



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

April 21, 2024

Volume 47 Number 16

Flocking Together

By Rev. Stephanie Parker

First Baptist Church Clayton Children's Ministry – FBC3M for short – is a ministry of coming to know Christ through loving, serving, learning and growing. We seek to connect to the example of Christ through scripture, considering how Christ loves, serves, learns, and grows, as well as when he does that and with whom. Christ paints a picture for our children of who God is and what God is like, and Christ teaches them about who the Holy Spirit is in his promise of the helper.

This Sunday, we look to what Christ is saying about himself, his followers, and his father as part of Good Shepherd Sunday. This is a title given to the 4th Sunday after Easter in the lectionary, when the texts point to John 10 where Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd, and images of sheep, pastures, love, and leading fill the week's passages. It feels appropriate that on a Sunday when our children are leading, we stop to consider how we, like children, are dependent on Jesus, our very good shepherd.

In FBC3M our volunteers are like shepherds, guiding them in their spiritual formation journey. The children build relationships with their leaders, learning their voices and following them – even when how they follow might not be recognized immediately. I am grateful for each volunteer and the gifts she or he brings to the ministry. Whether it is leading boys on an extended retreat nature walk, creating stalactites and stalagmites for VBS, or engaging in creative Sunday School lessons, their gifts are beautiful, appreciated and remembered. Simply put, the ministry would not happen without the love, dedication and presence of volunteers gently guiding, teaching and prodding our youngest sheep.

I hear often as a Children's Pastor that children are important to our future; they are a gift and a blessing. While it is true we hope children will be the longest part of the future stretching ahead of us, children are an important part of the church TODAY. In fact, we see evidence of that on Children's Sunday, as our children lead in worship. Throughout the year, we see evidence of it as children serve alongside of us, teaching us through musicals, sharing with us their resources and time, keeping us on our toes with their

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questions, and reminding us of our need for energy, play and laughter.

Our children bring value beyond Children’s Sunday. They are a gift, yes, but one that needs to be opened. They are a blessing, yes, but one that needs to be empowered to share. They keep us learning, curious, inspired and encouraged. Praise God for our youngest churchgoers and those who guide them. May we welcome them as our Good Shepherd did, too.

Notes of Appreciation

Dear First Baptist Church Members and Friends,

Brookie and I want to thank you all for your love, support, meals and prayers during Brookie’s recent health challenges. You all truly demonstrated your genuine care and love for both Brookie and me. We have felt and experienced many answered prayers from God, no doubt due to the countless prayers offered up from you all at First Baptist. And we give THANKS and PRAISE to our Father in Heaven.



Brookie has received an encouraging diagnosis from Raleigh Neurology concerning her health now and in the future. She has already made progress and continues to improve daily. Full recovery will take a while longer, so please continue lifting us up in prayer.

With our sincere love and appreciation, Donald and Brookie Lambert

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

My apologies for taking so long to express my appreciation. Thank you for your loving support to me and my family following Carolyn’s passing. The food you sent, the cards and calls have meant so much to us all.

A special thanks to Anne Abene and Cathy Paschal for coming to the house with all the food following the funeral and making sure we were all taken care of.

Again, thank you for your loving support and every kindness extended to us.

Sincerely, John Allen

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....3	New Members.....9
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, April 14.....145	Sunday, April 7.....126
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, April 14.....110*	Sunday, April 7.....112
<small>*Not all classes reported attendance</small>	
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, April 14.....\$11,336	Sunday, April 7.....\$15,901
Weekly Needs.....\$14,860	

We welcome the Temesys to our church family

On Sunday, April 14, Matt, Lura, Kesly and Brynlee Temesy requested to join First Baptist through membership. Kesly and Brynlee are joining through baptism, and Matt and Lura join by statement of faith.

We welcome the Temesy family and look forward to showing God's love, telling others the Good News, growing spiritually and serving others alongside them!



Nalls dedicate son to Christian faith



Last Sunday Stephen and Kaylee Nalls dedicated their son, Beckham, to the task and purpose of growing in faith in the community of believers at First Baptist Church Clayton. Beckham was born on November 29, 2023.

The congregation joined in a response to come alongside of the Nalls family in teaching, serving, and loving Beckham as he grows. We are grateful to journey with this family in their spiritual formation.

SAVE THE DATES!
Sunday, July 7 - Wednesday July 10
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
FBC Clayton
 REGISTRATION COMING SOON...

Ministry seeks volunteers

The With Love From Jesus Ministry is seeking volunteers on the fourth Sunday of each month (April 28) to help with sorting clothes, food items, donated supplies, prepare personal hygiene bags, and show the love of Jesus and tell the Good News.

If you are interested and willing to help, please call or text Rudy Oliver at 919-271-1178, or email him at reholston@gmail.com.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG FUND

In Honor of

Sandy Stephenson and the Transportation Team Ministry by JoAnn Norris

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Ami Moon by David and Pam Outlaw

Ami Moon by the Billie Hardee Sunday School Class

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

Seth Vinson and Lessie Vinson by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

In Honor of

Mary Helen Woodard's 98th Birthday on April 11 by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE YOUTH FUND

In Memory of

Ami Moon and by Jay and Kathy Woodard

Ami Moon by Joe and Linda Hester

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

Graduation

..... RECEPTION IN HONOR OF

*Keeley Tarkington &
Stephanie Parker*

May 5, 2024

Fellowship Hall

between Church and Sunday School

*Please bring a breakfast dish to share
if you plan to attend.

