I mean.

Jesus gives us the Greatest Commandments in Matthew 22:34-40:

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*” <sup>38</sup> “*This is the great and foremost commandment.*” <sup>39</sup> “*The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*” <sup>40</sup> “*On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.*”

Later in the book of Matthew, after the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus gives the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:16-20 <sup>NASB</sup> <sup>16</sup> But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. <sup>17</sup> When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*” <sup>19</sup> “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*” <sup>20</sup> *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”

Both of these passages have an interesting beginning. The Greatest Commandment is prompted by religious leaders testing Jesus. They did not want the correct answer. Their agenda was to discredit our Savior. Right before the Great Commission, some of the disciples stood before the Risen Lord and, instead of worshiping Him, doubted Him.

Consider this: **both the Greatest Commandments and the Great Commission are liberating truths rather than burdensome requirements!**

The Pharisees sought to trap Jesus with the Law and Prophets, while Jesus desires that we see how He fulfills them (Matthew 22:40)!

Some of the disciples tried to obey Jesus with divided hearts, hesitant to fully believe. Jesus starts and finishes the Great Commission with His authority (Matthew 28:16, 20). Obedience is not man-made; it is a result of full submission to our God!

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My prayer for 2026 is that our fellowship knows what it means to love God fully and share His love out of the overflow of our relationship with Him! As we own our relationship with Him, obeying the Greatest Commandments and living out the Great Commission is the fruit of our faith, not an exasperating effort of futility.

Let me ask again: What is your most tremendous burden right now?

Bring it to Jesus.

And, by His grace, allow Him to use you to help others to do the same thing!

By His Grace,  
Pastor Byron

Contact Pastor Byron at [byron@fbcinverness.com](mailto:byron@fbcinverness.com)

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### Missions Team Ministry



Hello Church Family!

We had an amazing time at our mission trip to Atlanta Georgia last month! We had so much excitement and fun with the whole group! The youth that joined this year did awesome and I couldn't praise God enough for the ability to show these young ones what it means to be on mission in real life! They've heard adults speak of missions before, but now the youth get to experience it for themselves and that's truly a blessing from God!

The Mission Team is also putting together something a little different. In January, we are going to be hosting.....Winter Fest! Winter Fest will be similar to Fall Fest. We will have games for all ages, both inflatable ones and regular ones, there will be food trucks, music, a photo booth, and so much more! Since it will be in January, it was decided to not have any water activities but we have many activities planned to still have a great time! The event will be held on January 10th, 2026 from 12pm-4pm! Invite all your family, friends, and neighbors! We can't wait to see everyone and we can't wait to share God's love in this way to our community! Please pray for this event as we continue to plan and for the day itself to be God centered through and through!

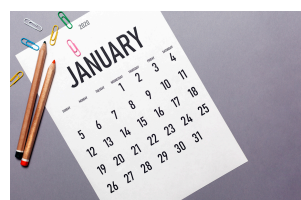
There is also some exciting news in the works! Pastor Byron is in the process of developing a mission opportunity in Spain! It will have a connection with Biblical Counseling and everything exciting the Lord is doing with that ministry! In preparation for going to Spain, Pastor Byron will be traveling in February to Mexico with his wife, Kim, to go through a training that will help him in organizing and planning the Spain opportunity! Please be praying for this opportunity as it continues to take shape and keep an eye out as more information will be coming available.

May God bless you all!

~Mission Team

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### Church Office



The Church Office will closed:

Wednesday, December 31st  
Thursday, January 1st  
Monday, January 19th

Worship Ministry**The Lost One**

A couple was out walking their Jack Russell Terrier, Charlie, in the mountains. A squirrel walked past and Charlie broke free, pulling his leash behind him. Just that quickly, the couple realized Charlie was gone.

They stopped and asked some hikers if they had seen Charlie, but no luck. They stopped by the ranger station and asked if anyone had found Charlie, but they hadn't. They called their Bible study back home and asked them to pray for Charlie. They called the local radio station to ask them to announce that Charlie was missing. This was no small matter. There were coyotes in the hills.

Through the course of the day, the community mobilized. A biker road through the hills calling Charlie's name. Rangers drove the mountain roads looking for the dog. Members of the Bible study actually drove in to help search. As the sun was setting, it looked like the dog might be gone. Then they got a call. Campers had found Charlie hiding underneath a car that was parked exactly where they had parked that morning.

**The couple describe this as the most profound experience of community they've ever had.**

*"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved"*

**Acts 2:46-47**

**What if...** The church was united around the search for lost people? In the book of Acts, the community gathered and united for the mission of reaching a lost world, and it was the most profound experience of community they had ever had.

**What if...** The cry of our hearts was the rescue of those souls in our neighborhoods and larger community.

**What if...** Our mission was to take the Gospel of Christ to the next person God places in our path, then the next person, and then the next person...?

**What if...** We took the Great Commission, in Matthew 28:16-20, as just that, "OUR" Great Commission?

*"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* **Matthew 2:18-20**

Selah,  
Pastor John

Contact Pastor John at [john@fbcinverness.com](mailto:john@fbcinverness.com).

## Student Ministry

Happy New Year FBC!

The year 2025 is now history, and ready or not, 2026 is here! And even though the Christmas season with all its busy-ness and sweetness is now over, the gospel message is still just as prevalent as it has ever been! All that we reflect on through the Advent season is not just for the sake of being thankful for Christ's coming and saving us (even though that's the best part for us!), Christmas also can realign our focus on the beautiful and unique, life-long commission we have as ambassadors for Him so that others might be saved. And this is what we believe God is having us dial in on as we launch into 2026! Check out this encouraging truth in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21:

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Church family, we want to make sure we are going into 2026 with a renewed sense of vision and passion for carrying this commission as ambassadors for Him, individually and corporately! It ought to be a deep conviction in the hearts of those called by His name to be compelled by his love and desire to allow God to make His appeal for reconciliation through us to people of the world who are far from Him. Whether it be in restaurants or at a park, in the workplace or at special events, one on one or in front of a crowd... There is a commission to be carried out! And in this way, we can be faithful stewards of His gift of grace for the furtherment of His kingdom. Paul hits this responsibility from a different angle by saying the following in Romans 10:14-15, and he summarizes in verse 17:

<sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ... <sup>17</sup> "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

These two passages make it abundantly clear, that the people of God have a role to play in God reaching and reconciling man to Himself. We MUST not take that lightly! As we transition into 2026 with this goal in mind, for each of us to "Carry the Commission," would you pray with us? Pray and seek God to help each of us to be burdened, encouraged and found faithful in reaching the lost of Citrus County like we never have before. From Kingdom Kids to Anchored Youth, from Sunday school classes and small groups to the pulpit, everything we preach and practice as a church ought to direct us to "Carry the Commission!" We as a staff have prayed about this, and we are excited to see how God allows this vision to flourish! As the missionary, William Carey, once said, "Expect great things FROM God; attempt great things FOR God." Be looking for action steps from leadership and let's be unified in one mind for one mission! We pray for kingdom harvest! We pray for the laborers! We pray for God to use FBC in a mighty way! Amen!

For His Kingdom,  
Pastor Matt

P.S. Thank you so much to all those who gave cards and gifts to my family over the holidays! My family and I are overwhelmed with gratefulness! We praise God for such a generous church family!

Contact Pastor Matt at [matt@fbcinverness.com](mailto:matt@fbcinverness.com)

## Biblical Counseling

### **Is Living Out My Faith Important in My Daily Life?**

The Bible tells us that “without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). The book of James teaches us, if our faith is real, it will be lived out. The Bible teaches living by faith means actively trusting God's Word, relying on His power, not our own understanding, and acting on His promises, even when unseen, leading to righteousness, purpose, and salvation through Jesus Christ (as seen in verses like Romans 1:17 and 2 Corinthians 5:7). It is a life shaped by God's truth, empowered by Him, and pointed at His glory transforming actions into virtuous deeds. That is, our faith will make a difference in our daily lives. Christians should live out their faith because it properly represents God to the world.

In Paul's day the false teachers claimed to have faith, but they did not live it out. Paul wrote about them, “They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for any good work.” (Titus 1:16). If we claim to follow Jesus, but our actions do not back it up, we are not really following Jesus (see John 14:15).

In our modern world, it is tempting to keep our faith private. If no one knows what we believe, life can seem less complicated. When we do not allow our faith to influence what we say and do, we are free to live like the rest of the world. Our language, politics, and actions will not offend unbelievers or cause them to persecute us. Furthermore, we can even use the church to network with people who can help us get more money, status, and security. But these are temporary gains. When we live out our faith in Christ Jesus, we further the truth about God and benefit ourselves and those near to us. Our worries over money, death, politics, and other things of this world are lessened. We learn to pray about everything and in everything give thanks (Philippians 4:6). We have confidence that God will never let the righteous be shaken (Psalm 55:22).

Others will benefit also when we live out our faith. A person living out his or her faith in Christ will love his neighbors and his enemies (Mark 12:31; Luke 6:27). He/she will care for those in need (Luke 14:12–14). He/she will pray for our leaders and work for a peaceful community (1 Timothy 2:1–2). He/she will stand for justice (Isaiah 1:17). Most importantly, the one who lives out his/her faith will teach the world how God wants to forgive their sins and have a relationship with Him (1 Peter 3:15).

When we live out our faith in Christ, we follow in Jesus' footsteps living as Jesus taught. Others will see our good works, done in Jesus' name, and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). Amazingly, God created us for good works. We were not saved by our good work. Rather, He saved us for good works. Our witness will help the world discover the truth (Ephesians 4:25), and “the unfruitful works of darkness” will be exposed (Ephesians 5:11–13).

The truth is, we do live out our faith, no matter how hard we might try to hide it. Our actions and words are always rooted in what we believe most deeply. If we claim to know Jesus but don't act like it, our deeds prove that we do not believe He is Lord or following Him is important to us (see Titus 1:16). As James says, this type of dead faith is really no faith at all (James 2:26). James says, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” Faith without works is a dead faith because the lack of good works reveals an unchanged life or a spiritually dead heart. There are many verses in Scripture that say that true saving faith will result in a transformed life, that faith is demonstrated by the works we do. How we live our daily lives reveals what we believe and the faith we confess to have.

Are you living out your faith in your daily life? Do you need to talk to someone about what that means or how do you do it? Please reach out to our counseling services:

Jim and Paula Johnson, (904) 704-8260/(904) 860-0986/[john525136@gmail.com](mailto:john525136@gmail.com),

Pastor Byron Brown (352) 726-1252/[byron@fbcinverness.com](mailto:byron@fbcinverness.com)



## Book Review

The Anxious Generation Goes to Church: What the Research says about what younger generations need (and want) from your church. by Thom S. Rainer, Published by Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Momentum, 2025.

In 1984, George Barna and his wife Nancy founded Barna Research Group. George Barna, a media research specialist holding graduate degrees in urban planning and political science, founded Barna Research Group for the purpose of providing "research and marketing expertise as a service to Christian ministry." They spent much of their early years working for such large corporations as Disney and its affiliates. By the 90's, they had begun focusing on research of and for the church. Barna's research became very important for the church growth movement and similar approaches to the pew questionnaire were developed and modeled by mega church pastors like Bill Hybels of Willowcreek and Rick Warren of Saddleback. They keyed in on what was going on in the culture, how the culture viewed the church, what the culture needed from the church, what the culture needed the church to be, etc. Once they retrieved their data, they would run the stats through their very professional, business model, church-growth matrix and change their church's approach to fit those surveys. They were so vigorous in their demand that churches adapt for culture sake that Rick Warren, in His Purpose Driven Church, when discussing getting rid of the organ and embracing a rock band, was willing to lose church members who would not change in exchange for the possibility of drawing seekers. It seemed to work. Saddleback became one of the largest churches in America and the largest in the SBC until it was disfellowshipped in 2023. Brian Johnson wrote of these methods on Monergism, "Pragmatism is the practice of relying on methods or techniques rather than our Sovereign Lord for results. Pragmatism is the notion that meaning or worth is determined by practical consequences. It is the philosophy that looks to the world's marketing methodologies or poll results rather than Biblical examples or mandates. When determining how to "run" a church a Bible-based pastor will ask the question "what most honors God or is clearly revealed in Scripture" while the pragmatist will take a survey in the community. One of Warren's more famous actions was in the area of music. He claims he polled the surrounding community and asked what their musical preference was. After determining the popular consensus, he "got rid of the organ" and set up a rock band. There is nothing unbiblical about a "rock" band but making that determination based on a poll of unsaved people is a questionable method at best." [1]

Now, why write all that for this book. Neither Barna, Warren, nor Hybels wrote this book. True. Thom S. Rainer is a Christian brother who is the founder and CEO of Church Answers. Church Answers website states, "Our assessment tools provide detailed insights and are based on decades of combined ministry experience. We cover everything from personal assessments to congregational surveys to community demographic reports." [2] This book on the anxious generation is full of surveys. It is a sociology book which spends the first third of the book explaining what the anxious generation is and describing the challenges these generations present (pg.44). He also admits that this book was written in reaction to the popular secular book, The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness, by Jonathan Haidt (pg.1).

The Christian book market is saturated with church help, growth, and revitalization books (Many, many, many books on how to fix your church). To be honest, I am tired of most of them. While this book by Rainer is not bad and will surely receive a lot of praise from other colleagues and church health professionals (and who am I to critique people like Rainer, Hybels, and Warren when they have seen the expansive growth of churches and church networks), I can't help but think of places in other parts of the world where the church is growing without church growth books or surveys and pew research studies on how to understand, appeal to, and address specific demographics. Of course, I'm sure that many churches will adopt or adapt to Rainer's advice just as they have to his other books, but for me...I am becoming disenfranchised with constantly being given new inventive methods for growing and fixing the American church based on research with Bible passages and themes thrown in sporadically. In short, this book just reminds me how badly I want off the "church-growth movement" ride. While Rainer would certainly not view himself as a pragmatist, he makes a lot of money helping church's change to what works. I remember reading books as a small child back in the early 90's on how to reach Gen X kids...then in the 2000's on how to reach Millennial kids. Those books are dated now and good only for history. This book by Rainer will serve better as a history book in the future.

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Rainer speaks of the Anxious church not being for or against church, but rather...indifferent. And that is how I feel about this book. It's not good, it's not bad. I'm just indifferent. Perhaps I have spent too much time reading history and seeing ebbs and flows of trends and behaviors. People are people and culture moves in a circular pattern that transcends generations in a turn-taking motion. Age to age, ethnicity to ethnicity, our story repeats. To use an analogy: the only difference between the chapter on America in the 2020s and the chapter on Hibernia in the 300s is the scent of the paper. Certain truths transcend time. For example, the ideals of the Reformation were not new then and they are not old now. The truths of Scripture transcend time and space. Not only does its MESSAGE remain the same for all generations (to which Rainer would agree), but its METHOD does not change (Rainer, and most evangelicals would give pause to that idea), but we all agree that MEANS change. So, in that area of MEANS, Rainer's book does provide great advice (dealing with smartphones and social media, etc.). But an hour of Charlie Kirk videos giving the gospel to college and high school students may be better worth your time in exciting you to see these "lost boys"[3] as souls and not stats. If you want to learn about this anxious generation, pick up the book. Otherwise, I would say that the following old quote is worth a thousand pages of commercial Church Growth/Health books: "Get on fire for God, and people will come to watch you burn." [4] I'm sure Rainer would agree.

In Christ,  
Pastor Adam

Contact Pastor Adam at [adam@fbcinverness.com](mailto:adam@fbcinverness.com)

[1] An Examination of Rick Warren's Teaching on "Exponential Growth" | Monergism

[2] Church Answers Featuring Thom Rainer | Resources for Church Growth | Church Answers

[3] What Charlie Kirk called the young men of this generation. A play off of the name given to the kids who lived with Peter Pan and Ernest Hemingway's name "Lost Generation" given to post-WWI men in The Sun Also Rises.

[4] Often attributed to John Wesley, but without source. "Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn."

Fun and Games  
for all ages.

# WINTER FEST

January 10, 2026  
12 PM TO 4 PM



**K-9 DEMO  
WITH K-9'S  
IKE AND  
CAIRO**

**FOOD  
TRUCKS  
INCLUDING:  
DILLONS  
FRESH &  
BONE OF MY  
BONE BBQ!**






**EAGLES REST  
RANCH  
MINIATURE  
HORSES, AND  
DONKEYS!**



**INFLATABLES!**

## Ministry of Warmth



**Greetings from the Ministry of Warmth!**

**Psalm 96:2 Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. (NIV)**

**Come and join us as we knit and crochet items for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and for local ministries, reaching others with God's love.**

**Some items we make are hats, hair scrunchies, headbands, bracelets, and washcloths. The hats can also be made using looms.**

**Also, we have the knitting needles, crochet hooks, looms, and yarn available. We thank God for His generous provision to our ministry.**

**We meet every Thursday afternoon 2:00—4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. For more information or questions, please contact Willie Howe at 352-726-1252.**

**We will start meeting again January 8, 2026.**

**Happy New Year!**

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## Mailbox Bible Club



**The Mailbox Bible Club continues to seek God's plan for our ministry. Our student enrollment is maintaining at 186 and we have several locations that are rapidly increasing their participation.**

**We mailed 434 lessons in September and awarded 20 certificates to students who completed a series of lessons. Two students have told us that they have prayed to receive Christ this month.**

**We are continuing to see our student numbers increase in several prison units. This is usually a result of several of our students getting together for Bible study and then they continue to refer new students.**

**Our praise report for this month is that our four new volunteers are rapidly learning our processes for grading and mailing lessons. God has answered our prayers and we are very thankful.**

**Please continue to pray for our ministry.**

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## Upward Soccer



**The first games for Upward are on Saturday, January 17 and continue through March 21. Games begin at 9:00am with the last game beginning at 12:00pm. We would love to see everyone out there cheering on the children and enjoying some delicious food made to order from concessions. If you have any questions about the games please email [upward@fbcinverness.com](mailto:upward@fbcinverness.com).**

**Upward Sports does more than just allow children an opportunity to be active and have fun, it also uses "the power of sports to share the gospel and promote the discovery of Jesus in every community." Your financial assistance can help to sponsor a child and help families feel welcome. Cost per player is \$85.**

**If you have any questions about financial assistance, please contact Carolyn Johnson at [carolyn@fbcinverness.com](mailto:carolyn@fbcinverness.com).**



Women's Ministry*Four Corner Sisters**a ministry of First Baptist Church, Inverness*

2025 has come to a close. Our eyes are set on 2026 and following Christ's commission for the world wide church, our local congregation, our women's ministry, and me – and YOU! I personally am so excited to see what God has in store for each of us!

First let me, commend you for all you have done through Women's Ministry.

Many of you have commented about how the daily prayer has spoken to you (how does God know I desperately needed to hear those words on that day? HOW?) and how you've been able to share it with other women or even a child, It's so easy to start your day with prayer with these emails. Thank you to the contributors who write these prayers.

Studying the Bible together this year has spoken truth into our lives. From a detailed study of the feasts to the present study of the Parallel Gospels, God has used this hour on Thursday mornings to not only teach His Word but to draw us closer to each other as we pray and study together.

A new ministry has been launched. Two young women have learned of God's love for them as they walk this journey of an unexpected pregnancy. Embrace Grace leaders poured themselves into those young lives so that these new babies enter this world with mammas who want to serve God. Continue to pray for Cloe and Alyson. You responded with an overwhelming display of love for these two by contributing diapers and gifts.

The retreat! 17 of us spent a couple of wonderful days which included intense Bible study, sharing and fellowship. Lives were changed and continue to be changed because of this very personal time with God and each other.

We even had a day to learn a new craft. The creations made were beautiful. What fun could we have during this year?

Our 3 large events are sweet times to remember. So many of you came. So many of you helped. So many of you were changed.

Giving! You have absolutely the biggest hearts when it comes to giving. Each mission project presented was met with an abundant supply to meet needs. December alone exhibited how much you care. The number of Angel Tree recipients this year doubled over last year. Each child had a very special gift just because you care and you gave. The shower for the Embrace Grace women was over the top generous. Their tables were full of much needed items to start the life of a new born. The food items under the Reverse Advent tree will bless many hurting families in our area.

That's a brief review of 2025. The anticipation to see what God has in store for us in 2026 is exciting. We as Four Corner Sisters are privileged to pray, study, give, and share Christ's love. To draw us back to the scope of our outreach – our commission, consider what and how you will step up to lead or participate.

For questions about the Women's Ministry, please contact [womensministry@fbcinverness.com](mailto:womensministry@fbcinverness.com).

## Thank You Notes

Dear First Baptist Inverness,

I want to thank the church for hosting my mother's (Velma Janzer) funeral. Special thanks to Pastor Byron for his message, to Pastor John for the worship and special song, to Kim for the piano music, to Carolyn for organizing, to Dawn for the wonderful food, to Dwight for all of his help, and to so many others who made it a day that was honoring to my mother and more importantly to our Lord.

Karen Ott

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Dear Pastor Byron & First Baptist Church of Inverness,

Thank you for helping make our 2025 Banquet a success! The room was nearly full! The feedback from our guests has been very positive. Our annual fundraising banquet is only successful due to your generosity in underwriting it. This encourages our guests in their giving because they know they are supporting the ministry and not paying for the meal. Your support inspires others to give. We appreciate you for making an impact on our mission to save babies' lives. May God bless you above and beyond anything you could hope or imagine for how you have blessed babies' lives.

Sincerely,  
Citrus Pregnancy Center Team

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First Baptist Church Inverness,

Donation amount: \$2,114.30

*I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, appointing me to the ministry. 1 Timothy 1:12 (CSB)*

Thank you for your generous gift to Mission:Dignity! Each of the almost 2,800 retired ministers and widows is grateful that their call to ministry has not been forgotten because of you!

Daniel and Olga Herrera served for 42 years in the great state of Texas. Their tenure was cut short when Daniel experienced a traumatic brain injury in 2018. For years, Olga took care of him as he lingered in pain until he passed away on September 6, 2025.

We recently received a thank-you note from their son, who stated that Mission:Dignity was like family to the Herreras. "Without y'all, I don't know what my mom and dad would have done. It's not just the financial help, but everyone is just so invested in us. It's like everyone there knows us personally, and that brings smiles to our faces," he wrote.

Without your gifts, none of this cared would be possible. These soldiers of the cross live out their call to the ministry in dignity until their Savior calls them home because of you. May God continue to bless you for your love and compassion for them!

Working Together,  
Aaron J. Meraz, PH.D., D.Min  
Director of Mission:Dignity

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Dear Church Family,

Thank you to everyone that helped to make Christmas at First Baptist Inverness a wonderful and joyous season. We appreciate everyone's hard work and their diligence in keeping Jesus the focus of Christmas. Thank you to all the volunteers that decorated the church, and to everyone that participated in the Christmas Cantata, the Christmas Eve Service, the Angel Tree Ministry, and every other part of bringing Christmas to our church family and our community.

The pastors and staff also thank you all for the cards and sweet expressions of love this Christmas.

## Birthdays

Cookie Plaisted Jan 01	Irv MacQuarrie Jan 19
Evangeline Kelly Jan 01	Bailey Meeks Jan 21
Gracelyn Warren Jan 01	Becky Schaffer Jan 21
Alyssa Messere Jan 03	Paige Fischer Jan 21
John Howard Jan 03	Taylor Dileo Jan 21
Carolyn Johnson Jan 07	James Mitchell Jan 22
Kelly Burkholder Jan 07	Sandra Ritter Jan 22
Jayla Haugabrooke Jan 09	David Brown Jan 24
Karen Berry Jan 09	Lauren Maynor Jan 24
Brenda Weston Jan 10	Sylvia Deets Jan 25
Abigail Innes Jan 11	Belinda Johnson Jan 27
Deborah Tong Jan 12	Owen Sheffield Jan 27
Albert Jordan Jan 13	Ron Morgan Jan 27
Addison Wuthnow Jan 14	Elizabeth Bergstrom Jan 28
James Hahn Jan 15	Megan Arthur Jan 29
Sandra Saporito Jan 15	Noel Warren Jan 29
Lori Bitters Jan 17	Joe Wheeler Jan 30

If you have a January birthday and your name does not show up on the Birthday List, it means we are missing some or all of your information. Please log into the Church Center App and update your information or contact Debbie Jolly at [debbie@fbcinverness.com](mailto:debbie@fbcinverness.com) or by calling the church office at 352-726-1252 so that we may update your information. The computer system requires a month, day, and year to enter the date of birth. Thank you.

## Memorials & Honor

### **In Memory of Faye Gavin**

For: Harvest Offering  
 From: Albert & Marilyn Jordan  
 For: Regular Offering  
 From: Vikki Castel Croft

### **In Memory of Velma Janzer**

For: Mailbox Bible Club  
 From: Ray & LaVerne Morrison  
 From: Betty Kidwell  
 For: Deacon Benevolence Fund  
 From: Linda Miller  
 From: Joyce Adkins  
 For: The General Fund  
 From: Vikki Castel Croft  
 For: Missions  
 From: JoEllen Allen



**Byron Brown**  
**Senior Pastor**

**Adam Wuthnow**  
**Associate Pastor**

**John Johnson**  
**Worship & Administrative Pastor**

**Matt Pullen**  
**Student Pastor**

**Debbie Jolly**  
**Church Secretary**

**Carolyn Johnson**  
**Administrative Assist**



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