

Pastor's Message



A New Year of Gratitude and Unity

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." – Hebrews 13:8

First Baptist Church of Midlothian, as we step into 2025, let us pause and thank God for His faithfulness throughout the past year. Looking back, we celebrate the blessings, victories, and growth we experienced as a church family. God has been our guide and sustainer through every challenge and triumph, just as He was for our ancestors. **"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1).**

Today, as we stand at the threshold of a new year, let us embrace the present moment with a renewed sense of purpose. God has placed us here together, in this season, to serve, love, win souls, and build His Kingdom. Our unity in Christ is our strength; together, we can accomplish even greater things. **"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).**

Looking ahead, we trust in the Lord's promises for the future. Let us set our hearts and minds on what He has prepared for us, pressing forward with faith and dedication. May 2025 be a year of greater impact, deeper spiritual growth, and unwavering commitment to His work. **"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:18-19).**

With hearts full of gratitude and a spirit of unity, let us move forward together, knowing that the God who has been faithful in the past will continue to lead us into a blessed future.

As always, I am excited and stand in anticipation of what is to come. Thank each of you and I pray God unceasing blessing upon you.

*Blessings and peace,
Pastor P. J. Johnson*



*Follow us on Social Media
Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram*



***Be Joyful in Hope;
Be Patient in Affliction;
Be Constant in Prayer.***

Romans 12:12

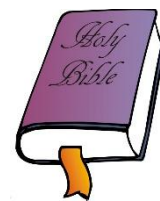
12 Things to Remember In 2025

1. The past can't be changed.
2. Opinions don't define your reality.
3. Everyone's journey is different.
4. Judgements are not about you.
5. Overthinking will lead to sadness.
6. Happiness is found within
7. Your thoughts affect your mood.
8. Smiles are contagious.
9. Kindness is free.
10. It's okay to let go and move on.
11. What goes around, comes around
12. Things always get better with time.

Times to Study the Word



Consider enhancing your walk with God by intentionally setting aside time to grow in the Word. Come study and fellowship together on Wednesdays for Bible Study at 7:00 pm. and Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. Below is the access information for "An Hour in The Word" on Zoom or by phone and Sunday School in-person or Conference Call.



Wednesday Night Bible Study

ZOOM Meeting ID: 826 0194 1303

Passcode: 13800

Call in number: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

or +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Sunday School

In-person or Conference Call Phone Number: 267-807-9605 *

Access code: 731 353 453#

Sharing Historical Facts with the Community



On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the Mid-Lothian Mines Day was celebrated. During this year's event, the community was offered the opportunity to learn about the history of early coal mining as well as African American history of the Midlothian area.

The presentations were given by Ms. Audrey Ross, Church Historian. Her talk highlighted the rich history of two buildings and focused on the historical markers at First Baptist Church of Midlothian and the Lifelong Learning Institute which formerly housed the Midlothian Elementary School. The outdoor lecture was provided for three tour groups that arrived by trolley.



Walking to Fight Breast Cancer



Members of the Women's Ministry and friends participated in the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk of Central Virginia that took place on October 19. This walk drew hundreds of individuals to join in the fight against cancer. The Making Strides event was a non-competitive walk that is about 3.2 miles long and it took place in Monroe Park in downtown Richmond. In addition to joining in on this empowering walk, the Women's Ministry collected monetary donations of just over \$2,000 for this worthy cause.

Honoring Veteran's at FBCM



First Baptist Church of Midlothian honored veterans with a Veteran's Day Service on Sunday, November 10, 2024, during morning worship service. The message of the morning was delivered by Elder Michael Coleman, Sr., a military veteran. His sermon was entitled "Fight Like You Mean It" and his scripture for the day was Mark 9: 14-29.

On this Youth Sunday, Jacob Hicks served as worship leader and Ms. Linda Coles presented a tribute to veterans. Our veterans in attendance were given a gift bag of goodies. FBCM veterans, thank you for your service!



A Day of Fishing

The Deacon Board of FBCM sponsored a fishing trip to Deltaville, VA on Saturday, October 19. The group, composed of FBCM members and friends, sailed out on a chartered boat in Deltaville for a thrilling day of fresh-water fishing in the Rappahannock River. Most participants caught fish; however, it must be noted that Casey Edlow Robinson and her friend Mariah Wood reeled in a catch of 96 fish. Although it was a cool day on the river, it was full of fishing fun and

fellowship for those who did not experience sea sickness!



Women Coming Together for Bible Study

The FBCM Women's Ministry hosted its second Women's Bible Study event for the year on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the church fellowship hall. The guest speaker for the morning, Rev. Dr. Evelyn Hall- Harris, presented on the topic of **"Faith."** Mrs. Tempsie Bass opened the activity with an inspirational moment.



Following the informative presentation from Dr. Hall-Harris, participants were given the opportunity to give their testimony regarding having unwavering faith in God. As part of the program, Ms. Barbara Harris shared her profound testimony about her medical journey to receiving a hip replacement and the miraculous outcome.



Honors and Recognitions



During this Christmas season, Veronica Etheridge took time to deliver stockings made by her 4-H Business Group. This is an annual project that the group performs for seniors in Chesterfield County. Thanks for your service to the community Veronica!



Bryce Brooks graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. He is the grandson of Ms. Althea Brooks. Congratulations Bryce!



On December 18, 2024, Ryan Tabb graduated from Christopher Newport University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and a minor in Sociology. Ryan is commended for completing her studies in three and a half years. She is the daughter of Mr. Terry Tabb and Mrs. Pamila Tabb. Ryan is currently pursuing employment in her field of study. Congratulations Ryan!

Welcome our Newest Church Member



Ms. Dale Cook

Like You - By Joanna Fuchs

Lord help me to be in Your holy will;
Tell me what to do today;
Lead me in Your righteousness;
Make me more like You, I pray.

Guard me against this corrupting world,
Its perverted priorities, temptations, too.
Direct my mind toward Your commands,
So I can focus my life on You.

Fill my heart with Your light and love,
So I can assist those I see in need;
With You as my role model, let me be
Like You in thought and word and deed.

Thanks for visiting First Baptist Church of Midlothian



TK Johnson, daughter of Evelyn Woodson-Johnson, visited FBCM and displayed her talent by playing the drums during worship service on Sunday, October 20, 2024. TK is a dynamic and talented percussionist and singer-songwriter who performs around the world with major artists and in a variety of venues.

Rev. Richard Lewis, Jr., cousin of Pastor Johnson, visited during our worship service on Sunday, December 1, 2024.



Celebrating Christmas at FBCM



On Sunday, December 8, 2025, to celebrate this very special time of the year, the Young and Young Adult Ministry presented an extraordinary Christmas musical performance entitled “The Telling of the Christmas Story.” During morning worship, the Young and Young Adult Choir sang praises for the season that featured Trustee Reginald Allen providing the narration for the musical selections. The morning sermon was delivered by Minister Arterius Rollins, guest preacher from Jerusalem Baptist Church, Manakin Sabot, VA. Following the morning service, the Women’s Ministry hosted a Holiday Fellowship Reception in the church fellowship hall.



Book Club Holiday Gathering



The Women’s Ministry Book Club celebrated the holiday season during its December breakfast meeting at Eggspectation Restaurant at Stoney Point. The club meets every other month on the second Saturday. In December the discussion focused on the novel “Black Girls Must Die Exhausted” written by Jayne Allen. The next club meeting will be on Saturday, February 8, and the book to be discussed is “Black Girls Must Be Magic” the next book in a series by Jayne Allen.



Seniors Celebrating the Holiday Season



On December 2, the Senior's Ministry and friends gathered for the 2025 annual senior's Christmas luncheon. This elaborate event was held at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant with an "Aloha" theme.

All in attendance were given a Hawaiian lei to wear with their holiday attire along with a special gift of apple cider. The luncheon included a delightful family style meal, an ugly sweater contest, holiday singing and outstanding fellowship.



Observing Advent 2025

During the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, FBCM observed Advent by presenting information, reading scriptures, offering prayers, and lighting of the Advent candles. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming and Advent is a season of preparation for His arrival.



The 2025 candle lighting observances representing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love were led by the following FBCM families and ministries: Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Loretta Otey; the Youth and Young Adult Ministry; the Deaconess; and the Male Choir.



BBB Tip: 10 steps to avoid scams

<https://www.bbb.org/article/tips/8767-bbb-tips-10-steps-to-avoid-scams>

There are thousands of new scams every year, and it can be challenging to keep up with them all! However, if you can just remember these ten tips, you will be able to avoid most scams while protecting yourself and your family.

1. Never send money via gift card or wire transfer to someone you have never met face-to-face.
2. Avoid clicking on links or opening attachments in unsolicited emails.
3. Don't believe everything you see.
4. Double-check that your online purchase is secure before checking out.
5. Use extreme caution when dealing with anyone you've met online.
6. Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether it's over the phone, by email, on social media, or even at your front door.
7. Resist the pressure to act immediately.
8. Use secure and traceable transactions.
9. Whenever possible, work with local businesses.
10. Be cautious about what you share on social media.

Other Computer Tips and Tricks From Various Sources:

1. Use strong passwords
2. Check your credit score
3. Monitor your accounts
4. Be cautious about unsolicited emails
5. Be skeptical about free trial offers
6. Shred sensitive documents
7. Consider how you pay
8. No Phishing Allowed
9. Opt out of solicitations



Animals in the Bible

Unscramble the words. Use the letters highlighted and unscrambled them to find the phrase to complete the verse below. Answers on page 7.

LWSEAE

WISEN

ERTADGRIP

SGRPSAOHREP

NWSA



They that wait upon the Lord will mount up with these. Isaiah 40:31



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Let's test your skills a little more! Here are the names of additional animals from the Bible. The answers are not provided but the scripture reference is included.

Scrambled Spelling	Correct Spelling	Bible Reference
DLAZIR		Leviticus 11:30
ALECM		Luke 18:25
ICNSRPOO		Revelation 9:10
TUOSLC		Mark 1:6
RVDETLTEUO		Genesis 15:9
CHOITSR		Job 39:13
ALSIN		Psalms 58:8
RDLOEAP		Revelation 13:2
ANCER		Jeremiah 8:7
NPOIEG		Leviticus 12:6



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

2025 Information and Upcoming Events

Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, February 2 First Baptist of Midlothian will celebrate its 179th Anniversary during the 11:00 AM worship service. The anniversary theme is “To God Be the Glory” and the guest speaker will be Rev. Terrell Glenn from Guildfield Baptist Church, Midlothian, VA. Please plan to join us for this annual celebration.

Seniors Lunchtime Gathering

In celebration of Black History Month, the Senior’s Ministry has organized a “Meet Up” at the Golden Corral on Midlothian Turnpike on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. All seniors are invited to come fellowship and a meal of Soul Food. For more information contact Ms. Linda Coles.

Upcoming Community Day

The FBCM Women’s Ministry will host a “Faith and Fellowship Community Day” on Saturday, April 26, 2025. This community outreach event will be held at Beulah Recreation Center located at 6901 Hopkins Road in Chesterfield, VA.

Preparing for Women’s Bible Study

The Women’s Ministry is promoting the book “*Battlefield of the Mind: Winning the Battle in Your Mind,*” a study guide by Joyce Myer, as a yearlong read. It is a book that will help win the battles that we have in our minds and help us to think more like GOD. The book will be used to guide discussions during this year’s Women’s Bible Study sessions.

Salaried FBCM Position Open

The position of church Treasurer is open. If anyone is interested, a position description is available and training will be provided. For information contact Pastor Johnson, Chairperson, or the Vice Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Meet Your Church Officers for 2025

Deacon Board Chairperson	Deacon Frank Davenport
Trustee Chairperson	Trustee Reginald Allen
Church Secretary	Lynell Johnson
Treasurer	Vacant
Assistant Treasurer	Deacon Frank Davenport
Financial Secretary	Anthony Otey
Assistant Financial Secretary	Gwendolyn Byrd
Financial Committee Members at Large	Charlotte Harris, Delores Taylor, and Eugene Short
Superintendent of Sunday School	James Draper
Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School	Deacon Anderson Edlow
Church Historian	Audrey Ross
Sexton	Gloria Armstead
Program Chairperson	Shirley Smith








Quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude.”

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

Answers to Puzzle

Weasel, Swine, Partridge, Grasshopper, Swan, Wings as Eagles

	Events by Month	Special Observances
J	1 – New Year’s Day (Wednesday) 18 – BGC Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday (Monday) 20 – Inauguration Day (Monday)	
F	2 – 179 th Church Anniversary 17 – President’s Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Black History Month ◆ American Heart Month
M	5 – Ash Wednesday/First Day of Lent 21-22 – BGC Youth Retreat (Hampton) 30 – Sunday School Union 5 th Sunday Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Women’s History Month
A	13 – Palm Sunday 18 – Good Friday 20 – Easter Sunday 26 – Faith and Fellowship Community Day 2025 26 – BGC Hybrid VBS Conference	
M	11 – Mother’s Day 26 – Memorial Day (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mental Health Awareness Month
J	7 – BGC Hybrid Children, Youth, & Youth Workers Conference 8 – Pentecost Sunday 8 – National Children’s Day 15 – Father’s Day 19 – Juneteenth ___ ??? - Master's/Major Charles A. Ransom Memorial Golf Tournament 29 – Women’s Day 29 – Sunday School Union 5 th Sunday Fellowship	
J	4 – Independence Day (Friday) 12 – BGC Day at Kings Dominion 14-18 – Sunday School Union Institute 20 – Homecoming 21 – ?? – Revival	
A	1 – 31 – New Shoes for Back-to-School Collection Drive 4-8 – Vacation Bible School 31 – Sunday School Union 5 th Sunday Fellowship	
S	1 – Labor Day 1 – New Shoes for Back-to-School Distribution 13 – BGC Virtual Christian Faith Formation Conference 14 – Grandparent’s Day 21 – Gospel Truth Choir Anniversary ?? – Sunday School Union Teachers’ Workshop ___ ??? – Tuckahoe Baptist Association Annual Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ BGC Christian Faith Formation Month (Formerly Christian Education Month)
O	12 – Clergy Appreciation Day 13 – Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cancer Awareness Month ◆ Clergy Appreciation Month ◆ Domestic Violence Awareness Month
N	4 – Election Day 11-13 BGC Virtual Children’s and Youth Revival 11 – Veterans Day (Tuesday) 27 – Thanksgiving Day (Thursday) 30 – First Sunday of Advent 30 – Sunday School Union 5 th Sunday Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Diabetes Awareness Month
D	7, 14, 21 – Advent Sundays 19 – BGC Virtual Youth Ministry Lock-In 25 – Christmas Day (Thursday)	