



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

November 3, 2024

Volume 47 Number 43

The First Baptist Church WMU (Womens Missionary Union)

*invites everyone of all ages to a
Churchwide Prayer Service on Wednesday, November 6
at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.*

*Join us as we come together to listen for God's word and to pray for various areas
of our church ministries, our community, our country and our future pastor.*

God's heart has a place for you

By Dr. Len Keever
Interim Pastor

It's funny how memories pop up unexpectedly. The other day for some reason I remembered spending the night at my grandparents' house for the first time. Not much about the evening stands out; I spent a lot of nights there. Friday nights were especially fun. Ronnie would take Mimi and me out for supper and afterwards we'd watch tv together. More times than not I'd fall asleep with my head on Ronnie's shoulders waking the next morning in his bed feeling so safe and secure.

What stands out about the first time I stayed there was a little cup hook that Mimi put behind the curtains in the bathroom next to the sink. My toothbrush hung there. It was a sign to me that I belonged. Over the years the toothbrushes changed but the hook remained the same. Its presence saying to all who looked behind the curtain that I had a special place in their house.

Years went by. Ronnie passed away and then Mimi joined him. My mom and my aunts sold their house. A young couple from church bought it. It looked strange driving by the Craftsman style house seeing different cars in the driveway; soon tricycles and beachballs adorned the yard. Feelings of nostalgia began to set in. At night when I couldn't sleep, I wondered what it would be like to have purchased the house myself. I wondered if the family that bought it would ever put it on the market.

Well, none of that happened but something just as good occurred. I became friends with
See God's heart, Page 2

Pray that the present ministry of the church will be strongly focused and consistent. Please grant great power to our interim pastor and to our staff. Protect us from any spirit of lukewarmness or losing our first love. Remind us that we serve Jesus, not a pastor.



Pack a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be available in the vestibules and by the front office on Sunday, November 3. Please consider taking and packing one of the 150 shoeboxes available.

All shoeboxes are due back to the church on Sunday, November 17. We will bless them during the worship service, so plan to bring them to the front of the Sanctuary when you arrive that day.



God's heart

Continued from page 1

the family that lived there. The husband of the couple and I played church softball together. One night they invited a group of us over for dinner. I couldn't wait to see the house again. Unfortunately, it was a bit of a letdown. They decorated differently. The living room that my grandmother kept so pristine was littered with Barbie dolls and toys. The television was in a different place and their furniture was not like my grandmother's. I knew it would be that way; things do tend to change. I was just hoping for some reminder, a little unexpected memory to surprise me, something that would take me back to my childhood and the safety and love I'd experienced years before.

Before we ate, I walked up the hallway, past the bedrooms my mom and aunts had occupied as little girls, to wash my hands. There was nothing familiar. In the bathroom the color of the walls was different and there were many more towels hanging up, some with cartoon characters on them. I washed my hands feeling a little lost. But then the urge hit me, a curiosity took over. I peeked behind the curtains, much less frilly than my grandmother used, and there it was – the hook was still there. Even with all the changes, all the things that were different, there was a reminder that a part of me still belonged. A flood of memories took me back to a place where I once knew a very special love, the love of my grandparents.

The thing is, I continue to experience this in church too. Old hymns remind me of family. Familiar stories call me to remember Sunday school teachers, caring pastors and loving people who treated me like a different kind of family. I hope church evokes these things for you. I hope that one of these days when you may be homesick, missing your family members who have gone on before you, that you will find solace here. You belong. There is always a place for you in God's heart.

Senior Adult Movie Night is Friday, November 8

Senior Adult Movie Night is Friday, November 8 at 5:30 p.m. The main entrée is a sub from Firehouse. Popcorn and drinks are provided. Please bring a side, snack or dessert to share. If you desire a gluten-free sandwich, please let Rev. Stephen Nance know no later than November 4 so he can include it in the order.

The featured movie is “It Happened One Night” produced by Columbia in 1934. In this screwball comedy classic that won five Academy Awards, an heiress (Claudette Colbert) fleeing her millionaire father meets an out-of-work newsman (Clark Gable) on a bus to New York. When the bus breaks down, the bickering couple set off on a madcap hitchhiking expedition. And of course, along the way they fall in love.

Please notify the church office no later than November 6 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.

Mark your calendars for the NBC (New Beginners Club) luncheon on Monday, November 25 at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon will be catered. The cost is \$8.

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!... Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and
his courts with praise! – Psalm 100:1-2, 4*

In November, give to the Baptist Children’s Homes

Offering envelopes for the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina will



be in the vestibules for the month of November. Your support will help Baptist Children’s Homes share hope and change lives by providing high quality Christian services to children, adults and families.

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina was founded in 1885 and has grown to

30 locations serving North Carolina, South Carolina and Guatemala. Over

the years the non-profit has added a variety of services to offer help and hope to children, families, single mothers, college students, intellectually and developmentally disabled adults, and aging adults.

You may also give by visiting bchfamily.org.

Sponsor a luminary to support the CDC

Each year during the Christmas season, luminaries are placed around the building to light up the church for Christmas. The luminaries represent the support First Baptist Church Clayton gives to the Child Development Center.

This year we are requesting your continued support by sponsoring a luminary for \$5. You may sponsor luminaries “In Honor of” or “In Memory of” someone special.

Donations may be made on-line by going to the church website and clicking on Give Online. In the memo line, please let us know if it is “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” and who the person is. If you do not put anything in the memo line, we will list your sponsored Luminary as “To the Glory of Our Lord and Savior”. You may also give by check. Please include the above information in the memo line or on a separate sheet of paper.

Deadline for luminary purchases is Friday, December 6. Our Child Development Center team appreciates all the support First Baptist Church of Clayton gives to us

– Blessings and Peace, Tara M. Senarian
FBCC Child Development Center Director

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Denny Sutton and James Edward Pearce by Debbie Ragland

John Zullo by Jo Earp

Denny Sutton by the Bill O'Neal Mission Group

Denny Sutton by Jiles and Kim Harrell

In Honor of

Shirley Ussey's 90th birthday by Shirley Shires

Jo Howard and Lois Langston by the Faith Sunday School Class

Jo Howard by the Bill O'Neal Mission Group

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE BUILDING FUND

In Memory of

Denny Sutton by Joe and Linda Hester

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE BAPTIST MEN

In Memory of

Denny Sutton by the Hope Sunday School Class

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

Sid Collins by Debbie Ragland

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE CHILDRENS FUND

In Honor of

Noelle Franklin and Family by Paula Medlin

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

James Edward Pearce by Gerald and Glenda Toler

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS FUND

In Memory of

Denny Sutton by Judy Wood

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE LOTTIE MOON FUND

In Memory of

James Edward Pearce by Judy Wood

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE BAPTIST ON MISSION FUND DISASTER RELIEF

In Memory of

Denny Sutton by Bill and Lou Woodard

Denny Sutton by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

2024 Weekly Reports

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

Worship Attendance

Sunday, October 27.....165 Sunday, October 20.....150

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, October 27.....120 Sunday, October 20 Classes did not meet

General Fund Giving

Sunday, October 27.....\$27,430 Sunday, October 20.....\$14,763

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