



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

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God is actively involved.... always

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

This week I am meditating on Psalm 104. It is a beautiful Psalm where the writer takes a long look at the world and praises God for the wonderful way everything fits together.

The psalmist begins, "Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great." Then in the cosmology of their day, stops to see the work of God in the grass of the field, the work of the sun and moon, the way young lions feed at night and then slink off in caves during the day not to harass workers in the field.

Everything fits. God has it all planned from the smallest creeping thing in the ocean to the Leviathan, the monstrous creature that roamed the deep. The Psalm celebrates both the creative wonder of God and the symbiotic rhythm of all creation.

Monday morning, I stood at the window looking out on the backyard with Psalm 104 fresh on my mind. I watched so many varieties of birds taking turns landing on the bird feeder feasting on the seed as well as

scattering bird feed on the ground for other birds and squirrels.

I watched a neighbor's cat slowly slinking along the tree line. Although I could not hear the warning, all the foraging animals scattered leaving the mischievous cat to lose interest wandering off into the woods, looking for a field mouse or something else to be its prey.

God was taking care of them all, giving each their daily bread. The creator of heaven and



earth was actively involved. Watching over the sparrows of the field and the bulbs from where the Iris' will soon sprout.

Granting us all an ice storm to allow us to slow down and if we were lucky, watch nature remind us that everything will be alright – God is always with us. It is a lesson we all need, especially now.

Once more I heard the echo of another favorite verse, "Be still and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10).

***All Women of the church, young and old, are invited to
sing in the choir on WMU Sunday, February 8.
See page 4 for more information.***



**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Youth Minister

(full-time)

- Lead our Middle & High School ministry
- Mentor & guide students in their faith
- Build relationships with students
- Collaborate with volunteers & church staff

Pianist/Accompanist

(part-time)

- Accompany Sunday worship and rehearsals
- Support choir and special services
- Collaborate with the Minister of Music

**Please spread
the word!**



Celebration and Homebound Ministry teams express love to our church family

At First Baptist Church Clayton there are eight Ministry teams dedicated to loving and supporting our church family. These teams function under the auspices of the Deacons and are led by active Deacons. They are Prayer, Bereavement, Casserole, Celebration, Homebound, Hospital Visitation, Transportation and Visitor/New Member. This week our focus is on the Celebration and the Homebound teams.

The Celebration Ministry team's name fits its purpose precisely. Led by Sarah Brooks, the Celebration team sends birthday and anniversary wishes to church members throughout the year. They also celebrate other special occasions with the church family. If you would like to be a part of this team, please call Sarah at 919-323-2625.



The Homebound Ministry team focuses on members of our church who are not able to attend weekly worship services because of physical limitations, and also those members who cannot attend because they have commitments to care for a loved one.

The ministry's goal is to provide and deliver meals on holidays and to visit the homebound. They are also ready and willing to run errands or assist in any way possible. Anne Abene leads this team. Please call her if you are homebound or know someone within our church family who could benefit from this ministry. Also, please call Anne at 919-210-7081 if you would like to serve on this team.

The Ministry teams at First Baptist Church Clayton are not committees and members are not elected by the church. To participate, all you have to do is volunteer. And you do not have to be an official member of our church to serve on a Ministry team. For more information about the Deacon Ministry, contact chairman Ann Austin at 919-333-6791 or dddhd@aol.com.

There is a bulletin board with information on all eight Ministry teams in the hallway near the south vestibule to the sanctuary. If the Lord leads you to join a Ministry team, there is a place on the vestibule where you can write down your name and contact information. A team member will be in touch.

This year it's Souper Bowl Wednesday; proceeds go to Clayton Area Ministries

First Baptist Church Clayton Youth Acteens and Challengers will be hosts to the Souper Bowl Supper on Wednesday, February 4 from 5:15 - 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for an evening of hearty and delicious soup and tasty sandwiches provided by Baptist Men, and delightful desserts provided by the Women's Missionary Union (WMU).

The praise and worship band will perform at 6 p.m. to provide entertainment while you eat. There is no charge for dinner. Donations will be collected to help support Clayton Area Ministries (CAM). Join us in fellowship for a delicious dinner and a great cause.

Note: This is a time and day change from the traditional and annual fundraising lunch usually held on Super Bowl Sunday.



WMU Sunday is February 8

The First Baptist Church Clayton WMU (Women's Missionary Union) will lead the morning worship service Sunday, February 8.

All women of the church, young and old, are invited to sing in the choir that morning. If you are interested in participating, please meet in the Choir Room at 8:45 a.m.

Tammy Weeks, the Missions Ministries Director for the Eastern Baptist Association will be the guest speaker. Her exuberant personality and her love of the Lord is contagious.

She currently serves on the executive board for Baptists on Mission. Formerly, she served as North Carolina State WMU



Tammy Weeks

Director, State Prayer Coordinator for Baptists on Mission and on the executive board of the Biblical Recorder.

She and her husband, Rev. Richard Weeks, have been extremely active in serving as coordinators of the Western North Caroine Hurricane Helen Rebuild effort.

Tammy is very passionate about prayer and missions in

local, state, national and international missions in numerous states and 10 countries with multiple visits to each. Her message is sure to be a blessing.

All are encouraged to support the WMU with your presence next Sunday.

30/30/30 Lineup: Something for Everyone

There are four new offerings for the second 30 minutes of the Wednesday night 30/30/30 activities. At 6:30 p.m., our staff of pastors and ministers have prepared in-depth studies on topics for people of all-ages.

Dr. Len Keever leads a study of Eugene Peterson's book *A Long Obedience In the Same Direction*. The class will focus on the Psalms of Accent and the difference in being a pilgrim and a tourist as we journey in faith. They meet in the church Conference Room.

Rev. Stephen Nance leads a Bible study called *The Word Made Flesh: Jesus as Revealed in John's Gospel*. His study focuses on Jesus' "sayings" and "signs" that reveal his person, nature, character and mission. They meet in the Basic Sunday School classroom.

Rev. Keeley Tarkington leads a study on the book "Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, Do as He Did" by *New York Times Best Selling* author, John Mark Comer. This book offers nuggets of wisdom, thought provoking topics, and practical steps that will inspire you to not resign yourself to just growing another year older, but motivate you to take steps to mature and become more like Jesus. They meet in the Faith Classroom.

Rev. Stephanie Parker leads a series on faith foundation topics for parents of young children. Discussions revolve around the faith community and how parents can walk alongside others who are equally dedicated to raising their children in the Christian faith. They meet in the Salt classroom.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. – 1st Corinthians 13:4-8a

