



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

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Let's go Christmas Caroling together

By Rev. Stephanie Parker
Pastor of Children and Families

There is nothing quite like a familiar tune to bring people together. It just takes one to get it going. Someone sings a first line, then another joins in, followed by another. Before you know it, you have a small chorus of voices. Even if you aren't one to sing out loud, there is a good chance you're singing along in your head. The beauty of this phenomenon is that it can happen with a variety of musical

styles and can evoke a variety of emotions. The key in many of these circumstances is the way music transcends time, space, and differences to bring people together for that shared moment.

Singing together is one of the wonderful things we enjoy year-round at FBCC. We experience it each week during worship as we sing the *Doxology* and hymns together. We praise God on 30/30/30 Wednesday nights.

We sing together as we celebrate and remember lives lost and mark special moments in the liturgical calendar. During Advent, ending each serving with *Emmanuel*

stirs familiar feelings of anticipation as we prepare to welcome Christ.

The singing that occurred on the first Christmas night wasn't reserved for the temple or "church" spaces. It was heard in a great company of heavenly host out in a field with the shepherds.

It prompted a response of going and sharing the good news for all people. If we are going to be a Christmas people, we, too, can take our singing outside the walls of our sanctuary and into the community.

On Wednesday evening, December 17, all are invited to gather at the church at 6:30 p.m. for Christmas caroling. While we won't be heading to a field with shepherds, we will head to "The Walk" off Front Street to share Christmas carols with neighborhood residents.

Christmas caroling is a wonderful time for congregants of all ages to fellowship together and share the story of Christmas through familiar tunes. Grab friends, wear your Christmas festive attire, and join us on December 17 for Christmas caroling!



FBCC Youth delivers Christmas greetings

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. Deliveries will continue 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 all that you do be done in love." — 1 Corinthians 16:14



To all the First Baptist
Prayer Warriors,

Our Father in Heaven heard your prayers. Praise His Holy Name! Thanks does not go far enough to express our heartfelt appreciation for your loving concern and prayerful support following the birth of Woody and during Hilary's recovery from complications. We love our church family and thank God for your presence.

– Stewart, Tammy and Caroline McLeod
Hilary, Tom and Woody Squire

thank you



Dear friends at First Baptist,

Thank you for your calls, cards, visits, and especially your prayers after my recent heart surgery. I am doing well and getting stronger each day. It is truly a blessing to be a member of such a caring church family.

May God bless each of you and your families during the Holidays and always.

– Lois Crutcher

Join us for Carols - A Cantata for Congregation and Choir

We pay good money to attend concerts of famous musicians to hear their vocal talents and experience the collective hearts of people gathered who enjoy the same types of music. We often join our voices alongside theirs as they sing our favorite songs. It is a special moment at weddings when "Sweet Caroline" comes on and we all yell "b-u-m, b-u-m, b-u-m." Stadiums erupt in melody as "The Star Spangled Banner" plays or our team's fight song blares.

Singing is a unique way we come together, lifting our voices as a sign of solidarity, joy, and a shared experience. If we are present to the moment, we can audibly hear the reality of our situation: we are better together!

Next Sunday, December 14, you are invited to lift your voices in song as an act of worship, remembrance, and for the joy of it. Join the First Baptist Church family for Carols - A Cantata for Congregation and Choir by Heather Sorenson.

Our choir, children, and youth will lead us in creating music that we could never create on our own.

On Sunday, you have the opportunity to be a part of a 300 person choir (the congregation), accompanied by a string quintet and guest pianist, Colton Hurley. Colton is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University in Piano Performance and is a gifted musician.

Invite a friend and join us for this special worship service filled with music, but don't forget, this is not a concert, but a time to participate in a beautiful, collective dialogue with God and one another as we sing and pray together.

Do not attend to be entertained but, instead, come with expectant hearts to take part and be changed.

Blessings,
Rev. Keeley Tarkington
Minister of Music

Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to be screened December 12

Senior Adult Movie Night is slated for Friday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m. "A Christmas Carol," starring Alistair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge, will be screened in the Fellowship Hall. The 1951 classic is regarded by many as one of the best screen adaptations of Charles Dickens' famous tale. Baked Ziti from Anthony's will be served. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Please notify the church office no later than December 11 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.

Proposed ministry team seeks to improve communication

Communication is an essential extension of ministry within the church. The Church Council is currently gauging interest in a potential new team ministry opportunity to help us effectively communicate First Baptist Church Clayton committee activities, upcoming church events and service opportunities. If established, the Communication Ministry Team will also work to improve communication with church members and others via online videos, online slides prior to worship services, and scrolling messages on TV monitors around the church.

This new ministry will seek to expand and improve communication efforts that began a few years ago when the Outlook returned as a weekly newsletter, a social media presence was established, directional signage was provided inside the church and steps were made to educate church members on the capabilities of Realm.

If this interests you and you want to serve your church and help grow God's Kingdom, please contact Keith Blackley or Stewart McLeod.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Niles Harrell by Judy Wood
 Russell Murray and Bernard F. McLeod by Earl and Hope Johnson
 William Robert Johnson by Lexene Lee
 Russell Murray, Judy Cox and Ava Spence by Jiles and Kim Harrell
 James Hart, Sr. and Judy Frances Mooneyham by Jay and Kathy Woodard
 Judy Cox by Bucky Coats
 Judy Cox by Martha McCullen

Billie Hardee by the Billie Hardee Sunday School Class

General Fund in Honor of

Lynne Martin by the Billie Hardee Sunday School Class

Organ Fund in Memory of

Judy Cox by JoAnne Norris
 Harold Pope and Judy Cox by Paul and Bronna Greer
 Dean Grattidge by JoAnne Norris
 Dottie Brezeale by David and Jo Earp
 Past Choir Members by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

Organ Fund in Honor of

Rudy Oliver for his dedication to our Prayer Ministry by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington
 Ida Mayes' birthday by Joyce T. Lee
 Current and Fomers Choir Members by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

North Carolina Baptist Children's Home in Memory of

Judy Cox by Judy Wood
 Judy Cox by Tom and Ida Mayes
 Judy Cox by Nancy Blinson

Youth Ministry Fund in Memory of

Judy Cox by Jean, Glenn and Karen Bryant

Heck Jones Fund in Honor of

Cathy Paschal and Jackie Tarkington by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

Faith Sunday School Class in Memory of

Ava Spence by Joyce T. Lee

Bill O'Neal Circle in Honor of

the Bill O'Neal Circle by Joyce T. Lee

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	10	New Members.....	22
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, November 30.....	197	Sunday, November 23.....	191
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, November 30.....	138	Sunday, November 23.....	149
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, November 30.....	\$13,834	Sunday, November 23.....	\$12,548
Weekly Needs.....	\$16,659		