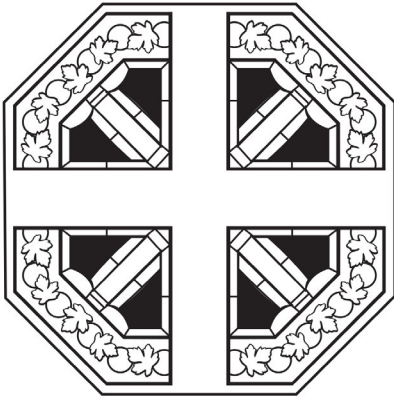




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

November 9, 2025

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Stewardship is an act of Thanksgiving

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

When I was a child, my parents would give each of us a nickel to put in our offering envelopes for Sunday school. We were taught at an early age that when we gave to the church, we were participating in the work of Jesus.



We learned that our nickels, combined with the giving of others, made a huge difference. We helped support missionaries, pay someone to mow the yard, and yes, pay the pastor.

We were told stories about the widow who gave her last two cents and we imagined that our nickels mattered. We felt proud that in giving, we were a part of the church just like the grownups.

Years ago, I was challenged to see that people don't carry nickels and dollars around like they once did. People spend their money in different ways.

Our youngest son came home from college and asked me to order him more checks for his checking account. I asked him if he'd used up all the checks in his desk drawer. "What checks?" he asked. "I only had 25

checks when I opened the account." In six years, he had written only 23 checks. His spending was with a debit card.

Recently in Scotland, I discovered that the stores and restaurants didn't want the cash I had exchanged to bring with me, they wanted me to use my credit card. Merchants looked at me like I was from Mars when I handed them currency.

The point is... the church too offers different ways in how it receives funds if we are to make it easier for folks to give who do their banking electronically or online. Gone are the days of offering envelopes and boxes we check off to say we brought our Bibles or studied our lessons.

That is why there is a QR code on the back of the bulletin and broadcast during the offering time so that people can contribute and be a part of the ministries of the church. There are other ways (which will be presented later) where one can designate from a retirement account to avoid taxes on their contributions.

Frankly, as one who does our giving electronically, I am glad we have these options. Still, there is something I'd like to challenge others who give in a variety of ways to do. Please find a way to include your children

See Stewardship, page 4

Operation Christmas Child shoebox deadline is Nov. 16

The deadline to fill a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child is fast approaching. All shoeboxes must be returned to the church no later than Sunday, November 16.

First Baptist's goal this year is 100. There are 27 left to fill and they are available in the hallway outside the church office and in the vestibules.

This is a wonderful mission opportunity that the whole family can participate in.



The shoeboxes will be blessed during the November 16 morning worship. Thank you to everyone who has supported Samaritan's Purse and their efforts to make Christmas brighter for children around the world.

Rain doesn't dampen the Fall Festival



Brooke Nugent, above left, managed the Lego construction booth while Tara, Charlie and Kseniya Senarian helped Noah count two by two.



Anna and Sandy Stephenson were ready to set sail.



Members of the Youth Ministry in appropriate dress served delicious hotdogs to festival goers.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

– 1 Peter 4:10



Pipe organ has made it to North Carolina

The new First Baptist Church Clayton pipe organ was removed from the church in Richmond, Va., packed up, and safely shipped to Cornel Zimmer Organ Builder's headquarters in Denver, N.C. two weeks ago.

The church is thankful for all the many donations towards this organ project and appreciate your continued support as our pledges transform before our eyes from promises, into funds and ultimately into the incredible instrument that will be installed in the spring of 2027.



Share the true meaning of Christmas at the live Nativity on December 4

As we approach the advent season, First Baptist Church Clayton has the opportunity again this year to share the true meaning of Christmas with the Clayton community by portraying a live nativity during the Town of Clayton's annual "Christmas Village and Tree Lighting Celebration" on December 4 beginning at 5 p.m.

Main Street will be closed as Clayton welcomes the Christmas season with lots of music, dancers, singers, vendors, bands, food and beverages, culminating in the Christmas tree lighting on the Town Square at 7:15 p.m.

FBCC's live nativity includes a stable, hay, manger, Star of Bethlehem, characters of Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, three wise men and angels, along with live animals and a recorded narration of the story, including FBCC music. The live nativity is one of the favorite traditions of Clayton's Tree Lighting event as families and individuals pause to reflect on the birth of our Lord and Sav-



ior Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

It also provides an opportunity to invite folks to join us at First Baptist for worship and other activities during the Advent Season.

To be successful, "it takes a village" to

portray the characters, help with costumes and greet people on the street. Logistically, the live nativity will take place in eight rotations, fifteen minutes in length with nine to eleven people portraying characters dressed in slip-on costumes. Participants will arrive fifteen minutes prior to their rotation to allow time to dress in costume.

An additional six people will help with costumes behind the scenes and four others will greet the crowd on the street and distribute fliers.

Please pray about being a part of this special event and reach out this week to one of our Mission Council Co-Chairs, Gwen Canady and Robin Little, or to the church office to sign up to participate. You will be blessed by the opportunity.

“I would like to thank everyone for their calls, texts, visits, cards, and most of all prayers during my recent knee surgery and recovery. It is truly a blessing to be part of a caring church family.”

- Chris Pearce



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE General Fund in Memory of

Ava Spence, Harold Pope and Bernard F. McLeod by Ayden and Betty Lee
Harold Pope and Russell Murray by Andy and Gloria Pleasant

Organ Fund in Memory of

Ava Spence by Jerry and Deborah Pace John Murray by Chris and Diane Pearce
Ava Spence by Billy Parrish John Murray by David and Jo Earp

Youth Fund in Memory of

Harold Pope by Chris and Diane Pearce

Stewardship

Continued from page 1

and grandchildren in your discipline of giving so that they can know how important their contributions are.

It remains a great teaching tool to give a child a nickel to put in the plate, to talk to them about how you support the work of the church. One does not have to reveal the amount one gives. What matters is that our children and those we disciple come to know how contributing to the General Fund is participating in the work of Christ and everyone's giving is important.

Stewardship is an act of thanksgiving and trust. It is being thankful that God provided, and it is trusting that God will continue to bless us. The mutual support of the church budget joins us to one another and to the mission, ministry and maintenance of our fellowship. Giving is a wonderful way to be a part of what Jesus is doing among us.

I am so thankful for how I was taught the importance of all my nickels. Giving faithfully is a discipline that draws me closer to God.

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	22
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, November 2.....	176	Sunday, October 26.....	169
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, November 2.....	141	Sunday, October 26.....	153
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, November 2.....	N/A	Sunday, October 26.....	\$20,575
November 2 giving will be reported next week			
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		