



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

November 10, 2024

Volume 47 Number 44

See others as Jesus sees us

By Dr. Len Keever
Interim Pastor

A passage of Scripture came to me this morning. I was thinking about our nation and praying for unity. I am deeply concerned about the divisions among us. My prayer is that we would see each other as Jesus sees us. I was praying that as Christians we might recognize the Image of God in one another, not focusing on what makes us different, but how in Christ we become one and in doing so be a part of God's healing touch.

I think back to 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." There is much to unpack in this verse. It is a prayer of humility. It is not a prayer to gain power over others, but to seek God to have authority over all. It is a prayer of trust.

Only God can heal deep heart hurts that separate one from another. It is a prayer of confession and repentance. None of us are completely innocent. For God's best work to be done in us, we must be willing to let God do God's work in us. When we pray this prayer, we pray God will take the log out of our eye so we can help our neighbor with the speck in theirs (see Matthew 7).

The early church faced a myriad of distracting divisions that threatened to undermine their unity. Paul wrote these words to the Christians in Corinth urging them to set aside the categories into which they sorted one another. He wanted them to let go of the hierarchies and divisions that were so apparent in their culture.

Paul wanted them to see each other as spiritual beings saved by grace through faith. He wanted them to accept each other from heaven's perspective as if they were already there.

In 2 Corinthians 5:16-20 he wrote, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses

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Welcome to our church family

On Sunday, Nov. 3, four came forward to unite through membership with FBCC.

Top photo from left, Steve Sowah and Eunice Papanko come on transfer of letter from Lenox Road Baptist Church in New York. Grace Papanko comes on a statement of faith from her home church in Ghana, West Africa.



Additionally, (bottom photo) Harper Riddick, far right, made a profession of faith to follow with baptism on November 24. She is joined in the photo by her parents, Matt and Mary, and younger sister, Blair. We welcome Harper, Steve, Eunice, and Grace to FBCC and look forward to coming alongside of them as we continue to show, tell, grow, and serve together.

To our Church Family,

Thank you everyone for the prayers, kind words, cards and encouragement after the death of my father, James Edward Pearce. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving church family.

Love, Chris and Diane Pearce



See others as Jesus sees us

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against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ – be reconciled to God.”

As followers of Jesus, we are agents of reconciliation and from the looks of things, we have a lot of work to do. May God do God’s work through us.

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

James Edward Pearce by Jack and Judy Coats

Mary Helen Woodard by Wayne and Teresa Pourron

Ramona Cash and Mary Helen Woodard by Carol Gilbert

Denny Sutton by Lynne Martin

John Zullo, Denny Sutton and James Edward Pearce by Tom and Ida Mayes

Denny Sutton and James Edward Pearce by Andy and Gloria Pleasant

James Edward Pearce by Joe and Linda Hester

In Honor of

Ken and Diane Dillo's 60th Anniversary by Gerald and Glenda Toler

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE CHOIR FUND

By the Estate of Mary Helen Vinson Woodard

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

John Zullo and James Edward Pearce by David and Nancy Turlington

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE ORGAN FUND

In Memory of

Denny Sutton and James Edward Pearce by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

Denny Sutton by Gerald and Glenda Toler

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST MEN DISASTER RELIEF FUND

In Memory of

James Edward Pearce by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE PIECEMAKERS FUND

In Honor of

Shirley Ussery's 90th Birthday by Lois Weeks

Pray God will stir the candidates' hearts to be led to First Baptist Church Clayton and guide the pastor search team as to how the resumes need to be reviewed and interviews conducted. Ask God to give the team insight in identifying **His** candidate for our church and help them to look past what they want and to see what God wants.



Pack a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are available in the vestibules and by the front office. Please consider taking and packing one of the remaining 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.



JOIN US FOR A CHURCH-WIDE

THANKS GIVING *Dinner*

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE.

NOVEMBER 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm

The church will provide turkey, ham, dressing, gravy, rolls and beverages.

Attendees are asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert (you may bring your item any time after 3:30pm)

Please RSVP to Terry in the church office no later than November 15th

Serve the Need to feed the community on Thanksgiving

A free Thanksgiving Community Meal provided by Serve the Need will be served on Wednesday, November 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the main hall of Clayton Civitan Club and from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church Clayton. Volunteers are needed to help serve at First Baptist. If you're willing to help, please call the office at 919-553-4161 to let Terry know. Volunteers are asked to be at the Church by 4:30 pm. Thank you in advance for sharing your time and love to others.



Volunteers sought for Live Nativity on Dec. 5

First Baptist Church Clayton is excited to once again provide a Live Nativity for the Downtown Clayton Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 5 from 5-7:30 p.m. The Live Nativity will set up across from the Yellow House on Main Street.

There are multiple opportunities for families to volunteer with their children, as well as for individuals and couples to portray characters. We also need volunteers to help with costumes, set-up, hot chocolate, clean-up and discipleship. If you are interested in being a part of this celebration, please contact Terry McCallum in the church office at 919-553-4161 or Gwen Canady at 919-818-1285.



WMU to provide Christmas for Cooper 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. Wish list items from Cooper students are listed on this link: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/5080A4BA4AA2BA-6FA7-52434145-2024>. 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 Raser (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.

The deadline to give is Wednesday, December 4. If you have any questions or need assistance with SignUp Genius, please contact Lauren Raser 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.



FBCC Youth renew faith, friendships

First Baptist Church Clayton Youth attended a fall retreat at Fort Caswell October 25-27. The weekend was sponsored by CBFNC and this year’s theme was HOLD ON. Using Hebrews 10:19-25 as the guiding scripture for the weekend, the youth learned to HOLD ON to God, themselves and others, and the body of Christ in this world. We had 32 youth, seven chaperones, two full buses and two luggage cars as we headed to Fort Caswell for a week-end of celebrations, explorations, creativity, fellowship, worship, songs and a renewed faith in God, friendships, and ourselves. The FBCC youth would like to thank everyone that prayed for this weekend and all that God did in us and through us during our time away. May we continue to spread our light on to others.

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....14	New Members.....26
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, November 3.....215	Sunday, October 27.....165
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, November 3.....127	Sunday, October 27.....155
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, November 3.....\$17,604	Sunday, October 27.....\$27,430
Weekly Needs.....\$14,860	