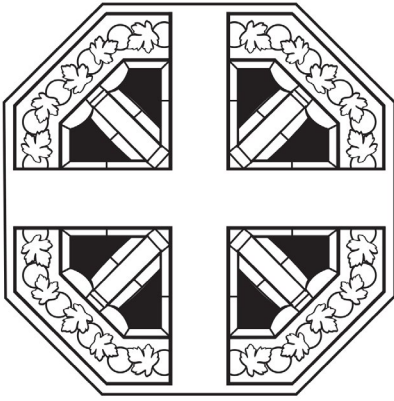




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

November 2, 2025

Volume 48 Number 42

Budget is more than just numbers; it's about the ministries and people

By Dr. Len Kever
Pastor

Long ago, in a church far, far away, I remember a particular conversation I had with one of the employees of the local Baptist Association. I had dropped by to bring some supplies for the clothing ministry our church had collected when she told me that she was having a hard time raising funds for a project that was near and dear to her heart.

"Every meeting I stand up and beg for funds," she said. "At the annual meeting they voted overwhelmingly to set up the designated account, but hardly anyone is giving to it."

As I listened to her, I thought back to our recent meeting recalling her plea for help. She had indeed stood before the body and made a passionate plea for X amount of dollars. However, sitting in her office she wasn't talking about money, she was talking about needs and how the ministry would help so many families in our area.

I asked if I could offer a suggestion? She agreed. I then said, "I think the next time you shouldn't ask for money, you should share the passion I hear in your voice. Don't talk about the budget, talk about the women

and children we are helping, talk about how appreciative they are."

Today, we are getting a look at the proposed budget for 2026 for the first time. Please don't look first at the numbers on the right-hand side of the paper, look at the ministries and opportunities listed on the left-hand side. A church budget is not just about numbers; it is about the work of the church.



It is about keeping the lights on, the room warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It is about the one hundred plus children who come to Vacation Bible School to learn about Jesus. It is about reaching out and partnering with ministries outside of the church.

It is about 60-plus youth having a safe place to make and nurture relationships, 60-plus children who begin their spiritual formation here, the parents who find support and encouragement raising children in today's world.

It is about our senior adults who look to the

See Ministries and people, page 3

Seniors to travel to Southern Supreme Fruitcake

Join the First Baptist Church Clayton Senior Adults on a trip to Southern Supreme Fruitcake and More in Bear Creek, N.C. on Thursday, November 6.

Come and shop for fruitcake, candy and other sweet goodies in plenty of time for Christmas. The bus will leave the church at 9 a.m. and return by 4 p.m. Sign up in the church office by Monday, November 3.

Senior Adult Movie Night

All are invited to a screening of Howard Hawks' western classic, *El Dorado*, on Fri-

day, November 14 at 5:30 p.m. A gunfighter played by John Wayne comes to the aid of Robert Mitchum, who plays a drunken sheriff struggling to defend a rancher and his family against another rancher intent on stealing their water.

We'll dine on subs from Firehouse. Drinks are provided. Bring a snack or dessert to share. Please notify the church no later than November 2 if 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list, but plan to attend.

Christmas gifts sought for Cooper

The Frances Carroll WMU group has partnered with Cooper Academy again this year to provide Christmas gifts to students in need as a mission focus.

Rather than have a "Christmas for Cooper" tree with wish list items attached, the Wish List from the students and how to purchase Christmas gifts for them is all online. See the QR codes below, or call Terry in the church office at 919-553-4161 for assistance. Online links are also available in your Friday Reminders email and the digital Outlook.

We will be collecting the gifts in a variety of ways again this year. You can place unwrapped gift(s) in the box outside the church office, ship gifts to Lauren Rasor (745 Maggie Way, Wendell, NC 27591), or we can arrange a pick-up of your items no later than Wednesday, December 3. You may also donate towards a larger item or make a donation towards unpurchased gifts with an online contribution.

We need all gifts no later than Wednesday, December 3, to get them to Cooper the following week before students leave for holiday break. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lauren Rasor at 919-796-6197 or Au-

drey Harrell at 919-673-0965.

It's likely to be another season of high need for our community, and we appreciate your continued support of this project! Last year, we heard that it would be helpful to have the list earlier. We are grateful to the counselor at Cooper for helping us get the information.

Thank you for helping us **SHOW** God's love in this very tangible way to our community.



Ministries and people

Continued from page 1

church for community, for Sunday school materials so we can grow deeper in our knowledge of scripture. It is about a vibrant music ministry, incredible worship, and having a staff that sits with people when they need a pastor to accompany them through hard times.

It is about live-streaming our services so that those who are absent can worship where they are. It is about keeping the building maintained. It is about so much more.

Each item listed on the budget represents our desire to participate with Christ in bringing others to know the saving grace of Jesus, the joy of authentic Christian relationship and service.

These are not just numbers; they are ministries we have felt God leading us to do. As much as we need the funds to do them, even more we need the prayerfulness and commitment of those who vote on this budget to support the work of Jesus that First Baptist Clayton has been called to do.

Oh, and by the way – when my friend made her next plea for support, talking about the work of the program and how others were being helped – the giving came in. We both learned a lot about the meaning of a budget that day.



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*



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Russell Murray by Gerald and Glenda Toler

Ava Spence, Frances Mooneyham and Bernard F. McLeod by Lynne Martin

Bernard F. McLeod by Joe and Linda Hester

Ava Spence, Leonard Gibson and Frances Mooneyham by Tom and Ida Mayes

General Fund in Honor of

Sally Bierce by Shirley Shires

Dean Temple by Faith Sunday School Class

Organ Fund in Memory of

Ann Hardee by Bobby and Nancy Hardee

Ava Spence by Ronnie Crumpler

Harold Pope by Jo Ann Hardee

Ava Spence by Evans Plumbing Company

James and Ramona Cash by Jack and Judy Coats

Ava Spence by Earl and Hope Johnson

Ava Spence by Faye Strickland

Organ Fund in Honor of

Music Ministry by Curtis and Elaine Moore

Blood drive a success; another set for February

Due to the wonderful success of our October 8 Blood Drive, First Baptist will hold another one on . Mark your calendar for Friday, February 27 from 12 to 5 p.m.

Six people made first-time donations and there were 16 who donated Type-O blood. Type-O is considered special because of its rarity. Type-O is compatible with all other blood types (A, B, AB and O). Recipients can receive transfusions from Type-O donors without experiencing immune reactions. The American Red Cross thanks you and First Baptist Church.



Thank you!

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	22
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, October 26.....	169	Sunday, October 19.....	167
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, October 26.....	153	Sunday, October 19.....	127
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, October 26.....	\$20,575	Sunday, October 19.....	\$22,670
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		