

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

September 7, 2025

Volume 48 Number 34

Church family answered the bell

By Tim Matthews
Outgoing Deacon Chair

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with joy. YOU have been supportive throughout the year of every request. I will admit that I started my tenure as Deacon Chair concerned how YOU would react to the challenges that would arise.

A major component of our heating and cooling system failed, and YOU provided an excellent leadership team to plan, evaluate, decide and execute a solution. Our congregation was asked to support a Red Cross Blood Drive. We were told to expect a small turnout and be satisfied with maybe 20 donations of blood.

Remarkably, YOU stepped up and delivered 40 pints of blood. The Red Cross was shocked by the support with our first blood drive.

We were searching for a new pastor to guide us spiritually and unify us as a loving family. YOU provided excellent leadership to reveal the answer to our need was already among us, planting the seeds to ensure the necessary growth our church needed.

We were tasked to make spiritual and asso-

ciation affiliation decisions. YOU provided an opportunity for valuable interaction allowing input for all and leading us to a unified decision.

First Baptist Church of Clayton was asked to take on mission activity requests. There have been unbearable personal, financial and spiritual challenges placed on members of our congregation. YOU showed your support with a large contingent praying for Noelle in a hospital over an hour away and organizing a significant fundraiser to assist the Franklin family. In reflection, YOU have grown spiritually with every challenge.

I am extremely proud to be a member of First Baptist Church of Clayton. I am honored to have been allowed to serve as your Deacon Chair for this past year. We have accepted many challenges over the past year. None of the accomplishments would have been possible without YOU working with our brothers and sisters in Christ towards the spiritual growth of our congregation.

Thank you.



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

Dr. John Allen to deliver sermon on Sept. 14

Senior Adult Sunday will be held Sunday, September 14. The First Baptist Senior Adults will lead the morning worship service.

Dr. John Allen, Pastor Emeritus, will deliver the message. Hope 4 Us and the Senior Adult Choir will provide the music. The choir will rehearse at 8:45 a.m. in the Choir Room. We need as many voices as possible. Plan now to be a part of this special Sunday worship service.

30/30/30 kicks off Wednesday, Sept. 10

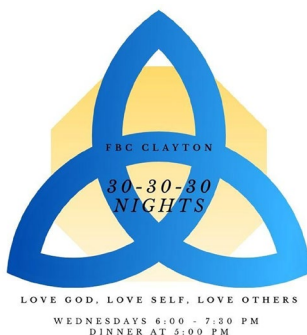
Join us next Wednesday, September 10 for the inaugural 30/30/30 Worship. The foundation of our new Wednesday night format is based on the greatest commandments spoken by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-39, "He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The first 30 focuses on loving God through praise and worship. The second session focuses on loving self through investment in study and spiritual growth. And, the final 30 focuses on loving others through service. By investing in all these areas, our hope is to grow in faith and as Christ followers.

It all begins with a fellowship meal at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It's a new year, so that also means a new permanent list. If you would like to be the meal list, please call Terry in the church office at 919-553-4161.

At 6 p.m. there will be a collective Praise and Worship for all ages in the sanctuary. At 6:30 p.m., different options will be offered to children, youth and adults. The final 30-minute segment begins at 7 p.m.

It will include options for fellowship and service activities. On tap currently are a **Prayer Fellowship** in the Basic Sunday



School Classroom, room 223. We will put our love for God and our neighbors in action by praying together for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done. Praying together with one accord has been the key to advancing God's Kingdom since the Church began (Acts 1:14, 2:42, 4:31).

Also scheduled is a **Field**

Fellowship. Part of serving together includes building relationships. Join Rev. Parker and the children and families as we engage in service and fellowship together. Field Fellowship will be a time to pick up trash outside, take care of our facilities, and find space to play with our youngest churchgoers outside on the lawn. As the daylight shortens and weather cools, we will move inside for indoor projects for our neighbors and the homebound. Our mission field may change, but together we will continue to be on mission for Christ!

Handbells will meet at this time and a **Walking Group** will gather for physical fitness and fellowship. Please come and invite others to join you.

Please come and give 30/30/30 a try and please pray for this to be a meaningful time of worship, growth and fellowship together. We hope you will join in the worshipping, learning and serving on Wednesday evenings as we carry out the greatest commandments together at FBCC.



New members

First Baptist Church Clayton welcomes John and Maureen Anderson to our church family. The couple officially joined the church last Sunday. We look forward to growing with them as we continue our faith journey.



Tuesday Night Bible Study to celebrate 20th Anniversary

Jiles Harrell's Tuesday night Bible Study is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Tuesday, September 16 at 7 p.m. Homemade desserts will be served in the Fellowship Hall to commemorate the milestone.

The inter-generational group meets in the conference room for one hour every Tuesday night. Everyone is welcome to attend. You don't have to be a member of First Baptist to join so bring a friend or neighbor.

The Bible Study is designed for lay people. "You don't have to be a Bible scholar to attend. We're all learning," Jiles said. "We meet to study scripture, discuss it and ask questions. God delights in those who spend time in His Holy Word."

The group is currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. Outlines are provided for upcoming lessons and are available via email or may be picked up at the church. For more information contact Jiles Harrell at 919-291-5047 or jilesharrell2@gmail.com.

Committee orientation set for Sept. 14

All First Baptist committees will have an orientation meeting on Sunday, September 14 after the morning worship. Tables for each committee will be set up in the Fellowship Hall with 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. Past chairs of all com-



mittees are asked to attend this very important orientation meeting. Your experience and knowledge is most valuable. Committees will also need to schedule future meetings and make room reservations with Terry.

If you have any questions regarding the Committee Orientation, please contact Enlistment Committee chair Kathy Wilkerson at 919-291-9578 or kathywilker-son101054@gmail.com.



Note of Thanks

With deep gratitude in my heart, I want to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support given to me and Jerry's family during the time of Jerry's illness and our bereavement.

Your prayers, steadfast support, comforting presence and every act of kindness have been an immense source of comfort and strength for me and I will be forever grateful.

- Diane Johnson

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Jerry Johnson by Louise Stancil

Jerry Johnson by Ann Alteri

Joyce Blackley by Judy W. Peters

Tom Medlin by Durwood Hatcher and Peggy T. Morgan

Jerry Johnson by William G. McQueen

Joyce Blackley and Jerry Johnson by Ricky and Elizabeth Waddell

Jerry Johnson and Joyce Blackley by Jay and Kathy Woodard

Jerry Johnson and Joyce Blackley by John and Lynn Gibson

Joyce Blackley and Jerry Johnson by Jerry and Sharon Poole

General Fund in Honor of

Joyce Nixon, Terry McCallum and the Faith Sunday School Class by Joyce T. Lee

Organ Fund in Memory of

Joyce Blackley and James Pollard by Joyce T. Lee

Heck Jones Fund in Memory of

Jerry Johnson and Joyce Blackley by David and Nancy Turlington

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....10 New Members.....21

Worship Attendance

Sunday, August 31.....122 Sunday, August 24.....228

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, August 31.....105 Sunday, August 24.....170

General Fund Giving

Sunday, August 31.....\$27,367 Sunday, August 24.....\$13,087

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