



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

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Learn to trust God at a deeper level

By Dr. Len Keever
Interim Pastor

Jared had flown back to Austin. Cathy had left for work. The house was quiet. I decided to finish my devotions on the back porch.

The air had that feel of Fall, though the forecast was for temperatures in the upper 90's. As I breathed in, I could smell the faint aroma of cedar coming from the Adirondack chair I made from reclaimed fencing.

I call these things I make from old wood 'Redemption Furniture' because it reminds me of what Jesus does for us. He takes what is old and destined to be discarded and makes it new, what was considered useless and makes it useful in exciting ways. When I make a piece of furniture out of an old pallet or from a broken fence, I am reminded of how Jesus has changed me.

Sitting on the deck when I finished writing in my journal, I saw movement in the yard. A rabbit darted into the shrubs. A squirrel saw me on the deck and reversed its course; it will have to dig in the flowers at another time. However, it was the birds that caught my interest. There were more than usual. I imagined they were returning from their vacations up north, getting nourishment from our birdfeeders and eating bugs in the bushes before they travel further south. I watched them play, dancing in the air in rhythm with God's creation song orchestrating their movement. They seemed so innocent, so unaffected by annoying robo-calls and political commercials.

I wanted to ask them, "Where have you been? What have you seen?" If only they could talk perhaps, they could help me grow in wisdom, help me discern, teach me to see the world from a perspective that does not include monthly bills and wondering when the air conditioning repair man will show up.

The birds of the air and the flowers of the field do not have to worry about things like if there will be enough ice in the freezer when company comes for supper. They don't have to be concerned with things like what I will eat for lunch and if it will clog my arteries. "Why do you worry?" Jesus asked in Matthew 6:28 when he spent time observing the



Bible Academy thanks leader

The Bible Academy Sunday School Class held a luncheon last Sunday to honor their longtime teacher, John Paschal.

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.

Learn to trust God

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birds and enjoying the beauty of wildflowers. Why do we worry so much?

God is in control. God knows all things. So much of our worry is a sign of unfaithfulness. Uncertainty is an opportunity to trust God. The unknown is an opportunity to invest faith. Over the years I have come to appreciate those who face frightening unknowns with the choice to place confidence in Christ over crippling anxiety. Like the birds, they don't know where the next meal will come from. But like the birds, they know God will feed them. They choose to fly and let faith hold them in the air. Think about it, birds do not know the science of flight. They don't know how air keeps them from falling. Yet they soar by trusting. We do not need to know everything about God. We just need to remember God knows everything about us and loves us anyway.

May we learn to trust God at deeper levels. May our faith soar and our knowledge of God's love increase. "Jesus loves me, this I know."

Dr. Sherrill Stevens to deliver message Sept. 15

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!

Bible Study group to learn from Ray Vander Laan

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 Sept. 25.

Church office seeks addresses for college students

Attention college students and their parents. Please call or email Terry McCallum with your new address for the fall and spring semesters.

If you have the same address as last year, please call to confirm. Thanks.

Terry can be reached at 919-553-4161 or tmccallum@fbcclaytonnc.org.

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

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 is held on the second Wednesday 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, Sept. 9 if you plan to eat Sept. 11. 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.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Ramona Cash by Judy Wood

Donald Narron by Joe and Linda Hester

My mother, Joyce Lipscomb Canady, Ron Earp, Frances Reams
and Keith Ferrell by Claudia and Frank Price

In Honor of

Nancy Turlington by Joe and Linda Hester

Jody and Amelia McLeod by Bucky Coats

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

Keith Ferrell by Earl and Hope Johnson

Keith Ferrell by Susan Ferrell

Joyce Lipscomb Canady by Frank and Claudia Price

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE HOMEBOUND FUND

In Honor of

Patrick Moore WMU by Lois Weeks

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE YOUTH FUND

In Honor of

Gwen Canady by Susan Ferrell

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE STATE MISSION FUND

In Honor of

Linda Hester by Lexene Lee

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	14	New Members.....	20
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, September 1.....	123	Sunday, August 25.....	215
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, September 1.....	89	Sunday, August 25.....	149
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, September 1.....	\$24,963	Sunday, August 25.....	\$12,378
Weekly Needs.....	\$14,860		