

FBC NEWSLETTER

Embracing Our History | Engaging Our Future | Inspiring Worship

Focus On: Alex Godshall

As we sadly anticipate the Godshall's leaving us soon, I wanted to take a moment to get Alex's perspective on what her experience was like as a new pastor's wife over the last two years.

First, I asked her what her expectations were coming into the role of being the wife of a student pastor. She shared that she imagined it would be easy and that everyone would be excited and welcoming



to her. "I thought I'd have no problem making friends and that the students would approach me easily," she said. In some ways her expectations were met, but in many ways the job of assisting Dallas in the process of revamping the Student Ministry, working behind the scenes, carrying prayer

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A Word from Our Pastor

This past Sunday, Dallas and Alex informed us that the Lord was leading them to their next ministry at Crossroad Community Church in Elmore, Alabama. As a congregation, we stand united in supporting their decision and the new journey they are about to embark on. We want to send them out with a Christian farewell, surrounded by our love and support. Their last Sunday will be August 11th, and we will send them out with the blessings of this Christian family.

What is a Christian farewell, and why is it important that we send people out in the right way? A Christian farewell is when a Christian family sends out a family member or an entire family to go and accomplish the Lord's will in another place. It is an affirmation that we are all called to do ministry, and we are bought with a price, and we go where the Lord sends us at the time He sends us. This is important because it shows how much we love each other and that we see each other as part of a family and not a corporate organization. It's a testament to our unity, our shared faith, and our commitment to each other as believers. When we do this, we affirm that the Lord is in control of our lives and directs us where He wants us to go.

It is sad that we live in an age where Christian servants are often treated like spiritual migrant workers and discarded as if they were disposable commodities. We, as a congregation that bears the name of Jesus, have a responsibility to ensure that no brother or sister is sent out without a proper goodbye. It's a reflection of our caring and our commitment to the Christian faith that we are a part of, which declares the deep bond that we have with Jesus. In an age where ministers are casually dismissed, handed NDAs as they are spirited out in the dead of night, and given the left foot of fellowship as they and their

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burdens for the students, while also balancing their home and her own career were much harder than she anticipated!

“One of the lessons I learned,” she shared, “was to not take everything personally - to remember that things aren’t about me - I want everything I do to be about Jesus!”

When asked what her best experience was as a new pastor’s wife, Alex was quick to express the joy of seeing one of their students come to a sincere saving faith in Jesus Christ. “So many church

members came to us, telling us they had been praying for this student.



We had the joy of seeing his confidence in the salvation he had.”

Lastly, I asked Alex what she would miss most about FBC. “I know there will be so many things! We will miss the staff here, some really special members who’ve poured into our lives, the entire Student Ministry, the beach, and Little Haven Coffee!”

Dallas and Alex will be in our prayers as they begin their new ministry in AL. I know the students and all of FBC will miss them, but we will have the lasting blessing of what they have poured out in ministry.

Laura Kitchen

Time to Join!

If you have ever thought about getting involved in the Worship Ministry at FBCC, the upcoming fall season is a great time to jump in!

Specifically, I’d like to extend an invitation to be a part of our worship ensembles including Worship Choir and Worship Orchestra. If you are a new attender or member (or if you have been here a while and haven’t yet participated in the worship ministry) I hope you will consider using your gifts to serve the Lord and encourage the FBCC family.



Worship Choir serves in worship leadership every Sunday, with rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:15pm. No audition or music reading ability required - just a heart of worship and a commitment to serve. Every voice makes a difference!

Are there any inactive instrumentalists or piano players out there? Many of our current Worship Orchestra members played an instrument a long time ago (high school or otherwise) and have knocked off the rust and gotten back in the game. Do you fall in that category? If so, I hope you will get in touch to talk about how you

can refresh your skills and experience the blessing of playing for God’s glory in worship. Specific needs right now are for guitar and keys players, but all instruments are welcome. Since a certain level of skill is needed, an informal audition may be requested before playing on Sundays.

The FBCC Handbell ensemble “Sounds of Praise” is also a fun place to serve. Handbell experience is not required, but prospective ringers do need basic music reading skills.



If any of these opportunities resonate with you, please reach out. 850-826-4161 or andrew@fbcew.org . We look forward to seeing you soon.

Pastor Andrew

family must shamefully pack up their things while the security team watches, we have a chance to show how a Christian farewell should be done. Too many churches today have become corporatized and are now part of some industrial, religious complex where those called to the ministry have no agency and no protection from the whims of some heartless ecclesiastical autocracy. May First Baptist never become such a place where our staff family is replaced with a team, and a CEO becomes the head of the church rather than the Lord Jesus.

As you see Dallas and Alex, express your appreciation for all they have done to help grow our youth in the past couple of years. Share the love of Christ with them and remind them that they are always welcome to return to this fellowship. When they do come back for a visit in the future, there will be rejoicing because we are a family.

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”
2 Corinthians 13:11

I am honored to be the pastor of a loving family of believers.

Pastor Stan

Family Focus: August Events

Thank you all so much for your support during VBS this year! We had a wonderful week with about 150 children in attendance. We planted the seeds of faith in the hearts of these precious children, and we continue to pray that the Lord will bring these children to know Him as their Savior.

On August 1, during the Honduras Mission Trip we will be leading a Children’s Camp for about 100 children and 60 mothers. We will be sharing with them the story of Joseph - what man meant for evil, God used for good. Please pray that these children will have hearts to hear the truth of God’s Word.

Also, our own Children’s Ministry will be kicking off Awana on Wednesday, August 21st. Registration is already open online on our church’s website so please take the time to register your children or grandchildren so that we can adequately plan for each age group. If you are interested in helping in Awana, please contact me about how you can be involved.



Beth Hendricks

Missions & Media: Walk Worthy

Vacation Bible School was an adventure and an experience! Beth Hendricks and all of you that worked VBS did an exceptional job; teaching, entertaining, crafting, playing, feeding and running technical



systems. A young couple and their child attended worship the following Sunday. Not only did their child see, hear and experience His love during VBS, but the young family visited our FBC family, maybe seeking a church home.

I contend our Pastor’s vision for our church is missions. I am convinced missions is primary in the heart of First Baptist. I know, see and experience our church’s love for Him and all those we encounter day by day. VBS, Experience Christmas, SMAAC, Honduras, Nepal and so many other missional efforts we conduct are reaching our community and the world with His Gospel. This is who we are. This is what we are called to do. This is First Baptist!

Paul writes in Ephesians 4:1, “...walk in a manner worthy of the calling for which you are called.”

- Walk - day to day life
- Worthy - be like Christ
- Called - sanctified, set apart, child of God, tasked to work for His Kingdom

Keep up the good work as we trek toward fall, go back to school, get back into our routines (post-summer) and walk worthy of our calling.

I’m so proud to be a part of the First Baptist family!

Pastor Chuck

Staff



Dr. Stan Lewis

Lead Pastor



Andrew Heathershaw

Worship Pastor



Chuck Walthall

Missions & Media Pastor



Dallas Godshall

Youth & College Pastor



Beth Hendricks

Children's Ministries Director

Our Service Times

- Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
- Live Online @ fbcew.org
- Sunday School 9:00am
- Wednesday Scripture Studies 6:00pm
- Plus Worship Choir, Student & Children's Ministries and more!

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- www.fbcew.org
- First Baptist Church of Crestview
- Firstbaptistcrestview
- First Baptist Crestview

www.fbcew.org

Student Ministry Happenings

FBC Crestview, I want to thank you for the past two years. You gave me the first opportunity to be obedient to God's calling on my life as a full-time student pastor, and I could not be more grateful. We have had struggles and hardships throughout these two years, but God's glory has eclipsed all of those. We have seen students come to new life in Christ, we have seen calls to serve God, we have seen baptisms, and we have seen students coming to maturity in their relationship with God the Father. Each of these miracles has come because of the support of you, our church. Almost every Sunday, there is a different person that approaches me to simply tell me that they are praying for Alex and me, and for our ministry, and it is obvious to us that God is answering those prayers. You have also sacrificed your time and money to pour into our student ministry. For all this, we appreciate you.



Unfortunately, there is not enough space on this page for me to thank everyone who has helped Alex and me when we have been struggling, but I think the most fitting story that explains just how much this church means to us happened just a couple of months ago. A storm came through, and sent a massive limb off a tree on our property, totaling two of our cars, and destroying our fence. As soon as it was an option, we had several men at our house cutting through this limb, and taking it down to the street. Without their help, it would have taken me quite a while to get it done. They were willing to come out and help cut it up without me asking. This is what we have seen the past two years.

I have been called to Crossroads Community Church in Elmore, Alabama, and was officially voted in as their student pastor July 21. My last Sunday at FBC Crestview will be August 11, and my last Wednesday will be August 14. It's hard to put into words what this church has meant to me. It is a bittersweet time in our life, but we are going with the knowledge that we are being obedient to God's calling on our life, and that is what brought us to Crestview. FBC Crestview, we love you and we thank you for everything you have done for us.

Pastor Dallas