



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

June 29, 2025

Volume 48 Number 25

Wide Open Spaces call the young

By Rev. Stephanie Parker
Pastor of Children and Families

One of the most fertile spaces for spiritual growth is at retreats, camps and mission trips. There is something special about being together with others focused on learning and growing in faith.

While we have many opportunities for learning and growing each week at 411 North Fayetteville Street, those opportunities multiply when on the road. Maybe it's the close proximity with friends old and new.

Maybe it's the challenges you must overcome together like camel crickets and no AC in the worship center. Maybe it's the one-liners that left you in stitches at the end of a long day. Maybe it's getting away from technology and the distraction it brings. Whatever it may be, it is worth the time and challenges to make wide open space for God to work through those who pack up and



hit the road together.

And that's just what we did on Wednesday, June 11, when we loaded up the large church bus with 16 kids and eight chaperones and headed west to Lynchburg, Va. for camp. At PASSPORTkids Camp, we practiced following the

example of Jesus through an active schedule of Bible studies, missions education, recreation and worship.

The theme was "Wide Open Spaces," based on the passage from Psalm 18:19a – God stood me up in wide-open spaces; I stood there saved-surprised to be loved! Throughout the week, the lessons centered on making space for God to work in and through us with focused themes each day that included, Space to Welcome, Space to Reach Out, Space to Act, and Space to Dance. The lessons paralleled Bible stories to support examples of each theme and

See Wide Open Spaces, page 2



**The Outlook will not be published July 6
Happy Independence Day**

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 3 and 4



PASSPORTkids campers and counselors enjoyed a time of spiritual learning in Va.

Wide Open Spaces

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pointed to the lives of Foushee family, who serve as missionaries in Japan.

I wish there was enough wide-open space on the calendar to recount every story, every meaningful thing shared by our children, and every example of the incredible servant hearts of our chaperones. What I will share is that our kids daily demonstrated an understanding of the theme, living it out as they grew in relationship to God and one another.

I will share that they showed incredible grace for one another when personality differences threatened to disrupt the peace. And I will share that our chaperones were saints, helping to meet the needs of our diverse group.

But it would not be possible without the gift of the camp theme: Wide Open Spaces. I am grateful for the sacred space of camp to witness the ways God is present in the life of each child and adult. I am grateful for the space our participants carved out in what I know are crazy calendars to make room for God.

I am grateful for the church members who made space to write notes to send with our campers to read while at camp. And I very grateful for our Senior Adult Ministry that made space to provide financial support to offset the costs for our participants and volunteer chaperones. Praise the Lord for what can be accomplished when we create wide open spaces for God to work!

Fill the grocery cart on July 6

It's time to "Restock" the Blessing Box. A grocery cart will be in the sanctuary Sunday, July 6 for the collection of non-perishable food items for the Blessing Box.

Please bring individual sized pop-top canned goods (vegetables, fruits, meats, packaged pastas, individually wrapped snacks, etc.)

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." – Matthew 25:35

Sunday School Class Spotlight

The Billie Hardee Sunday School Class consists of women of varied ages. We currently have 20 ladies on our class roll. Lynne Martin is the teacher, and she uses the Smyth & Helwys Sunday School materials. It's a very caring, active group and we support our church family in prayer and service as needs arise.

Our class's memory verse is a favorite verse of the former teacher for which our class is named, Billie Hardee. The verse is: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. – Psalm 51:10

As our Savior would say to those seeking a place, "Come and see". Please join us in Room #221. All are welcome.



Share your photos on the "On the Go with God" bulletin board



As we prepare for our VBS Road Trip theme, we want to see what road trips you are taking this summer. Please stop by the bulletin board outside of the choir room to see where our FBCC faces are showing up as we "Go with God" near and far.

If you'd like to add your picture, feel free to print and use one of the push pins at the top right corner of the board or send an email of your road trip photo to me at sparker@fbccclaytonnc.org and I'll add it for you. Wherever you travel, remember God is with you as you go.

Note of Thanks



Dear First Baptist Church family,
Thank you for the prayers, visits, cards, calls and food during the time of my knee surgery. It is a blessing to have such a loving and caring church family. God's blessings to all.
– Joyce Kidd

Need to contact a member of the pastoral staff? Here's how:

Rev. Dr. Len Keever, Pastor
919.820.0792

lkeever@fbccclaytonnc.org

Dr. Keever works remotely on Mondays and will be in the church Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (other times by appointment) and welcomes your calls, requests and visits.

Rev. Stephen Nance
Pastor of Senior Adults

717.262.8400 | snance@fbccclaytonnc.org

Rev. Stephanie Parker

Pastor of Children and Families

919.815.0946 | sparker@fbccclaytonnc.org

Rev. Keeley Tarkington

Minister of Music

919.649.3155 | ktarkington@fbccclaytonnc.org

?? Prison Ministry, Anyone ??

"When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?
The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of
the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

– Matthew 25:39-40

The Gladys Creech Long Termer Social Ministry has renewed its
commitment to serve the women of the North Carolina Correctional Institute. We
encourage women of the church to help keep the ministry going for another 45
years. We visit the prison on the 2nd Monday of the month
from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. for a time of devotion, prayer, fellowship with food
and some fun (games, art, puzzles, crafts, music and more).
Our primary mission is to shine the light and love of Jesus.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Susan Parker at
sjp318@nc.rr.com or call 919-333-8394.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Jimmy Dodd by Bucky Coats

General Fund in Honor of

Anne Abene and the Homebound Team by Randolph and Pat Tart

Baptist Men's Fund in Memory of

Tom Medlin and Lin Shehdan by Joyce Nixon

Baptist Men's Fund in Honor of

Curtis Moore by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

WMU Fund in Honor of

Blondell Johnson by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

Organ Fund in Memory of

Jimmy Dodd by Gerald and Glenda Toler

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....6 New Members.....17

Worship Attendance

Sunday, June 22.....235 Sunday, June 15.....209

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, June 22.....153 Sunday, June 15.....132

General Fund Giving

Sunday, June 22.....\$11,882 Sunday, June 15.....\$14,788

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