

# The Outlook

## First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

September 14, 2025

Volume 48 Number 35

## First Baptist Youth program helps kids grow in their walk with God

By Vicky Andrews  
FBCC Youth Leader

For the past four years, I've had the joy of serving as Youth Director. Many people have asked why I volunteered for this role, and my answer is simple: I want my children to experience the same kind of youth group I was blessed with here at First Baptist Church many years ago.



Today's youth face a very different world than we did. They attend 12 different schools, juggle sports and activities nearly every day – including Wednesdays and Sundays – and navigate the challenges of social media and cell phones.

But one thing hasn't changed. They are still searching for belonging. Middle and high school are critical years when young people begin shaping their identity, making decisions and figuring out where they fit.

My deepest desire is that every youth who walks into FBC Clayton knows this: you belong here, you are supported through good times and bad, you can grow in your faith, and you are LOVED.

By God's grace, our youth group has more than tripled in size over the past four years. We now have over 60 students on our roster – and always room for more!

Our Youth Council meets monthly to plan activities that engage and encourage our youth to stay connected.

### Opportunities for Growth and Connection

**Sunday Mornings:** We've launched a new Sunday School class called Bible Life! – Read It! Live It! Our teachers are leading students to dive into Scripture in ways that make it personal and exciting, helping them grow in their relationship with God.

### **Wednesday Nights (30/60/30)**

#### **Modified to suit the Youth**

- 30 minutes of Praise and Worship with the congregation
- 60 minutes of small group devotions, games and youth-focused worship
- 30 minutes of optional fellowship and fun

These nights are designed to spark meaningful conversations about real-life challenges, equipping youth with biblical tools to navigate their world. This year, we'll be using a book "YOUnique" to help students

See First Baptist Youth, page 2

# Ministry provides a hearty welcome

## *Last in a series*

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.

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 chairwoman Ann Austin at 919-333-6791 or dddhd@aol.com.



## **Visitor/New Member Ministry Team**

This week our focus is on the Visitor and New Member Ministry Team. This team, led by Richie Johnson and Stewart McLeod, makes sure visitors to First Baptist receive a hearty welcome when they attend church events. With love and appreciation, this ministry makes newcomers aware of worship, service and mission opportunities, and helps them connect. When visitors become regulars, this team works to educate and familiarize them with our church mission and encourages them to become part of our church family.

Other members of the Visitor/New Member team are Sally Bierce, Keith and Jennifer Blackley, Andy and Gloria Pleasant, Chris Pearce, Doug Phillips, Dianne Carroll, Jack Morgan, David and Nancy Turlington, Rudy and Edwina Oliver, Jeff and Jackie Tarkington and Joe Hester. If you're the type of person who has never met a stranger and would like to present a welcoming face to visitors, we would be grateful to have you on our team. Call Richie at 919-669-1687 or Stewart at 919-669-7542 to join.

## **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.



**All committees will meet Sunday, September 14  
following the morning worship.**



## ***Deacon Ordination Sunday***

Your new Deacons at First Baptist Church Clayton are from left, Jeff Tarkington, James Chanco, Lindsay Harrell, Bill Moor, Pat Zullo, Jerry Poole, Ginger Jones and Glenn Fortner. Of the eight new Deacons, seven were ordained in a powerful and spiritually uplifting ceremony this past Sunday afternoon. They are James, Lindsay, Bill, Pat, Jerry, Ginger and Glenn. Thank you all for answering the call to be a spiritual leader at FBCC. Deacon chair Ann Austin would also like to offer thanks to everyone who attended and those who laid hands and offered words of prayer, encouragement and thanksgiving over each candidate. In Matthew 20:28 Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." This concept of service is at the heart of the Deacon Ministry.

## **First Baptist Youth**

Continued from page 1

discover their personalities, love languages, and spiritual gifts – reminding – them that they are God's perfect creation.

**Missions:** Through Acteens (ladies) and Challengers (gentlemen), our youth serve the church and community in monthly projects, learning the joy of hands-on ministry.

### **Special Events Coming Up**

September - Frankie's Fun Park

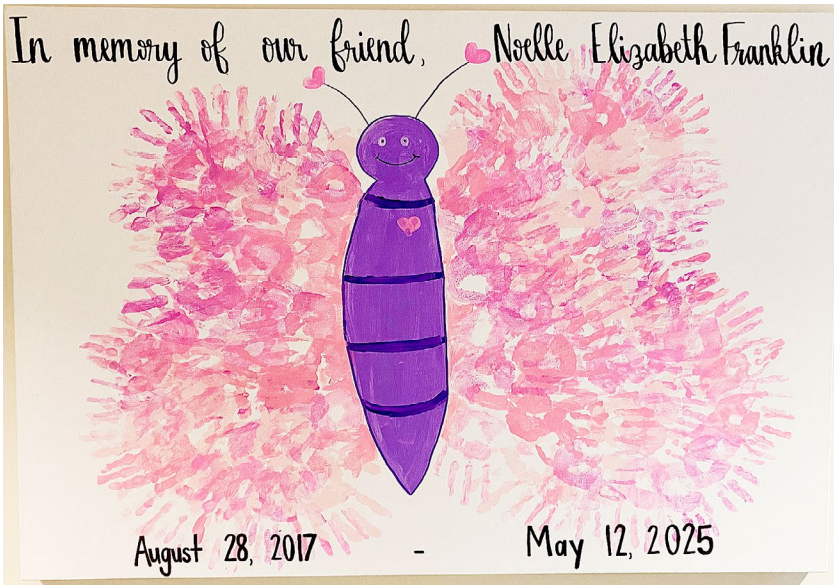
October - Caswell Trip

November – Bonfire

Early 2026 –Winter Basketball Leagues and Elevation Conference

Our prayer is that every youth will find a place to grow closer to God, build friendships, and experience the love of our church family through these opportunities.

For more information about the Youth program at First Baptist Church, please contact Vicky at 919-291-6832 or [vwandrews@gmail.com](mailto:vwandrews@gmail.com).



This memorial to Noelle Franklin was recently placed in the Children's wing. The painting was a collaborative effort by children, volunteers and Noelle's family during Vacation Bible School this past July.

*Memorials and Honorariums*

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

Leonard Gibson by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington  
Leonard Gibson by Rudy and Edwina Oliver  
Joyce Blackley and Jerry Johnson by Ayden and Betty Lee  
Joyce Blackley and Jerry Johnson by Doug and Sandra Phillips

**Organ Fund in Memory of**

Leonard Gibson by Gerald and Glenda Toler

**Youth Ministry Fund in Honor of**

the Youth and Youth Leaders by Ricky and Elizabeth Waddell

**Weekly Reports**

Baptisms this Year.....10	New Members.....21
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, September 7.....181	Sunday, August 31.....122
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, September 7.....141	Sunday, August 31.....105
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, September 7.....\$22,744	Sunday, August 31.....\$27,367
Weekly Needs.....\$16,659	