



# The Outlook

## First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

May 12, 2024

Volume 47 Number 19

## Jesus is waiting at the well

By Dr. Len Keever

As I walked across the yard, the grass crunched beneath my feet. It had been days since it rained, and I'd not yet turned on the sprinkler system. Temperatures have been in the 80s and 90s. It seems hot for late April early May. The sunlight has been harsh to the ground that is only now awakening to what the new season brings.

Having been dormant during the winter months, the grass is out of shape – like a runner who has not trained in months being suddenly thrown to the starting line of a marathon. The blades breaking under my feet do not yet seem prepared for the constant change of weather they'll face in the months ahead. They are dry and vulnerable.

The Psalmist's words in 143:6 come to mind, "I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land," and again in Psalm 42:2, "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?" The sound of the breaking grass awakens a thought in me: my soul too searches for God like a parched land, like a dry ground longing for water.

The week had been harder than some. More tasks than usual, extra worries arriving at the doorstep, not enough time to do all I need to do. Sleep has been difficult with things on my mind. I've had less control over my diet and exercise as I try to balance encroaching demands and meet the timelines of previous commitments. Gazing at my calendar, I become aware that my throat is parched. Water cannot quench this deep heart thirst. I need living water. I need worship. I need to spend time with Jesus.

In the heat of the day, she went to the well to draw water. She'd waited till the other women left. She couldn't take their judging looks, their condescending laughter, the gossip that was about her. If she had her way, she wouldn't have gone at all. Survival drew her there.

I imagine with each step she took she heard a crunching sound beneath her worn out sandaled feet. Parched, soul weary, out of shape, little did she know that God was aware of her deep heart groans. Little did she know that deep down inside there was a prayer taking place.

See Jesus is waiting, page 2

## Write a note to Kiley Woodard

As we approach our Senior Recognition Sunday on June 2, we have placed a Bible, highlighter and pen on the table in the vestibule on the choir room side of the church.

Please take time between now and June 2 to stop by the table and highlight your favorite verse, sign your name, and write a note. This will be a wonderful gift for our graduate, Kiley Woodard, to have as she heads off to college next year.



*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11*

## Jesus is waiting

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When she arrived at the well, she discovered Jesus waiting for her. He gave her living water. He'd heard the crunching too. He saw her pain. He knew her need. He wanted to give her a new life and include her in the ministry of his love. He wanted to refresh her tired spirit. She was a child of God meeting the one who could change everything for her.

That is what morning devotions are for me, Sunday worship even more. God gave manna in the desert to the wandering children of Israel each morning, a double amount on worship day. How long can we live without water? How long can we survive the struggles of this life without Jesus

refreshing our souls? How long can we survive without taking the time to nurture our relationship with the one who calls us to come and drink from his cup?

Summer is quickly approaching. The Spirit within us is praying on our behalf. Jesus does not want us to become parched and dry. Are we making plans to stay hydrated with living water? Are we making room for Jesus to keep us well fed and ready to face the challenges that will certainly come in the months ahead? Are we nurturing holy habits to help us face the scorching heat that seeks to distract us from God?

## 2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....3	New Members.....10
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	
Sunday, May 5.....163	Sunday, April 28.....155
<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
Sunday, May 5.....92*	Sunday, April 28.....117
*Not all Sunday School classes met	
<b>General Fund Giving</b>	
Sunday, May 5.....\$16,201	Sunday, April 28.....\$14,373
Weekly Needs.....\$14,860	

Please join us for the

# Ordination

of Keeley Tarkington

Sunday, May 19, 2024  
4:00pm

First Baptist Church of Clayton Sanctuary  
411 N. Fayetteville St., Clayton, N.C. 27520

\*Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall



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

Please join us in expressing gratitude and best wishes to Alexander Reams, our part-time A/V Tech.

Alex's last day at First Baptist Church Clayton will be Sunday, May 12. Thank you, Alex, for your almost two years of service at FBCC Clayton! You will be missed greatly!



The Pastor Search Committee asks you to pray that they will be sensitive to the direction of the Lord as they look at potential candidates.



## *Memorials and Honorariums*

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

#### **In Memory of**

Billy Wells and Roger Reams by Andy and Gloria Pleasant

Ami Moon and Roger Reams by Paul and Bronna Greer

Glenn Mayes and Billy Wells by Gerald and Glenda Toler

Carolyn Allen by Dianne Hagwood

Roger Reams, Billy Wells and Glenn Mayes by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

Glenn Mayes and Roger Reams by JoAnn Hardee

#### **In Honor of**

Stephanie Parker and Keeley Tarkington by Paul and Bronna Greer

Lexene Lee, Jill Rasor, Anne Abene, Laney Johnson, Lauren Rasor,

Stephanie Parker and Keeley Tarkington by David and Alison Perry

Linda Hester by Bill O'Neal Mission Group

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

#### **In Memory of**

Billy Wells by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

### **WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE PIECEMAKERS FUND**

#### **In Honor of**

Linda Nance and the Piecemakers by Lois Weeks

## *Calling all Graduating Seniors!*

We would like to invite you to participate in Graduate Sunday on June 2, 2024 at the 9:30 a.m.

worship service. In addition, you and your family are invited to the graduate luncheon following

the ceremony. If you would like to participate, please call the church office by Monday, May 20 and provide the needed information.

