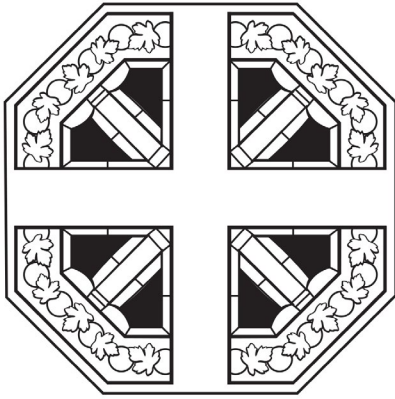




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

October 19, 2025

Volume 48 Number 40

Able to Serve dance a success

By Jackie Tarkington
WMU Co-Director

Food, fellowship, smiles, dancing, seeing old friends and meeting new ones was the theme of the night! A week ago on Friday night, the scene in the Fellowship Hall was just that – a great time of fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters.

The Able to Serve Dance party was the largest attended event to date. Thanks to the generous WMU groups and individuals it was a tremendous success. There was plenty of food for everyone to enjoy.

And, thanks to the men and women who attended and helped either set up and take down tables and chairs, cook, decorate, prepare food and beverages, sign in guests, serve the guests, dance with the guests, and clean up. With the hands of feet of Jesus in sync, all went smoothly.

Able to Serve is an expression/organization you may have heard several times over the past year, and you may have wondered what Able to Serve is all about.

Able to Serve is a non-profit organization that “provides structure for adults with disabilities by providing a program where they can become more independent.”

According to their website “Thousands of adults with disabilities are disconnected from society. They are often ignored, overlooked and misunderstood and lack opportunities to explore what they have to offer their community and world. We believe they can engage and thrive.”

At the dance with 104 guests and 23 volunteers, we became one big family of Christ. Dancing to the Electric Slide, the YMCA song, the Cha Cha Slide, the Congo Line, and many more songs, we had a great time together. Our guests did not care that some of us at First Baptist can’t dance, they just wanted to be joined on the dance floor.

The annual event is such a rewarding experience and is much appreciated by the families who attend. We hear comments such as “This is the best event we attend all year;” “No other group does for us what your church does for us;” “We can’t wait for this event each year;” and “They really like that you all get out there and dance with them.”

What the Able to Serve participants and their families don’t realize is that we are just as

Join us at the Fall Festival on October 29

Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat

It's time for one of our biggest outreach events of the year. This year's Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat will be Wednesday, October 29 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Fayetteville Street Parking lot. We will have lots of trunks, hot dogs for all, and opportunities to reach out to the Clayton Community at this family-friendly event.

Here are ways you can participate:

Volunteer a Trunk - We love to see many FBCC faces greeting children as they go trunk-to-trunk throughout the evening.

Consider hosting a trunk, whether that's with your family, friends, or church group. To sign up for a trunk, please call the church office at 919-553-4161 or email sparker@fbccclaytonnc.org.

Donate candy for Trunks - Please consider donating candy in the bin outside of the church office.

Spread the word - There will be fliers at



Joe and Linda Hester, aka Peanut Butter and Jelly at last year's festival.

the church office to share in the community. Take a few to share at childcare facilities, businesses, and neighborhoods.

We hope to make this a great event together.

— Rev. Stephanie Parker
Pastor of Children and Families



Keith and Jennifer Blackley and Emily Lajoye were host to a Jonah and Whale trunk.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Frances Mooneyham by Bill and Sarah Brooks

Bernard F. McLeod by Cecil and Donna Lee

Bernard F. McLeod by Jerry and Sharon Poole

Ava Spence by Bucky Coats

Frances Mooneyham and Bernard F. McLeod by Ayden and Betty Lee

Charles Byrd by Joe and Linda Hester

Frances Mooneyham, Ava Spence and Bernard F. McLeod by Judy Wood

Frances Mooneyham, Leonard Gibson, Charles Byrd and Bernard F. McLeod
by Carol Gilbert

Frances Mooneyham and Ava Spence by Andy and Gloria Pleasant

Bernard F. McLeod by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington

Jerry Johnson by Sue Pittman

General Fund in Honor of

Barbara Calton by the Bill O'Neal Circle

Heck Jones Fund in Memory of

Dot Nappier by Joyce T. Lee

Organ Fund in Memory of

Shirley Coggins, Leonard Gibson and John Lee by Walter and Jill Rasor

Ava Spence by Lexene Lee

Charles Byrd by Gerald and Glenda Toler

Charles Byrd by Judy Wood

Ava Spence by Joe and Linda Hester

Ava Spence by Carol Gilbert

Ava Spence by Ricky and Sherry Smith

Ava Spence by Fred and Texie Lee

Ava Spence by the James and Madrid Crumpler Evans Family:

Rudean Evans Hawley, Linda Evans Johnson, Marie Evans Phillips,

Janie Evans Mozingo, Joanna Evans Thompson and Jimmy Wayne Evans

Ava Spence by Chris and Diane Pearce

Ava Spence by Vicki Spangler

Ava Spence and Bernard F. McLeod by Paul and Bronna Greer

Charles Byrd by Curtis and Elaine Moore

Building Fund in Memory of

Ava Spence by Donna Brown

Bernard F. McLeod by Jiles and Kim Harrell

WMU Fund in Honor of

Barbara Calton by the Hope Sunday School Class

Baptist Men Fund (Baptists on Mission) in Memory of

Jerry Johnson by Donna and Leonard Mitchell

Jerry Johnson by Jane Walker

Jerry Johnson by Rex and Peggy Creech

Jerry Johnson by Thomas and Dianne Tucker

Youth Ministry Fund in Memory of

James Hart, Sr. by Chris and Diane Pearce

WMU Fund in Honor of

Joyce Nixon by Joyce T. Lee

Tubes of toothpaste sought for Red Box Ministry

First Baptist Church Clayton WMU Groups are collecting toothpaste for their "Red Box" project this year. Red Box is a Christmas ministry that provides gift-filled boxes to incarcerated women in North Carolina prisons. A donation drop box is located in the hallway of the church office entrance. **Note: The Red Box Ministry has specified that only 6-9 oz. tubes in the original box will be accepted. Also, no boxes with multiple tubes will be accepted. The deadline is Sunday, October 26.**

Searching for God a top priority

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman popularized the term "Bucket List" in the movie titled the same. It was about two men, both diagnosed with terminal cancer, setting out to do those things in life they wanted to do before they passed away.



Since then, I have heard many people talking about their 'bucket list.' Some list the places they want to go, others the events in life they want to accomplish. In many ways our 'bucket list'

discloses something about us; they reveal our priorities.

As I was preparing for my trip to Iona, I began to think more deeply about my own 'bucket list.' I began to think about the things I want to do in the future with the question: Do these desires expose my hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)?

Do they reveal a desire to lay up for myself treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust can destroy them (Matthew 6:20)? Are my desires about me, or the legacy I hope to leave behind for others? In short, I began to examine whether my 'bucket list' is spiritual or temporal.

People in construction often have a punch list, those final things they must do before the building is ready to be handed off to the owner. Punch lists can list a variety of

things from caulking the tub to making sure the heating and air conditioning passes inspection. Builders often go around their projects with a critical eye wanting to make sure their work is done correctly, knowing that the final product will say volumes about the integrity of their work.

A few weeks ago, we read 2 Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth."

When I read this verse, I thought of a builder's punch list. Together, they challenge me to pay more attention to my 'spiritual bucket list,' the importance of eternal life rather than about the things I want to do before I pass away.

One of my favorite verses in the book of Psalms is Psalm 26:1-3. In the New Revised Standard Version it reads, "Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you."

I want my faith to lead me to walk in God's ways. It won't occur by being passive and ignoring the spiritual direction of my life. A life of faithfulness comes when we are intentional, actively involved in seeking, asking, knocking – searching for God as life's top priority.

Is faithfulness at the top of your spiritual bucket list? What are you doing to see that it happens?

Able to Serve dance

Continued from page 1

blessed as they are. Seeing the smiles on their faces as they enter the Fellowship Hall and the smiles throughout the night bring joy to all who are there.

So, with the final iconic song sung at the end of the night by Roy Williams and Dale Evans – Happy Trails To You – we bid each other a fond farewell and wish each one best wishes until we meet again next year.

Please consider joining us next year. You will be glad you did. Happy Trails to you.



The church will provide turkey, ham, dressing, gravy, rolls and beverages.

Please bring your favorite salad, side dish and/or dessert to share. Food items may be delivered to the Fellowship Hall after 3:00 pm.

****Please RSVP to Terry in the church office no later than November 14th***



Need to contact a member of the pastoral staff? Here's how:

Rev. Dr. Len Keever, Pastor | 919.820.0792 | lkeever@fbccclaytonnc.org

Dr. Keever works remotely on Mondays and will be in the church Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (other times by appointment) and welcomes your calls, requests and visits.

Rev. Stephen Nance, Pastor of Senior Adults | 717.262.8400 | snance@fbccclaytonnc.org

Rev. Stephanie Parker, Pastor of Children | 919.815.0946 | sparker@fbccclaytonnc.org

Rev. Keeley Tarkington, Minister of Music | 919.649.3155 | ktarkington@fbccclaytonnc.org

Church approves the organ project; move, construction to begin soon

Thank you to everyone who prayerfully considered the organ project and took time to attend the Special Called Business Meeting to discuss the organ project, and to cast a vote this past Sunday, October 12. The Music Council's motion was approved by paper ballot.

This past week, the contract was signed by a Trustee, and the down payment was sent to the organ builder. This upcoming week, Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders will remove the Schantz Organ from Seventh Street Christian Church in Richmond, Va. and begin their work to customize it for First Baptist Church Clayton.

We offer special prayers of thanksgiving to Cornel Zimmer and Seventh Street Christian Church for their part in this developing story of God's work in our community.

As a reminder, all organ donations can be given in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Just be sure to note that online or on your envelope when you designate your gifts to the Organ Fund.

Thanks again and many blessings,
Rev. Keeley Tarkington, Minister of Music

Rev. Nance to lead new Bible Study series

Rev. Stephen Nance will lead a new Wednesday Morning Bible Study beginning October 22 from 9:30 – 11 a.m. in the SALT classroom. There is a Zoom option. Call the church office for the link. In this five-session video study, "Path to the Cross," join Ray Vander Laan to see how "God's story continues...with the intense devotion of His people. Discover how their passionate faith prepares the way for Jesus and his ultimate act of obedience and sacrifice at the cross." Sign up in the church office. Study Guides are \$8 and will be available soon. Bible study dates are October 22, 29, November 5, 12 and 19.

NBC Luncheon is October 27

First Baptist senior adults will hold their monthly NBC Luncheon on Monday, October 27 at 11:30 am. Luncheon will be catered by Parkside Café. Plates are \$8.

Jenny Wayne will provide an entertaining and inspiring musical program. She is a perennial favorite and we always look forward to having her join us. Mark your calendar now. Please notify the church office no later than October 22 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	22
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, October 12.....	177	Sunday, October 5.....	158
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, October 12.....	90	Sunday, October 5.....	152
Not all classes reported attendance			
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, October 12.....	\$24,412	Sunday, October 5.....	\$17,918
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		