



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

December 22, 2024

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



May God's gift bring you all you need

By Dr. Len Keever
Interim Pastor

The final words of the devotion spoke to me, "We can trust a journey whose future we cannot see." What a wonderful statement! The author had just recalled the length and breadth God has gone to in sending Jesus to live among us.

He has spoken of how Jesus knows our human experience and clearly understands all the trauma and indecision we face.

The God who went to such great lengths to orchestrate down to the tiniest detail the announcement of Jesus' birth, the choice of his parents, the place where he would be kept safe as a refugee in Egypt until Herod's death, even the forerunner John and his work in preparing the way, this God has planned our coming to faith too.

This God knows us so intimately that the hairs of our heads are numbered, each breath we take is known, and every step we take is watched carefully by God's Spirit.

God has planned every detail of our coming to faith. We can trust that this journey of life with twists and turns, surprises and detours is in God's hands. We do not know what our future holds, but God knows every aspect.

We do not know what each day will bring, but God has already been there. Our work, if you will, is to trust the one who in the fullness of time sent God's son to be born as one of

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The Outlook will not be published December 29 and January 5



O'Neal-Talton Sunday School Class Christmas luncheon

Members of the O'Neal-Talton Sunday School Class held a luncheon Thursday, December 12 to honor the widows, widowers and single seniors of First Baptist. The group enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the staff at Rainbow Lanes in Clayton. Rev. Stephen Nance performed several Christmas songs and led in the singing of several favorite hymns.



FBC Clayton Youth present...

Senior Adult Banquet 2025

✦ January 26, 2025 @ 5:30pm

✦ Doors will open at 5pm

✦ Tickets are \$12

✦ Baked Ziti, salad and dessert will be served

✦ RSVP to Terry by 1/19 to reserve your seat



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us to walk where we will go, know what we endure and love us with an everlasting love.

Trusting God means to trust the journey laid out before us believing that it will lead us closer to Christ. It is having faith that we belong to God.

It is knowing through faith that as redeemed children of God, we are the beloved possession of our Heavenly Father who adores us with an endless love.

This is what makes Christmas a time of peace, hope, joy and love for all. May God's gift of the Christ child bring you all you need. May you have a wonderful New Year with Jesus leading your way.



Nathan Strickland, Lakely Rasor, Austin Harrell and Caroline McLeod enjoyed decorating Christmas stockings during Sunday School this past Sunday. They presented them to members of the SALT Class at the conclusion of the hour.



Join us for a Joint Sunday School



Celebrate Christmas COVERED DISH BRUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

After the 9:30am worship service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a Christmas brunch together! Please bring a dish to share- you may bring it before or after the service.





Christmas is all about Christ

Child Development Center Director Tara Senarian delivered the Children's Sermon this past Sunday. She captivated the youngsters by focusing her discussion on the monumental importance of Jesus' birth.

Memorials and Honorariums

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE
General Fund in Memory of**

James Edward Pearce by Paul and Bronna Greer
James Edward Pearce by Earl and Hope Johnson
Mary Helen Woodard by Patricia Forbes Poe

**General Fund in Honor of
Anne Abene by Candy Pope**

Building Fund in Memory of

Kevin McKenzie by Emory and Jo Howard

Music Fund in Honor of

First Baptist Church Choir by Curtis Moore

Senior Adult Fund in Memory of

Joyce Canady by Patricia Forbes Poe

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in Honor of

Lou Woodard and Diane Johnson by the Bill O'Neal Mission Group

2024 Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....18 New Members.....28

Worship Attendance

Sunday, December 15.....176 Sunday, December 8.....203

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, December 15.....104* Sunday, December 8.....150

*Not all classes reported attendance

General Fund Giving

Sunday, December 15.....\$23,322 Sunday, December 8.....\$12,584

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