



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

December 1, 2024

Volume 47 Number 47

Advent: Week 1 by Dr. Len Keever

The Lesson of the Advent Wreath

Advent is a season of preparing, waiting and watching for the fulfilment of God's promises to us. It is a time not only to reflect on the past, but to anticipate that Jesus is coming again and all creation will be made new.

The Advent Wreath is a powerful symbol of Jesus' approaching presence. Each candle has its own meaning, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The new day of his arrival grows closer each week until we finally light the Christ Candle in celebration of his birth; the revelation of Immanuel, God-with-us.

As we light a new candle each week, may it remind us of Christ's coming. And may it symbolize the importance of our own preparedness as we look for signs of Jesus' arrival among us.



Poinsettias

There are many colorful legends about how Poinsettias and Christmas became linked. According to one legend, long ago in Mexico on Christmas Eve, people flocked to church with bundles of flowers to fill the Christ child's manger. One of them – a little boy named José – was very upset because he was too poor to buy any flowers.

The story has it that an angel appeared to him and told him to pick some weeds from a nearby field. José did as the angel



instructed, but when he placed the weeds in the manger, they were transformed into beautiful scarlet flowers, which Mexicans to this day, call the Flower of Christmas Eve.

The Poinsettia has become a symbol of Christmas. The shape of the flower and leaves are sometimes thought to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Wise Men to Jesus, while the red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ and the white leaves represent his purity.

Senarian family, Harper Riddick baptized at First Baptist Church



On Sunday, November 24, we celebrated the baptisms of Charlie Senarian, Kseniya Senarian, Tara Senarian (left photo), and Harper Riddick. Rev. Stephanie Parker officiated the baptismal services. We pray for their faith journeys as we come alongside them in this faith community.



Pray that God would give our next pastor a love for our church and enable them to leave their present position. Pray that God would make His will known to the next pastor.

Note of Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, calls and many acts of kindness during my surgery and recovery.

You have all shown the love of Christ in many ways.



– Cathy Paschal

Deadline for Christmas for Cooper gifts is Dec. 4

The Frances Carroll WMU group has partnered with Cooper Academy to provide Christmas gifts to students in need as a mission focus.

Click on the link below for a Wish List of items from Cooper students: <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, or dropship gifts to Lauren Rasor, 745 Maggie Way, Wendell, NC 27591. The WMU can also arrange a pick up of your items no later than Saturday, December 9.

You may also donate money towards larger items or unpurchased gifts.

The deadline to give is Wednesday, December 4. If you have any questions or need assistance please call Lauren 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.

Thank you for helping us Show God's love and Serve Our Community.

Volunteers still needed for 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 need volunteers to help with costumes, set-up, clean-up and discipleship. If you are interested in being a part of this celebration, please see Gwen Canady after Sunday worship or call her at 919-818-1285.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. – Luke 2:6-7



Luminary deadline is Friday, Dec. 6

The deadline for sponsoring a Luminary to support the First Baptist Church Clayton Child Development Center is Friday, December 6. Luminaries are \$5 each. Donations may be made by visiting www.fbccclaytonnc.org. Click on "Give Online."

In the memo line, indicate if you're giving in memory or in honor of someone. If you need additional space, contact Terry McCallum at tmccallum@fbccclaytonnc.org or call 919-553-4161.

You may also give by check, but please include the requested information in the memo line. The Child Development Center appreciates your continued support.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND

In Memory of

Kevin McKenzie and James Pearce by Jay and Kathy Woodard
Vernon Norris (Debbie Ragland's Step-Father)
by the Faith Sunday School Class
Kevin McKenzie by Lynne Martin
Kevin McKenzie and Don Eason by Andy and Gloria Pleasant
James Pearce by Candy Pope

In Honor of

Stephen and Linda Nance by Tom and Paula Medlin

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

In Honor of

Ann Abene by Tim and Lynn Matthews

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of

Kevin McKenzie and John Zullo by Jean Bryant
Kevin McKenzie by David and Nancy Turlington

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FUND

In Honor of

Lindsay Harrell and Kim Harrell by John and Cathy Paschal

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	18	New Members.....	26
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, November 24.....	240	Sunday, November 17.....	220
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, November 24.....	154	Sunday, November 17.....	147
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, November 24.....	\$11,149	Sunday, November 17.....	\$12,477
Weekly Needs.....	\$14,860		