

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

Baptist Men's Fellowship Dinner – Thursday, Dec. 14th – 6:00 pm – Fellowship Hall
ALL men are invited to join us for a Delicious Home Cooked Country Breakfast and Fellowship.

Deadline for Luminary purchases was Friday, Dec. 8th but has been extended through NOON on Monday, Dec. 11th. 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. **Orders MUST be received by Noon on Monday, Dec. 11th.**

The **Appreciation Luncheon for Dr. & Mrs. Royal** is Sunday, Dec. 17th at 11:30 am in the Church Fellowship Hall. **To attend, you MUST RSVP BY 5:00 pm Monday, Dec. 11th so we will know how many to prepare for.** Thanks so much!!

Join us
Friday, December 15 at 6 pm.
for a
**Christmas Caroling
Caravan**



All are invited. Wear festive holiday attire. Ugly Christmas sweaters are welcome.

Thank You!!!

The Mission Council would like to thank all who contributed to the return of 130 Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes!! It will make a difference to children around the world!

Also, thanks so much to the SS members who filled the 30 food boxes for the Backpack families this Christmas.

There are students at CHS who are needy. Please help by leaving food in the box outside of the Church office. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

If you're interested in volunteering at Cooper Academy, Contact Gloria Pleasant.

2023 WEEKLY REPORTS

New Members This Year: 11

Baptisms: 7

ATTENDANCE

Last Sunday

Worship – 316
Sunday School – 183

November 26

Worship – 152
Sunday School – 131

GENERAL FUND

Giving Last Sunday ... \$ 23,563
Weekly Needs...\$ 11,961

Giving to Date...\$ 699,740
Expenses to Date...\$ 552,294

Surplus..... \$ 147,446



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

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.**



RISE AGAINST HUNGER



MEAL-PACKING EVENT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3
FELLOWSHIP HALL
6:00

PIZZA DINNER IN YOUTH ROOM AT 5:30 BEFORE THE PACKING BEGINS. PLEASE REGISTER AND SERVE WITH US!

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Joe Capps by Ramona Cash
Jewel Geesin by Ramona Cash
Joe Capps by Jack & Judy Coats
Ron Hagwood by Charles & Debra B. Harr
Belle Allen by Charles & Debra B. Harr
Ron Hagwood by Walter & Jill Rasor
Percy Lee by Walter & Jill Rasor
Harry Ketner by Walter & Jill Rasor
Frank Price by Walter & Jill Rasor
Percy Lee by JoAnn Hardee

In Honor of

FBCC Church Staff by Jack & Judy Coats
Sally Bierce by Paula Medlin
Anne Abene by Randolph & Pat Tart

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFTS GIVEN TO THE HECK JONES FUND

In Memory of

Percy Lee by Judy Wood

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFTS GIVEN TO THE LOTTIE MOON FUND

In Memory of

Jonathan Beville by Jody Wood

In Honor of

Lois Weeks by Walter & Jill Rasor

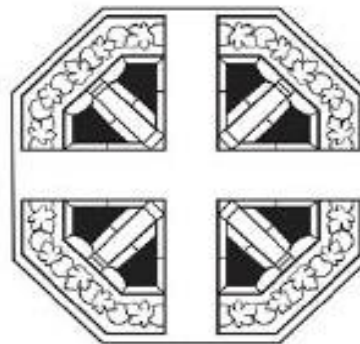
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFTS GIVEN TO THE CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Harry Ketner by Judy Wood

***REMINDER:

ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE OUTLOOK IS NOON ON
MONDAY OF THE WEEK YOU'RE PUTTING IT IN.
THANKS SO MUCH!!



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

IN A NUTSHELL

The call

Two thousand years ago, Jesus redefined what it meant to be in a right relationship with God when he walked up to a handful of men and said, "Follow me." Those men would have understood perfectly what He was talking about because they recognized Him as a rabbi (teacher). In First Century Israel, rabbis and disciples were as common as street merchants. His invitation to them inaugurated the Kingdom of God as He taught them how to imitate Him, carry on His ministry and to become like Him in the process of following. The follower of Jesus today--the disciple--walks the same path as those original disciples did. Discipleship *is* the process of following Jesus.

The cost

Discipleship is not a program or a Bible study but rather a way of life that is dependent on following the Rabbi (Jesus) wherever He leads. While following the teacher may sound like a simple command, it is not easy. Jesus made it clear that traveling the path would not be without cost to self (*Luke 14:25-33*). Following Jesus requires living out what the teacher is teaching and in so doing, the disciple is changed. (*Luke 6:40*)

Now the world may tell you that you can be a "Christian" without being a disciple. But how does this make any sense? It would be like Jesus walking up to those first disciples and saying "Don't worry, I don't actually care if you do anything I do or change your lifestyle at all. I'm just looking for people who are willing to say they believe in Me and call themselves Christians." * (*Luke 9:23, Galatians 2:20*)

The work

Before He returned to His father in heaven, Jesus commissioned His disciples to walk out their lives, expanding the boundaries of the Kingdom by doing just what they had seen Him do: making disciples! A disciple makes more disciples. This isn't an option, rather a command. But Jesus didn't leave His disciples then--or now--without the supernatural help they would need to be able to do the work! He is with us ALWAYS even to the end of the age!

The wages

Making disciples *is* the work of the church. Have you answered the call? Jesus promises the wages for the work will be beyond anything we can imagine! (*Matthew 19:27-30*)

Merry Christmas, *Johr Paschal*

* Francis Chan & Mark Beuving, **Multiply**, 2012