

Luminaries 2023

Each year during the Christmas season, luminaries are placed around the building to light up the church for Christmas. Each luminary represents the support First Baptist of Clayton gives to our Child Development Center. This year we are requesting your continued support and you can do so by sponsoring a luminary for \$5. You can sponsor luminaries "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" someone special.

Donations can be made on-line by going to the church website and click on "Give Online". In the Memo line, please let us know if it is "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" and who the person is. If you do not put anything in the Memo line, we will use your sponsored Luminary as "To the Glory of Our Lord and Savior". You can also give by check, but please include the above information in the memo line to ensure your luminaries are received.

Deadline for luminary purchases is Friday, December 8th.

Our Child Development Center appreciates all the support First Baptist Church of Clayton gives to us!

In His Service,
Kailey Scott
 Director, Child Development Center

BUILDING & GROUNDS NEED YOUR HELP....

We all have our own talent(s) and Building & Grounds could use yours. There will be sign-up sheets in the Vestibules, Sunday School Classrooms, available in Business Meetings and you can always call or email the Church Office. **No one is too young or too old!!**

When you sign-up with your talent, someone from B&G will contact you with a date and time along with others to show your talent and lend a hand at making FBCC more beautiful than it already is.

Thank you for sharing your talent(s) with us!!! *B&G Committee*

2023 WEEKLY REPORTS

New Members This Year: 11

Baptisms: 7

ATTENDANCE

Last Sunday

Worship – 152
 Sunday School – 131

November 19


Worship – 166
 Sunday School – 164

GENERAL FUND

Giving Last Sunday ... \$ 6,060
 Weekly Needs...\$ 11,961

Giving to Date...\$ 676,177
 Expenses to Date...\$ 544,901

Surplus..... \$ 131,275



Youth Group Christmas Mail Delivery

The Youth will be doing Christmas Mail Delivery to raise money for their Mission Trip next summer. There will be drop boxes in each Sunday School Room as well as in the vestibule. You will drop your cards off in the Out Box and the Youth will deliver to the In Box (Label: Full Name and Sunday School Class if available). This will kick off Sunday, November 26th and run through New Years Eve, Sunday, December 31. Donations can be made to the Youth Ministry Fund on REALM or Donations Given in the Church Office.

Any Questions contact
 Lauren Rasor (919)796-6197 or Vicky Andrews (919)291-6832

Senior Adult Movie Night – December 8, 2023

5:30 pm – FBCC Fellowship Hall

Pizza, popcorn, and drinks provided. Bring a dessert or snack to share.

Featured Film: "A VERY MERRY MIX-UP" (Hallmark, 2013) Shop owner Alice is nervous about meeting her future in-laws at Christmas, especially because she is arriving ahead of her new fiancé, Will. With her luggage lost, her phone damaged, and no way of contacting Will's family, she happens to meet Matt, her future brother-in-law, at baggage claim, who gives her a ride. She quickly falls in love with his doting family and their festive holiday traditions, and an unexpected romance begins to blossom. Starring Alicia Witt and Mark Wiebe.

To get an accurate count for pizza, please notify the church office no later than **December 6** if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO AN

Appreciation Luncheon

HONORING

DR. & MRS. CHARLES ROYAL

SUNDAY | DEC 17 | 11:30 a.m.
 2023

First Baptist Church Clayton
 Fellowship Hall
 Lunch will be provided

*please RSVP to Terry no later than 12/11 at
 919-553-4161 or tmecallum@fbccclaytonnc.org

 The Hospitality Committee

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Frank Price by Ricky & Linda Blackmon
Harry Ketner by John & Lynn Gibson
Percy Lee by John & Lynn Gibson
Percy & Joyce Lee by Doug & Rebecca Mudd
Kenny Phillips by Doug & Rebecca Mudd
Harry Ketner by Donna & Cecil Lee
Percy Lee by Ricky & Elizabeth Waddell
Joe Capps by Donna & Cecil Lee
Duba Coats by Donna & Cecil Lee
Harry Ketner by Emory & Josephine Howard
Percy Lee by Emory & Josephine Howard
Kenny Phillips by Emory & Josephine Howard
Percy Lee by Jiles & Kim Harrell
Ernest Blackley by Jeff & Jackie Tarkington

In Honor of

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Royal by Gerald & Glenda Toler

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFTS GIVEN TO THE WORLD HUNGER FUND

In Memory of

Kenny Phillips by Curtis & Elaine Moore

Cooper Academy Student Christmas Gifts

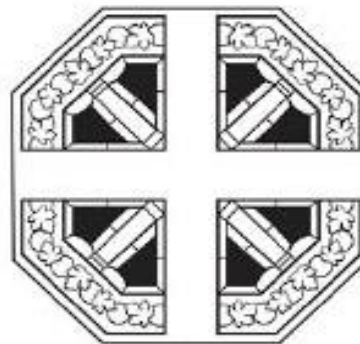
The Frances Carroll WMU group has partnered with Cooper Academy again this year to provide Christmas gifts to students in need as a mission focus. This will look the same as the last few years. Rather than have a "Christmas for Cooper Tree", wish list items from Cooper students can be found on the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4BA4AA2BA6FA7-45864497-2023#/>

Sign up to purchase item(s) for these families. We will be collecting the gifts in a variety of ways again this year. You can: Place unwrapped gift(s) in the box outside the church office, Ship gifts to Lauren Rasor (745 Maggie Way, Wendell, NC 27591), or we can arrange a pick-up of your items no later than Saturday, December 9. *You can also donate towards a larger item or make a donation towards unpurchased gifts with an online contribution. Please mark donations: COOPER TREE.*

We need all gifts no later than **Sunday, December 10**, in order to get them to Cooper the following week before students leave for the holiday break. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lauren Rasor (919-796-6197) or Audrey Harrell (919-673-0965). It's likely to be another season of high need for our community, and we appreciate your continued support of this project!

Thank you for helping us SHOW God's love.



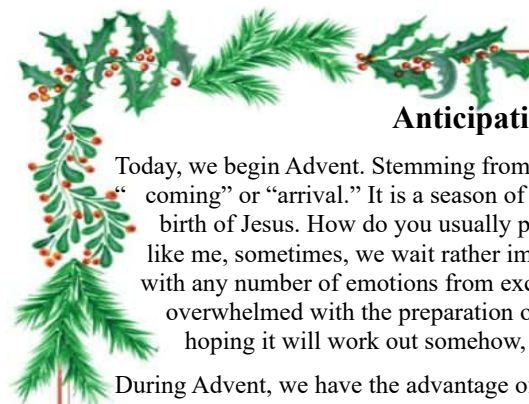
The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

December 3, 2023

Volume 46, Number 13



Anticipating Advent

Today, we begin Advent. Stemming from the Latin word, *Adventus*, Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” It is a season of waiting and preparing to remember the birth of Jesus. How do you usually prepare or wait for someone? If you are like me, sometimes, we wait rather impatiently, rushing through the waiting with any number of emotions from excitement to dread. We may get overwhelmed with the preparation or neglect any prep work altogether, hoping it will work out somehow, someday.

During Advent, we have the advantage of knowing what is to come. As we “wait” and remember, at First Baptist we hope to provide opportunities to help prepare. We read the scriptures that remind us of Jesus and the promises he fulfilled, we sing the songs that tell the story, and we offer prayers and engage in traditions to remind us of just how special this time of waiting really was and is. But, knowing where we are going sometimes can rob us of the mystery of what is to come. How can we embrace the waiting in what can be the most chaotic and distracting time of year? How can we cling to the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love?

My prayer is that this Advent season, we embrace a posture of anticipation. Of not settling for the same but of expecting to be transformed by the power and mystery of the Incarnation. To be inspired by Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who through his life, death, resurrection, and promised return gives us hope, peace, joy, and love to sustain the most challenging seasons of waiting. We can passively wait, or we can actively anticipate that God will show up this Advent, ushered in through the power of the Holy Spirit. May we wait expectantly to recognize the presence of Christ in new and transformative ways, echoing the surprise of the shepherds, the wonder of Mary, the humility of Joseph, and celebration of the angels.

Peace,

Rev. Stephanie Parker