

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

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Have an attitude with gratitude

By Dr. Len Keever

Have you heard about the coffee hack for losing weight? I hadn't either until last week. Apparently, you can add certain spices, etc. to your coffee and shed pounds. I didn't watch the video that came with the post – I like my coffee just as I like it. Besides, I have never been one to chase weight loss fads.

I do, however, know a hack for losing negativity. To do so we don't have to add anything to our diet or spend money on attending a webinar. It is simple enough. It is to begin the day with an attitude of gratitude. A story may help.

Once St. Francis was out walking with some Christian brothers when he came upon an unusually large flock of birds. Something inside him stirred and in response he went into the field and began to preach to the birds. "My little sisters, remember to praise God because you are indebted to him. You are free to fly wherever you please. He has given you beautiful clothes," he said.

"He provides you with food and teaches you how to sing. He saved you with Noah's Ark and helped you to be fruitful and multiply. Thank him for the air you fly in. Thank him for the water you drink from rivers and springs. Thank him for the high cliffs and trees where you can build your nests. Thank him that you are not required to sow or reap, spin or weave. God gives you and your children everything you need. Such things can only mean that God loves you very much. Therefore, my little sisters, remember to thank and praise God." (Nearer to God, Daily Readings with Christian Mystics, p.143).

This reading illustrates what I'm thinking. Jesus says in Matthew 6:26, "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them." In these verses Jesus is teaching that we shouldn't worry, we should trust God. St. Francis' sermon to the birds awakens us to realize all the wonderful things God has provided us.

We too are given air to breathe, gravity to keep us grounded, the sun to warm us and trees that are cut into lumber to make our homes in which we live. There are so many things for which to be thankful that we take for granted every day. We have electricity

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Attitude with gratitude

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that provides power for our light bulbs, televisions, cell phone chargers and hot water heaters.

All the inventions around us are here because God inspires someone to dream of new ways to use the materials God has already provided. We can go on and on. Even as we read this, we can be thankful for paper, ink, the copier and the person who taught us to read.


The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:12, "I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need." I believe Paul's secret was thanksgiving

and gratitude. He knew that regardless of his situation, he could find something to be thankful for. He knew that regardless, he could do all things, face all things and make it through all things because Jesus was with him.

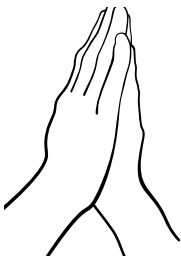
When was the last time you stopped to truly be thankful? There are so many blessings around us. We don't have to steep in pickle juice or be sourer than a lemon. We don't have to concentrate on the disappointments. God has provided us so much. God has richly blessed us. Take a moment each day this week to be thankful. You will be surprised how much this will lighten your load and make you smile.

Join the Wednesday night Bible Study with Dr. Keever

Wednesday Night Bible Study with Dr. Keever in the book of Galatians and Prayer Time will resume May 29 through June 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Basic Classroom. Everyone is welcome. Please enter through the office door.



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.



<u>2024 Weekly Reports</u>	
Baptisms this Year.....3	New Members.....11
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, May 19.....150	Sunday, May 12.....196
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, May 19.....90	Sunday, May 12.....108
<small>*Not all Sunday School classes reported attendance</small>	
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, May 19.....\$18,475	Sunday, May 12.....\$16,375
Weekly Needs.....\$14,860	

Senior Adults to dine at Lane's Seafood and Steak House

The Senior Adults will have a dinner outing on Thursday, June 6 at Lane's Seafood and Steak House in Angier. The bus will leave the church at 4:30 p.m. and return by 8 p.m. To get an accurate head count, please sign up in the church office no later than Monday, June 3. Also please let us know whether you plan to ride the bus or drive separately. Dr. Charles and Suzanne Royal, and Dr. Len and Kathy Keever have been invited. Plan now to come out and enjoy an evening of great food and fellowship.

July 4th celebration is an opportunity to serve

Once again, FBCC has been asked to pass out water at the Town of Clayton's Square to Square event on Thursday, July 4. The celebration is from 5:30 to 9 p.m. with fireworks at the conclusion. Our church will set up a tent at the corner of Main and Fayetteville Streets and pass out water to those browsing the tents and activities lining Main Street from Horne Square to Town Square.

This service opportunity is for all ages and is a great way to provide water and a loving presence on a hot summer day to the Clayton community. However, to make this happen, we need many hands!

To volunteer, use the QR code below to access the Google form or click on

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19VVkVRSim7uy5T8ffDrZFaLN7MS-08JrgYLGnyYg7BCc/edit?usp=sharing>

You may also call the church office at 919-553-4161 or email Rev. Stephanie Parker at sparker@fbccclaytonnc.org with your preferred times. We will wear our "Show Tell Grow Serve" t-shirts so if you do not have one, please share your size and we'll get one for you. Lastly, we're seeking donations of bottles of water. If you know of a company that might be willing to donate some, please reach out. Otherwise, we accept any cases of water you would like to contribute too.

Time Slots:

Wednesday, July 3 Cooler/Water Prep

6-7 p.m. at the church

Thursday, July 4

4-5:30 p.m. set up, meet at church

5:30-6:30 p.m. pass out water

6:30-7:30 p.m. pass out water

7:30-8:30 p.m. pass out water

8:30-9:30 p.m. clean up



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Gerald Brantley by David and Pam Outlaw
 Billy Wells and Glenn Mayes by Ronald Crowder and Debbie Ragland
 Roger Reams by Candy Pope
 Gerald Brantley and Ruth Talton Watson by Joyce Nixon
 Glenn Mayes by Earl and Hope Johnson
 Roger Reams and Ruth Talton Watson by Joe and Linda Hester
 Gerald Brantley by Faith Sunday School Class

In Honor of

Linda Britt and Helen Ellerbe by Bill O'Neal Mission Group
 Ella Mae Sorrell's Birthday and Dr. John Allen by Joyce Nixon
 Keeley Tarkington's Ordination by Candy Pope
 Helen Ellerbe by Faith Sunday School Class

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE BUILDING FUND

In Memory of

Tony Pope by Bobby and Nancy Hardee

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

Billy Wells, Glenn Mayes and Gerald Brantley by David and Nancy Turlington

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE PIECEMAKERS FUND

In Memory of

Gerald Brantley and Ami Moon by Martha Wall

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE HOMEBOUND FUND

In Honor of

Homebound Ministry Team by Danny and Valerie Dupree

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE BACKPACK BUDDIES FUND

In Memory of

Gerald Brantley by Lexene Lee

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Honor of

Rev. Keeley Tarkington and Rev. Stephanie Parker by Joe and Linda Hester

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE WORLD HUNGER FUND

In Memory of

Gerald Brantley by Curtis and Elaine Moore

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY FUND

In Honor of

Stephanie Parker by Curtis and Elaine Moore

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE CHILDRENS MINISTRY FUND

In Honor of

Rev. Stephanie Parker by Sandy and Anna Stephenson

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE MUSIC FUND

In Honor of

Rev. Keeley Tarkington by Sandy and Anna Stephenson