

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

March 3, 2024

Volume 47 Number 9

Don't just read, ponder...

By Jiles Harrell

I commend all of you who have been reading through the Bible. However, I submit that the Scriptures truly become relevant only after we PONDER what we read.

Here's an example: Genesis 1:1 (written by Moses) - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This verse alone brings up a ton of questions. Was this Moses' opinion (Moses wasn't there in the beginning) or did God instruct Moses that He was the Creator? God certainly conversed with Moses regularly, so God could have certainly explained the creation for Moses to record.

And alternative theories to creation like the Big Bang have many shortcomings. Logically, explosions destroy; they do not create. And how does the Big Bang theory account for: 1) something being formed from nothing; 2) life being formed from something; and 3) human conscience/spirit being formed from simple life?

Something else to ponder Did the Trinity exist in the beginning? God the Father is identified in Genesis 1:1. The Holy Spirit is identified in Genesis 1:2. And the apostle John tells us in John 1:1-3 & 14, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." So God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost were there in the beginning. Like Moses, this was not John's opinion; Jesus would have verified this truth to John directly.

Every Tuesday night a group of your fellow members gather to read through and ponder the Scriptures. This group has been meeting regularly for 18 1/2 years. Rev. Stephen Nance also leads a group which meets Wednesday mornings to ponder various Scripture topics.

Our Tuesday night group just started Genesis and we would love to have you join us. Study guides and zoom options are emailed for each Tuesday in advance and all sessions are recorded for later listening by those who cannot attend. Are you ready to do some pondering? You can contact me at jilesharrell2@gmail.com or Stephen Nance at snance@fbcclaytonnc.org for more information.

Savannah Lee to speak March 6

Savannah Lee, the granddaughter of Fred and Texie Lee, will be the speaker at the Wednesday night 6:30 p.m. service on March 6 during the WMU North American Missions Week of Prayer for home missions.

Savannah is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and new staff member of Cru, a Christian mission organization with a focus to win, build and send Christ-centered multiplying disciples to all corners of the earth. Savannah will be serving on the East Carolina University Cru

team as a missionary. She will introduce Christ to college students, encouraging them to grow in their faith, and training and equipping them to reach others with the Gospel.

“The Lord impacted my life so much through Cru, now I believe He is using me to do the same with other college students,” she said.

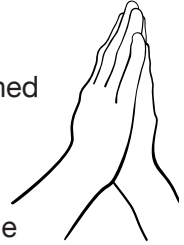


Cooper Academy and CAM in need of donations

The students and families at Cooper Academy have an urgent need for hygiene items including soap (liquid and bar), shampoo, conditioner, ethnic hair products, deodorant, feminine pads, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

CAM (Clayton Area Ministries) is in need of food. All donations are welcome. There are drop boxes for both outside the church office.

The Pastor Search Committee asks you to pray for God's direction in how applications are collected, examined and interviews conducted. Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the committee.



A Message from the Budget and Finance Committee

Did you know?

There are many ways to support our First Baptist Church budget. You may want to explore with your financial advisor alternatives to annual giving that include required minimum distributions from IRA accounts, or gifts of securities and real estate. Many families also consider their church during estate planning.

If you feel led to support our church in one or more of these ways, please contact financial administrator, Tommy Bedford, at tommy@trinity-conceptsncc.com for additional information to assist you with these type of gifts.





Deacon nomination deadline is March 10

It's time to nominate Deacons for the 2024-2025 church year. The deadline is March 10. Nomination forms are available in the sanctuary vestibules and outside the church office. Completed forms should be returned to Terry McCallum, Administrative Assistant.

We need help in the Nursery

Nursery workers are needed during Sunday worship. Please contact Jamie Pope at jami pope815@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.



FBC3M Spring Musical set for Sunday, March 10

Please join our children as they share the Old Testament story of Joseph retold with a 50s twist. It's surfer beats, leather jackets, and surfboards, but the truth remains the same. "Joe" trusted God, and God worked in all things for good. Come and see our children bring this message to life on Sunday, March 10 at 6 pm in the sanctuary. Invite someone to join you; this is a great opportunity for outreach for friends of all ages!

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this year.....3	New Members.....2
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, Feb. 25.....170	Sunday, Feb. 18.....155
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, Feb. 25.....161	Sunday, Feb. 18.....155
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, Feb. 25.....\$13,462	Sunday, Feb. 18.....\$10,408
Weekly Needs.....\$14,860	

North American Missions prayer weeks begins March 3

The North American Missions emphasis and Annie Armstrong Missions Offering Week of Prayer is March 3-10.

The Week of Prayer is observed annually to pray for missionaries, their ministries and their families. Prayer is the fuel for spiritually sustaining missionaries in places where the gospel is greatly needed, but often opposed.

The Annie Armstrong Easter offering is the primary way Southern Baptists fund missions in North America. 100 percent of gifts given to AAEO go to the field to support more than 2,400 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. For more information, contact Jennifer Blackley at 919-215-7401 or Lynne Martin at 919-632-5702.



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Carolyn Allen by Ricky and Linda Blackmon

Carolyn Allen by Jay and Kathy Woodard

Frances Reams by Hometowne Realty Group

Tony Bell, Frank Capuano and Frances Reams by Emory and Jo Howard

Tony Bell by Donna Brown

Tony Bell and Frank Capuano by David and Jo Earp

Carolyn Allen by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington

In Honor of

Curtis and Elaine Moore by Ramona Cash

Curtis and Elaine Moore by Jack and Judy Coats

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG FUND

In Honor of

Lou Woodard by Emory and Jo Howard

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE HECK JONES FUND

In Memory of

Carolyn Allen by Lynne Martin

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

Tony Bell, Frank Capuano and Frances Reams by Gerald and Glenda Toler
Maxine Smith, whose birthday was Feb. 14, by Ricky and Sherry Smith