

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

March 24, 2024

Volume 47 Number 12

Jesus calls us to radical obedience

By Len Keever

One of the more curious participants in the Palm Sunday account is the man who loaned his colt for the parade. Think about it. If you had a brand-new car parked in your driveway, one you had not taken on a maiden voyage around the block, and a couple of strangers suddenly were sitting in the front seat claiming that the master needed a ride, would you toss them the keys? I admit, given as little information as the scripture provides, I'd have a few second thoughts.

Jesus calls us to radical obedience. Everything we own becomes his. Everything we have accomplished for ourselves becomes obsolete and ineffective compared to what he offers us. As we watch Jesus during Holy Week, we reach out to him to show us the way. Considering his commitment to God's will, we recommit ourselves to him knowing we cannot do this on our own. We need to let Jesus do his best work in us.

Palm Sunday is a reminder that the reign of Christ is not like that of any earthly authority. In the wilderness, when he was tempted by Satan, Jesus could have chosen to be like the high priest, like Pilate, or King Herod. Instead, he chose to be the one who arrived on the colt of a donkey. He chose to usher in a new reality. He exercised the power of humility, grace, and love. Jesus broke the hold Evil has on the world not by political or military might, but by submission; through faith that God had a better way to lead us to the peace we seek. Palm Sunday begins a weeklong glimpse into the Passion of Christ. His work affirms that wonderful passage in Isaiah 55:8, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD." Who in Jerusalem that Sunday would have believed what the next week would bring?

This week we will celebrate that Jesus gave his all for us. Considering his sacrifice we ask, what are we willing to give up for him? For others? What are we holding on to for dear life – that when it comes to our relationship with Jesus – ends ups getting in the way? This is not just an assessment of physical things, but of spiritual things too. The man who loaned his colt reminds us that we have too tight a hold on material things. Jesus' example shows us we have deeper work to do. We must confront the hurts we have accumulated, the pride we nurture, our own self-righteousness if we are to fully submit

See Radical obedience, page 2

Radical obedience

Continued from page 1

to him. We must forgive as he has forgiven, trust as he trusted, and love others as he has loved us if we are to truly experience resurrection.

This Holy Week reminds us that we still have work to do. The Lord is passing by. He needs all that we are holding on to. Will we let him take what holds us back with him to the cross?

COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Missionary Round Table places books in the library

The ladies Missionary Round Table (MRT group) has placed books in the Church Library they would like to share with you. The books are on a shelf marked "MRT Books".

The only thing they ask is for you to fill out the card in the back of the book and place it in the basket which is on the same shelf.

We hope you will stop by soon and see what we have to offer. More books are coming soon.

? ? Prison Ministry, Anyone ? ?

"When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?
The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Mt. 25:39-40

The Gladys Creech Long Termer Social Ministry will be returning soon to NCCIW on State Street and we need some new faces to keep this group going for another 45 years.

We typically visit the prison on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm for a time of devotion, prayer, fellowship with food, and some fun (game, art, puzzle, craft, music, etc.)

Mainly we try to shine the light and love of Jesus.

If interested contact Susan Parker at: sjp318@nc.rr.com or 919-333-8394

Help decorate the cross with the bounty of your garden

Please bring flowers from your yards and gardens on Easter morning, March 31, to add to the Flowering Cross that will be on display in front of the First Baptist Church sanctuary.

Come early before the Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and Morning Worship at 9:30 a.m. to decorate. For more information, call Ann Austin at 919-333-6791.



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Stephen Cauley by Robert and Faye Boyette

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG FUND

In Honor of

Dr. Jean Allen by Jean Allen Circle Group

2024 Weekly Reports

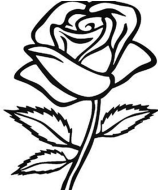
Baptisms this year.....	3	New Members.....	4
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, March 17.....	250	Sunday, March 10.....	162
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, March 17.....	166	Sunday, March 10.....	119
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, March 17.....	\$12,129	Sunday, March 10.....	\$17,997
Weekly Needs.....	\$14,860		

Note of Appreciation

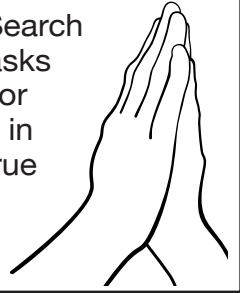
Our family appreciates the many calls, cards and texts we received from the Clayton First Baptist folk.

After all these years (54), to be so enfolded in your love was most uplifting. Warren always considered Clayton his hometown. Thank you for the encouragement you gave me, Annell and Lucinda.

God bless you,
Dorothy L. Steen



The Pastor Search Committee asks you to pray for God's mercy in giving us a true man of God and a great leader.



Time is running out to reserve your spot for the Senior trip to Airlie Gardens in Wrightsville Beach on Tuesday, April 2. Following the tour, the group will eat dinner at the Oceanic Restaurant. Admission to the gardens is \$10.

Come enjoy the azaleas and other beautiful flora at this famous garden. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. and will return by 5 p.m. The deadline to register is March 26.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Easter Services

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CLAYTON
411 N. Fayetteville St. Clayton, NC
(919) 553-4161 | www.fbccclayton.org

PALM SUNDAY 3.24
featuring a Palm processional by the children and
music by the Mix-It-Up Handbell Choir

MAUNDY THURSDAY 3.28
7pm Communion will be served

EASTER SUNDAY 3.31
Sunrise Service | 6:30 am
Regular Service | 9:30 am