



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

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Summertime is also church time

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

Officially summer won't begin until June 21, but I'm already there. As a child, summer began on the last day of school and although it didn't end until September, it was unofficially over that night we went to school to see who our teachers were and who was in our class.



The weather may have still been hot, but when the bell rang that first day, vacation was over.

I thought of this as I saw children getting off the bus on their last day of school. There was a giddiness in them that I'd not seen since Christmas break. Watching them, I felt a tinge of excitement too what wonders will this summer bring? Where will we go on vacation and what adventures will we have?

As children, we didn't start baseball until school was out. Summer meant swimming lessons, hanging around the pool, eating dinner on the back porch, and sitting with my dad listening to the Atlanta Braves ball games on his transistor radio.

During the summer my brother and I would roll out our sleeping bags on the

chaise lounge and go to sleep on the porch listening to tree frogs and the freight train that went through town sometime after 10 o'clock each evening.

Summer was magical with lightening bugs and the July the Fourth picnic. But the highlight each year was Vacation Bible School.

I remember lining up on the church steps in the morning and marching in. We stood up when we heard a certain chord on the piano and we sat down to another. We learned Bible stories and made crafts.

We sang songs and memorized Scripture. We saw our friends, some we hadn't seen since school was out. We ate snacks and played games. It was a highlight of summer. Every year as June begins, I think of how important church was to me as a child.

I appreciate the way it helped form and shape me for these older years. Be it Vacation Bible School or later when I was old enough to go to Camp Caswell, playing church softball, Sunday school picnics, or that early August Ice Cream Social, being a part of church has always been something that has made summer special.

This year, as you plan your vacations and look for fun things to do, remember your church. If you are in a Sunday school class,

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New organ on schedule for Easter

The Music Council at First Baptist Clayton is pleased to announce that FBCC's dream for a new organ is coming together very nicely. Donations, organ renovation and construction, and plans to renovate the sanctuary are on target.

Rev. Keeley Tarkington, Minister of Music, said the new organ should

be installed and in service by Easter (March 28, 2027). Keeley, who is in frequent contact with C.A. Zimmer Organ Builder, reports that all organ work is on schedule.

The Building and Grounds Committee is currently working to acquire three bids for renovations to the sanctuary in preparation for the new organ. Demolition and re-construction are expected to begin in the fall.

The total projected cost of the organ and renovations to the church is \$875,700 (all numbers are rounded to the nearest \$100). At the outset, there was \$544,100 in the Organ Fund. A pledge campaign began,



This pipe organ that once stood in a Richmond church is currently being refurbished by C.A. Zimmer Organ Builder to fit First Baptist.

more than enough money was committed and on October 12, 2025, the church voted to approve the project. Since the vote, members and friends of First Baptist have contributed an additional \$170,100 to the Organ Fund.

After payments to C.A. Zimmer totaling \$320,000, the current bal-

ance due is \$555,700. With \$394,200 in the Organ Fund and a \$53,200 sales tax refund coming, \$108,300 is needed to complete the project.

The Music Council would like to thank the First Baptist Church family for its financial commitment and prayerful support during this process.

“If the Music Ministry has been a vital part of your worship experience at First Baptist in the past and/or present and you hope to enjoy it in the future, consider giving to the Organ Fund as we seek to fully fund this project,” said Rev. Tarkington.

Summertime

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plan a picnic, get together after church for a meal, go on a walk together on one of our local paths. Do something to nurture your relationships with each other.

If you are in an organization, even if they don't meet in the summer, think about doing something to stay in touch with each other. Be aware of First Baptist's Vacation Bible School, pray, volunteer and donate to the children's ministry out of appreciation for what the church did for you when you were younger. Pray for our youth as they go on their mission trip, support them by donating to the youth fund, remember those who supported you when you were younger and be thankful for them. Find a way to stay involved.

Let this summer be one of the best you've had – regardless of your age. Summer is a great time to be at church. I'm excited!

Senior Adults have plans for a busy June

“The 39 Steps”

Senior Adult Movie Night will be held Friday, June 12 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Zaxby’s Chicken Fingerz, popcorn and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

The feature film, “The 39 Steps,” is a 1978 British adaptation of John Buchan’s 1915 novel. Robert Powell, who plays a mining engineer visiting London, is falsely accused of murdering a British intelligence agent. He goes on the run in a desperate bid not only to clear his name, but to also expose a cadre of Prussian sleeper agents and prevent a political assassination that could plunge England into war prematurely.

Everyone is invited. Please notify the church office no later than June 10 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list and plan to attend.

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

On Thursday, June 25, the senior adults will travel to the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. Join us for a self-guided tour and lunch at the Dailey Planet Café. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and return by 2 p.m. Sign up in the church office by Tuesday, June 23.

NBC Luncheon

The monthly NBC Luncheon will be held Monday, June 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Smithfield Chicken and BBQ will cater. Plates are \$8.

Our very own Dr. Sherrill Stevens will share with us his memories and experiences from his military career, particularly his many years as an Army chaplain. Dr. Stevens is a member of a vanishing breed of World War II veterans. Please notify the church office no later than June 25 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.

Lastly, please remember to pray for the children and leaders attending the Passport Kids Camp June 10-13 and for the youth and leaders participating in the mission trip June 14-20.

Senior Adult Women, mark your calendars for the Summer Bada Bling and Beyond Class

Earlier this year because there was such a great response, and a great time was had by all during the Bada Bling Class, I have decided to have a summer class. There is no cost and the class is limited to 12. Classes will be held on Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m. June 15 to August 10 (no class on July 20) in the Basic Sunday School Classroom.

To register, call or text Stacie Moor, Bada Bling Ballet, 919-763-5738.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Jerry Carroll by Ginny Kennerly

Roger Michaelson by David and Nancy Turlington

Chuck Turlington by Jiles and Kim Harrell

Vacation Bible School coming to a slope near you

We are taking VBS 2026 to the slopes! Well, not literally, but the theme is focused on the snowy slopes of Snowball Mountain. We will look at stories of people in the Bible who, through various twists and turns along the path, learn the important message of our theme verse – to find their strength in Christ (Philippians 4:13).

WHAT: Join us for a meaningful four days of scripture, song, games, crafts, science and fellowship at Vacation Bible School!

WHEN: Sunday July 12 – Wednesday, July 15, from 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday and from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church Clayton.

WHERE: VBS begins in the Fellowship Hall with a fellowship meal the first three nights at 5:30 p.m. Caregivers are invited to eat. After the meal, caregivers will take their child to sign in at his/her “Snow Lodge” or home base. Pick up will be at your child’s Snow Lodge at 8 p.m. sharp. On Wednesday, we will gather at 6 p.m. for a closing ceremony and hotdog picnic

following.

WHO: VBS is open to preschool children ages 3 (as of 7/11/26) through 5, and grade schoolers from completed Kindergarten through completed of 5th Grade. If you sign up a child who is 3, you are required to volunteer.

WHY: To grow in relationship with God and one another!

HOW: Register online by going to the following link. Registration closes June 26. After registration closes, we cannot guarantee a shirt or spot. Be sure to hit the final «register» button to complete registration. If you do not get a confirmation email, your registration did not complete.

<https://onrealm.org/fbccclaytonnc/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZTY1ZjYwYTgtMDc3My00OTJjLWl3ODU0YjQ1ZDAxMT-kyYjVi>

Can’t wait to hit the slopes with you at VBS!
Peace,

Rev. Stephanie Parker
Pastor of Children and Families

To my wonderful church family,
Thank you for all the beautiful birthday cards, phone calls, visits and gifts. Your love, encouragement and prayers truly touched my heart. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation. Thank you for helping make my milestone so incredibly special! – With Love and Gratitude, Ella Mae Sorrell



To all my FBCC members/friends who helped with the Bada Bling Ballet Recital,
A very heartfelt “Thank You” for helping make my recital in the Fellowship Hall a success! God smiled down upon us on Sunday. This is such a loving church family. God led us here for a reason giving us a wonderful blessing. – Thank you so much again, Stacie Moor

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	4	New Members.....	10
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, May 31.....	176	Sunday, May 24.....	139
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, May 31.....	106	Sunday, May 24.....	88
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, May 31.....	\$14,374	Sunday, May 24.....	\$14,706
2026 Weekly Needs.....	\$17,470		