

The Messenger



FROM THE PASTOR

1971 was a difficult year for the Gann family. That year my grandfather died of heart failure. Later, my aunt, uncle, and cousin were killed in a tragic automobile accident. On top of that, my dad had bypass surgery and endured complications. It was a hard year.

Even as a ten-year-old, I felt the somber holiday season. The empty chair where my grandfather always sat at my grandmother's house coupled with the hole in our hearts at my other family member's absence loomed over us with sadness. I remember being confused. Christmas had always been a happy time. My parents tried to make it special with nice gifts and trees, but the losses of the year added up. Fifty years later, I still feel the pangs of loss.

While the holidays celebrate the joyful message of peace on earth, not everyone can embrace the celebration. For some, holidays seem to accentuate the loneliness and sadness of grief.

Why bring this up? November begins the holiday season and while there is much to celebrate, let's not forget to be sensitive to the needs of those who are grieving. A friend of mine reminds me that in holiday church services every pew holds 'a bucket full of tears.'

This year the FBC Grief Share ministry is offering help to those who grieve. 'Surviving the Holidays' will meet Sunday, November 14 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at FBC. The purpose of this meeting is to assist those who grieve, find help with holiday planning and support. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4.

I'm so grateful for our Grief Share leaders. They know first-hand the experience of loss during the holidays. They want to help our church and community 'Survive the Holidays.' If you or someone you know needs more information, please contact the church office.

Don

GRIEF SHARE

SURVIVING
THE
HOLIDAYS

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our *Surviving the Holidays* seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.

November 14 from 2-4 p.m. in the FBC Fellowship Hall

Register online at griefshare.org/holidays
or by calling Barbara Wright 662-801-1874.

First Baptist
OXFORD

800 Van Buren Ave., Oxford MS 38655

662.234.3515 • connect@gotofirst.org • gotofirst.org

[fbcxford](https://www.facebook.com/fbcxford) [@fbcxford](https://twitter.com/fbcxford) [firstbaptistoxford](https://www.instagram.com/firstbaptistoxford)

November

gotofirst.org/sunday
for schedule updates & Bible Study options

NOVEMBER 3

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 4 p.m. GriefShare
- 5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
- 6 p.m. KidZone for Preschool & Children
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- 6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

NOVEMBER 6

Youth Football Parking Fundraiser

Daylight Saving Time ends: Fall back 1 hour

NOVEMBER 7 *Baby Dedication*

- 8 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 4 p.m. Awana
- 4:30 p.m. Youth grades 10-12 at the Zinc's
- 6 p.m. Adult Sunday School
- Leader Training
- 6 p.m. Youth grades 7-9 in the CLC

NOVEMBER 9

- 5:30 p.m. Outreach

NOVEMBER 10

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 4 p.m. GriefShare
- 5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
- 6 p.m. KidZone for Preschool & Children
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- 6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

NOVEMBER 12

- Noon Lottie Moon Lunch
- 1 p.m. Outreach

NOVEMBER 13

Youth Football Parking Fundraiser

NOVEMBER 14

Shoebox Dedication Sunday

- 8 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. College Ministry Lunch in the Christian Life Center
- 2 p.m. GriefShare Surviving the Holidays
- 4 p.m. Awana: Goofy Hat Night
- 6 p.m. Youth Friendsgiving

NOVEMBER 15-22

National OCC Shoebox Collection Week

NOVEMBER 17

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 4 p.m. GriefShare
- 5 p.m. Fellowship Thanksgiving Meal
- 6 p.m. KidZone for Preschool & Children
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth

Annual Church Conference Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Special called business meeting
to present and vote on the
2022 church budget.

- 6 p.m. Annual Church Conference
- 6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

NOVEMBER 18

- 6:30 p.m. Women's Ministry Book Club

NOVEMBER 20

Youth Football Parking Fundraiser

NOVEMBER 21

- 8 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School

Our Family

- 4 p.m. Awana
5 p.m. Youth Operation Christmas
Child Packing Party

NOVEMBER 24

- 3 p.m. Men's Ministry Turkey Cooking

NOVEMBER 25-26 *Thanksgiving*

Church office closed.

NOVEMBER 28

- 8 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
4 p.m. DLife Leadership Training

DECEMBER 1

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's
Bible Study
4 p.m. GriefShare
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6 p.m. KidZone for Preschool & Children
6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

SAVE THE DATE

First Baptist Oxford
Celebration Worship Choir
presents

AND ON EARTH,
PEACE

December 12
6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Budget October 1-31, 2021

Budget	\$223,290.09
Building	\$8765.00
Designated	\$24,614.25
Total	\$ 256,669.34

imb

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

FBC Oxford Goal: \$105,000

**Margaret Lackey Offering
for Mississippi Missions**

Given to date: \$8208.50

Thanks for helping reach our goal!

Deacons of the Week

- Oct. 31-** Dave Miller, Daniel
Nov. 6 Denton, Kevin Bain
Nov. 7-13 Lanny Shackelford, Tom
Dawson, Gary Carter
Nov. 14-20 Brad Golmon, Thomas
Herrington, Paul Hale
Nov. 21-27 Bill Rose, Bobby Clanton,
Lane Wilson
Nov. 28- Fred Johnson, Jim Rose,
Dec. 4 Nelson Little

New Members

- Caroline Pollard joined Aug. 29.
Jim and Kathey Garrett joined Oct. 3.
Darrell and Gwin Chunn joined Oct. 24.

Congratulations

Bright Osei and Beatrice Ampofo welcomed
Afia Serwaa Osei on Oct. 1. Afia joins big
sister Akua and big brother Nana Kwaku.

Our Sympathy

To the family of Mr. Bill Mustin Jr. after his
passing.

To the family of Mrs. Patricia "Pat" Cannon
after her passing.

Discipleship

Critical Needs for Sunday School Teachers

Co-Teacher needed for 20 Somethings Class at 9:15 a.m.

Women (age 22 to 40) needs two teachers at 9:15 a.m.

Men (age 22 to 40) needs two teachers at 9:15 a.m.

Please contact Jeff Holeman if you are interested in serving as a Sunday School teacher.

Adult Sunday School Leader Training

Sunday, November 7 from 6-7:30 p.m.

For all Adult Sunday School Workers and those interested in becoming Sunday School Workers.

New Sunday School Class for couples under 40!

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in Room 305, up the elevator and to the right!

Join a DLife Group!

Everyone needs a DLife Group! DLife groups are groups of 4 to 6 people who meet for 45 minutes per week to pray, study God's

Word, and encourage one another. Please join a group by contacting Pam Carter at pcarter@gotofirst.org or 662.234.3515.

We have groups meeting throughout the week.

DLIFE Training...

Are you interested in leading a DLife Group? Would you like to lead your family to be a DLife Family? Our next DLife Leader Training will be November 28 at 4 p.m.



Tuesday, November 9

5:30 p.m. Snack supper. 5:45-7 pm. letters, phone calls, visits.
Preschool care available.

Friday, November 12

1 pm. Coffee and dessert. 1:15-2 p.m. letters, phone calls, visits.

Missions

Lottie Moon Lunch

Friday, November 12. Noon until 1 pm.

Come enjoy a free lunch and hear from IMB Missionaries. Bring a friend! Please reserve your spot by contacting Pam Carter in the church office. 662.234.3515.

Fall Prayer Walking Opportunity

FBC Oxford is prayer walking our community. Please pray over your street, neighborhood, and other areas of our community.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Pick up GO boxes in the Atrium.
Dedication Sunday
November 14
National Collection Week
November 15-22
gotofirst.org/occ
for packing tips and
packing a shoebox online.



Pregnancy Center of Oxford

DONATIONS NEEDED

The PCO Bassinet will be in Atrium during November to collect donations.

Diapers — all sizes	Wipes
Baby Bottles	Diaper Cream
Baby Lotion	Baby Soap
Hooded Towels	Safety Kit
Wash Cloths	
Bibs & Burp Cloths	

Scan the QR code using your camera app to view our Amazon wishlist!



Missions

Links Connections

FBC Oxford Ministry to
the Links Apartments

BIBLE STUDY Sundays at 5 p.m. Bldg. 28, Apt. 7

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thanksgiving Worship Service Sunday, Nov. 21

2 p.m. on the Tennis Court. *Casual, come as you are!*

Book Club Sunday, November 28 at 4 p.m. Bldg. 28, Apt. 7

We are reading *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis.

Email lynndyf hurdle@gmail.com for more information about any of these ministry opportunities.



linksconnections • Check out volunteer opportunities at gotofirst.org/links

Mondays in Marks

will return in January 2022! More details TBA!

Kids Club at Brittany Woods

College students meet at the Baptist Student Union Center at 3 p.m. on Thursdays!

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

mm@gotofirst.org

Men's Ministry Turkey Cooking

November 24 from 3-8 p.m.

FBC Men's Ministry is asking for volunteers to fry turkeys and pack food boxes. 15 volunteers needed to deliver food boxes from 4-7 p.m. Donations also accepted to purchase food items for the boxes. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mr. Russell Finley at 662-832-3370.

No Men's Ministry Workday for November

Please call the church office if you have a need that our Men's Ministry can help with.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIPS

CONTACT JEFF HOLEMAN IF INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES.

Italy Refugee / Evangelism Project. Rome, Italy. Dec. 6-16

Pray for Mike Gilliland, Hannah Leatherwood, Courtney Woodard, Jazmin Gallardo and Jeff Holeman who will be on the trip. Work will include providing refugees with winter clothing, prayer walking university campuses, fellowship with CRU workers, and more!

Oaxaca College Trip Oaxaca, Mexico. Dec. 27-Jan. 7

\$1900 (FBC College Students pay \$1200). Work will include evangelism, teaching English, discipleship studies, and more!

Peru College Trip. Amazon River Village in Peru.

Dec. 29-Jan. 9.

\$1900 (FBC Members pay \$1200). House to house evangelism, English lessons. Discipleship Training Course.

Oaxaca Medical Trip. Oaxaca, Mexico. Feb. 17-24

\$1400 (FBC Members pay \$900). Medical clinics in village communities. All types of medical/dental personnel needed. Barbers/Hairstylists needed. People with no medical skills are needed, also.

Oaxaca Leadership Training Trip. Oaxaca, Mexico.

Feb. 24-March 1

Pray for Brad Golman, Bill Rose, Jeff Holeman, and Marty Childers who will be on the trip.

Eastern Europe College Trip. March 12-20

\$2000 (FBC College Students pay \$1300). We will be serving college students in Eastern Europe.

Oaxaca Women's Ministry Trip. Oaxaca, Mexico. April 2-7

\$1400 (FBC Members pay \$900). Serving women in communities in southern Mexico.

Oaxaca Men's Construction Trip. Oaxaca, Mexico. May 9-14

\$900 (FBC Members pay \$400). Construction project at Oaxaca Christian School.

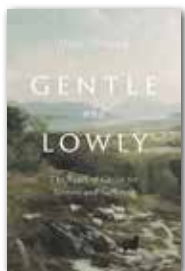
Brazil Mission Trip. Rio Pardo de Minas. July 15-24

Construction, Medical, and Children's Ministry. For ages 16 and up! Cost: \$2400 per person. (FBC Oxford members receive \$750 discount.) You can reserve your space NOW with a \$250 deposit.



FBC LIBRARY

Open Sundays 9-11 a.m.
and Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.



The FBC Library is giving away copies of Dane Ortlund's *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*.

Pick up a free copy in the Atrium
Sunday, November 14, while supply lasts!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS wmin@gotofirst.org

Monthly Book Club Thursday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Gentle and Lowly by Dane C. Ortlund, available in the FBC Library.
Email wmin@gotofirst.org for more information.



FBC OXFORD WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies' Christmas Tea

December 4

10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Preschool care available. Girls kindergarten and up are welcome to attend the tea.

To host a table, sign up at gotofirst.org/wmin

Tickets: \$15
on sale now at gotofirst.org/wmin
or weekdays in the church office.
Available to purchase Sundays in the Atrium
Nov. 14 and 21.

COLLEGE NEWS [Facebook/Instagram: @fbcxcollege](https://www.facebook.com/fbcxcollege)

College Lunch Sunday, November 14 at 11:30 a.m. in the CLC

Pancake Study Break Sunday, December 5 from 9-11 p.m. in the CLC

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS



UPWARD BASKETBALL FOR GRADES K5-4TH
Register now! gotofirst.org
Early registration discount through Nov. 21

 *Christmas* **HIP-HOP WORKSHOP**

 **Jesus**
is the
Reason
for the **Season**

Saturday, December 11
9-11 am at FBC Oxford

1st-12th grade. Workshop includes:
Christmas Bible devotional, Christmas
craft and hip-hop choreography with our
Atlanta dancers: Lydia, Paige, & Janelle

Register online
by December 10!

gotofirst.org/dance 

Preschool and Children's Christmas Parties

Sunday, December 12

Preschool Party from 9-10:30 a.m. and Children's Party during Sunday School. Bible story, crafts, and snacks.

AWANA Sundays 4-6 p.m.
2 years-6th grade
gotofirst.org/awana



FIRST KIDZONE
Wednesdays 6-7:01 p.m.
K-6th graders in the CLC and
preschoolers in the Preschool area.



gotofirst.org/dance

Thrive is the dance ministry of First Baptist Oxford. Our primary objective is to glorify our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST, by providing an encouraging atmosphere led by experienced teachers and accompanied by Christian music and worshipful performance opportunities.

3rd-12th grade meet on Tuesdays.

Ballet/Lyrical • Hip-Hop • Jazz/Contemporary



4 year olds-2nd grade meet on Mondays.

Creative Movement • Ballet Basics • Ballet/Jazz Fusion

STUDENT NEWS [@Studentsgoto1st](https://twitter.com/Studentsgoto1st) [@studentsgotofirst](https://www.instagram.com/studentsgotofirst)



We will be working church parking lots for Ole Miss gamedays.

Nov. 6 Liberty

Nov. 20 Vanderbilt

Nov. 13 Texas A&M

Holiday Friendsgiving Feast

Sunday, November 14 at 6 p.m.

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

Sunday, November 21 at 5 p.m. on the 3rd Floor

SAVE THE DATE: **DNow** January 14-16 Details to come!

FBC OXFORD STAFF

Rev. Don Gann, Senior Pastor
dgann@gotofirst.org

Dr. Robert Allen, Administrative Pastor
rallen@gotofirst.org

Jeff Holeman, Minister of Discipleship
& Missions Strategy
wigtake@gmail.com

Dr. Louis Zinc, Student Pastor
lzinc@gotofirst.org

Steve Roark, Minister of Marriage
and Family Pastoral Care
steve.roark56@gmail.com

Rev. Slater Murphy,
Interim Minister of Music
smurphy@mccb.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Dina Addy, Financial
Administrative Assistant
diaddy@gotofirst.org

Corie Miller, Pastoral and Publications
Administrative Assistant
cmiller@gotofirst.org

Pam Carter, Education and Student
Administrative Assistant
pcarter@gotofirst.org

Linda Glaze,
Director of Weekday Education
lglaze@gotofirst.org

Liesa Holeman,
College Ministry Coordinator
liesa.holeman@gmail.com

Whitney Simon,
Director of Children's Ministries
wsimon@gotofirst.org

Jennifer Woodard,
Director of Preschool Ministries
jwoodard@gotofirst.org

Kristen Overall,
Director of Mother's Morning Out
koverall@gotofirst.org

COLLEGE MINISTRY INTERNS

Sage McNamara Emily Smith
Kaitlyn Traylor

MUSIC MINISTRY INTERNS

McKenzi Massey Corey Yngsdal

YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNS

JR Wilbanks Alyssa Lee

BUILDING

Maria Thompson W.C. Certion
Carl Pettis

How may we pray for you?

Scan the QR code and let us know.





800 Van Buren Avenue
Oxford, Mississippi 38655-3844

(USPS 571-680)
Published Monthly by
First Baptist Church
Periodical Postage paid at
800 Van Buren Ave., Oxford, MS 38655-3844