



# The Outlook

## First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

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## Which way?

By John Paschal

My previous article (February 11) on discipleship ended with a question: “How might we become counter-cultural enough to truly follow Jesus and make disciples who (in turn) make more disciples?”

I think the answer is short, but it falls into the category of one of those “good news, bad news” things. The good news is the answer is simple. The bad news is the answer is not easy. This answer is “repent,” but this may sound odd to your ear.

The Gospels tell us that when Jesus began his ministry, He proclaimed, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14-15)

The Greek word translated “repent” literally means to change the way we think. Perhaps a better way to say it is to “see things in a different way.” We have been taught that to repent means to see our *sin* as God sees it and to become remorseful to the point that we change our minds (and our actions) about it. This is true, but the idea of repentance is deeper than just dealing with sin. True repentance (which the Bible teaches must come from God) causes something more profound to happen: to cause us to look at *everything* the way God sees it. Put another way, repentance is to align *our thinking* with God’s will as given to us in the Bible. Our thoughts lead us to our behavior and to quote a popular writer: “True biblical repentance will always result in a change of behavior. Maybe not instantly, but inevitably and progressively.”\*

We also tend to think of repentance in an individual, personal context, but community repentance is clearly in view when we read the Lord’s last words to the local churches in Revelation 2 and 3.

On the eve of his crucifixion, as Jesus was comforting his disciples, he told them that to love him meant to follow him in obedience (John 14:15, 23-24). So this “how” of making disciples must begin with true Biblical repentance followed by loving obedience to his teaching.

Simple, but not easy. And this is certainly true in the 21st Century. How might we become counter-cultural enough to truly follow Jesus and make disciples who (in turn)

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## Welcome Emily Lajoie, our newest member

We are delighted to welcome Emily Lajoie to our church family. On Sunday, April 7, Emily requested membership at First Baptist Church Clayton. She is awaiting Baptism.



Emily, who has been attending First Baptist regularly, is the mother of Jennifer Blackley.

## Calling all Graduating Seniors!

*Graduate Sunday is on June 2. If you would like to participate in the service please call the church office by Monday, May 20.*

### Information needed:

*Your name, the school you're graduating from, future plans, if you are attending the reception following the service, and how many guests will attend.*

## Which Way?

make more disciples? The community (the local church) must begin by committing to be in the world and not *of the world*. It must align its vision of the church to Jesus's vision of the church. To change our thinking about who we are so that it matches his teaching. This is repentance (Luke 9:23, Galatians 2:20). It must be

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practiced first by local church leaders and then taught and mentored within the entire fellowship. A good first step is to not regard the church as an event manufacturing corporation, but rather as a discipleship covenant community (the family of God) as exemplified in the Bible (Acts 2:42).

\* Got Questions Ministries, <https://www.gotquestions.org>, S. Michael Houdmann, CEO

### Senior Adult Ministry

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study, "Walk as Jesus Walked: Being a Disciple in a Broken World" begins April 17 and continues through May 15. In this seventh volume of "That the World May Know," Ray Vander Laan will take us to five different locations in Asia Minor to help us better understand the meaning – and cost – of discipleship. "As disciples of Jesus, we've discovered that following him demands an intense commitment to the Biblical text and complete devotion to the Christian community. There is more, however. Join us to discover the fierce passion of our early Christian brothers and sisters to walk like Jesus – even when the path becomes treacherous.

The class meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the SALT classroom and via Zoom. Study guides are \$10 and will be available soon. Sign up today.

The NBC Luncheon will be held Monday, April 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Fried chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The program will be announced soon. To ensure an accurate head count, please notify the church office no later than April 24 if: 1) you're on the permanent list and cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list and plan to attend.

## SANCTUARY CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 20 • 9 a.m.

### We Need Volunteers

We will be cleaning the Sanctuary and stairwells.

All cleaning supplies will be provided.

Bring your rubber gloves and be ready to clean!

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m.

If you have questions or would like to join us,  
please call or text Donna Lee at 919-219-2499.



## Memorials and Honorariums

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

#### In Memory of

Sarah Bradley by Ginger Jones

Ami Moon and Tony Bell by John and Lynn Gibson

Ami Moon by Bucky Coats

Carolyn Allen by Tom and Ida Mayes

Ami Moon by Jiles and Kim Harrell

Ami Moon by Lynne Martin

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

#### In Honor of

Sandy Stephenson by JoAnn Norris

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

#### In Memory of

Ami Moon by Kenny and Vickie Adams

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

#### In Memory of

Ami Moon and Sarah Bradley by Gerald and Glenda Toler

Ami Moon by Ginger Jones

## 2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this year.....3      New Members.....5

### Worship Attendance

Sunday, April 7.....126      Sunday, March 31.....270

### Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, April 7.....112      Sunday, March 31.....91

### General Fund Giving

Sunday, April 7.....\$15,901      Sunday, March 31.....\$17,224

Weekly Needs.....\$14,860

## Thank you

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

I want to thank you all so much for the prayers and support you have given me in the past month. Your love and support have meant so much to David and me. It has helped with the recovery process.



Thank you for the wonderful meals, cards, texts and phone calls. Also, I would like to say a special thank you to Lexene Lee and Jay Vinson for stepping in and counting offering for me last week. I feel so blessed to be a part of this loving church family.

Thanks again for all the love and kindness that has been shared during this difficult time. Our First Baptist Church Family is indeed a blessing from God. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I recover from pneumonia.

Much Love,  
Jo Earp

## CDC announcement

After five and one-half years of dedicated service, FBCC Child Development Center Director Kailey Scott is leaving our center for a new job opportunity.

During her time with us, Kailey's love and support for the children has been evident through her commitment and care. We are grateful for her faithful leadership and hard work.

Kailey's last day will be Thursday, April 18, and you are invited to a small reception in her honor at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to offer your gratitude and appreciation.

Please join us in praying for Kailey as she embarks upon her new journey.

Mrs. Danita Buckner, retired CDC Two's Teacher, will serve as Interim Director during the search process. As we search for a new Director, the CDC Oversight Committee asks for your prayers. Additionally, please help us spread the word by sharing the job posting on our church website and having interested candidates email us at <mailto:fbcc.cdc.jobs@gmail.com>.

– FBCC CDC Oversight Committee

## Church youth to celebrate end of year

The First Baptist Youth are finishing up their seven-week devotion series on Wednesday nights entitled "Don't Believe your Eyes". This will be our final series for the year.

The Acteens are working through their Quest for Confidence and will finish up at the recognition service on May 5.

Our Challengers have been putting the hands and feet of God into action this semester by helping at With Love for Jesus and doing yard work for those in need.

On Saturday, May 4 our youth will have a year-end celebration. We will be going to play paint ball in Angier with a cookout to follow. Our last Wednesday night gathering will be May 8. Graduate Sunday will be on Sunday, June 2. We are inviting all high school graduates to participate.

Our year may be ending but we are still actively preparing for our mission trip to Altoona, PA June 23-29 with a group of 30 youth and 7 chaperones. We will have a Mission Trip Meeting on Wednesday, May 22.

The First Baptist youth continue to shine their light for Christ!