



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

October 6, 2024

Volume 47 Number 39

Poor but Rich

By Rev. Stephen Nance
Pastor of Senior Adults

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3 ESV)

What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? The Greek word for “poor” describes a state of absolute and abject poverty, poverty that is beaten to its knees. Such a person is absolutely destitute.

The equivalent Hebrew word referred to persons who, humbled and helpless because they have no earthly resources whatsoever, put their whole trust in God. This perfectly describes the “poor widow” in Luke 21:1-4, who gave to the temple treasury “two small copper coins...all she had to live on,” which Jesus said was more than those who had given “out of their abundance.”

This widow demonstrated poverty of spirit because, knowing she had nothing, depended on God for everything, to the point that she could give her last two cents, confident that God would take care of her.

“Poor in spirit” also describes the attitude of the tax collector in Luke 18:10-14. A Pharisee and a tax collector were praying in the temple. While the Pharisee bragged to God about how good he was, especially compared to that tax collector, the tax collector, knowing he was no good, would not even “lift up his eyes to heaven,” but threw himself on the mercy of the Lord, crying out, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” It was this man, Jesus said, rather than the Pharisee, who went home right with God.

The tax collector was “poor in spirit.” Knowing he had nothing he could bring to God, nothing with which he could bargain with God, he brought himself alone, with all his sin and guilt and wickedness, and cast himself on the mercy of God – and God received and welcomed him.

Before we can be filled with the life of God and enjoy the pleasures, benefits, and blessings of his kingdom, we must first become empty. We must come in our humility and brokenness, with nothing in our hand, and say with the tax collector, “God, be mer

Able to Serve Dance is October 11

The Able to Serve Dance will be held Friday, October 11 in the Fellowship Hall from 6 to 8 p.m.

This is a fun filled event for adults with disabilities. Even though this event is sponsored by our WMU, all are invited to participate.

Bring your dancing shoes and join in the fun. Volunteers, both men and women are needed.

If you would like to join us, please email Jackie Tarkington at jackietarkington@gmail.com. A headcount would be greatly appreciated to make sure we have plenty of hot dogs and chicken nuggets.



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

Rev. Dr. Len Keever

919.820.0792

lkeever@fbcclaytonnc.org

Dr. Keever will be in the church office, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and welcomes your calls, requests and visits

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

Pray for the Pastor Search Committee to patiently await God's timing and settle for nothing less than God's perfect will. Ask God for mercy in giving us a great leader.



Poor but Rich

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ciful to me, a sinner!" Only a person who is poor in spirit will ever pray that prayer and mean it.

When we come to God in our poverty of spirit and put our whole trust in him, two things will enter our lives that are actually opposite sides of the same thing. First, we will become completely detached from things, because we will come to know that things cannot bring happiness or security. Second, we will become completely attached to God, because we will know that he alone can bring us help, hope, and strength.

Being poor in spirit means recognizing that our treasure is not found in the things of earth but in the things of God, all the riches of his kingdom, reserved for us in heaven.

So, if we have Christ, we are poor, yet rich—in the only things that really matter!

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.



New Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins Oct. 16

A new Wednesday Morning Bible Study Begins October 16 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the SALT classroom with Zoom option. Rev. Stephen Nance will lead the study.

The study, "The God of How and When," is a six-session DVD study by bestselling authors Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel ("Mysteries of the Messiah").

The series tell the stories of five people in Scripture – Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joshua and Mary, the mother of Jesus – who also wondered how and when God would come through for them.

Each of them had to step out in faith and trust in God's timing. This is about trusting God when you don't know the details. Sign up in the church office. Study Guides are \$10 and will be available soon. Dates: October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20.

Dr. Sherrill Stevens to lead Bible Study on religious history

Dr. Sherrill Stevens will lead a Zoom Bible Study on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning October 14. The text for the study will be Dr. Stevens' book "The ABC's of Religion".

The theme of the study will be the history of the rise and development of religious beliefs and practices.



It will include a brief study of primitive beginnings, the rise and development of the most prominent living world

religions, and a more detailed study of the history of the Hebrew/Israelite/Jewish/Christian stream of religious faith. Books are \$10 and are available in the church office. A Zoom link will be shared with all participants.

STOCK THE BLESSING BOX!

LET'S FEED THE HUNGRY
IN OUR CLAYTON COMMUNITY

**Sunday,
October 6**



**UNEXPIRED & NON
PERISHABLE FOOD ONLY**



- CANNED MEATS
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CANNED FRUITS
- PASTA
- SAUCE
- POP-TOP CANNED MEALS
- INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Ramona Cash, Mary Helen Woodard and Joyce Lipscomb Canady
by Tracy Tant

Charles Mooneyham by Blake and Melissa Long

Buck Lee by Lexene Lee

Mary Helen Woodard, Ramona Cash and Keith Ferrell by Joyce T. Lee

Mary Helen Woodard by Jean Ham

Earl Jones, Charles Mooneyham and David Pilkington

by Joe and Linda Hester

Earl Jones by Sylvia Whaley

Mary Helen Woodard by Cardinal Construction and Remodeling

Mary Helen Woodard by Jack and Judy Coats

Earl Jones by Gerald and Glenda Toler

In Honor of

Mark and Diane White by Jack and Judy Coats

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE CHILDRENS' FUND

In Memory of

Belle Allen's birthday by Jay Vinson

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE YOUTH FUND

In Memory of

Mary Helen Woodard and Ramona Cash by Nancy Blinson

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE HECK JONES FUND

In Honor of

Lexene Lee by Joyce T. Lee

2024 Weekly Reports

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

Worship Attendance

Sunday, September 29.....150 Sunday, September 22.....225

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, September 29.....110 Sunday, September 22.....139

General Fund Giving

Sunday, September 29.....\$7,234 Sunday, September 22.....\$17,097

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