

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

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Discover what God has in store

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Pastor

Following the Easter service, we enter the season of Easter. Having experienced the wonder of an empty tomb, the news of Jesus' resurrection spreading among his followers like wildfire, his appearance in the Upper Room to the disciples, we confess there is a lot to take in, almost too much for one day.



We need time to ponder Easter's meaning for ourselves and for creation. We need to hit the pause button and think about what we have seen.

Easter is the highlight of the Christian year. The rules of reconciliation literally changed that morning with Mary's discovery; creation would never again be the same again. As believers, our understanding of eternal life and God's love and grace find its deepest meaning in the cross and the empty tomb.

Just like Mary and the others that discovered something wonderful and transforming behind a stone that was rolled away, we too are invited into a new understanding, a

new reality awaiting us.

The season of Lent has passed. We now begin another 40 days of discovery. This time we do not enter giving things up, sharing in the wilderness journey of Jesus as he prepared for his ministry, as he prepared to resist temptation.

These 40 days are met with celebration as we look to see what Jesus' resurrection and appearance mean for us. This is not a time of austerity, it is a time of wonder, a time of grateful appreciation. Where Lent is a time of contrition, the Easter Season is a time of embracing our inclusion in Jesus' great work of reconciling the world to him.

It is a time of thanksgiving as we come to know we are the beloved of God; the ones Jesus came to love and give eternal life. During the next 7 Sundays, we will spend time with Jesus and the disciples as the resurrection and the hope of eternal life becomes more real to them.

We will ponder its meaning for us as we prepare for the crescendo event of the Ascension and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Easter is not the ending but the beginning. I hope you will plan to be with us as we listen to discover what God has in store for us.



Child dedication

On Sunday, March 29, the Skillmans dedicated to raise their son, Cooper, in a Christian home and faith community. The church pledged their commitment to come alongside of Cooper and his family to grow in faith as we come to know Christ through loving, serving, learning, and growing together. Pictured are Ben, Sara Lynn, Made-lynn and Cooper Skillman with Rev. Stephanie Parker.

Fashion Show to support Isaiah 117 House

The Woman's Club of Clayton and Dillard's at Triangle Town Center in Raleigh are sponsoring a Brunch and Fashion Show on Saturday, April 11 to raise money for the Isaiah 117 House in Selma. The event will be held in the First Baptist Church Clayton Fellowship Hall beginning at 11 a.m.

The brunch will be prepared by the church's cook team. Models will be members and family of the Woman's Club and and First Baptist. Ann Austin will be the emcee.

There will also be a silent auction. Tickets for the event are \$40 and can be purchased on the Woman's Club's website, www.twccnc.org, by email sbrooks@twccnc.org or text 984-323-2625.

Isaiah 117 House provides physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting placement in foster care. When children are removed from their homes out of concern for their safety, they are usually taken to a child welfare services office to await placement.

The process can take from a few hours to several days. These children often have nothing with them and are scared, lone-

Isaiah 117
changing the way foster care begins

ly, hungry and in dirty clothing. The Isaiah 117 House is a warm and inviting place where

friendly and loving volunteers provide these children with a safe and comfortable environment.

Isaiah 117 has 57 locations across 13 states. Each Isaiah 117 location is dependent on community support. The Woman's Club of Clayton provided initial support to the Selma location by purchasing a bedroom and half bath. Individual members have also purchased items on the house's wish list on Amazon. You may do the same:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/MFIPUTK9VY32/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

Isaiah 1:17, which reads "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause," is a divine call for action-oriented faith, demanding social righteousness rather than just ritualistic worship. It instructs believers to actively defend the vulnerable – specifically orphans and widows – and to stand against corruption.

For more information, visit www.isaiah117house.com.

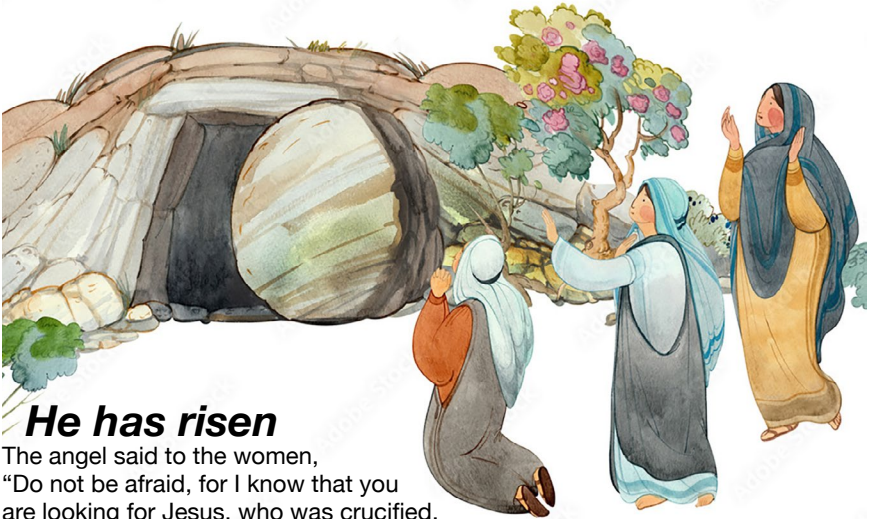


Palm Sunday Processional

To mark the beginning of Holy Week, the children participated in a palm processional during worship this past Sunday. The ritual provides a visual reminder of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Madelynn Skillman and Emma Boyette lead the procession and are followed by Brian Taylor, Saylor Johnson and Ava Rose Johnson.

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the king of Israel!" – John 12:12-13*



He has risen

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. – Matthew 28:5-9

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Betty Matthews by the Basic Sunday School Class
 Betty Matthews by Doug and Sandra Phillips

Organ Fund in Memory of

Tom Medlin by Paula Medlin
 Jean Lee, Ricky Dean Barbour and Betty Matthews by Walter and Jill Rasor

Organ Fund in Honor of

Keeley and the Choir by Jeff and Jackie Tarkington

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....0	New Members.....7
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, March 29.....224	Sunday, March 22.....247
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, March 29.....121	Sunday, March 22.....131
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, March 29.....\$7,764	Sunday, March 22.....\$9,953
2026 Weekly Needs.....\$17,470	