



# The Outlook

## First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

February 16, 2025

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## What does membership mean? Part 3

By Dr. Len Keever  
Senior Pastor

When I use the word “Discipline,” think more of those good habits we develop that help us to be healthy, to be better people. Brushing your teeth regularly is a discipline. Eating the right food takes discipline.

Regular exercise, the right amount of sleep, there are many disciplines we do every day. Likewise, to grow as a Christian, to deepen your relationship with God requires developing good spiritual habits.



Some spiritual disciplines are obvious, like having a regular time each day for prayer and Bible Study. Others may not be as evident, like good stewardship and making good choices in where we place our priorities. One of the disciplines we often overlook is the importance of membership. When someone joins a church, they are committed to making worship a habit, service to others a habit, sharing their life of faith with others a habit. They are no longer guests but become one with other members, contributing to the identity of the people who support one

another in the journey to be better disciples of Jesus.

As spiritual discipline, members commit to being a part of the whole. Their commitment to one another is a promise of love and support. In marriage we pledge to love one another for better or worse, in sickness and health, in adversity and prosperity. When we become a member of the church we make a similar promise to one another.

The book of Acts speaks of the unity those in the early church shared. It did not mean that they gave up their identity. It meant that they took on a greater identity where unity was established by their love for Jesus and their desire to love one another as he loved them.

In the early church when one “joined,” they became a part of the family. As a member of the family, they shared their lives with each other. They sought to know more about Christ.

They took care of one another, being patient and nurturing. They did not have membership as we define it today. They did not have databases and constitutions, denominations, or statements of faith. What they had was each other and a mutual commitment to love one

See Church membership, page 2



## RA's to race Derby cars on Friday, February 21

The 2025 RA Derby will be on Friday, February 21 in the Fellowship Hall. Our 1st-5th grade boys in RAs have been working hard on their derby cars for the past few weeks.

On race day, they will engage in friendly competition to see whose car is the fastest.

Everyone is invited to come and cheer on the racers and see the creativity behind each car. Racing will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Pictured at left is Brayden Wilkins putting the finishing touches on his Derby car.



The Acteens and Challengers raised around \$3,000 for Clayton Area Ministries (CAM) at the Souper Bowl Lunch last Sunday. The youth performed an entertaining skit during the morning worship before Dale Matthews, director of CAM, delivered the message. Matthews was the guest speaker for WMU Sunday.

## Church membership

Continued from page 1

another and nurture one another's faith.

At its most basic understanding, that is what membership should be to us. We become members because we want to share our gifts with each other and grow as Christians.

Next week we will look at Spiritual Gifts and how joining a church provides a place to develop and share what the Holy Spirit places in us.



Left, the Missions Friends, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors sang “Down in My Heart” during the WMU Worship service this past Sunday. Below, the Women’s Choir inspired all with a beautiful rendition of “I Sing the Mighty Power of God.”



## Join us Sunday, February 23 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, February 23, First Baptist Clayton will take it’s 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. They are currently in need of nonperishable items. WLFJ often has over 80 guests come for food and clothing items. 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.



# Memorials and Honorariums

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

### General Fund in Memory of

Katie Price by John and Lynn Gibson  
 Katie Price and Sarah Jolivette by Ricky and Elizabeth Waddell  
 Katie Price by Earl and Hope Johnson  
 Katie Price by Andy and Gloria Pleasant  
 Katie Price by Ayden and Betty Lee

### Children's Ministry Fund in Honor of

Blondell Johnson's 90th Birthday by Robert and Bet Barber  
 Blondell Johnson's 90th Birthday by Jane Barnes  
 Blondell Johnson's 90th Birthday by Steve and Gwen Canady  
 Blondell Johnson's 90th Birthday by Bill and Lou Woodard  
 Noelle Franklin by Ricky and Elizabeth Waddell

### Heck Jones Fund in Honor of

Doris Grissom and Lois Weeks by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

### Organ Fund in Memory of

Ron Earp by Jimmy and Lillian Lawrence  
 Ella Jean Flowers by Pat Zullo  
 Katie Price by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson  
**Organ Fund in Honor of**  
 Blondell Johnson's 90th Birthday by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson

### Clayton Area Ministries in Honor of

Lexene Lee and Mary Baker's Birthday by Joe and Linda Hester



## Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....0	New Members.....4
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	
Sunday, February 9.....180	Sunday, February 2.....160
<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
Sunday, February 9.....161	Sunday, February 2.....128
<b>General Fund Giving</b>	
Sunday, February 9.....\$10,866	Sunday, February 2.....\$18,023
Weekly Needs.....\$16,659	