

# The Outlook

## First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

March 31, 2024

Volume 47 Number 13



The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

– Matthew 28:5-7

# Let Easter be how you live

By Dr. Len Keever

Easter is not over! In fact, Easter has just started for many of us. If we think that Easter is just one day on the calendar, we have missed one of the most important aspects of what Easter means. Easter is not a day. Easter is a new way to understand creation. Easter is an attitude.

When we were little, and we got up on Easter Sunday morning, there was a basket beside our beds with plastic grass and colorful plastic eggs filled with jellybeans and milk chocolate eggs wrapped in green and red foil. Some years there was a chocolate bunny and maybe chewing gum or a Pez dispenser with sweet and sour candy that turned our tongue different colors.

In the living room the Easter Bunny had hidden the eggs we'd dyed different colors the night before. New clothes were laid out on the bed, and we excitedly dressed for church where Sunday school teachers also gave us candy. With all that candy, it was hard not to fidget during the worship service – but no one seemed to notice. Even the grownups seemed excited as if they'd had too much coffee or maybe even chocolate in their Sunday school classes.

Easter Sunday was magical – that is until we'd finished lunch where mom recycled all our Easter eggs. We had deviled eggs, potato salad with eggs in it, and ham (I'm sure if there was a way to glaze the ham with eggs that would have happened too.) Back then Easter was just a day, and by 3:00 in the afternoon when the sugar rush was over – almost everyone took a nap.

The problem with that scenario is that Easter is not a day – it is a completely different way to view our existence. When Jesus rose from the dead everything changed. From that day forward, the hope of eternal life, of resurrection from the dead, would change our understanding of life and death. God's great love for us became more pronounced in Jesus' resurrection.

God promises that we too will be resurrected if we accept the gift of Easter and live into God's newness through faith in Jesus, God's one and only Son. Creation would be forever changed. We are Easter people! Once we have been touched by Easter's hope, we can't go back to thinking it is just a day. It is a gift that gives meaning to the rest of our lives. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul wrote, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!" Some have proposed the image that we are living in the 8th day of creation where God is working to re-create all that has gone wrong because of sin's presence.

Jesus told his disciples, in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." The kingdom of God is an Easter kingdom where the world loses its hold on us, and Jesus becomes more important to us as we embrace all he has taught and done for us. Easter people know this. They strive to live an Easter life so they can honor Jesus every day.

Don't let Easter just be a day. Let Easter be how you live. Embrace Easter as an attitude.



## Memorials and Honorariums

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

#### In Memory of

Tony Bell by Cecil and Donna Lee

Tony Bell by Earl and Hope Johnson

Tony Bell by Helen Ellerbe

Ami Moon by Emory and Jo Howard

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG FUND

#### In Memory of

Ami Moon by John and Delores Bagley

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

#### In Memory of

Ami Moon by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE YOUTH FUND

#### In Memory of

Ami Moon by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

#### In Honor of

Brandon and Vicky Andrews by Cecil and Donna Lee

## Annie Armstrong Easter offering seeks prayers, gifts

Your prayers and gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering fuel the work of thousands of missionaries as they make Jesus known in their communities.

These men and women are planting new churches in unreached communities and meeting needs through compassion ministries. Every day, lives



are being impacted and transformed.

You can donate using the envelopes in the church pews or online through Realm. For more information about the Annie Armstrong Easter

Offering, contact Jennifer Blackley at 919-215-7401 or Lynne Martin at 919-632-5702.

## 2024 Weekly Reports

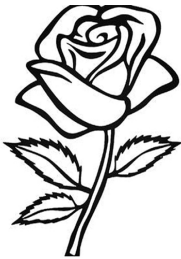
Baptisms this year.....	3	New Members.....	4
<b>Worship Attendance</b>			
Sunday, March 24.....	185	Sunday, March 17.....	250
<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>			
Sunday, March 24.....	161	Sunday, March 17.....	166
<b>General Fund Giving</b>			
Sunday, March 17.....	\$11,371	Sunday, March 17.....	\$12,129
Weekly Needs.....	\$14,860		

The Pastor Search Committee asks you to pray for strong consistency and focus in the present ministry of the church. Pray that God grants leadership strength to Dr. Keever, Rev. Nance, Rev. Parker and Keeley Tarkington.



## Notes of Appreciation

Many thanks from the family of Frances Reams for the genuine love and compassion we have received from the members of First Baptist Church. The food, cards and many donations made in her memory will surely continue sharing the love of Jesus!



Truly blessed,  
Herman, Sue and family

Dear FBCC family,

Our family is grateful for every prayer, call, text and all acts of kindness in the past months as our Mom and Grandma transitioned to Assisted Living and as she recovered from her fall. Please continue to pray for her as she adjusts to her new surroundings.

Blessings,  
Chris and Diane,  
Michael, Laney,  
Lane and Pearce



## Our kind King has risen

When you read the follow scripture verses, reflect on Jesus' kindness then reflect on our own hearts and receive suggestions for putting our minds and bodies in a place where we can celebrate the risen Christ!

*Read: Luke 24, John 21:15-17  
and 1st Corinthians 15:1-11*

Jesus, who was bloodied and dead in the tomb, is risen! He is risen indeed! The scars of his crucifixion are still plain on his skin, but there is breath in his lungs and blood pumping through his veins.

In his death, we were tempted to believe that darkness won. However, in the Resurrection, there is light and victory over sin and death right now and in the future. He lives and that changes everything. Our kind king makes us new in his image so we can be kind too.

We can forgive others, just as Jesus forgives us, and we can share the good news with everyone. "For God has put everything under his feet" – 1st Corinthians 15:27.

Our kind King is risen. He is risen indeed. Let us rejoice in the risen Christ, who gives us hope and confidence that we will live forever in his glory.