



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

May 18, 2025

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Prayerfully consider deacon nominations

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

The nomination of deacons is a special event in the Baptist expression of faith. Following the example of Acts 6, each member is afforded the opportunity to nominate someone who is an active member, demonstrates a caring heart, and who is full of spiritual wisdom to serve the church and assist in its ministries.

It is both an honor to nominate and to be called out by one's peers to serve. Our grassroots, bottom-up recognition of servant leaders is essential in strengthening our identity as a Baptist church. It is an exercise in looking for where the Spirit of God is working and joining God in that work.

Years ago, a lady in a former church asked me for help in making her nomination for deacons. "It is confusing," she confessed. "It is such an important position in the church, who would you suggest I nominate?" I was pleased that we were having the discussion.

Her intentionality in the matter was refreshing. I knew she was approaching her role prayerfully. Though I could not suggest names for her to write down, I did think of a way to help her discern who she



would identify as a person in whom the Holy Spirit is working.

"Think of it this way," I began, "if you were in the hospital, who would you want to visit you? If the church was facing a challenge, good or bad, whose wisdom would you look for to help make the right decision? If

you had a private prayer request, who would you want to confide in that you knew would listen and keep your concern confidential?

Lastly, when there is an event at church, who do you see regularly? Who hangs around afterwards to help clean up? Who encourages the children and takes time to speak to visitors?"

"Ah," she said, "that helps. I know exactly who I am going to write down." Deacons are servants. The election of deacons, like the servants chosen in Acts 6:1-6, is a very practical and essential matter.

In Acts 6, servants were chosen so that the Apostles could dedicate themselves to the work of prayer, preaching and caring for the spiritual needs of the church. The word deacon means servant. They took on the role of waiting on tables and cleaning up afterwards, seeing that all the members' needs were attended to.

At First Baptist, our deacons serve on var

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Gaga Ball Pit installed on church grounds

In the fall, some of our young boys had a vision to add a Gaga Ball Pit to the church grounds. We did the research, ran it through the committee process, and got unanimous church approval at the April business meeting with the help of the boys in making the presentation.

RA leaders and boys and family members rallied to make the vision a reality. Bill Moor pitched in to add benches to provide a space for spectators or those waiting their turn. Thank you to these young men who showed leadership and vision. Thanks also to RA leaders Jay Harrell, Craig Lee and Kevin Lee for making it a possibility. And thank you, the church body, for encouraging our young churchgoers to advocate and lead.

Gaga ball is played in a designated pit, typically an octagon with low walls. Players aim to hit each other with a soft ball below the knees to eliminate them. It's a variation of dodgeball that emphasizes agility, dodging and striking while keeping the game relatively safe by focusing on hits below the knees.



Kai Eason, Luke Bennett and Jeremy Bennett work to prepare one of eight walls for the Gaga Pit.

Deacon nominations

Continued from page 1

ious teams to assist folks with transportation, help with small jobs, reaching out to the homebound, providing comfort in times of bereavement, as well as other ministry teams. Every deacon is on the prayer team covenanting to pray for needs daily.

Please pray that God will lead you as you nominate those women and men you sense possess the gifts to guide our church as servant leaders. The church needs your wisdom and insight.

First Baptist welcomes Eric and Jacob

Eric Petit (center) and Jacob Wise speak with Dr. Keever following Sunday's worship service. Eric is coming to First Baptist by transfer of letter and Jacob by baptism. Jennifer Petit is Eric's wife and Jacob's mother. We are delighted they are joining our church family and look forward to serving the Lord with them.



Beautiful bouquets for Mother's Day

The Kindergarten thru 2nd Grade Sunday School Class made flower bouquets for their mothers on Sunday. Pictured from left are Brayden Wilkins, Lindsay Harrell, Jayce Wilkins, Turner Pope, Reynolds Pope (youth helper), Cathy Paschal and Holland Harrell. The array of lovely flowers came from Kim Harrell's garden.



You are Invited

The First Baptist Church Clayton Child Development Center Nineteenth Graduation Ceremony

Thursday, May 22 | 5:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

The 4-year-old class will recite pledges, scripture and prayers.

They will also sing two songs.

A small reception with a slide show will be held after the ceremony.
Some of the children's work will be on display in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for all your support of the FBCC CDC this year!

Tara M. Senarian - Child Development Center Director

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Gene Stephenson by Earl and Hope Johnson

Evelyn Belda by Patrick Moore Mission Group

Evelyn Belda and Betty Tillis Coker by Joyce Nixon

General Fund in Honor of

Ella Mae Sorrell by Joyce Nixon

Terry McCallum by Shirley Shires

Music Fund in Memory of

Gene Stephenson by Joyce Nixon

Organ Fund in Memory of

Ramona Cash and Gene Stephenson by Jack and Judy Coats

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....6	New Members.....14
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Worship Attendance

Sunday, May 11.....199	Sunday, May 4.....210
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Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, May 11.....129	Sunday, May 4.....169
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General Fund Giving

Sunday, May 11.....\$20,127	Sunday, May 4.....\$11,951
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Weekly Needs.....\$16,659	
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