



# The Outlook

## First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

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## Time to develop spiritual discipline

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Interim Pastor

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When I was a child, my mom would sit on the side of the bed each evening and read us a passage from Little Visits With God, a book designed to teach children the value of daily devotions. A synopsis on Amazon reads: “Each devotion clearly articulates the message of salvation through Jesus Christ and offers practical examples of God’s action in our lives today.”

Over the years, I have long forgotten the lessons, but the memory of that special time remains with me. I still look forward to those moments each day set aside for God.

Lying in bed there was something comforting about knowing God was present in the life of my family. There was a warmth present as my mom read to us. It introduced to me and my siblings that God was present, active and always available to us. Thinking of God, as our eyes grew heavy and our breathing slowed, brought peace.

Remembering this, these many years later, I’m finding myself thankful once more for my mom’s introduction to “Holy Habits.” Perhaps those early memories are why my spirit is drawn to contemplative moments, why stillness and silence alert me to God’s peace.

To this day, there remains in me a hunger and thirst for the knowledge of God’s presence in my daily life. On my best days, I am aware I am “visited,” and on my less than best days I am often mindful I have not paid attention as I should. The truth is God is always there, and . . . sometimes I get so caught up being an adult that I forget how to have the faith of a child.

Encouraging others to develop “Holy Habit” is a theme that God has woven into my pastoral work.

I know from personal experience, as well as watching others, how rich that work can be. The life we live is hard. We need what Heri Nouwen calls “a time and space set aside for God and God alone.” We need the spiritual nourishment that surprises us with abundance often when we don’t even know we are hungry.

# PRAYER BREAKFAST

Sunday,  
October 20

Gather together in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday School to eat, fellowship, and pray together for our next Senior Pastor.

Sponsored by the Pastor Search committee



## Join us Sunday, October 27 at With Love From Jesus

*The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."* – Matthew 25:40

On Sunday afternoon, October 27, is First Baptist's once-monthly turn to serve at the With Love From Jesus house in Clayton. If you would like to volunteer, please 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. Just recently, WLFJ had over 80 guests come for food and clothing items. The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of W. 2nd S. Robertson streets.

If you are willing to help, see Rudy Oliver at church or call 919-271-1178, or email him at reholston@gmail.com.



## Spiritual Discipline

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We need preparation for the future and the comfort for the now that developing good spiritual discipline will bring – in time – in God's all-knowing time.

Many give up after a while because they don't sense anything happening. Don't give up! We don't control when the "visit" will occur. We don't dictate the terms or the method. These are all determined by the mysterious will of God. What is ours to decide is to sit still, breath deep, and trust in God with all your heart.

We have the power to push aside distractions, to pick up our Bibles, write in journals, read devotional materials, come to worship and listen for the heartbeat of God. The 'visit' will come. God will make God's presence known. And when that happens, our hearts will be strangely warmed.

*They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"* – Luke 24:32



## Breads of the World

On Sunday, October 6, World Communion Sunday, Rev. Stephanie Parker served the children breads from across the world. Following the childrens' sermon, Dr. Len Keever delivered a most compelling sermon on the significance and importance of Communion.

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.



## Note of thanks

My deepest appreciation to all who reached out to me following my husband John's sudden passing on September 30th. This precious body of Christ at First Baptist surrounded me and my family with such love and compassion. The memories of your kindness and caring will be held deeply in my heart, and I pray God will shower you with His blessings.  
Sincerely, Pat Zullo



*The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness.*

– Lamentations 3:22-23



## Everyone is invited to Trunk-or-Treat

The Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat is set for Wednesday, October 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 in the Fayetteville Street Parking Lot. In lieu of the Fellowship Meal and Wednesday night activities, join us outside for trunk-or-treating, food, games, and fun! Churchgoers of all ages are welcome and we want you to invite your friends and neighbors. We have connected new families to our church through this outreach as it is a great opportunity to invite others to church.

Here's how to help:

- Donate candy - Candy collection bins are located outside the church office.
- Decorate your Trunk - Bring your car/van and your creativity to the parking lot.
- Bring canned goods - The CAM Van will be part of our festivities, collecting items for Clayton Area Ministries.
- Greet and Interact with our families and guests - Fall Festival is a great time to meet some of our FBC3M families and welcome our neighbors. Let's help all feel welcome.

However you are able to participate, we hope you will as we connect with our neighbors and have fun together.

To sign up, please do so through the following link: <https://www.signupge-nius.com/go/805084AA5AC23A2FC1-52086876-trunk#/> or call the church office at 919-553-4161.

# Memorials and Honorariums

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

### In Memory of

John Zullo by Tom and Paula Medlin  
 John Zullo by John and Dolores Bagley  
 John Zullo by Andy and Gloria Pleasant  
 John Zullo by the Faith Sunday School Class  
 Keith Ferrell, Ramona Cash and Mary Helen Woodard by Lynn Martin  
 Mary Helen Woodard, Ramona Cash, Charles Mooneyham and John Zullo  
 by Anne Abene  
 Charles Mooneyham and John Zullo by Bill and Sarah Brooks

### In Honor of

Jack and Judy Coats by Anne Abene  
 Joyce Blackley by the Faith Sunday School Class  
 Joyce Blackley by the Bill O'Neal Mission Group

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE BAPTIST MENS FUND

### In Memory of

John Zullo by Lexene Lee

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

### In Memory of

John Zullo by Bucky Coats

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE CLAYTON AREA MINISTRIES FUND

### In Memory of

John Zullo by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

### In Memory of

Mary Helen Woodard and Charles Mooneyham by Lois Weeks

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

### In Memory of

John Zullo by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

## 2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	14	New Members.....	20
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, October 6.....	204	Sunday, September 29.....	150
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, October 6.....	158	Sunday, September 29.....	110
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, October 6.....	\$17,478	Sunday, September 29.....	\$7,234
Weekly Needs.....	\$14,860		