

# The Outlook

## First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

April 26, 2026

Volume 49 Number 16

## Joy comes from the Holy Spirit

By Dr. Len Keever  
Pastor

I was reminded recently of a song we used to sing when we'd go to Caswell or to youth gatherings with other churches. "I've got joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart. I've got joy,



joy, joy, joy down in my heart to stay."

It was a fun song to sing with many verses and often sung in rows with the girls starting and then the boys joining in or with the auditorium divided

so that each group was singing the same song but not at the same time. Reflecting on the memory, two thoughts come to mind.

The first is, what is joy? One thing I have learned is that joy is not the same as happiness, though it seems at times easier to be joyful when we are happy. Joy does not mean an absence of conflict. It is peace amid conflict.

Joy is the inner working of the Spirit, down in our hearts, that speaks confidence in the presence of uncertainty, assuredness even when a multitude of questions go unanswered. When the women left the tomb the day of Jesus' resurrection, Matthew 28:

8 says, "They left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples." Joy and fear can go together when the assurance of joy is allowed to add hope to fear.

Joy is the conviction that things will turn out for God's good – even when we can't see how. Joy is not being naïve. Joy is not failing to take responsibility. Joy is being aware of God's greater work and believing that regardless of how difficult it may be to perceive, God's will is being accomplished.

Joy is one of the attributes of the Holy Spirit. It is a gift, like love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness and self-control. When we exercise joy, allowing it to produce calm in our storms and trust in our trials, we are attentive to the Spirit's presence.

The second insight is that while joy is always present, we may not all be experiencing it at the same time or to the same degree. It reminds me of how much we need each other. Joy is contagious. It feeds off one another.

When we were in youth, we were taught that joy is also an acronym for Jesus, others and you. When we place Jesus first, others second, ourselves third we can receive more joy in our lives.

See Joy and the Holy Spirit, page 2

# Joy and the Holy Spirit

Continued from page 1

We live more joyful lives when we practice the discipline of trusting Jesus in all things, putting the needs of others above our own, and believing that God will take care of us.

We all need more joy in our lives. Ask God to increase your joy. Share your joy with others. There is nothing like God's joy. Remember, it's down in your heart to say.

## HELP US STOCK OUR **BLESSING BOX**



Our Blessing Box supply shelves are bare! Be part of a meaningful initiative to support families in need in our Clayton community. Bring your donations and help us spread kindness!



**Wednesday,  
April 22**

**Sunday,  
April 26**

### Most Needed Items:

Canned and dried foods	Non-perishable food items	Nutritious snacks
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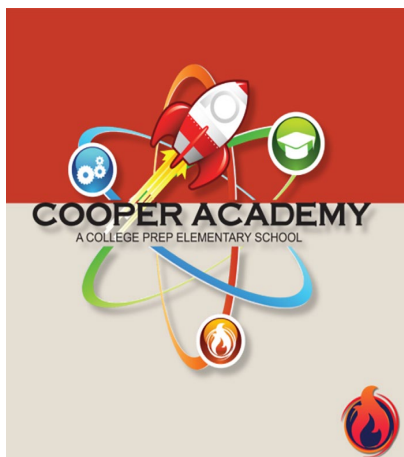
Items can be placed in the grocery cart in the sanctuary or dropped off anytime in the tub outside the church office.

# EOG proctors needed at Cooper Academy

Our neighbors at Cooper Academy need volunteer proctors for End of Grade testing on May 13, 15, 18 and 19. EOG testing is conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer please contact test coordinator, Sara Quinn at 919-553-0256 ext. 2382 or [saraquinn@johnston.k12.nc.us](mailto:saraquinn@johnston.k12.nc.us). A Google sign up sheet is also available: <https://forms.gle/hCzcdTUYkobwd96Z7>. You do not need any special training to volunteer.

Cooper Academy is located at 849 Mial Street, just a couple of blocks from the church. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to expand our partnership with Cooper Academy as we strive to show God's love in our community.



## 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.

It is written, "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God."

– Romans 14:11

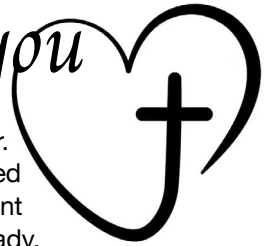
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

– Philippians 2:9-11



On behalf of The Woman's Club of Clayton, we want to thank First Baptist Church of Clayton

*thank you*



for allowing us to use your wonderful facilities for the Spring Fling Brunch and Fashion Event fundraiser. We are so excited to report that \$6,000 will be donated to the Isaiah 117 House in Selma. In particular we want to thank Terry McCallum, Antoine McKoy, Steve Canady, Donnie Pollard, Linda Blackmon, Vicky Elia, Jessica Collins, Elaine Johnson and finally the wonderful Baptist men who prepared a delicious brunch and handled cleanup in the kitchen, most especially Ricky Blackmon and Doug Phillips. We are so grateful to the Church Council for approving this event.

Sincerely,

Fashion event co-chairs Dianne Carroll and Sarah Brooks

## *Memorials and Honorariums*

### **WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE**

#### **General Fund in Memory of**

Roger Michaelson by Joe and Linda Hester

Jerry Carroll by Donna Brown

Roger Michaelson by the Hope Sunday School Class

Betty Matthews by Doug and Rebecca Mudd

#### **Organ Fund in Memory of**

Jerry Carroll by Joe and Linda Hester

Jerry Carroll by Paul and Bronna Greer

Jerry Carroll by Billy Parrish

#### **Children's Ministry Fund in Memory of**

Jerry Carroll by the Simpson Sunday School Class at First Baptist Church in Smithfield

#### **Music Fund in Honor of**

The FBCC Choir by Doug and Rebecca Mudd

## Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....4	New Members.....10
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	
Sunday, April 19.....173	Sunday, April 12.....155
<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
Sunday, April 19.....126	Sunday, April 12.....135
<b>General Fund Giving</b>	
Sunday, April 19.....\$14,286	Sunday, April 12.....\$11,793
2026 Weekly Needs.....\$17,470	