



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

August 25, 2024

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It's More Than a Bag Tag

By Rev. Stephanie Parker
Pastor of Children and Families

During the service today (Sunday, August 25), we will bless the backpacks. Some of these bags already have been in the classroom for weeks while others will enter on Monday. Regardless of the timeline for school beginnings, the practice of blessing backpacks is one intended to be ongoing. It is not bound to a school start day or time or grade or space. It is not even limited to just those in formal school settings, for we all are students as we learn and grow every day.

Our bag-carriers are stepping into diverse spaces. As they do, it is the intention of this practice today for them to know they have a church family praying for them. The front of the tag is this year's VBS memory verse: "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." (Psalm 56:3) We pray our bag-carriers remember this truth, whatever the year may bring. The back of the tag is the reminder of the blessing we offer today: "This backpack has been packed with purpose, blessed, and prayed for by a congregation that loves and supports this student."

As we journey into a new ministry and school year, you are invited to walk alongside of our bag-carriers in FBC3M. Our new ministry year kicks off with Sunday School today and Wednesday Nights on September 4. Whether as a participant, parent, or volunteer, please consider registering to join us for the journey as we come to know Christ through loving, serving, learning and growing together. See the QR code to register.



I invite you to take the Backpack Blessings insert found in your worship bulletins and pray it often. Call the names of the students, teachers and administrators you know as you do. In this way, this printed, laminated tag will become more than a tag. It will serve

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as an ongoing blessing and reminder of the children of God who carry these bags and who need our love, support, prayers, grace, investment, care, teaching and presence. What precious gifts to give our students, teachers and administrators!

Aaaaaaaamen

Did you know....

We have many educators in our fellowship. Here are some of those names you can call when you pray the Backpack Blessings throughout the year: Lyndsey Lee, Melissa Long, Ashley Morton, Jenna Parker, Tammy Pearson, Jessi Smith, Tara Senarian and Melony Strickland.



Spiritual leaders learn more about their role as Deacons

This past weekend was most special for the spiritual leaders at First Baptist Church Clayton. On Saturday, the Deacons held their annual retreat at the home of Tim and Lynn Matthews. After a delicious breakfast, active, inactive and to-be-ordained Deacons gathered to learn more about being servant-leaders. Dr. Len Keever presented a program on the history of the establishment of Deacon leadership and the role of Deacons in the modern day church. Keely Tarkington, Minister of Music, gave remarks about the ongoing spiritual growth of the First Baptist congregation and the good things happening within our church family.



On Sunday, Elaine Johnson and Paul Greer were ordained as our newest Deacons in an afternoon ceremony. Incoming Deacon chair, Tim Matthews, presented Elaine and Paul with their Ordination Certificates.



I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream



Thank you to all who came out to celebrate our newest deacons by partaking in the hot dog supper and ice cream social. Special thanks to Ronald Mooneyham, Melissa Long, Jennifer Blackley, Jessica Collins, Sharon Poole, Linda Blackmon, Tim and Lynn Matthews, Sarah Brooks, Doug and Sandra Phillips, Joe Hester and many other volunteers for setting up, cooking and cleaning up.

Members contributed nine homemade ice creams and one Howlin' Cow. All were delicious. We hope to make this an annual event, so be thinking about what flavor you'll be churning out next year – the more the merrier. This year's voting resulted in a tie between Glenda Toler's peach ice cream and Jessica Collins' chocolate peanut butter cup. However, and this is according to Jessica, "everyone knows, Mrs. Glenda's peach will always be the G.O.A.T. (greatest of all time)!"

Back to WLFJ on Sunday, August 25

It's back to school next week and also back to the With Love From Jesus house this coming Sunday, August 25. WLFJ has opened a new annex that accommodates additional space to better serve more people in need in our community. Hope you can help as more volunteers are needed with the expanded setup. It went well last time and God always provides who and what's needed. So listen for His voice. He could be calling you.

Please let Rudy Oliver know by next Thursday, August 22, if you can volunteer so he can give Luke a heads up about the number of volunteers. Call him at 919-271-1178, or send email to reoholston@gmail.com.

The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of West 2nd and South Robertson streets. Volunteers need to be there by 4 p.m. for sign-in and instruction. We will be distributing food, clothing and sharing the Gospel until around 7 p.m. You can also bring any items you would like to donate to the ministry. They are currently in need of nonperishable items.



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Keith Ferrell by Joyce Nixon

Keith Ferrell, Joyce Lipscomb Canady, Donald Varner & Hazel Strickland
by John and Lynn Gibson

Donald Varner by the Billie Hardee Sunday School Class

Ron Earp and Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Randolph and Pat Tart

In Honor of

Lois Weeks' 98th birthday by Joyce Nixon

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

Hazel Strickland, Donald Varner and Keith Ferrell

by David and Nancy Turlington

Keith Ferrell by John and Dolores Bagley

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

Donald Varner and Keith Ferrell by Kenny and Vickie Adams

The Pastor Search Committee asks you to pray for God's guidance and wisdom as we evaluate the candidates and seek His will on who to call as our Senior Pastor.



2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....14 New Members.....20

Worship Attendance

Sunday, August 18.....175 Sunday, August 11.....154

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, August 18.....111* Sunday, August 11 - Not Held

*Not all classes reported attendance

General Fund Giving

Sunday, August 18.....\$7,265 Sunday, August 11.....\$11,405

Weekly Needs.....\$14,860