



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

April 12, 2026

Volume 49 Number 14

Living in the “In-Between”

By Rev. Stephen Nance
Pastor of Senior Adults

After the busyness of the past four months, we now find ourselves at a comma, a point of suspense, a pause; we could even say a pregnant pause, full of expectation and anticipation – but of what?



Advent is behind us, when for forty days we eagerly anticipated Christ’s birth, culminating in the great Christmas celebration of his incarnation. Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Lent is behind us, when for forty days we soberly anticipated Christ’s death, culminating in the glorious Easter celebration of his resurrection. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Now what? Ascension Day lies ahead, forty days after Easter, with Pentecost ten days later. Jesus has ascended to the Father; the Holy Spirit has descended and taken abode in all of us who are believers, equipping us with “everything needed for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3 NRSV).

Yet we still sense that something is off; we feel a certain tension between what is and what should be. Something is missing.

When the women came to Jesus’ tomb that first Easter, the angel told them, “He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said” (Matthew 28:6a CSB).

We celebrate “he has risen” (as we should) but we mustn’t forget the other: “He is not here.” That’s the missing element. All of us who know and love Jesus long for his presence – his physical presence. We want to see him with our own eyes.

One day we will, when heaven and earth come together in the fullness of the new creation that Jesus inaugurated with his resurrection. Until then we live in the “in-between,” the interval separating his first coming and the day of his final appearing, the “now and the not yet,” as N.T. Wright puts it.

Someday “the faith shall be sight.” Until then we are to live faithfully and confidently as resurrection people or, to put it another way, as children of the new creation, for that is who we are: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV) “Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is” (1 John 4:2 NRSV).



On Sunday, April 5, we celebrated the baptisms of Nick Dollar, Christy Dollar, Ashley Eason, and Ryan Eason. We pray for their faith journeys as we come alongside of them in this church community.

Mission Moment



Transportation

The Transportation Ministry team is one of eight ministry teams that function under the auspices of the Deacons with the primary goal to love and serve our church family.

The Transportation Ministry team is ready and willing to provide transportation for church members who need it. Typically, team members receive a call from the church office requesting a ride for someone to a doctor's or physical therapy appointment. The team will also be glad to provide a lift for other needs. If you would like to serve your church family by volunteering for this ministry, please call leader David Outlaw at 919-634-7356.

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 Team 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. If the Lord leads you to join a Ministry team, there is a place where you can write down your name and contact information. A team member will be in touch.



GA Tea

On Saturday, March 28, the GAs held their annual tea. This event, a First Baptist Church Clayton tradition, is where GAs with the women in their families gather to celebrate the generations of faith that have been formative in their lives.

Cathy Paschal, WMU co-director, spoke about JOY (Jesus, Others, You), reminding the girls that Jesus is our joy and that we are called to love Jesus, others and then ourselves. She gave the girls a JOY journal to keep track of ways they experience joy each day.

We are so thankful for the GA leaders who commit to teaching the girls about Jesus and being on mission for Jesus each week.



He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth – the Lord God Almighty is his name. – Amos 4:13



Give Hope to a Child Today

Baptist Children’s Homes of N.C. Food/Supply Roundup

Please join the First Baptist Church Clayton WMU (Women’s Missionary Union) as we partner with the Baptist Children’s Home of North Carolina for their annual Food/Supply Roundup. Items needed are food, household/cleaning supplies and toiletries.

These donations help provide meals, comfort and stability for neglected and/or abused children, as well as show the love of Jesus. Supply lists are located throughout the church. Gift cards to Sam’s, Wal-Mart, Food Lion and Lowe’s are also accepted. Please put the receipt with the gift card.

Please note that out of date food items cannot be accepted by state law.

A collection box is located by the church office. The deadline for items to be received is Wednesday, April 29.

For more information, please contact Cathy Paschal or Jackie Tarkington.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

- Jerry Carroll by Kenny and Vickie Adams
- Jerry Carroll by Bill and Sarah Brooks
- Jerry Carroll by Bucky Coats
- Jerry Carroll by Ayden and Betty Lee
- Jerry Carroll by Pat Zullo
- Jerry Carroll by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

Organ Fund in Memory of

- Jerry Carroll by Teresa Ann Calton
- Jerry Carroll by Candy Pope



Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	4	New Members.....	8
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, April 5.....	308	Sunday, March 29.....	224
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, April 5.....	102	Sunday, March 29.....	121
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, April 5.....	\$22,930	Sunday, March 29.....	\$7,764
2026 Weekly Needs.....	\$17,470		