

# The Outlook

## First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

January 12, 2025

Volume 48 Number 1

# Let us serve others joyfully

By Rev. Stephen Nance  
Senior Adult Pastor



I was captivated some years ago by a photograph in *Life Magazine*, (I think) of an African man lying in a bed, emaciated and near death from AIDS. At the foot of the bed, a Caucasian woman who, although not wearing a habit, was identified in the photos caption as a Catholic nun, sat tenderly massaging the dying man's bare feet. My immediate thought was, "What a beautiful picture of Christian love and service."

Humble and compassionate service toward others has always been a hallmark of true Christian faith and life. I believe it is significant that three of the four verbs in our mission statement – Show, Tell and Serve – are all outward-focused and action-oriented. The one exception – Grow – while primarily inner-directed toward our spiritual formation and upward-focused to connect us with the heart and mind of our Father, is essential to the proper and effective outworking of the other three.

In fact, all four are indispensable because none are complete without all the others.

There is no menial service in the kingdom of God, for Jesus said, "...whatever you [do] for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you [do] for me" (Matt. 25:40b CSB). Neither are there any menial servants in God's kingdom, for Jesus also said "... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matt. 20:26b), and "... whoever humbles himself like [a] child—this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:4).

Peter captures the heart of Christian service beautifully: "Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God...if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything" (1 Pet. 4:10, 11b CSB).

We are privileged to serve others humbly, just as our Lord did.

Let us do so joyfully and with grateful hearts.

# Join us Sunday, January 26 at With Love From Jesus

*The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40*

On Sunday afternoon, January 26, members of First Baptist will have their once-monthly turn to serve at the With Love From Jesus house in Clayton. If you would like to volunteer, please be there by 4 p.m. for sign-in and instruction. We will be distributing food, clothing and sharing the Gospel until around 7 p.m. You can also bring any items you would



like to donate to the ministry. Their most urgent needs are winter coats, gloves, socks, hats and blankets.

The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of W. 2nd S. Robertson streets.

If you are willing to help, see Rudy Oliver at church or call 919-271-1178, or email him at reholston@gmail.com.



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



# *Memorials and Honorariums*

## **WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE**

### **General Fund in Memory of**

Sarah Jovilette by the Hope Sunday School Class

Sarah Jovilette by Bill and Lou Woodard

Sarah Jovilette by the Faith Sunday School Class

Ramona Cash by Randolph and Patricia Tart

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beddingfield,

Mr. and Mrs. James Cash and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ross by Joyce T. Lee

Sarah Jovilette by Ayden and Betty Lee

Sarah Jovilette by Joe and Linda Hester

### **General Fund in Honor of**

Steve and Gwen Canady by Donald and Brookie Lambert

Rev. Stephanie Parker by Phillip and Nancy Parker

Dr. Len Keever and Kathy Keever by Ricky and Elizabeth Waddell

Lois Weeks by the Faith Sunday School Class

James Faggart and Keith Blackley by the Basic Sunday School Class

Volunteer Youth Leaders by Ricky and Elizabeth Waddell

### **World Hunger Fund in Memory of**

Mary Helen Vinson Woodard by Michelle L. Judge

### **Youth Ministry Fund in Memory of**

Sarah Jovilette by Curtis Moore

### **Youth Ministry Fund in Honor of**

Aubrey Payton and Reynolds Pope by Pat Daniels

Vickie Andrews and Youth Leaders by Nancy Blinson

### **Organ Fund in Memory of**

Sarah Jovilette by Emory and Jo Howard

### **Organ Fund in Honor of**

Ida Mayes, Jim Elmore, Julia Gilbert and Gerald Toler by Joyce T. Lee

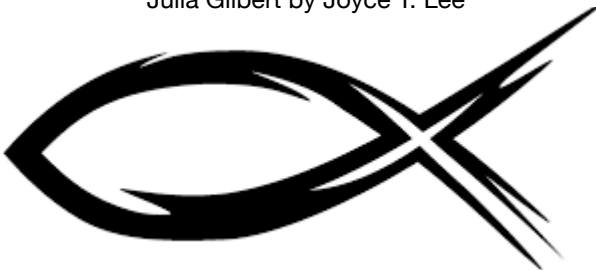
### **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in Memory of**

Mavorine McLeod by Lexene Lee

Sarah Jovilette by Bill O'Neal Mission Group

### **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in Honor of**

Julia Gilbert by Joyce T. Lee





On Sunday, December 22, Swade Hardee (son of Randell and Elisa Hardee) made a public profession of faith to follow in baptism. We look forward to coming alongside of Swade as he continues in his faith journey here at First Baptist.

## Fire on the Mountain Bible study series continues

Rev. Stephen Nance is leading a Bible study, “Fire on the Mountain: Displaying God to a Broken World” on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11 a.m. each Wednesday in the SALT classroom and on Zoom.

The study will continue through February 12. It began January 8, but it’s not too late to join. “When the Israelites left Egypt, they were finally free, free from persecution, free from oppression, and free to worship their own God. But with that freedom comes a new challenge – learning how to live together the way God intends.

In this ninth volume of That the World May Know series, discover how God teaches the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loves Him and the lessons we can learn to live out in our lives today.

Sign up in the church office. Student Discovery Guides are \$10.



### **Found**

Black fur scarf found in sanctuary. One green glove found in parking lot. They are in the church office

## Weekly Reports

### Worship Attendance

Sunday, January 5.....197	Sunday, December 29.....144
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### Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, January 5.....146	Sunday, December 29.....73*
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\*Not all classes reported attendance

### General Fund Giving

Sunday, January 5.....\$27,170	Sunday, December 29.....\$6,053
Weekly Needs.....\$16,659	