

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

February 4, 2024

Volume 47 Number 5

Off with the Old; On with the New

By Rev. Stephen Nance

Traditionally, the Lenten season is a time for putting off some things – bad habits, overindulgences, “guilty” pleasures – in order to focus on watching and listening for Jesus. And this is a healthy thing. After all, the author of Hebrews urges us to “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and...run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1b-2a ESV). But if we simply “lay aside” something – “give it up for Lent” – only to wait anxiously to take it up again after Easter, could it be that we’re missing the point?

Making temporary external changes is easier than the “long obedience in the same direction” (Eugene Peterson) of pursuing ongoing internal growth and change, which is why we often settle for the first rather than taking up the day-to-day discipline required for the second.

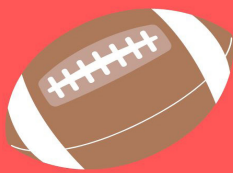
“What do I lay aside?” is, however, only the first part of the question. The second part is, “What do I take up in its place?” Paul describes the two parts of this question with the metaphor of changing clothes: “Put off your old self, which... is corrupt through deceitful desires, and...put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:22a, 24 ESV).

Impossible, you say? Absolutely, if we expect to do it in our own strength. If we practice “looking to Jesus,” however, we can do it, because in him we have already been given “true righteousness and holiness” in the eyes of God, and his Spirit empowers and enables us to live it out on a day-to-day basis – to “run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

So where does the strength come from to run the race to the finish? Consider the words of Isaiah:

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SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON



FEBRUARY 11, 2024



Join us in the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Souper Bowl Luncheon sponsored by Youth Acteens and Challengers on Sunday, February 11 beginning at 11 a.m. and continuing after Sunday School. The youth will serve delicious hot soup, savory sandwiches and delectable desserts. All donations will go to support Clayton Area Ministries (CAM) and its efforts to serve local needy families.

Put on the New

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“The LORD is the everlasting God... He does not faint or grow weary... He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:28-31 ESV).

So, off with the old. But don't stop there. Put on the new. Wait for the Lord. Keep your eyes on him and he will give you the strength for the race.

WMU FOCUS

SUNDAY

Sunday, February 11

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS WHO LIVE ON MISSION.

WMU Focus Sunday is February 11. All women are invited to join the Women's Choir for that Sunday.

Please plan to meet in the choir room at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 11 to prepare a Hymn Medley.

SBC Relationship Discussion Dinner

On Sunday, February 18 there will be a dinner in the fellowship hall at 5 p.m. (Thank you to the BASIC Sunday School class for providing the meal!) Please email or call the church office if you plan to attend. Following dinner, there will be an informational presentation regarding a proposed change to the Southern Baptist Convention constitution regarding churches with female staff members serving in pastoral positions. All members are encouraged to attend as we begin to discuss how this change could impact our relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention. Childcare will be provided.

Senior Adult Activities

Senior Adult Movie Night is set for Friday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m. Pizza, popcorn, and drinks will be provided. Bring a dessert or snack to share.

The featured film is “Roman Holiday,” a classic romantic comedy starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn in her first – and Oscar-winning role as a modern-day princess rebelling against her royal obligations as she explores Rome. The movie was nominated for 10 Academy Awards and filmed entirely on location in Rome. In order to get an accurate count for pizza, please notify the church office no later than February 7 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.

In the Footsteps of the Savior

Rev. Stephen Nance will begin a new Bible Study series on Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the SALT classroom or via Zoom. The series, “In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus through the Holy Land,” will continue each week through March 27. Join us as we follow Max Lucado on an inspirational journey through the hills, the dust, and the homes of the Holy Land! Discover, with new eyes, God’s heart for his people and his deep love for you. Study Guides are \$10 and will be available soon. Sign up today in the church office.

A Message from the Budget and Finance Committee



Did you know?

You can set up a recurring gift online. Go to <https://fbcclaytonnc.org> and click on the “Resources” tab then select “Giving.” You can choose the frequency of your gift as well as the start and end dates.

If you need help establishing a recurring gift, please reach out to Audrey Harrell at 919-673-0965, tamerau@gmail.com.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Chuck Turlington by Emory and Jo Howard

Marie Monsees by Bill and Faye Brooks

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE HECK-JONES OFFERING

In Memory of

Marie Monsees and Tillie Bradley by Lois Weeks

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

Caroline Reddick by the Ellerbe Family

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

Tillie Bradley by Martha Wall



Ash Wednesday Service



February 14 | 6:30 p.m.

I have been crucified with Christ.
It is no longer I who live, but
Christ who lives in me. And the
life I now live in the flesh I live by
faith in the Son of God, who loved
me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 ESV

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this year.....2	New Members.....2
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, Jan. 28.....205	Sunday, Jan. 21.....157
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, Jan. 28.....171	Sunday, Jan. 21.....157
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, Jan. 28.....\$10,057	Sunday, Jan. 21.....\$20,007
Weekly Needs.....\$14,860	