



# *The Outlook*

## **First Baptist Church Clayton**

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

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## **Is your walk with God plumb?**

By Dr. Len Kever  
Pastor

I enjoy woodworking and doing construction on mission trips. I am fascinated watching carpenters join lumber, build cabinets and use their skills. I learn a lot watching them work.

It teaches me and gives me ideas of how to use my tools. I love how the act of watching them building something helps me understand things better.



In Amos 7:7-8 the prophet says, "This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.'"

I don't know if you have ever used a plumb line. It is basically a circular weight that is pointed at one end with a long string attached to the other. Gravity pulls the weight so that the string is perfectly vertical. Placing the line beside something tells you if it is crooked or straight.

It is one of the more ancient tools that is still a part of construction today. A plumb line assures that the wall is perpendicular. A straight wall is much sturdier than a crooked one.

In Amos, God is telling the prophet that God is going to measure the people according to God's truth, ethic and will for them. Next to God's plumb line, it will be obvious where they have failed, and where there is a need to repair the walls of their lives. Next to the righteousness and holiness of God, their need for repentance will be revealed, their need for change will be obvious. Next to God's plumb line they cannot hide.

When God sent Jesus into the world, God sent him to be our plumb line. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." The life Jesus lived, the way he loved others, how he showed compassion and followed his Heavenly Father with uncompromised faith sets the standard for us.

Jesus' life measures us and shows us where we need to improve, what we need to do to make things right in our own lives and in our society. Standing next to Jesus, we are measured. Our flaws stand out.

I once watched a man build a stone wall

See God's plumb line page 2



## ***Four baptized***

This past Sunday, First Baptist Church Clayton celebrated the baptisms of (pictured clockwise) Jacob Wise, Jerry “Bubba” Moore, Jack Garrison and Breighan Petit. We pray for their faith journeys as we come alongside of them in this church community.

## **God’s plumb line**

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using a plumb line. It started straight and vertical but then he got off plumb a bit. The plumb line exposed his mistake. He had a choice, he could continue and build his wall crooked and in danger of falling, or he could take down the part that was off and work to make it right.

He chose the latter. He admitted his mistake and removed the rocks that were unacceptable in the place he’d placed them, measured them carefully, and reconstructed his wall to be true and beautiful to see.

Don’t be afraid to stand next to Jesus, to watch how he lives and compare it to your life. God sent him to show us the way. And the way sometimes means to see that we need to do things differently, admit we took shortcuts and rushed ahead when we should have waited. It’s better to confess our sins and let Jesus help us to do it right.

## Sunday School Class Spotlight

The Faith Class at First Baptist Church Clayton is made up of a group of lively older ladies who enjoy gathering for fellowship, prayer and discussing scripture together. The group is led by Linda Nance, who incorporates an interactive style of teaching. We use the Connections Lectionary-Based Bible Study literature by Smyth and Helwys. The door is open to any and all who wish to join us! The Faith Class meets in Room 215.



## Sign up for WMU Kickoff by July 30

Ladies at First Baptist Church Clayton of all ages, including the Acteens and GAs are invited to the Joint WMU Kick-Off meeting on Tuesday, August 5 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you're not in a WMU Group, this is a great time to get involved.

Please call the church office at 919-553-4161 by Wednesday, July 30 if you are attending.

Randa Gay of the Isaiah 117 House in Selma will be the guest speaker. Isaiah House provides a comforting home for children who have been removed from their families by child protective services out of concern for their safety.

Normally children are taken to child welfare services to await placement in a foster home. This can take several hours, but sometimes it takes many days. These children are often scared, lonely and hungry and often have nothing but the clothes on their back.

The Isaiah House is a safe place with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, toys, warm blankets, care and love. Their mission is to reduce trauma for children awaiting placement in a foster home, lighten the load for child welfare services and ease the transition for foster families.

The WMU will be collecting school supplies to be distributed to children/families in need at the August 5 meeting. Donated items may be placed in totes that will be at the dinner. Donation totes will also be located outside the church office.

The Baptist Men will prepare a chicken casserole dinner. Call the church office at 919-553-4161 to get your name on the list.

## Join us Sunday, July 27 at WLFJ

On Sunday afternoon, July 27, First Baptist Clayton will take its once-monthly turn to serve at the With Love From Jesus house in Clayton.

If you would like to volunteer, let Rudy Oliver know you're coming by Thursday, July 24. Please be at WLFJ at 4 p.m. on Sunday for sign-in and instruction.

We will be distributing food, clothing and sharing the Gospel until around 7

p.m.

You can also bring any items you would like to donate to the ministry. They are currently in need of nonperishable items.

WLFJ often has over 80 guests come for food and clothing items.

The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of West 2nd and South Robertson streets. Rudy can be reached at 919-271-1178, or email him at reholston@gmail.com.



# Bereavement team provides love

At First Baptist Church Clayton there are eight Ministry Teams dedicated to loving and supporting our church family. These teams function under the auspices of the Deacon Ministry and are led by active Deacons. They are Prayer, Bereavement, Casserole, Celebration, Homebound, Hospital Visitation, Transportation and Visitor/New Member. This week our focus is on the Bereavement Ministry Team.

For more information about the Deacon Ministry, contact chairman Tim Matthews at 919-906-2225 or [centrallube1@gmail.com](mailto:centrallube1@gmail.com), or vice-chair Ann Austin at 919-333-6791 or [dddhd@aol.com](mailto:dddhd@aol.com).



## Bereavement Ministry Team

The Bereavement Ministry Team provides love and comfort to families who have lost loved ones. They also offer much needed support through personal contact to the bereaved and assist families and the church at memorial services. Additionally, the Bereavement team sends a series of books on dealing with grief to families throughout the year after their loved one's passing.

Cathy Paschal is the team leader. Other members are Anne Abene, Sandy Stephenson, Bronna Greer, Nancy Turlington, Jay Vinson, Ann Austin, Mary Baker and Sally Bierce. If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Cathy at 919-369-6025 or send email to [cepaschal@gmail.com](mailto:cepaschal@gmail.com).

Next time we will focus on the Casserole Ministry Team.



## *Memorials and Honorariums*

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE  
General Fund in Memory of**

Tom Medlin by Jay and Kathy Woodard

## Weekly Reports

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Baptisms this Year.....10    | New Members.....17          |
| Worship Attendance           |                             |
| Sunday, July 13.....214      | Sunday, July 6.....128      |
| Sunday School Attendance     |                             |
| Sunday, July 13.....124      | Sunday, July 6.....97       |
| General Fund Giving          |                             |
| Sunday, July 13.....\$15,851 | Sunday, July 6.....\$17,654 |
| Weekly Needs.....\$16,659    |                             |