



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

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Created in Christ for good works

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

Psalm 85:1-4a states, “Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation.”

Once again, the words of Henry Blackaby in the Experiencing God study comes to mind, “If you want to know where you are going, look to see where you have been.” This is the message of the Psalmist. The writer wants the people of God to remember how God has sustained them in the difficult times and blessed them with new life.

God has forgiven them in the past, withheld judgement, and been merciful instead of punishing.

This is God’s history with God’s people. “Restore us again, O God of our salvation” both acknowledges what God has done for them in the past as well as recognizes the character of God who will sustain them into the future. Being reminded of God’s character brings them peace during a very difficult time in their history.

Fast forward to the Apostle Paul’s words in Philippians 1:6 when he writes to the

church, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Here too God’s people are reminded that God will not leave them abandoned. Even in those moments when it seems like the Spirit is silent, or that God is elsewhere, God is present, actively working to complete in us what has already begun.



Our past helps define who we are, but our future with Christ defines who we will become. In Ephesians 2:10, Paul wrote “we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.” Growing as a Christian is not about continually starting over.

Our life in Christ is not like the movie Groundhog Day where the character wakes up repeatedly each morning to relive the same day. Each day is a day to grow in Christ, to learn from our successes and our mistakes, to gain wisdom and understanding as we look back to where God has been with us. Every morning is a time to reflect

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Vacation Bible School Sunday

Nathan Strickland shared his Vacation Bible School experience with the congregation this past Sunday. Rev. Stephanie Parker, Maya Proctor and Austin Harrell also talked about what they learned, the fun they had and how God has blessed them.



Kiley Woodard and her brother, Connor, with the help of VBS mascot, Honey, delivered the children's sermon this past Sunday.

The Woodard siblings served as volunteers in the four-night "Road Trip - On the Go with God."

76 children, ages 12 months to 12 years, participated in this year's VBS. Also, over 100 volunteers stepped up to make this summer's VBS a grand success



1st and 2nd graders learn about Paul

During the Tuesday night VBS session, Pastor Len Keever read to these youngsters a few scripture passages from Paul's Letter to the Corinthians. Dr. Keever told the children that they can learn much from Paul who understood that he could rely on God in all things. "Remember that God goes with you wherever you go," Dr. Keever told them.

Thank You!

Our family is so deeply grateful for your prayers offered, the uplifting cards, the donations to our church, and the memories shared at Lin's celebration service. Every act of kindness was such a blessing. We are comforted knowing we have such a caring church family. May God bless you all!

Joe & Linda Hester



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on where God was with us yesterday even as we seek to follow God throughout this day.

Sometimes when I am overwhelmed or facing obstacles, I like to pause and remember the last time I was facing something difficult.

Remembering how God was with me then reminds me that God is with me now. The past provides me with perspective, while the future provides possibilities.

It is always good to remember that Jesus promised to be with us, even to the end of the age.



Casserole team delivers deliciousness

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 Casserole Ministry Team.

These teams are not committees and members are not elected by the church. To participate, all you have to do is volunteer. And you do not have to be an official member of our church to serve on a ministry team. For more information about the Deacon Ministry, contact chairman Tim Matthews at 919-906-2225 or centrallube1@gmail.com, or vice-chair Ann Austin at 919-333-6791 or dddhd@aol.com.



Casserole Ministry Team

The Casserole Ministry Team provides food and support to church members who are dealing with health concerns or other issues that make it difficult to prepare meals. This is an active group that is ready and willing to prepare and deliver delicious dishes.

Kathy Wilkerson is the team leader. Other members are Glenda Toler, Lynn Gibson, Diane Pearce, Laney Ford, Lou Woodard, Donna Brown, Anna Stephenson, Tammy McLeod, Linda Blackmon, Mary Marche Byrd, Kay Earp, Lynn Gibson, Dorothy Harris, Sammye Isenhour, Elaine Johnson, Robin Little and Lynn Matthews. For more information, please call Kathy at 919-291-9578 or kathywilkerson1011054@gmail.com.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Noelle Franklin by Justin Battelle

General Fund in Honor of

Kenneth Edge by the Hope Sunday School Class

Organ Fund in Memory of

Tom Medlin by Walter and Jill Rasor

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	17
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, July 20.....	177	Sunday, July 13.....	214
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, July 20.....	116	Sunday, July 13.....	124
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, July 20.....	\$13,787	Sunday, July 13.....	\$15,851
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		