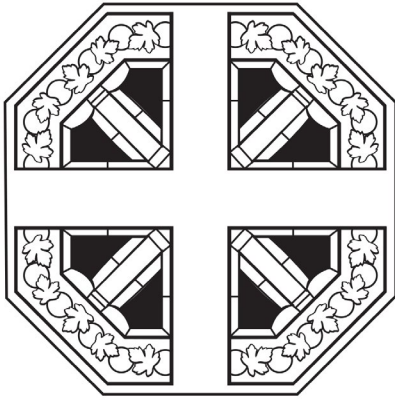




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

October 26, 2025

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“Remember...that you are Chosen”

By Rev. Stephen Nance
Pastor of Senior Adults

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you. (1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 ESV)

What should a church be remembered *for*? What should come to peoples' minds when they think of FBC Clayton? The apostle Paul gives us a clue as he remembers three essential characteristics of the Thessalonian church:

First, he remembers their “work of faith.” *Not* salvation by works, because salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), but works (good deeds) that are the natural outflow of genuine faith. In other words, the “work of faith” is to “work out” in practical living the salvation God has already “worked in” us through Christ.

Second, Paul remembers their “labor of love.” *Not* some simple deed of kindness; the Greek word for “labor” denotes laborious toil, bearing unceasing hardship for

love’s sake. This labor is the “sweat equity,” the whole-hearted effort – motivated by love – put into the “good deeds” that are the “work of faith,” and does not stop even when we’re weary, opposed, discouraged and ready to quit.

But we don’t quit, “For the love of Christ compels us.” (2 Corinthians 5:14 CSB)

Third, Paul remembers their “steadfastness of hope.” *Not* hope in the sense of a wishful dream, but a confident expectation, anchored on the certainty of God’s unfailing promises, of receiving the full completion of our salvation “in our Lord Jesus Christ.” The certainty of this hope inspires “steadfastness” – cheerful endurance, constancy and patient waiting in anticipation of Christ’s return.

Paul regards these three characteristics as indisputable evidence of genuine faith, and that God has “chosen” them (1 Thessalonians 1:4).

What do others see in us as a church?

What should a church remember? As we navigate through life, whether in good times or bad, whether within or without, we



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God's presence is with us always

The replica of St. John's cross greeted me when I stepped onto the ground at the Abby on the Isle of Iona in Scotland. There is a wind blowing, cold and biting yet cleansing and hopeful. This ancient ground has been dedicated to God for almost two thousand years.

I am humbled and excited about what God has in store for me this week. I will be praying for you, the congregation I am coming to love so quickly and for myself that I may hear God's voice leading me to experience Christ at a deeper level.

As youth we went to Caswell or to another camp where we learned to focus on Christ. That does not end when we grow older. It just becomes harder to do with all the demands and responsibilities we take on as adults. That is one of the reasons I have craved this journey. I look forward to the prayers, the walks, the conversations. I am excited about the possibilities.

As I write this I am seated in the sanctuary looking at stones that have stood strong for thousands of years. Off to the side there is a plastic bucket catching slow dripping water from a leak in the slate roof. It almost sounds like a metronome keeping time, calling attention to the slow passage of time and God's presence with us always.

Thanks be to God! — Dr. Len Keever



Volunteer your Trunk at the Fall Festival

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 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.

I'd like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, calls, texts and memorials given after the death of my Mama, Judy Frances Mooneyham. Your love and support were comforting and greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you.

– Ronald



Join us this Sunday afternoon at WLFJ

This Sunday afternoon, October 26, 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 as soon as possible.

This is probably First Baptist's last opportunity to serve at WLFJ because of the upcoming holidays. 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 reoholston@gmail.com.



Backpack Buddies

Each week Andy Pleasant and Bucky Coats along with Tom Mayes, and Pearce and Lane Ford deliver backpack food for children at Cooper Academy.

The food is provided and packaged by Interfaith Food Shuttle, then housed at First Baptist Church until delivery is made on Thursdays. Cooper Academy's guidance counselor identifies students whose nutritional needs are not met and provides the number of bags needed each week (currently 20). Food bags are left in rooms after school for the teacher to discreetly distribute each Friday. These bags provide healthy nourishment for the weekend.

We appreciate these men serving as the hands and feet of Jesus for our neighbors in need.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Charles Byrd by Ginger Jones
Ava Spence by David and Pam Outlaw
Bernard F. McLeod by Emory and Jo Howard
Tom Medlin and John Zullo by the Eph Whisenhunt WMU Group
Ava Spence by Jim and Judy Nappier
Jerry Johnson by the Loomis Wood Johnson Family

Organ Fund in Memory of

Ava Spence by Aaron Winfree
Bernard F. McLeod by David and Jo Earp
Ava Spence by Jean Bryant
Ava Spence by Mary Lawrence

WMU Fund in Memory of

Joyce Blackley by Barry and Jan Woodard

You are Chosen

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should continually bring to mind three things:

First, God’s *provision* for us in the past: I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old...and meditate on your mighty deeds....You are the God who works wonders; You with your arm redeemed your people... (Psalm 77:11-15 ESV)

Second, God’s *preservation* of us in the present: “...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18b ESV); “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20 ESV)

Third, God’s *perfection* of us in the future: “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you (plural in the Greek) will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6 ESV)

So, let’s run the good race, let’s keep the faith, and let’s *remember*.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers (and sisters), be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:57-58 ESV)

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....10	New Members.....22
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, October 19.....167	Sunday, October 12.....177
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, October 19.....127	Sunday, October 12.....90
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, October 19.....\$22,670	Sunday, October 12.....\$24,412
Weekly Needs.....\$16,659	