

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

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March 30, 2025

Volume 48 Number 12

Meditation on the Lord's Prayer #3

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

"Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

God's name is holy! It is the name above all names. When Moses asked God for God's name, he replied "I am that I am." God was alerting him to God's sovereignty.

In Philippians 2:9 Paul writes that Jesus' name is the name above all names. When we hallow God's name, we acknowledge God's holiness and recognize our submission to God. There is nothing above the name of God. No one is superior to God. As believers, our desire is that God's holiness will one day be as evident in this life as it is in eternal life.

When I've prayed these words my first thoughts are about the redemption of the entire world. And certainly, it is about all of creation being transformed. In this we imagine everything coming under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful world it would be if sin no longer had dominion, if all hatred ceased, all poverty was eliminated, no more illness, pain, separation and oppression. When we pray this prayer, we pray that the kingdom of God would have greater influence in the world.

Recently I read an article that awakened me to a more intimate understanding of the Lord's Prayer. The author challenged me to think about this in a more personal way; not just about all the world but how it applies to my life.

He talked about how before the world can be brought under submission to God's will, each believer needs to allow God's will to be done in their life on earth as it will be done one day in heaven. He asked the question: "How is God's name hallowed in you?"

This helped me to see another layer to the Lord's Prayer. While it is true that we are praying for all of creation, longing for God's kingdom to be fully established and sin to be eliminated, it is also about praying that each of us submit to God in this life on earth as we will one day do in heaven.

It leads each of us to ask: Am I living my life in the present as I will live when I am in

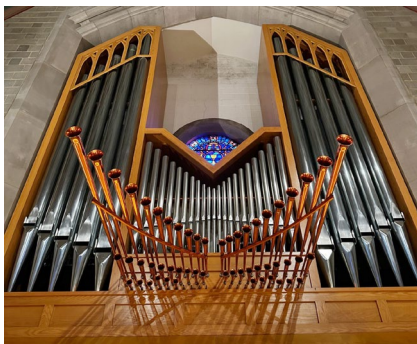


Minister of Music asks for prayerful consideration

Please prayerfully consider accepting the donation of a 40-rank Schantz Pipe Organ by Seventh Street Christian Church in Richmond, Va.

This is a multi-million-dollar gift. However, we must pay for the removal, crating, and storage for up to 18 months; refurbishment of the organ to make it “like new;” and the installation.

First Baptist currently has \$528,012.72 in the designated Organ Fund. We need an ad-



ditional \$421,612.28 plus sanctuary renovation costs.

Please pray that we can work out the details to be able to move forward with this opportunity.

If you have any questions or comments, contact me at ktarkington@fbcclaytonnc.org or 919-553-4161 ext. 1028.

Blessings,
Rev. Keeley Tarkington
Minister of Music

The Lord's Prayer

Continued from page 1

heaven? Thinking this way, the Lord's Prayer becomes both personal and corporate.

Perhaps an analogy will help. On our flight to Yuma to be with our grandchildren, the flight attendants performed their routines of how if the cabin pressure drops, an oxygen mask will appear and how a person should put their mask on before trying to help someone else with theirs.

I was first reminded of Jesus telling his disciples to take the log out of their own eye before the attempt to take saw dust out of someone else's eye (Matthew 7:3-5). And then I thought of the dual nature of the Lord's Prayer. If we want God's name hallowed on earth as it is in heaven, we must let God's will first be done in us. Our lives must hallow God's name if we want God's name hallowed in others.

Reminder

Recently, several of the doors to the outside of the church have been left unlocked for an extended period. If you have been entrusted with a key and unlock a door, please make sure it is locked when you leave the church building.

Save the Date. There will be a barbecue fundraiser lunch in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit Noelle Franklin and her family. Donations are welcome – cash or check or use the QR code to the right.

The meal, prepared by the Baptist Men, will consist of BBQ pork, boiled potatoes, green beans, roll and dessert. Eat in or take out. Drive through the parking lot at the corner of East Hinton and North Church streets to pick up your plates to go.



Note of Thanks

Dear First Baptist Church,

My family and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity over the past few weeks following the passing of my wife, Gwen. I am grateful to the church for every prayer, word, flowers and cards given to me.

Your kindness and reflection of God's love are very appreciated in this time of grief. God bless you all!

– Ernie Starling of the CDC



GA Tea reminds girls to live like they are loved

On Saturday, March 22, our 1st-5th grade girls had a lovely GA Tea with an important reminder centered on this year's theme. Thank you, GA leaders, for loving and leading our girls. Thank you Rev. Keeley Tarkington for reminding us that we can choose to be on mission every day as we go. May we all live like we are loved so much!



Pray for our mission team

Please pray for the First Baptist mission team which will be traveling to Swannanoa this coming week to help Hurricane Helene victims.

Pray for their safety, their commitment to serve and that God's light will shine through them. Please pray also for the people of Swannanoa and the region who lost so much from the devastating floods.

Team members are Richie and Elaine Johnson, Pat Zullo, Phil Sorrentino, Steve Hall, Ricky Blackmon, John Brooks Rasor, Jiles Harrell, Robert Little and Bill Moor.



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

James Pollard by Bucky Coats

James Pollard by Bill and Sarah Brooks

Organ Fund in Memory of

Geoffrey Oliver by Gerald and Glenda Toler

Clayton Area Ministries in Memory of

James Pollard by Joe and Linda Hester

Noelle Franklin in Honor of

Rev. Stephanie Parker by Stewart and Tammy McLeod

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....3 New Members.....9

Worship Attendance

Sunday, March 23.....210 Sunday, March 16.....161

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, March 23.....138 Sunday, March 16.....127

General Fund Giving

Sunday, March 23.....\$12,359 Sunday, March 16.....\$10,019

Weekly Needs.....\$16,659