



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

October 27, 2024

Volume 47 Number 42

As needs increase, so must the budget

By Stewart McLeod
Chairman, Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee is in the process of formulating the 2025 First Baptist Church Clayton budget. We take seriously the role of being responsible stewards of the church's finances. More importantly, we will do our best to develop a budget that meets our capital needs, supports our ministries and aids our church family as we seek to Show God's love, Tell the Good News, Grow spiritually and Serve others.

We are most appreciative of the timely submissions of budget requests from the various committee chairs and ministry leaders. For the past several weeks and continuing forward, the Budget and Finance Committee will look closely at these requests and gauge the needs of the church.

Also, we are comparing actual expenditures and revenues for each line item from the first three quarters of 2024 and the previous year to help us determine the appropriate budget number for 2025.

Thus far in 2024, members of our church have answered the call. Through the end of September, gifts to the General Fund have exceeded the budget by \$10,600. Praise God for the strides our church has made this year. There is still work ahead, but currently our financial state is solid.

Challenges lie ahead, however. There are immediate needs for repairs and upgrades to our physical plant and church campus. A new chiller for the air conditioning system must be installed, the parking lots are in critical need of repair and renovations to the sanctuary to improve safety are past due.

Additionally – based on budget requests – the costs of operations, staff salaries and needs of multiple ministries are increasing. We are also budgeting for a full-time Senior Pastor because, once hired, we must know that we can afford all the associated costs of this position.

Moreover, we are creating a Capital Reserve account that will be funded by the new budget. The Budget and Finance Committee feels this is a necessary step because as our

See As Needs Increase, Page 2

A Special Thank You

The Pastor Search Committee would like to thank everyone who joined us last week for the Prayer Breakfast.

A special thank you to our cook team, our servers, and those that helped spread the word!

Everyone is invited to Trunk-or-Treat

All church members, their families, friends and neighbors are invited to the Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat on Wednesday, October 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 in the Fayetteville Street Parking Lot.

The Fellowship Meal and normal Wednesday night activities will not be held so you join us outside for trunk-or-treating, food, games and fun!

If you would like to volunteer to help, here's how::

- 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.

As Needs Increase

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church building ages, more and more deferred maintenance costs will arise. Fortunately, because of wise budgeting by previous Budget and Finance Committees, and the absence of a full-time Senior Pastor, we have accumulated enough surplus funds to cover the costs of a new chiller for the heat and air conditioning system. This new Capital Reserve account will help insure that any future emergency expenditures will be covered.

When we present the budget to the church on November 3, we ask that you carefully review it and prayerfully consider it. The expense side of the budget will surely be realized. It's the revenue side that is dependent on the church body's commitment to generous tithing.

The Budget and Finance Committee will present a budget we feel is in within reach. If you vote to approve it, our ask to you is that you are prepared to fund it. May God bless you and may God continue to bless First Baptist Church Clayton.

WMU to provide Christmas gifts for Cooper Academy students

The Frances Carroll WMU group has partnered with Cooper Academy again this year to provide Christmas gifts to students in need as a mission focus. This will look the same as the last few years.

Rather than have a “Christmas for Cooper” tree, wish list items from Cooper students are listed on this link:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/5080A4BA4AA2BA-6FA7-52434145-2024> where you can sign up to purchase items for these families.

We will be collecting the gifts in a variety of ways again this year. You can place unwrapped gift(s) in the box outside the church office, ship gifts to Lauren Rasor (745 Maggie Way, Wendell, NC 27591), or we can arrange a pick up of your items no later than Saturday, December 9.

You may also donate money towards a larger item or make a donation towards unpurchased gifts with an online contribution.

We need all gifts no later than Wednesday, December 4, in order to get them to Cooper Academy the following week before students leave on Christmas break.

If you have any questions or need assistance with SignUp Genius, please contact Lauren Rasor at 919-796-6197 or Audrey Harrell at 919-673-0965.



It's likely to be another season of high need for our community, and we appreciate your continued support of this project.

Last year, we heard that it would be helpful to have the list earlier. We are grateful to the counselor at Cooper for helping us get the information. Thank you for helping us Show God's love and Serve Our Community.

Pray for the Pastor Search team to have wisdom from God as to the unique characteristic and traits most needed for our church.



Challengers to assist with changing batteries

It's Fall . . . which is the perfect time to change your smoke detector batteries. On Sunday, November 3, the FBCC Youth Challengers are willing to help anyone who needs assistance with this. Please call, text, or email Melissa Long at melis-salong2038@gmail.com or 919-201-7502 if you need their help. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the next NBC Luncheon on Monday, October 28.



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

John Zullo by Jo Ann Hardee

John Zullo by Ronald Crowder and Debbie Ragland

Mary Helen Woodard and Ramona Cash by Valerie Carpenter

Charles Mooneyham and Ramona Cash by Jay and Kathy Woodard

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

In Honor of

Pastor Search Committee by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE BAPTIST MEN

In Memory of

John Zullo by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

In Honor of

Denny Sutton by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE WMU FUND

In Memory of

Sid Poole Collins by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

In Honor of

Joyce Blackley by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....14	New Members.....22
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Worship Attendance

Sunday, October 20.....150	Sunday, October 13.....154
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Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, October 20 Classes did not meet	Sunday, October 13.....125
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General Fund Giving

Sunday, October 20.....\$14,763	Sunday, October 13.....\$12,163
Weekly Needs.....\$14,860	