



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

July 14, 2024

Volume 47 Number 27



Very Best Selves

By Rev. Stephanie Parker
Pastor of Children and Families

I love coming up with new acronyms for Vacation Bible School (VBS). If you've been around me long enough, you've heard them. Some favorites have been Village of Blessed Saints (because it does take a village), Very Bright Spot (because it is one of the highlights of the ministry year for FBCC), Vivid Backdrops Standing (because what is a good theme without a backdrop to bring it to life), Very Best Suppers (because what would we do without Ronald and our awesome kitchen crew), Very Best Sleep (because it's a fact; there is no tired like VBS tired), and Volunteers Bring Smiles (because they really do; to me especially). This year, I have a new one to add to the list: Very Best

See Very Best Selves, page 2

Welcome Lou and Vicky



Lou and Vicky Elia rejoined First Baptist Clayton this past Sunday. We are happy this wonderful couple is back in the First Baptist Church family.

Need to contact a member of the pastoral staff? Here's how:

Rev. Dr. Len Keever

919.820.0792

lkeever@fbcclaytonnc.org

Rev. Stephen Nance

717.262.8400

snance@fbcclaytonnc.org

Rev. Stephanie Parker

919.815.0946

sparker@fbcclaytonnc.org

Rev. Keeley Tarkington

919.649.3155

ktarkington@fbcclaytonc.org

Very Best Selves

Continued from page 1

Selves. That is exactly what our campers and volunteers brought each night.

The first “C” in our “Camp Code” rules this year was, “Come ready to participate and encounter God at work.” Expectations matter. They can motivate people to show up, rally people to take action, and inspire space for growth and transformation. However, when expectations are negative or close-minded, they can limit possibilities, stifle creativity, and spread pessimism to costly effects. For VBS, the primary expectation was for everyone to participate and encounter God at work. Truly, the group did just that. By doing so, they came with their “Very Best Selves.”

To come, expecting to participate and encounter God led to participants bounding in with joy and excitement, and volunteers finding glimpses of the divine among tents, bass beats, and bubbles. It led to sparked curiosity for matters of faith and seeds planted. It led to new dance moves and connections made. As we learned about trusting in God to go with us, give us wisdom, and bring us peace, we were reminded that beyond our time at Camp Firelight, we also can participate in the work of the kingdom and encounter a God of presence who loves and partners with us.

To quote our beloved Firelight Chant song, when posed with the question: “Is everybody ready,” I can say that yes, we were. And yes, it mattered. I am so grateful for the Very Best Selves who participated and encountered God this week at Camp Firelight. Let’s continue to bring our “VBS” as we trust and follow the God who go, go, goes with us!

NBC Luncheon is Monday, July 29

The NBC (New Beginners Club) Luncheon is scheduled for Monday, July 29 at 11:30 a.m. It will be catered. The cost is \$8. Please notify the church office no later than July 24 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.



Three baptized on Sunday

On Sunday, July 7 we celebrated the Baptisms of Spencer Long, Emily Lajoie and Ann Matchett Cox. Rev. Stephanie Parker officiated the ceremonies. Let us pray for their faith journeys as we come along side of them in this faith community.

FBCC volunteers refresh revelers



Volunteers gave away water bottles and spread the Good News at the Town of Clayton's Square to Square July 4 celebration. Pictured above from left are (back) Jay Woodard, Steve Canady, Bill and Stacie Moor, Dr. Len Keever, David Outlaw, Jerry Poole, (front) Rev. Stephanie Parker, Belle, Jake and Annie Parker, Cathy Keever, Gwen Canady, Sharon Poole and Jessi Smith. Above right, Ginger Jones greets an attendee; and right, Sharon and Jerry Poole and Donna Brown enjoy a moment.



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Ron Earp and Glenn Mayes by Jay and Kathy Woodard
Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Jean McHone
Frances Reams and Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Ginger Jones
Janelle Sutton by Joe and Linda Hester
Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Stewart and Tammy McLeod
Ron Earp by Bobby and Nancy Hardee
Kenneth Lee, Ron Earp, Glenn Mayes and Joyce Lipscomb Canady
by Joyce and Lisa Lee
Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Jiles and Kim Harrell
Iredell Batten, Swade Hardee and Joe Hardee by JoAnn Hardee
Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington
Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Jerry and Deborah Pace
Johnny Elmore by John and Cathy Paschal
Janelle Sutton by Andy and Gloria Pleasant
Ron Earp, Joyce Lipscomb Canady and Janelle Sutton
by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

In Honor of

Rev. Keeley Tarkington and Rev. Stephanie Parker by Joyce and Lisa Lee

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

Ron Earp by Ginger Jones
Ron Earp by Stewart and Tammy McLeod
Ron Earp by Judith B. Castleberry and Family
Ron Earp by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Becky Gordon and Steve Ferrell
Joyce Lipscomb Canady by D.R. Williams

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE VBS FUND

In Honor of

Rev. Stephanie Parker and VBS Leaders by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	11	New Members.....	17
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, July 7.....	225	Sunday, June 30.....	220
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, July 7.....	*98	Sunday, June 30.....	126
*Not all classes reported attendance			
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, July 7.....	\$17,387	Sunday, June 30.....	\$10,262
Weekly Needs.....	\$14,860		