

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

May 19, 2024

Volume 47 Number 20

Share the life-giving joy of Jesus

By Dr. Len Keever

At the Campbell University Divinity School graduation, Dr. Lydia Hoyle shared with the graduates three things to consider when preaching. Acknowledging the awesome responsibility of proclaiming the word, Dr. Hoyle suggested that sermons should be wise, kind and life-giving. I could not agree more!

The preacher must always consider that the congregation is made up of many people in a various of stages of faith development. Each person comes with their own specific needs. They are facing many different challenges. The words we share are meant not to insult but to encourage, not to harm but to awaken those with whom we worship to the wonderful opportunity faith can provide.

We must be wise to consider the challenges those to whom we share God's good word are facing. We must be true to the word of God sharing in love with compassion and respect for each person's journey. This is the role kindness plays.

People are often searching for a deeper relationship with God because something has happened in their life to awaken them to their need for deeper faith. Often this awakening arrives on the heels of disappointment or setback. Coming to know that we need help, realizing that we have "sinned and fallen short of God's glory," being faced with something that is upsetting, is often painful. Here, the preacher must not exploit, but be understanding, caring, offering hope and promise.

In short, through kindness, we proclaim the life-giving presence of Jesus to forgive, restore, and call those who feel broken and alone into the wholeness that life in Christ can provide. No sermon should fail to be life-giving. God sent Jesus into the world to provide us a way to receive abundant life. Personally, I hope that every time I preach, people leave feeling closer to God than when they arrived.

Thinking of this, I realize that these words are not just words for the preacher. They are words for all of us who share our faith with others. Years ago, I remember reading a Charles Swindoll devotion titled: The Winsome Witness. In the devotion, Dr. Swindoll talked about how our joy draws others to know Christ. He spoke about how people

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would rather be around laughter than sadness, confident hope than dreary pessimism. As Christians we are all called to convey attitudes that demonstrate our hope in Jesus Christ, our assurance of the promises to come.

Today is Pentecost Sunday. As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, I can't help but think of Paul's words in Galatians 5:22-23, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." This gift in all of us is best shared in wisdom, kindness, and with an attitude to share the life-giving joy of knowing Jesus. All of us are called to share this good news!

Let us share with others as Jesus shared with the world. Let us have the same mindset of Christ (see Philippians 2:5-13). Let us work out our salvation with attitudes of awe and accountability, letting God work in us as God worked in the life and ministry of God's only begotten Son, Jesus our Lord.

Write a note to graduate

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 at the end of summer.



"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

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	3	New Members.....	11
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, May 12.....	196	Sunday, May 5.....	163
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, May 12.....	108*	Sunday, May 5.....	92
*Not all Sunday School classes reported attendance			
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, May 5.....	\$16,375	Sunday, May 5.....	\$16,201
Weekly Needs.....	\$14,860		

Welcome Jim and Isabelle Chanco

First Baptist Church is pleased to welcome new member Jim Chanco and his daughter, Isabelle, age four. Jim joined our congregation on Sunday, May 12 by transfer of letter. He also will reaffirm his faith through baptism.

Jim and Isabelle are the son and granddaughter of James Chanco.



Dear Church Family,

I want to thank each of you that have been praying for me during my illness. I'm feeling 100% better, but am not quite there yet.

I appreciate every text message, prayer, good thought and support I've received. I am blessed to have these strong relationships. I hope to be back in church soon.

Thanks again, Curtis Moore



MRT invites you to 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.

Please stop by soon and see what is offered. More books are on the way.



SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, July 7 - Wednesday July 10

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

FBC Clayton

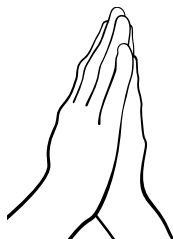
REGISTRATION COMING SOON...

Ministry seeks volunteers

The With Love From Jesus Ministry is seeking volunteers on the fourth Sunday of each month (May 26) 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 reo-holston@gmail.com.

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

Glenn Mayes and Gerald Brantley by Bucky Coats

Glenn Mayes by David and Pam Outlaw

Billy Wells, Gerald Brantley and Glenn Mayes by Emory and Jo Howard

Gerald Brantley by Andy and Gloria Pleasant

Kathleen Batten, Ann Hardee and Helen Mitchell

for Mother's Day by JoAnn Hardee

Gerald Brantley by Joe and Linda Hester

Gerald Brantley and Glenn Mayes by David and Jo Earp

Roger Reams, Ami Moon and Glenn Mayes by Ayden and Betty Lee

Glenn Mayes by John and Dolores Bagley

Billy Wells by Billy Parrish

Gerald Brantley by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

In Honor of

Stephanie Parker and Keeley Tarkington by Chris and Diane Pearce

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

James Cash by Ramona Cash

Glenn Mayes by Walter and Jill Rasor

Glenn Mayes and Doris Vinson Mitchiner by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

In Honor of

Joyce Lipscomb Canady on her 96th birthday by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

In Memory of

Glenn Mayes by Chris and Diane Pearce

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY FUND

In Memory of

Glenn Mayes by Curtis Moore