



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

September 21, 2025

Volume 48 Number 36

Indoor picnic entertains members of Johnston County Group Home

By Robin Little
WMU Leader

On Tuesday, September 9, the sounds of fellowship, laughter and singing could be heard in the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The Sarah Beddingfield Baptist Women's Group was hosting their friends from the Johnston County Group Home in Smithfield for an indoor picnic.

The residents, along with their caregiver enjoyed hot dogs, chips, baked beans, slaw and ice cream sundaes. They shared updates on their work at Johnston County Industries and one resident, who is a talented artist, showed us the artwork that she submitted to be on the JCI Christmas card.

The highlight of the evening was a sing-along led by "Mrs. Gwen" accompanied by "Mr. Steve" on guitar, with the grand finale being the residents' favorite song, Hole in the Ground! The residents always look forward to this outing and say it is one of their favorite activities of the year.

For over 40 years, the Sarah Beddingfield Baptist Women's Group has had a rela-



tionship with the residents of the Johnston County Group Home in Smithfield. During this time, both group members and residents have come and gone, but the love they share has remained a constant.

However, there is one current resident who has been at the group home since the Sara Beddingfield Group has been visiting; what a special relationship exists between her and the group members. Each year, the Sarah Beddingfield Group joins the group home residents for four special events: an Easter

See Baptist Women's Group, page 3



30/30/30 kicks off with a bang

Our first Wednesday night praise and worship service was a tremendous success. The sanctuary was filled, spirits were lifted and God's presence was felt. The praise band, with David Gregory on base guitar, Bill Moor on drums, Keeley Tarkington and Meredith Calton on vocals and Steve Canady on lead guitar, delighted those in attendance with an arrangement of wonderful and spiritually uplifting songs. The congregation lifted their voices up in praise also. 30/30/30 begins at 5 p.m. every Wednesday with supper in the Fellowship Hall. People of all ages are invited to a praise and worship service at 6 p.m. Age-appropriate Bible learning sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. with service sessions following at 7 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors to First Baptist Church Clayton next Wednesday. Our hope 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.

Baptist Women's Group

Continued from page 1

egg hunt, a hot dog picnic (held at First Baptist Church), a fall visit and a Christmas party complete with a sharing of a Christmas devotion, singing Christmas carols (including Mary Did You Know – their favorite!), and, of course, lots of presents!

The members of the Sara Beddingfield Baptist Women's group always say that these events are special to them and the relationships built are meaningful. Group members truly believe that serving these residents allows them to demonstrate the love of Jesus.

If you would like to be a part of this Missions opportunity, the Sarah Beddingfield Group would love to have you. Please contact Robin Little for additional information.

If you are interested in a different type of group and/or missions focus, there are many options available in the First Baptist Church WMU organization. To find out more about the various groups and how you can become a part of this missions-minded organization, please reach out to one of the WMU Directors, Cathy Paschal or Jackie Tarkington.

Service opportunities for 30/30/30 Night

***What did the broom say
to the vacuum?***

***"I'm so tired of people
pushing us around."***

On Wednesday nights during the last session (7 p.m.) of 30/30/30, one of the options for service is Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Clean-Up. The cooking team normally takes care of putting the food away, washing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen.

However, there are a few other things that need to be done so the CDC will have a clean and tidy Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings.



We were impressed with the turn-out last week, but could always use more help to complete the following tasks. Remember, extra hands make light work.

- Sweep and mop
- Wipe down tables
- Collect and put away salt & pepper shakers
- Put daycare tables up
- Empty all trash and place in dumpster
- Wipe serving trays and put them away
- Put eating utensils and napkins away
- Wipe down sinks after dishwashing

Thanks and God Bless You.

– Wednesday Night Cook Teams

Join us Sunday, Sept. 28 at WLFJ

On Sunday afternoon, September 28, First Baptist Clayton will take its once-monthly turn to serve at the With Love From Jesus house in Clayton.

If you would like to volunteer, let Rudy Oliver know you're coming by Thursday, September 25.

Please be at WLFJ at 4 p.m. on Sunday for sign-in and instruction. We will be distributing food, clothing and sharing the Gospel until around

7 p.m.

You can also bring any items you would like to donate to the ministry.

They are currently in need of nonperishable items. WLFJ often has over 80 guests come for food and clothing items.

The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of West 2nd and South Robertson streets. Rudy can be reached at 919-271-1178, or email him at reholston@gmail.com.



Note of Thanks

On behalf of the family of Joyce Blackley, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all who called, visited, sent cards, flowers, made memorial contributions, and prayed for us in our time of sorrow. Special thanks to all who had a part in her funeral – Dr. Keever, Keeley Tarkington, Jim Elmore and the choir, Stewart McLeod, and the Bereavement Team. It was the most beautiful and uplifting service. The family meal provided by the church was so generous and so appreciated. The gracious spirit of the church brought comfort and encouragement to our family during this difficult time.



We will never forget the church's expressions of love and honor for our mother.
God bless you all. – Linda Edwards and Mike Blackley

Wayne Sedei to play the accordion at NBC luncheon

The NBC (New Beginners Club) luncheon will be held Monday, September 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be catered by Smithfield's Chicken and BBQ. Plates are \$8.

Wayne Sedei will present a musical program with his accordion. He has played for us before and it will surely be a treat. Please notify the church office no later than September 24 if: 1) you are on the permanent list, but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list and plan to attend.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Shirley Coggins by Gerald and Glenda Toler Leonard Gibson by Chris and Diane Pearce
Joyce Blackley by Doug and Rebecca Mudd Leonard Gibson by Bucky Coats

Organ Fund in Memory of

Jerry Johnson by Diane Johnson

Youth Ministry Fund in Memory of

Jerry Johnson by Curtis and Elaine Moore

World Hunger Fund in Memory of

Leonard Gibson by Curtis and Elaine Moore

State Missions Fund in Memory of

Jerry Johnson by the Meadow High School Class of 1959

One Rocking Chair in the Sanctuary

Given by Jackie Smith in loving memory of her parents, Leon and Maxine Smith

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	21
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, September 14.....	222	Sunday, September 7.....	181
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, September 14.....	151	Sunday, September 7.....	141
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, September 14.....	\$20,311	Sunday, September 7.....	\$22,744
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		