



# *The Outlook*

## **First Baptist Church Clayton**

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

August 31, 2025

Volume 48 Number 33

## **Will we be found faithful?**

By Rev. Stephen Nance  
Pastor of Senior Adults

In the mid '90s Steve Green recorded a song by Jon Mohr that expressed the fervent hope, "May all who come behind us find us faithful." Faithfulness is front and center in the Christian life.

God is faithful and as his children we are to be faithful as well in every aspect of life. The Bible has a lot to say about faithfulness, its challenges as well as its rewards. Jesus said, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10b ESV).

The challenge comes in diligence and consistency of life – a legacy – with future generations in the balance: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deut. 6:5-7 ESV).

September 14, 2025, is Senior Adult Sunday at First Baptist Church of Clayton. All elements of the service will be led by senior adults. Faithfulness – the importance of leaving a godly legacy – will be front and center as we worship our Lord together.



Hope 4 Us and a special senior adult choir will provide worship music, and our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. John Allen will preach on "A Legacy that Matters." Please join us, regardless of your age, because faithfulness – or the lack of it – affects us all.

All of us, no matter our age or stage in life, are even now forging a legacy – whether good or evil – that we will leave behind us. Which will yours be? Which will mine be? May we be among those who dedicate – or rededicate – ourselves to say, along with songwriter Mohr, "But as those who've gone before us, let us leave to those behind us the heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives."

**Are you serving on a church committee?**

**All committees will meet Sunday, September 14  
following the morning worship. See page 3 for details.**

## Volunteers sought for hurricane relief efforts

First Baptist Church Clayton will team up with the North Carolina Baptist on Missions Disaster Relief organization for the second time this year to assist people in Swannanoa who were victims of Hurricane Helene.

The work will consist of installing insulation, hanging sheetrock, and plumbing and electrical repairs and installation.

You do not have to be skilled at these trades. We're looking for helping hands. The homeowners will most likely be on site giving us the opportunity to get to know them and witness to them.

Lodging will be at the Swannanoa Baptist Church. You will need to bring whatever you plan to sleep on, i.e. single blow-up mattress or a cot and bedding. There is a



shower trailer at the church. Three meals per day will be provided.

We will meet in the front parking lot at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 28 to pack up the luggage. After a commissioning service during the 9:30 a.m. worship, we will depart. After five days of work and discipleship, the group will depart for

home Friday, Oct. 3 by 9 a.m.

The First Baptist mission team may consist of up to 20 men and women over the age of 18. We're looking for firm commitments. There is a sign-up sheet in the east side vestibule. Please prayerfully consider joining us on our second hurricane relief effort.

If you to want to serve or have questions, contact Richie Johnson at 919-669-1687 or send email to [jrj02201959@gmail.com](mailto:jrj02201959@gmail.com).

## Transportation ministry provides rides to worship, appointments, etc.

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.

### Transportation Ministry Team

This week our focus is on the Transportation Ministry Team. This team provides transportation for church goers to and from Sunday worship services, Wednesday night meals and worship, special events, doctor's appointments, etc. Team members who are ready and eager to provide transportation are David Outlaw, Bucky Coats, Sandy Stephenson and Keith Blackley. If

you would like to be part of this team, please contact David at 919-634-7356 or [davidoutlaw903@yahoo.com](mailto:davidoutlaw903@yahoo.com).

These 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 incoming chairwoman Ann Austin at 919-333-6791 or [dddhd@aol.com](mailto:dddhd@aol.com).



## Committee orientation set for Sunday, Sept. 14

All First Baptist committees will have orientation meetings on Sunday, September 14 after the morning worship. Tables for each committee will be set up in the Fellowship Hall.

Each table will have an orientation packet. During this time, committees are expected to elect a chair and vice-

chair, review their Constitutional roles and begin a discussion regarding budget requests for 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the Committee Orientation, please contact Enlistment Committee chair Kathy Wilkerson at 919-291-9578 or [kathywilkerson101054@gmail.com](mailto:kathywilkerson101054@gmail.com).

## 30-30-30 Nights begin Wednesday, Sept. 10

A new Wednesday night format is coming to First Baptist Church Clayton Sept. 10.

30-30-30 Nights will revitalize Wednesday night activities with the intention of increasing participation and helping church members become more intentional in loving God through a time of collective worship.

Wednesday nights will be split into three 30 minute sessions. During the first 30 minutes of the night from 6-6:30 p.m., there will be a collective praise and worship service in the sanctuary.

The next 30 minutes, 6:30-7 p.m., will focus on learning. Our children and youth will participate in their age-appropriate lessons planned by their leaders. Adults will have four options for study.

### The 411 at FBCC

Join our pastor, Dr. Len Keever, to learn about the ins and outs of membership in our church. Each week, the group will focus on different subjects from Baptist beginnings, our distinctions, priesthood of the believer, soul freedom, religious liberty and beliefs about Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

### In Spirit and In Truth

Rev. Keeley Tarkington will engage attendees in conversation about worship experiences and practices. The group will study Biblical texts about worship to expand their understanding of worship and continue their transformation as disciples of Christ.

### Sparkling the Conversation about Faith

Rev. Stephanie Parker will lead this study

aimed at parents and caregivers of children and youth. She will guide participants through conversations about how the lives of young families align with the narrative that Jesus portrays in scripture.

### A Study on the Parables of Jesus

Rev. Stephen Nance will lead this 11-week study that looks at the amazing stories told by the greatest storyteller the world has ever known

The final 30 minutes of 30-30-30 Nights will be a time for fellowship and activities. Ministries in the church are invited to schedule and advertise activities for this time each Wednesday night for church attendees to put into practice loving our neighbors.

The vision for these nights is to practice faithfully and intentionally Jesus' words on the greatest commandment, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Our hope for our community is that as we take time to worship and love God, learn about him and ourselves, and love our neighbors through fellowship and missions, we will grow as believers and Christ followers. We hope you will join us for 30-30-30 Nights in the fall. A 5 p.m. fellowship meal will precede the 30-30-30 sessions. For more information, please contact Dr. Keever at 919-820-0792 or [lkeever41@gmail.com](mailto:lkeever41@gmail.com).

# *Memorials and Honorariums*

## **WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE**

### **General Fund in Memory of**

Joyce Blackley by the Faith Sunday School Class  
 Joyce Blackley by Jim and Judy Nappier  
 Joyce Blackley by Alan and Debbie Cox  
 Jerry Johnson by John and Jean Raynor  
 Jerry Johnson and Joyce Blackley by Emily LaJoye  
 Joyce Blackley by Earl and Hope Johnson  
 Jerry Johnson and Joyce Blackley by Carol Gilbert  
 Jerry Johnson and Joyce Blackley by the Vann Martin Family  
 Joyce Blackley and Jerry Johnson by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington  
 Jerry Johnson by Ken and Diane Dillo  
 Joyce Blackley by Martha McCullen  
 Jerry Johnson and Joyce Blackley by David and Pam Outlaw  
 Jerry Johnson by Keith and Jennifer Blackley  
 Aunt Joyce Blackley by Keith, Jennifer and Jason Blackley, and Will and Megan Mann  
 Jerry Johnson by Cecil and Donna Lee

### **Youth Mission Trip Fund in Honor of**

Jerry and Dianne Carroll's 60th Wedding Anniversary by Chris and Diane Pearce

### **Organ Fund in Memory of**

Joyce Blackley by Teresa Calton

### **Backpack Buddies Fund in Memory of**

Joyce Blackley by Curk and Lisa Lane

### **Building Fund in Memory of**

Betty Whitley by Chris and Tammy Pearson



## **Weekly Reports**

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	19
<b>Worship Attendance</b>			
Sunday, August 24.....	228	Sunday, August 17.....	162
<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>			
Sunday, August 24.....	170	Sunday, August 17.....	128
<b>General Fund Giving</b>			
Sunday, August 24.....	\$13,087	Sunday, August 17.....	\$10,984
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		