

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

November 23, 2025

Volume 48 Number 45

Making today tomorrow's nostalgia

Often at Thanksgiving and Christmas, many people experience nostalgia, a reminder of positive times past and a wish for that feeling and experiences to accompany us into the present. We see decorations and families and are reminded of those sweet memories where joy, love and laughter abounded.

Nostalgia can be bittersweet. With so many things in life changing, there are few things that stay the same. Next week, we have an opportunity to experience a little of the past as we come together as a church family, as we have so many years before, to "hang the greens."

Our Seasonal Worship committee will spend hours this Sunday decorating the majority of the sanctuary. Then on Sunday, November 30, we will add the finishing touches with the help of our children, youth and all of us lifting our voices to start the 2025 Advent Season.

If nostalgia is not something you can relate with, then consider that today could be tomorrow's nostalgia. Join us in making positive memories at these upcoming events!

Sunday, November 30 – 9:30 a.m. **Hanging of the Greens**

Thursday, December 4 – 5 p.m. **Live Nativity**

– sign up to dress up with your family

Sunday, December 7 – 9:30 a.m. **The Shine Choir to sing**

Sunday, December 14 – 9:30 a.m. **Sing along Christmas Cantata: "Carols"**

– with a string quintet

Wednesday, December 17 – 6:30 p.m. **Church-wide Christmas Caroling**

Sunday, December 21 – **Adult Handbells and Mix-It-Up Handbells to Play**

– Gerald Toler to sing "The Glory of Christmas"

– Celebrate Jesus joint Sunday School and church-wide brunch

– bring a dish to share

Wednesday, December 24 – 5 p.m. **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas

Rev. Keeley Tarkington, Minister of Music



The Outlook will not be published next week. The church office will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 26 and re-open Monday, Dec. 1.

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.

The Wish List from the students and instructions for purchasing Christmas gifts is all online. See the QR code below, or call Terry in the church office at 919-553-4161 for assistance. Online links are also available



in your Friday Reminders email. You may place unwrapped gift(s) in the box outside the church office or ship gifts to Lauren Rasor (745 Maggie Way, Wendell, NC 27591). We can also arrange a pick-up of your items no later than Wednesday, December 3. Online donations are accepted

for larger items or for unpurchased gifts. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lauren Rasor at 919-796-6197 or Audrey Harrell at 919-673-0965.



Share the Joy of Christmas with FBCC Youth

It's the most wonderful time of the year — a time for joy, kindness and sharing love with our church family. This Christmas season, the First Baptist Church Clayton Youth are excited to help you spread holiday cheer through our Christmas Card Delivery Ministry.

Here's how you can join in the fun:

First, the youth will gladly address and mail your card. Bring your signed Christmas cards, envelopes and a list of recipients and the youth will lovingly address and deliver them to the mailboxes downstairs.

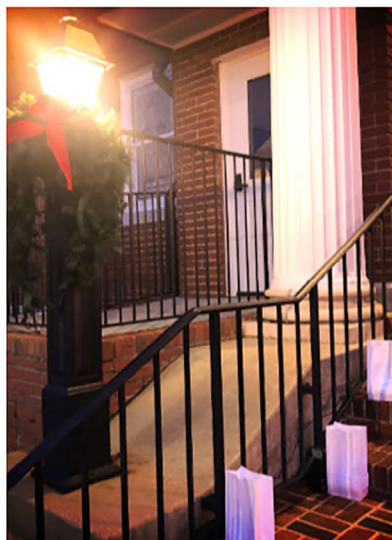
Second, if you already have your cards ready to go, simply drop them in one of the Christmas-themed boxes located in each Sunday School classroom. The youth will make sure they reach their destinations with a smile. Delivery dates are now through December 21. If you'd like to show appreciation for our youth and their efforts in spreading Christmas joy, we welcome a Love Offering to support their ministry and mission. Love Offering gifts may be made to the Youth Ministry Fund.

Lastly, to all church members: Be sure to check the red mailboxes in the vestibule near the choir room to see if your church family has left you some holiday cheer. Christmas cards will be organized by last name initials.

Let's come together to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas — sharing love, encouragement, and joy with one another.



"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14



Merry & Bright

FBC Child Development
Center

LUMINARY FUNDRAISER

1 Luminary = 1 step closer to a
brighter, safer, more fun
playground!



SCAN ME

How to Participate:

1. Scan the QR Code and choose "Luminary" from the "Fund" drop down menu.
 2. Dedicate your luminary in honor or memory of someone special.
- Or, bring cash or check by the church office.

Join us Christmas Eve at 5pm as we light the night in fellowship and thanks for our blessings!

FBCC to assist at WLFJ this Sunday

I misread the calendar and thought that With Love From Jesus would be closed on the 4th Sunday in November, our Sunday to serve. I just realized that I was very wrong about that.

WLFJ will be open this Sunday, November 23, so I hope that some of you will be able to be there. I apologize for getting it wrong,



but on the other hand, it is a bonus opportunity this year to serve others. Help is definitely needed as the demand goes up this time of year.

I hope to see you Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of West 2nd and South Robertson streets.

– Rudy Oliver

Memorials and Honorariums

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

- Frances Mooneyham, Bernard McLeod, Charles Byrd and Ava Spence
by John and Lynn Gibson
- Judy Cox by Billy Parrish and family
- Judy Cox by Emory and Jo Howard
- Judy Cox by the Billie Hardee Sunday School Class
- Judy Cox, Joyce Blackley and Tom Medlin by Steve and Carolyn Jones

General Fund in Honor of

- Anne Abene and the Homebound Ministry Team by Joe and Linda Hester
- Lowell Harris by the Hope Sunday School Class

Organ Fund in Memory of

- Judy Cox by Tom, Emily and Jay Vinson
- Judy Cox by David and Jo Earp
- Judy Cox by Jack and Judy Coats
- Bernard F. McLeod by JoAnne Norris
- Judy Cox by Paula Medlin
- Judy Cox by Candy Pope

Organ Fund in Honor of

- the family of Jimmy and Judy Cox, Anne Abene and Lexene Lee by Jack and Judy Coats
- Judy Cox by the Hope Sunday School Class
- Judy Cox by Fred and Texie Lee

Youth Ministry Fund in Memory of

North Carolina Baptist Children's Home in Memory of

- Judy Cox by Rudy and Edwina Oliver
- Judy Cox and Ava Spence by David and Nancy Turlington
- Judy Cox by the Bill O'Neal Mission Group

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	22
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, November 16.....	192	Sunday, November 9.....	179
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, November 16.....	137	Sunday, November 9.....	91
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, November 16.....	\$13,994	Sunday, November 9.....	\$23,642
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		