

# *The Outlook*

## **First Baptist Church Clayton**

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

August 10, 2025

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## **Our different gifts bring glory and honor to God**

By Dr. Len Keever  
Pastor

I am fascinated being around hospitals. I love observing the symbiotic relationships between medical disciplines. Watching each area working together in tandem to bring about healing intrigues me. There are so many different specialties; each complementing the other.



When I was in seminary, I was introduced to the study of knowledge called epistemology. As a Christian, I have come to believe that all knowledge comes from God. We do not know anything that God has not created/ordained.

Evil can corrupt what God has given us but evil cannot create, only God can create.

Being in the hospital last week and seeing all the different areas of expertise come together to help me get better was a reminder of how God is behind every advancement in medicine.

When I arrived, a nurse trained in preparing me for surgery worked with me. Then a

nurse anesthetist got me ready to see the anesthesiologist. Operating room technicians made the room ready and positioned me for surgery.

While I was under anesthesia my diseased hip was removed and a prosthetic hip installed. Each of these steps were orchestrated by professionals trained to use their gifts to bring about my healing.

I could continue by mentioning the nurses who cared for me after the operation, those who provided nourishment, the physical therapist and occupational therapist who got me up on my feet and taught me how to dress myself. Thinking back on it, I'm reminded of an orchestra sharing their talents to perform a beautiful and complex piece of music.

This is such a wonderful metaphor for the Church. Everyone has a different gift that working together brings glory and honor to Jesus. Sharing our uniqueness helps bring about healing to those who are hurting, companionship to those who are lonely, encouragement to those who are down.

The Apostle Paul spoke of this when he

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# Memorials and Honorariums

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

### General Fund in Memory of

Noelle Franklin, Lin Shehdan, Tom Medlin and Gene Stephenson by Joyce T. Lee

### General Fund in Honor of

Lois Weeks' 99th Birthday by Andy and Gloria Pleasant

Lois Weeks' 99th Birthday by Joyce Nixon

### Youth Fund in Memory of

Noelle Franklin by an anonymous donor

### WMU Fund in Honor of

Lois Weeks' and Val Vinson's birthdays by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. – Proverbs 3:5-6



## Different Gifts

Continued from page 1

comically wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:17, "If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?"

Each of us possess different gifts, duties and responsibilities. When I needed someone to perform a spinal block so that I would not feel pain during the surgery, I didn't need a dietitian.

When I needed someone to teach me precautions when I walked, I didn't need someone who works in admissions to verify my insurance. When I wanted a little ice

cream at midnight, I didn't need my blood pressure checked.

The point I want to make is that each of us has a vital part to play in the successful ministries of First Baptist Church of Clayton.

Everyone is important. God has called us together, equipped us with gifts and abilities, to help bring healing to those who need to know Jesus' love in their life.

Let us work together, sharing our best with each other so that Jesus may be glorified and those who seek him may find peace.

And thanks to all who have been praying for my recovery – you are appreciated!

## Acolyte signup deadline is August 24

It's time to sign up for another year of Acolyte rotations and to train new participants. Acolytes are 3rd - 5th graders that light and extinguish the candles during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. The flame is a symbol and visual reminder that God is with us as we worship and that He goes with us when we leave. Being an Acolyte is a wonderful opportunity for children to lead in worship.

Sign up here by August 24 to be scheduled for the 2025-2026 Church Year:

<https://forms.gle/7185EoFeetQiX1we9>

## Note of Thanks

Thanks very much for the visits, calls, cards and prayers that you provided during my recent illness.

I am most grateful for my First Baptist family and I love you all.  
– Curtis Moore



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.  
– Galatians 6:9

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

**Rev. Dr. Len Keever, Pastor**  
919.820.0792

[lkeever@fbccclaytonnc.org](mailto: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](mailto:snance@fbccclaytonnc.org)

**Rev. Stephanie Parker**

**Pastor of Children and Families**

919.815.0946 | [sparker@fbccclaytonnc.org](mailto:sparker@fbccclaytonnc.org)

**Rev. Keeley Tarkington**

**Minister of Music**

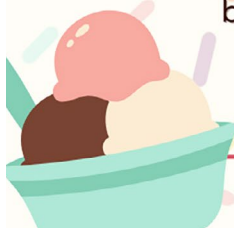
919.649.3155 | [ktarkington@fbccclaytonnc.org](mailto:ktarkington@fbccclaytonnc.org)

# FBCC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social

Please bring your best homemade ice cream to share! Votes will be collected and winner of best ice cream will receive a PRIZE!

**Sunday,  
August 17th**

**4pm  
Fellowship Hall**



# Ministry team cares for the homebound

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.

The role of the deacon is that of spiritual leadership through service to God, the church body and the lost. These eight ministry teams, made up of lay people within the church, embody that same role. Over the next several weeks, we will continue to focus on these ministries. This week, it's the Homebound Ministry Team.



Ministry 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 [centrallubel@gmail.com](mailto:centrallubel@gmail.com), or vice-chair Ann Austin at 919-333-6791 or [dddhd@aol.com](mailto:dddhd@aol.com).

Last week some names were left off the Celebration Ministry Team list. Team members are Sarah Brooks, Donna Brown, Jessica Collins, Paul and Bronna Greer, Kim and Lindsay Harrell, Jo Howard, Pat Zullo, Whitney Keith, Kathy Woodard, Melissa Long, Jamie Pope, Betty Lee, Sandra Phillips, Elaine Moore, Lindsey Lee, Lynette Worlds and Tammy McLeod.

## Homebound Ministry Team

The Homebound Ministry Team keeps many of our members who cannot attend church on a regular basis connected to their church family. The team, under the leadership of Anne Abene, prepares and delivers around seven holiday meals to our Homebound throughout the year.

She is assisted by Rudy and Edwina Oliver, Lowell and Dorothy Harris, Donna Lee, Gwen Canady, Joe and Linda Hester, Lexene Lee, Sammye Isenhour, Pat Zullo and Ginger Jones. If you would like to be part of this loving and caring team, please contact Anne at 919-210-7081 or [anneabene@yahoo.com](mailto:anneabene@yahoo.com).

## Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	19
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, August 3.....	168	Sunday, July 27.....	162
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, August 3.....	135	Sunday, July 27.....	122
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, August 3.....	\$14,444	Sunday, July 27.....	\$11,120
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		