



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

April 6, 2025

Volume 48 Number 13

Meditation on the Lord's Prayer #4

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

The first hint that “Give us this day our daily bread” is more than about garlic knots and cinnamon toast is where it falls in the Lord’s Prayer. If we move past it too quickly, we may miss the deeper meaning of this sentence. Certainly, Jesus is speaking in the literal sense of daily bread, but there is more here than meets the eye.



To go deeper we must peel the onion to discover the richness of this petition. In Jesus’ day daily bread was critical for survival. Food insecurity isn’t something that is unique to our time and culture. Just as the Children of Israel depended on God to provide Manna in the desert, so those in the 1st century looked to God for daily sustenance.

Several passages come to mind that highlight this. First, Jesus spoke of depending on God when he taught his disciples not to worry about food or drink in Matthew 6:25 and following. Then there is the daily distribution of food mentioned in Acts 6.

Rest assured; Jesus’ prayer includes the

literal need for daily bread. He wanted those who prayed to recognize that God is the one who feeds them. And.... there is more.

When the woman at the well asked Jesus for living water (John 7) she was thinking H₂O, but he was thinking something much more spiritual. Jesus offered her something that would revive her heart and provide her something much more critical.

He was concerned about her salvation. She was thirsty for water. He was offering something that would bathe her heart in cooling grace.

In our petition for daily bread there is a deeper meaning. Jesus is the bread of life. In John 6:35 he says, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” When we pray for daily bread, we are both asking for food to eat and spiritually for Jesus to sustain us.

We need forgiveness daily. We need guidance daily. We need the wisdom of the Holy Spirit daily. To live as a believer, we need spiritual food to lead us and guide us. We need daily insights, reminders of God’s work being accomplished around us.

When we ask God for our daily bread, we are asking for our bodies and our spiritual

See Our Daily Bread, page 4

Vote on organ project postponed

The proposed motion by the Music Council asking the church to raise an additional \$422,000 plus building renovation costs to fund the refurbishment and installation of an organ gift by Seventh Street Christian Church at the April 9 business meeting has been postponed.

Rev. Keeley Tarkington, Minister of Music, said the Richmond church sale has been delayed which is giving our church more time to determine a path forward and decide if we want to accept the gift. Many questions regarding the organ and renovation to the sanctuary arose after a plan was presented to the church following the March 23 worship service.

The revised organ project will be brought before the church in mid to late May and perhaps as late as the fall. The additional time will allow the Music Council to acquire competitive bids from three organ companies for refurbishment and installation, and to consult with architects, engineers, and contractors to ascertain exactly the cost of necessary renovations to the sanctuary.

Bill and Ernestine O'Neal established the Organ Fund in 1997. Over the years, many church members and friends of First Baptist have donated to this fund with the sole purpose to purchase a new organ. The Music Council feels strongly that these funds should honor the wishes of donors, past and present. The Organ Fund continues to grow with gifts coming in frequently.

"I, on behalf of the Music Council, appreciate your thoughtful prayers, questions and support during this fluid process," said Rev. Tarkington. "We have an amazing opportunity in this gift being offered by Seventh Street Christian. It is our desire that as we continue to work through this process, God will make clear for us the best path forward. Thank you for your collaboration in helping answer those prayers."

Thank you from our hearts

The Able To Serve organization is overwhelmed by the support First Baptist Church Clayton provided for the BBQ Chicken fundraiser. Your incredible response with 111 plates sold helped make this our most successful event ever. We are thankful for each person who participated on Sunday. In total, over 1600 plates were sold. Proceeds will go to make a life-changing impact on the lives of adults with disabilities and their families. Thanks also to Angie Mikus and her team at Angie's Restaurant for providing the meals.

STOCK THE BLESSING BOX!

LET'S FEED THE HUNGRY
IN OUR CLAYTON COMMUNITY
Sunday, April 6





UNEXPIRED & NON PERISHABLE FOOD ONLY

- CANNED MEATS
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CANNED FRUITS
- PASTA
- SAUCE
- POP-TOP CANNED MEALS
- INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 4, 2025



BBQ

fundraiser for the Franklin Family

**11:00 AM - 2:00 PM | First Baptist Church Clayton
411 N. Fayetteville St. | (919) 553-4161**

- Tickets are free, but donations welcome - cash or check at time of pickup or use QR code
- See a member of First Baptist Church for a ticket or call the church office
- 100% of proceeds will go directly to the Franklin Family
- Drive through the parking lot at the corner of E. Hinton and N. Church St. to get your plates to go!



Scan to donate online!
To the right of your entered amount, please select "single Franklin" in the drop down

Volunteers needed for Community Health Fair

We are in need of six to eight volunteers to work a two-hour shift at the Community Health Fair on Friday, April 11 from noon to 6 p.m. First Baptist Church is partnering with UNC Johnston Health and its Mobile Medical Unit to offer free health screenings and resources for healthy eating and living. Volunteers will hand out healthy snacks, and share with the community information about our church and spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tim Matthews at 919-906-2225 or Terry McCallum at 919-553-4161.

Community HEALTH FAIR

**Friday
April 11, 2025**

**First Baptist Church Clayton
Noon - 6:00pm**

Join us in hosting UNC Health Johnston for a free health screening and education event, featuring screenings, take-home colorectal cancer screening kits, and resources on healthy living no matter your age, all right here in your community!



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fbcclaytonnc.org
411 North Fayetteville Street
Clayton

Get Free Screenings & Information

- Blood pressure, glucose, and lipid panel screenings
- Cancer screenings: Prostate, colorectal, & lung
- Information on our scholarship-funded Healthy Kids program
- Healthy samples and nutrition tips from a nutritionist

Our Daily Bread

Continued from page 1

lives to be nourished so that we can grow and be productive. When people are physically starving, they cannot grow, they cannot think straight, their bodies break down and their immune system falters.

When someone’s faith is undernourished, the same things occur. Without daily interaction with Jesus, our faith can more easily be compromised. Truthfully, we need our daily spiritual food. Asking God for our daily bread includes the sandwich we eat and the ways in which our faith grows with each prayer, hymn, reading and the peace we receive when we take a deep breath knowing we are sitting at God’s table ready to feast on God’s word in worship.

Seniors to visit legislative building

On Tuesday, April 15, the First Baptist Church Seniors will visit the North Carolina Legislative building. The group will tour the building, have lunch in the cafeteria, meet with a couple of representatives and attend part of the Legislature’s floor session.

The bus will leave the church at 9:15 a.m. and return between 2:45 and 3:15 p.m. Sign up in the church office no later than Thursday, April 10. Please indicate whether you will ride the bus or drive on your own.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

James Pollard by Judy Wood

Bill Long by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington

Organ Fund in Memory of

James Pollard by Jim and Judy Nappier

Youth Ministry Fund in Memory of

James Pollard by Curtis and Elaine Moore

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	3	New Members.....	9
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, March 30.....	170	Sunday, March 23.....	210
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, March 30.....	107	Sunday, March 23.....	138
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, March 30.....	\$8,559	Sunday, March 23.....	\$12,359
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		