

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

September 1, 2024

Volume 47 Number 34

Be a part of the joy God is preparing

By Dr. Len Keever
Interim Pastor

The garage door opened. I had my briefcase in one hand along with a lunch tote. In the other I had a travel mug of coffee just the way I like it. As I stepped into the driveway, it happened.

When I took the first breath, I knew Fall was right around the corner. I have a soup recipe I have been waiting for chilly weather to try – now if I can only remember which magazine I saw it in.

Fall is a wonderful season. Chilly evenings make me think of Friday night football games, sitting by a fire pit and wearing my favorite flannel shirts. The air has the scent of leaves drying and floating to the ground. When I watch leaves falling to the ground, I think of being in the first grade when our teacher told us that if we could catch a leaf before it hits the ground, we would not have a cold all winter.

For days I chased and caught dozens of leaves from oak, maple and poplar trees. I don't remember if I caught a cold, but I did have a terrible case of the flu and missed nearly two weeks of school. I guess first grade teachers, for all their love and encouragement, how they taught us to read about Dick and Jane, don't know everything.

Of course, Fall also brings with it the anticipation of wonderful church activities. Things that had been put on hold for the Summer start back up. Wednesday night activities will soon be in full swing and you know what wonderful cooks we have for our fellowship meals. Fall festival is right around the corner.

The choir will begin to work on the Christmas cantata. Several groups in the church are making plans for some exciting mission outreach opportunities. There is so much ahead for us, I don't have space to list them all.

Suffice to say, Fall 2024 should be a very memorable time at First Baptist Church Clayton. I can't wait to see how God answers our prayers and draws us closer to each other.

There is one thing I can mention. One very important part of what Fall means to the church – it is an increased excitement as we move toward the Advent season! With La-

See Be a part, Page 2

Be a part

Continued from page 1

bor Day behind us, and a new semester ahead for our youth and children, attendance will grow and anticipation will soar. It is truly a wonderful time for the church.

New teachers will begin their tenure and favorites will return. The Deacons are anxious to serve and the staff has started planning. Fall and Winter of 2024 will be great seasons of growth and service for FBC Clayton!

So, make plans to join us. Be a part of the joy God is preparing. It's going to be great! I can't wait to see what God will do to make God's name known through our faithfulness.

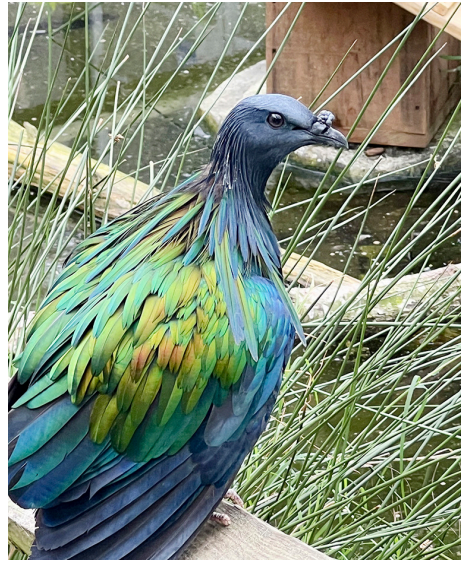
Seniors to visit Sylvan Heights Bird Park

The rescheduled trip to Sylvan Heights Bird Park in Scotland Neck is set for Tuesday, Sept. 10. Join us to stroll through a beautiful park that houses a vast variety of birds from all over the world. The one and one-half mile walk is mostly level and mostly paved. There are numerous benches to rest. The park is wheelchair and rollator accessible. There is a concession about midway.

After touring Sylvan Heights, lunch will follow at K&W Cafeteria in Rocky Mount. If you purchased tickets back in May, please confirm whether or not you're going. Tickets are \$12. Space is limited so if you haven't signed up yet, please call the church office by September 6. The bus leaves the church at 8:30 a.m. and will return by 5 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins Sept. 4 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the SALT Classroom. Zoom is an option. "God Heard Their Cry" is name of the Bible Study. In this eighth volume of the acclaimed "That the World May Know" series, Ray Vander Laan will help us discover how God answers the cry of His persecuted people and proclaims Himself Lord to them and their oppressors. Sign up now in the church office. Discover Guides are available for \$10. Five study sessions will be held: Sept. 4, 11, 18, Oct. 2 and 9. Please note there will not be a study on



One of the thousands of beautiful birds at Sylvan Heights Park.

Sept. 25.

Senior Adult Sunday

Senior Adult Sunday is set for September 15. Senior Adults at First Baptist will lead the worship service. Hope4Us will sing and a special senior adult choir will perform a hymn medley. Dr. Sherrill Stevens will deliver the morning message. Make your plans now to be there for this special Sunday, and better yet, come and join the senior choir!

"...through love serve one another." - Galatians 5:13b (NET)

Wednesday Night Fellowship begins Sept. 11

All First Baptist Clayton churchgoers, guests, families and friends are invited to join us each Wednesday night beginning September 11 for a fellowship meal and activities for all ages.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The monthly business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

This is a new church year and we're kicking it off right. If you and/or your family would like dinner, please call the church office at 919-553-4161 by 4 p.m. on Monday, September 9. You may opt to be placed on Permanent List so you don't have to call every week. If the menu doesn't suit your tastes, you may call to cancel. This is a new year so we need a new list.

Meals are \$8 for adults; \$4 for children age 4-12; and children 3 and under eat free.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Schedule

5:30 - 6:00 pm

Dinner - Fellowship Hall

5:45 pm

Youth Choir – Choir Room (starts 9/18)

6 - 6:30 pm

Youth Free Time – Youth Upper Room

6:15 pm

FBC3M Activities

6:15 pm

Adult Handbells – Handbell Room

6:30 pm

Bible Study/Prayer Time – Basic Sunday School classroom

Business Meeting – Fellowship Hall (2nd Wednesday of each month)

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Youth Devotion/Discussions – Youth Room

7:30 pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Volunteers needed to build Habitat house

The Baptist Men will be participating in an upcoming Habitat for Humanity building campaign in Clayton. Construction starts Saturday, September 14 and the workday for First Baptist Church Clayton will be Saturday, October 5 from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There are 15 volunteers needed as well as volunteers to help prepare meals for 20 people. Ricky Blackmon is the leader for FBCC. Please contact him as soon as possible if you would like to volunteer for this mission project. Call 919-524-5197 or email rickyblackmon56@gmail.com.



Will you donate blood?

The Baptist Men at First Baptist Church would like to host a blood drive this fall, but first we need to see how many are interested in donating before a date is set.

If you would like to give blood and save lives, please visit <https://forms.gle/Mc1anUzix6afi6wH7> and fill out the form before Friday, September 6. Thanks very much. If you have questions, call Tim Matthews at 919-906-2225.

WMU is collecting bottles of lotion for Red Box

WMU (Womens' Missionary Union) Groups at First Baptist are once again collecting for the Red Box Ministry. Red Box is a WMU of North Carolina ministry that provides incarcerated women with a shoe box of toiletries at Christmas. For many, this will be the only Christmas gift they receive.

This year the FBCC ladies are collecting skin lotion in 8-10 ounce plastic bottles (no pumps). A donation drop box is located in the hallway by the church office. The deadline for donations is Monday, October 28. The WMU thanks you in advance for your generosity.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Rawlings McCauley by Candy Pope

Hazel Strickland and Keith Ferrell by Lynne Martin

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

Duba Coats by Joyce Kidd

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

Ron Earp by Debra Harr

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 25.....215 Sunday, August 18.....175

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, August 25.....149* Sunday, August 18.....111*

*Not all classes reported attendance

General Fund Giving

Sunday, August 25.....\$12,378 Sunday, August 18.....\$7,265

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