

# FBC NEWSLETTER

Embracing Our History | Engaging Our Future | Inspiring Worship

## Focus On: New Members

It's been a while since we caught up on introducing our newest members! In fact, it's been so long that some of them aren't "new" anymore and may be very familiar faces to you!



Thomas & Judy Volner

But just to be sure that we don't lose connections with people as our church grows, I wanted to take this chance to help with the name-face association we all need to help us learn who are newest family members are.



Matthew, Melanie, & Krystal Mercer



## A Word from Our Pastor

As we begin 2025, let us start this year with prayer. Each new year brings both opportunities and challenges, and 2025 will be the same. Some of the opportunities that will come our way will be in the form of open doors for work in our community and around the world. More people will be moving into our area who will need salvation or are Christians who will need a church home; we need to be ready to engage them with the Gospel or an invitation to be a part of our church. There may be opportunities for you to serve in the church in ways that you may not have done before, whether it is teaching, greeting, serving in the music ministry, or helping with the youth or children's areas. Be praying that the Lord will open doors for you to serve Him in the church.

As for challenges, we are coming off a year in which most non-profits and churches saw a drop in their financial situation due to economic issues; our church was no exception. Pray that the Lord will continue to meet our financial needs and that our people will diligently seek His will for their giving. We are continuing to deal with our HVAC replacement, which has been a true challenge for the laypeople managing this project. Please pray for them as they continue to navigate this project's engineering and financial aspects. Finally, be praying for the Lord to bring the right person for our Student Minister position and for the search committee to know the will of the Lord in this matter.

I am looking forward to all that the Lord will do in 2025 through our church. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Lord's work, but let us also be on guard against the opposition from the enemy, for when the Lord is at work, our enemy is as well. Thank you for praying for your church, and may the Lord bless you all.

Pastor Stan



The Dvoraks



Brianna Brown

If you recognize some of these folks but have never spoken to them, take the time to introduce yourself and get to know a new member!

Maybe some of these faces are completely new to you! Well now you have no excuse, you know their



The Tuckers

names... make sure they know yours!! We are a family and need each other to be complete.

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## Thoughts from Pastor Andrew

As we flip the proverbial calendar page to 2025, it's exciting to seek the Lord about what He wants to do in and through our church family this year. What does He want to teach me? What does He want me to do? Who/where does He want me to serve?

It's so easy to get settled into a "consumer" mindset of taking in ministry and forgetting that we are to be givers of ministry as well. We enjoy taking in and being served (and there is certainly a time for that) but our focus should be on how we can help and build up others.

Christ "came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28) The King of Kings

and Lord of Lords certainly deserved to be waited on hand and foot during his time in an earthly body. However, He chose, as an example for us, to humble Himself and serve.

Who can we serve INSIDE the church this year? If the

Lord leads you, there are countless opportunities to serve in the church life of FBC. Jump in! If you need some help finding the right spot, please contact your church staff and we would love to assist.

Who can we serve OUTSIDE the church this year? Who do you see around you that God wants you to have an impact on in 2025? Let's share His love and serve.

Pastor Andrew



Serving with FBDR



Serving through EC 2024



Serving in Honduras



## Family Focus: God's Plan

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..." Prov 3:5-6*

As I reflect on this past year, it is easy for me to see so many things in my life that just didn't go as planned, particularly in relation to my children. Seeing your children struggle, for whatever reason, is a very difficult thing to watch and to walk through with them. I have spent more nights the past few months just praying that the Lord would protect my children and guide them in the way they should go. Because, at the end of the day, I can do and say all the right things, but it is up to the Lord to convict their hearts and turn their thoughts and actions toward Him. It's not about what my plans are



Kids Choir

for my myself or my children but trusting God's plan for all of us is perfect and will be accomplished in His time.

So, as I look forward to this coming year, I know that things are not going to go exactly like I would plan, but I can trust in the plans of my Heavenly Father. I encourage you to place your trust in the Lord, no matter what you are going through. He has a perfect plan for you, and He will show that to you in His time.

Beth Hendricks

## Missions & Media: Choose to Trust

Happy New Year! Any resolutions for the new year? Don't bother. Most all New Year's resolutions are abandoned within days and well before the end of January.

However, you can 'choose' to 'trust' more. It's simple! When you wake in the morning tell Him you are going to try and trust Him more today than yesterday and ask Him to give you the strength and faith to do so.

God is more interested in your ability to trust Him than your ability to understand Him. [Tiegreen] This is an easy truth to remember and recall as you awake each morning and walk through the day.



Once you have implemented this new routine, consider adding the following; ask Him to help you grow beyond 'knowing' to 'experiencing' Him daily.

It is one thing to 'know' the truth. But the thing that changes lives is 'experiencing' the truth. [Tozer]

Knowing is based on knowledge gained from reading, studying and attending church. Experiencing is the personal, intimate communication with Him. We often refer to these times as 'mountain top experiences', followed by, 'but we live in the valley' and deductively concluding we can not experience Him all the time; you can not live on the mountain top. I understand this but I do not fully agree.

He desires our praise, obedience and reliance on Him, daily. God is not confined to time or space. God is everywhere! He is spirit. You can experience Him simply by realizing everything you see was created by Him - even your ability to see and hear! He is in control of all His creation. He gives us the ability to 'choose'. We choose to 'trust' Him. We 'choose' to obey Him. We can also 'choose' to experience Him, simply by asking Him, daily.

Happy New Year, the year of 'choosing'...

Pastor Chuck

## Staff



**Dr. Stan Lewis**  
Lead Pastor



**Andrew Heathershaw**  
Worship Pastor



**Chuck Walthall**  
Missions & Media 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!

171 Hickory Ave | Crestview, FL 32536  
(850) 682-2544 | staff@fbcew.org  
Office Hours: M-F 8-5 | Closed 12-1

- [www.fbcew.org](http://www.fbcew.org)
- First Baptist Church of Crestview
- Firstbaptistcrestview
- First Baptist Crestview
- Podcast on Spotify & more

[www.fbcew.org](http://www.fbcew.org)

## Student Happenings: Guest Writer, Eric Kitchen

This month's youth update provides a snapshot into some of their recent events and highlights.

During the Sunday School time, our youth have been taught by a small group of adults that each rotate. Several adult couples (the Buckelews, Kitchens, O'Sheas, Nydereks, Lewises, Bielenins) all lead a class where the youth participate in deep discussion of Scripture and life lessons. Recent topics have included knowing the names of God, understanding the foundation of truth, and a lesson on the necessity of prayer.

The youth also participated in Experience Christmas. They were huge help! They helped decorate the church, set up the chapel Christmas tree displays, assisted with childcare during the event, ran the snow machine (thanks Danny!), and stayed late to help clean up. Their willingness to be involved speaks to the unity across our church family.



Closing out this past week, the youth gathered at the Kitchen's house to enjoy a friendly gingerbread-house-creating competition. They enjoyed lots of junk food and sweets followed by constructing their mini gingerbread house. We had several traditional approaches and many "unique" efforts. We even had one creative house that included a left-over chili dog! It was a great evening.

Please continue to lift up FBC's youth. Support them by engaging in conversation with them. Make them understand how crucial they are to the community of our church and pray for them always.

### Eric Kitchen

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In addition to our newest members, we've had some recent baptisms: Brianna Brown, Emily Heathershaw, William O'Shea, and Grace Hendricks! A joyful



Emily Heathershaw



William O'Shea



Grace Hendricks

congratulations to them on this big step in their walk with the Lord!

Laura Kitchen