



# *The Outlook*

## **First Baptist Church Clayton**

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

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## **The Holy Spirit desires to feed us with the purity of God's presence**

By Dr. Len Keever  
Pastor

This morning, I thought of an image that has helped me over the years. A cook was saying that if she had a cup of sweet milk and a teaspoon of vinegar, she'd have just that, a cup of milk and a teaspoon of vinegar.



But if she mixed them, she'd have a cup of sour milk. Her point was that God cleanses our hearts and makes us sweet and pure, it is when we allow negative things into our mind that things go sour.

I was reminded of this sitting on our deck this morning doing my routine of devotions. I was watching the leaves fall to the ground, noticing that the sun now comes up on the other side of the house and the irises and azaleas are getting more morning light. I was enjoying the peace of the moment when I started thinking about the tasks before me, wondering how I was going to fit everything into the week ahead..

With my guard down, my mind shifted to current events and chores. Before I knew it,

the senses of peace and calmness were replaced with the bitterness of stress and the acerbic taste of worry.

What happened? I'd allowed a teaspoon of distraction sour my thoughts. I'd let the things on my calendar, deadlines and headlines, invade my thinking and pollute the pureness of the moment – and I could not get it back easily.

See, while a teaspoon of vinegar can spoil a cup of milk, a teaspoon of milk can hardly change a cup of vinegar.

Every morning, we are awakened to the dawn of an unspoiled day. Every morning the Holy Spirit calls us to attention, desiring to feed us with the purity of God's presence. Each day brings the potential of a fresh start. The question we must ask ourselves is how quickly are we allowing sourness to rob us of this gift?

I knew of a father who offered his daughter \$10 if she could go a day without chewing on her fingernails. What do you think God might do in you if you could go a day without giving your attention to negative things? How much more meaningful do you think your morning would go if you didn't turn

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### ***New member***

We welcome Barbie Sloop to the First Baptist Church Clayton family and look forward to growing alongside her in our faith journey. Barbara was previously a member of Trinity Wellspring Presbyterian Church in Satellite, Fla.

## **Hospital Visitation team welcomes new members**

The Hospital Visitation Ministry Team would like to welcome new members Martha McCullen, Barbie Sloop and Jerry Poole. Just as the name indicates, this dedicated team visits churchgoers who are hospitalized.

These caring folks show God's love with prayers and presence for the ailing. The team is led by Kim Harrell. If you would like to be part of this caring ministry, please contact Kim at 919-264-9832.

Other ministry teams are Prayer, Bereavement, Casserole, Celebration, Homebound, Transportation and Visitor/New Member. For more information about serving on one of these teams, call Deacon Chair Ann Austin at 919-333-6791.

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

## **American Red Cross**

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



**Wednesday, October 8 | 12:30 to 5 p.m.**  
**First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall**

Make your life saving appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: FBCClayton.

**Give blood.** Receive a  
\$10 Amazon.com  
Gift Card by email.

Or scan the QR code below:





The team from First Baptist shared an enjoyable moment in the town of Swannanoa while on their first mission trip to the beleaguered area.

## Please pray for our disaster relief team as they work to assist hurricane victims

This Sunday, September 28, a team of volunteers from First Baptist Church Clayton will travel to Swannanoa, N.C. to team up with the North Carolina Baptist on Missions Disaster Relief organization.

This marks the second time this year that missionaries from our church will assist people in the North Carolina mountains who were victims of the floodwaters brought on by Hurricane Helene last fall.

A commissioning will be held during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. The team will depart shortly thereafter.

For four days, Monday - Thursday, First Baptist volunteers will install insulation,



hang sheetrock, and perform plumbing and electrical repairs and installation.

The First Baptist team will also be witnessing to local homeowners and other disaster relief personnel.

Volunteers making the journey include team leaders Richie and Elaine Johnson, Phil Sorrentino, Pat Zullo, Robert Little,

Steve Hall, John Brooks Rasor, Len and Cathy Kever, Sandy Stephenson, Bob Hinton and Joe Zavaglia.

Please keep the First Baptist team, and those people in Swannanoa and other areas who are still suffering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Helen in your prayers.

# Able to Serve Dance is October 10

The Able to Serve Dance will be held Friday, October 10 in the Fellowship Hall from 6 to 8 p.m.

This is a fun filled event for adults with disabilities. Even though this event is sponsored by our WMU, all are invited to participate.

Bring your dancing shoes and join in the fun. Volunteers, both men and women are needed.

If you would like to join us, please email Jackie Tarkington at [jackietarkington@gmail.com](mailto:jackietarkington@gmail.com) by Monday, October 6. A headcount would be greatly appreciated to make sure we have plenty of hot dogs and chicken nuggets.



## The Holy Spirit

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on the television, look at the news on your phone, turn on your computer to look at emails before you let God renew the sweetness of your heart?

I don't know about you, but I'm growing weary of hearing so many voices telling me what is wrong with the world. I find myself wanting to protect my heart from the thing that sours my thinking.

Again, I am reminded of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Every day we are made new, let's see how long we can go before we spoil it.

## Memorials and Honorariums

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

#### General Fund in Memory of

Joyce Blackley and Jerry Johnson by Joe and Linda Hester

Jerry Johnson by Shirley Shires

Leonard Gibson and Frances Mooneyham by Jiles and Kim Harrell

Frances Mooneyham by Bucky Coats

Joyce Neal by Ricky and Elizabeth Waddell

#### WMU Fund in Memory of

Frances Mooneyham by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

## Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	22
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, September 21.....	185	Sunday, September 14.....	222
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, September 21.....	145	Sunday, September 14.....	151
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, September 21.....	\$13,014	Sunday, September 14.....	\$20,311
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		