



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

July 21, 2024

Volume 47 Number 28

There is no substitute for God

By Rev. Dr. Len Keever

On Monday night, as we drove in the driveway from Vacation Bible School, I couldn't help but smile looking at the lush, green grass in our front yard. It has been hot! It did not rain at our house in the month of June. We have been in a drought. Just days before, the grass was brown and dry. It crunched under my feet when I walked across the lawn. I mowed it on June 1st and did not mow it again until July 4th. I don't think I have ever gone that long between mowing in the summer.

This is not to say I have not tried to care for the yard. I used the sprinkler system to try to hydrate the lawn (I am not looking forward to seeing my water bill). I dragged my hose around and tried to water the areas that were the driest to give them extra nourishment. Nothing I did seemed to matter. And then God sent the rain. Just a few days of much needed showers did overnight what I could not do on my own.

I mention this because only God can do what only God can do. There is no substitute for God. No matter how hard we try, we cannot replace our need for the Holy with worldly things. We cannot grow spiritually all by ourselves without the blessings of God nourishing us and growing us strong and healthy. So often we are like the dry grass, trying to get by with some man-made way of getting ahead.

By now I hope you realize I'm not writing about rainwater. I'm writing about trusting in God to give us the nourishment we need to face difficult times. As believers we know that only God can do what only God can do. No earthly experience can ever do what only God can do.

Perhaps you've planned a vacation to get away thinking that when you return whatever you are running from will magically disappear while you are gone. But then when you return, you find that the problem you were running from is waiting for you – unfortunately it has grown larger and scarier in your absence. Maybe you think that changing jobs would bring you more happiness. Or maybe you think that if you play at a different golf course you will suddenly be a better golfer. Then your new job brings new anxieties and at the new course you still slice the ball and can't putt.

Not substitute for God

Continued from page 1

Speaking on worry and anxiety, in Matthew 6:33 Jesus says, “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Earlier in verses 19-21 he proclaims, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Only God can do what only God can do. Let us turn to God and trust in the Lord with all our understanding.

With Love From Jesus ministry seeks volunteers

On Sunday, July 28, it will be our turn to serve at the With Love From Jesus house in Clayton. If you would like to volunteer, please be there by 4:30 p.m. for sign-in and instruction. We will be distributing food, clothing and sharing the Gospel until around 6:30 p.m. You can also bring any items you would like to donate to the ministry. They are currently in need of nonperishable items. The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of W. 2nd S. Robertson streets.

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

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.



COME VISIT THE
CHURCH LIBRARY

Missionary Round Table places books in the 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.

We hope you will stop by soon and see what we have to offer. More books are coming soon.



He's eating bugs???

Camp Firelight counselor Connor Woodard eats bugs during the Vacation Bible School Closing Celebration as the CAM competition winner was announced. The girls team won which meant Connor had to eat the bugs. Our mission project during VBS was to collect items of greatest need for Clayton Area Ministries (CAM). To increase the participation, we made it a competition between the boys and girls. Collectively our participants collected over 500 items for CAM.

Clayton Area Ministry director Dale Matthews sent a note of thanks that read:

*Wow - First Baptist Church Campers!
What a bright light you have shown to the people of Clayton. All the food you collected will go to the people in need in our community. You have been a big helping hand in our ministry. You're the best!
Your support is a true blessing!*

Card of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

Words do not begin to describe how thankful we are for your cards, acts of kindness, visits, meals and most of all your prayers. Your smiles, hugs, warm greetings and prayers have been what has and continues to sustain us in this journey.

God is so good and even in the challenging times blesses us with what HE knows we need. FBCC is the blessing that God has bestowed on us and we are so thankful to God for each of you.



With love, thanks and appreciation,
Lou and Vicky Elia

? ? Prison Ministry, Anyone ? ?

"When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?
The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Mt. 25:39-40

The Gladys Creech Long Termer Social Ministry will be returning soon to NCCIW on State Street and we need some new faces to keep this group going for another 45 years. We typically visit the prison on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm for a time of devotion, prayer, fellowship with food, and some fun (game, art, puzzle, craft, music, etc.)
Mainly we try to shine the light and love of Jesus.

If interested contact Susan Parker at: sjp318@nc.rr.com or 919-333-8394

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Donald Varner by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington

Donald Varner by Chris and Diane Pearce

In Honor of

Bereavement and Special Needs Committees by Kay, Will and Sam Earp and families

Lois Langston by Bill O'Neal Mission Group

Rev. Stephanie Parker by Emily Lajoye

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE BUILDING FUND

In Memory of

Donald Varner by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

Donald Varner by Joe and Linda Hester

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Honor of

First Baptist Church Choir by Kay, Will and Sam Earp and families

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE HECK JONES FUND

In Memory of

Donald Varner by Carol Gilbert

The Pastor Search Committee asks you to pray that they will have God's wisdom in all the questions and information they share with the prospective pastor.



2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	11	New Members.....	17
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, July 14.....	185	Sunday, July 7.....	225
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, July 14.....	*105	Sunday, July 7.....	98
*Not all classes reported attendance			
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, July 14.....	\$9,978	Sunday, July 7.....	\$17,387
Weekly Needs.....	\$14,860		