

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

June 14, 2026

Volume 49 Number 23

Financial faithfulness

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

I saw a garden the other day that looked neglected. Earlier in the spring, the ground had been plowed into rows. Fertilizer had been applied. The seeds were carefully planted.



Beyond that, it didn't look like the owners had paid any attention. I wonder what they will expect their garden to look like when they return?

I drove by a house last week that showed years of neglect. Even in the overgrowth it was obvious that it was once a beautiful home. The shrubs were nearly as tall as the gutters. Grass was growing where it shouldn't be.

There were limbs that had fallen that were rotting in the yard. I noticed a 'for sale' sign near the sidewalk. I wondered if they could get more for the property if they'd done a little yard work?

Many years ago, in a church far, far away, I pointed out in a business meeting how the church was not meeting our budget and how it was affecting our upcoming summer programs. A member stood up and told me not to worry about it, stating that every Decem-

ber the people really came through to meet their budget.

"It will be okay, preacher!" he said. "We always come through in that last quarter."

"Yes," I replied, "but Vacation Bible School is in July, and the choir needs to order its music for Christmas in August, not to mention the power bill for the air conditioning and the lights, they won't wait six months to be paid."

There is a big difference between meeting a budget and having the funds you need when you need them.

Together, these remind me of one of the things I really appreciate about First Baptist Church of Clayton. When you contribute to the general fund, you are participating in every aspect of church life.

You are generous in supporting the work of the church. We do not take for granted the importance of your support. Therefore, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for what you do, we could not have our summer activities without your generosity.

Building and Grounds keep the church looking good, our Children and Youth programs continue, the rhythm of our summer worship and outreach does not miss a beat in part because of your faithful giving.

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Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Bobbie Carroll, Shirley Ussery's sister, by the Faith Sunday School Class

Jerry Carroll by Michael and Elizabeth Gault

Chuck Turlington and Ron Earp by John and Cathy Paschal

Youth Ministry Fund in Memory of

Chuck Turlington by Rudy and Edwina Oliver

Chuck Turlington by Gerald and Glenda Toler

Organ Fund in Honor of

Jackie Smith by Ricky and Sherry Smith

Mission Moment



Homebound Ministry

The Homebound Ministry Team strives to minister to members of our congregation that are limited in their ability to be active in the week to week activities of our church. Many of them are able to participate by means of online worship, Bible studies and meetings. And while we are grateful for that technology tool, it does not replace the personal contact that comes from worshipping together with fellow believers.

Members of the Homebound Ministry Team attempt to fill that gap by making personal visits and providing a meal on holidays. While meals are always a welcome treat, it is the personal contact with caring church members that they most look forward to.

Our team is always looking for others to join us in our mission. There is a good chance you will receive more than you give. If you're interested please call Anne Abene at 919-210-7081 for more information.

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.

Financial faithfulness

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As the children return from Passport Camp and the Youth depart for our mission trip. As Vacation Bible School volunteers prepare to lead, the Senior Adults gathers for fellowship and fun, we all want to say thank you!

Your financial faithfulness is greatly appreciated.

Senior Adults to visit Raleigh museum

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.



**American
Red Cross**

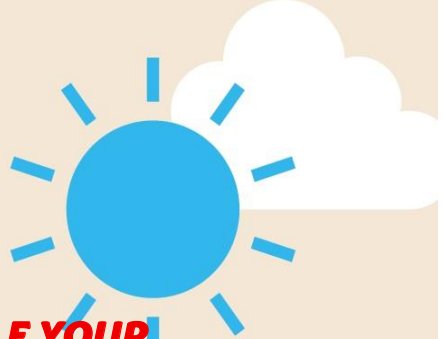
BLOOD DRIVE

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

411 N. Fayetteville Street
Clayton, NC 27520

Friday, June 19, 2026

12:00 pm to 5:00 pm



**SCHEDULE YOUR
APPOINTMENT TODAY!!!
SEE BELOW**

SUMMER

LIFESAVERS NEEDED

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter: [FirstBaptistClayton](https://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment or **CLICK** on the following **LINK**:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=FirstBaptistClayton>



Register by June 26 for Vacation Bible School

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=ZTY1ZjYwYTgtMDc3My00OTJjLW13ODUtYjQ1ZDaxMT-kyYjVi>

Can't wait to hit the slopes with you at VBS!
Peace,
Rev. Stephanie Parker
Pastor of Children and Families

Save the Date

WMU Kickoff Dinner

Tuesday, August 4 | 6 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Additional information to come...

Weekly Reports	
Baptisms this Year.....4	New Members.....10
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, June 7.....189	Sunday, May 31.....176
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, June 7.....131	Sunday, May 31.....106
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, June 7.....\$23,723	Sunday, May 31.....\$14,374
2026 Weekly Needs.....\$17,470	