



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

May 11, 2025

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Mother's Day is a day of thanksgiving

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

Growing up, I knew I was loved. I had a wonderful mother and dad who cared for me. I was blessed to have a set of grandparents a few blocks away. There was an elderly couple next door whose doors were always open to a curious little boy who wanted to tell them about the grasshopper he'd seen or the turtle that sunbathed on the ground near the ditch.

And the icing on the cake, our church was two blocks away and people there knew my name and made attending there seem like it was the most special place in the world.

On Mother's Day these memories come back to me. God used so many people in my past to alert me of God's love and protection. Two of our neighbors didn't have children. They were two sisters who had never married. Both were retired, one had been a teacher and the other a librarian.

When Miss Mary and Miss Susan were working in their yard I'd rush over to visit. They were always glad I came. Miss Susan was the first person I knew who died. I didn't understand. I missed her tremen-



dously.

The only one person who has ever been created who can love us with a singular love that resembles the complete love of God is Jesus. God's only begotten Son is the only one who could show us the perfection and magnitude of God's love. God created us to love one another as Jesus loved us. God created mothers and fathers to nurture and encourage us, to provide us safe places to grow up, to demonstrate God's parental love.

The thing is, even a mom and dad couldn't fully love us as God loves us. That's why God gives us the Church, neighbors, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, teachers, coaches, firefighters, police and all the other people who enrich our lives. That's how large God's love is. It is how much God loves us.

I'm thankful today for the way my mom reflected God's love for me. I'm thankful for my grandmother's care, for all the wonderful women in my life who show us a side of God's amazing love for us we'd miss if it weren't for them. I am blessed that they were Jesus' hands and feet leading me to faith.

Before this day is over, thank God for the women in your life who live God's love for you. Mother's Day is a special day. It is a day of thanksgiving for God's love so graciously

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Deacon nominations are due May 25

The deadline for nominating Deacons is coming up quickly on Sunday, May 25. Nomination forms have been emailed to church members and paper copies are available in the church office.

Deacons at First Baptist are expected to be spiritual leaders who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through witness and actions. The men and women who serve as Deacons must also attend worship and participate in other church activities on a regular basis, know God’s Holy Word, pray for our church, staff and congregation, and financially support the church and its ministries. Additionally, Deacons serve on at least two Ministry Teams, one of which is the Prayer Ministry.

If you know someone in our church who can meet these qualifications, please nominate them. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Chairman Tim Matthews at 919-906-2225 or centrallube1@gmail.com.

Completed nomination forms may be emailed to Tim or dropped off in the church office or in the drop box outside the office.

Mother’s Day

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bestowed upon us in so many wonderful ways.
And it is more – it is a day to examine ourselves to ask if God’s love shows through us to others that they may know the graciousness of our Savior. Let us all love others as God loves us. Happy Mother’s Day!

Young adults invited to gatherings with the Pastor

What is *Echo*? It is a gathering of younger adults (and those who think young) sharing what they’ve heard in the worship service. It is an opportunity to share what continues to reverberate after the benediction. Younger adults face different challenges when it comes to building relationships in church. We are offering time to drink coffee, get to know one another, and discuss issues that are unique to their lives. If you want to come and check it out, we meet in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday morning worship service. We look forward to seeing you!

– Dr. Len Keever

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	6	New Members.....	12
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, May 4.....	210	Sunday, April 27.....	182
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, May 4.....	169	Sunday, April 27.....	153
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, May 4.....	\$11,951	Sunday, April 27.....	\$13,371
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		



First Baptist welcomes an old friend as its newest member

Durward Hatcher, a familiar face at First Baptist, officially joined the church this past Sunday by transfer of letter. He was joined down front following the worship service by his wife, Peggy Morgan. We welcome Durward into our fellowship and look forward to continuing with him our service to the Lord.

Sunday School Class Spotlight

In 2020, the Bill O'Neal and John Talton classes merged to form the O'Neal-Talton Sunday School Class. Traditionally, it's been an older men's class, but women and young men are always welcome.

The class, taught by Jiles Harrell, John Gibson, Bob Hinnant, Andy Pleasant and Stewart McLeod, is essentially a Bible Study where one or two chapters of Holy Scripture are thoroughly examined and discussed each week.

The consensus of the group is that to really understand the Bible and God's purpose for us, every word of the Old and New Testaments must be read and considered. Study outlines for each week have been prepared and are available in advance. Currently, the class is studying the Gospel of Luke.

If you are looking for a Sunday School class and are interested in taking a deep dive into God's Word, we invite you to join us. We meet upstairs in Room #217.



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Eveylyn Belda by Bucky Coats

General Fund in Honor of

Joyce Kidd and Helen Ellerbe by the Faith Sunday School Class

Organ Fund in Memory of

Gene Stephenson by Curtis and Elaine Moore

Gene Stephenson by Jay and Kathy Woodard

Noelle Franklin fundraiser was an amazing success

This past Sunday was a wonderful day in the life of our church. Groups and individuals of all ages came together to demonstrate our love for Noelle Franklin and her family, Dylan, Toni and Christian. Over 700 plates of barbecue were served to church members, neighbors and friends from near and far.

“My heart is full,” said Tim Matthews, Deacon chairman and cook team leader. “It was one of the best days of my life.” Pastor Dr. Len Keever said it was an “extremely wonderful, incredible event in the history of First Baptist.

As Pastor it was fulfilling to watch the youth in our church witness the generosity and love of others. That will pay dividends in the future.”

There are several groups in the church that came together and made the day possible. They are due a hearty thanks. The Baptist Men spent all night Saturday cooking the pork shoulders along with all the fixings. The meal was absolutely delicious.

The Baptist Women’s groups went above and beyond to ensure that every plate was accompanied by a delicious dessert. Many volunteers assisted in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall.



The Youth and their leaders managed the drive-thru line, and helped serve beverages with a smile and friendly word for our guests.

The children and their leaders made the butterflies that

served as the centerpieces of the tables in the Fellowship Hall. Several of the young fellows worked hard to sell Lid Lickin’ barbecue sauce. There were at least two bottles that reportedly sold for \$100.

Angela and Jody Standley with Five J’s Farm donated all the pork that was served on Sunday. Their generosity allowed all the monies donated to go to the Franklin family. We cannot thank them enough!

Lastly, a most special thanks goes out to Robin Little and Kathy Wilkerson, the dynamic duo whose leadership and organizational skills made sure the fundraiser was a major success.

“So many individuals volunteered their time and energy from beginning to end that it would be impossible to begin to name them; an event of this magnitude would not have been possible without them,” said

Little. “Thanks also to each of you who prayed over this endeavor, who distributed tickets, who came and ate, who donated funds. We know the Franklin family is appreciative and greatly moved. It is our privilege to walk alongside them in their journey.”



More photos from the event on the following pages.



"It was an extremely wonderful, incredible event in the history of First Baptist." - Pastor Len Kever



Photos by Tammy Pearson





















