



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

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A Father's Day Reflection

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

In February I passed that strange date where I can now say I have lived longer than my dad. There are many reasons I miss him. There are many things I wish we could have shared.



For starters, he was not living when Jared was born. Seth and Lauren were not yet teenagers. He would be so proud of them.

When Dad passed, I was in my second year of seminary and although I know he supported my decision to become a pastor, I would have loved for him to have known the churches I've served. I would have loved to have had the chance to have a deeper adult to adult relationship with him.

There are so many times I have needed his encouragement, his wisdom, and yes, his approval. I wish he could have experienced watching me grow in ministry.

Another thing my father could have experienced is how vegetables are cooked these days. He loved asparagus and Brussel sprouts just to name a few; but they were always stewed. If my dad had ever tasted a

roasted Brussel sprout with a honey and balsamic glaze, he never said anything about it. I don't think he'd ever tasted grilled asparagus. One of the things Cathy and I learned to do in Belize is to put sliced cabbage, onions, squash and peppers in an aluminum foil pouch with some olive oil and garlic, salt, pepper and sometimes a little soy sauce, and cooking it on the grill. Dad would have loved that.

In 1990 Dad purchased a bag phone that he'd take on trips for emergencies only. If he was at the store and couldn't remember something Mom told him to pick up on the way out the door he'd use a pay phone – cell rates were too high. The cell phone was not to be used unless necessary. Boy, would he be surprised now.

A lot has happened since November 5, 1992. We missed so much that we could have enjoyed. But that is not to say my dad is gone. Oh, don't get me wrong, I believe he is in heaven experiencing eternal life. Still, I believe he is also here, continuing to live in the lessons he taught me, continuing his impact on this life as our family is influenced every day by his ethics, his expectations, especially the way he loved us.

Dad taught us so much, not always with

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PASSPORTkids Camp 2026



Just over a week ago, three chaperones and seven amazing campers attended PASSPORTkids 2026 at Eagle Eyrie in Virginia. PASSPORTkids is a camp designed for hands-on missions education combined with meaningful fun, faith formation activities and worship.

While learning about how to prepare for the race of life, our participants learned more about the mission focus and Mexico City. The theme for the week was Vamos (let's go), honoring our mission focus of supporting the EduK Transformation Center in Mexico City.

The key verse for the week was Hebrews 12:1a, "So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us." As the children learned the basics of preparing for and completing a race, they looked at stories in scripture:

On Your Mark - Setting our mark on the call to love (John 13:35). Recognizing others we serve will know we are disciples by the love we share.

Get Set - Being ready to serve and follow Christ means building a strong foundation. We looked at the teaching of Jesus in building our house on rock like the wise man, so we are grounded in faith as we set out for the race ahead of us (Matthew 7:24-27).

Go - As we go, we often are called to be courageous, much like Esther (Esther 8) as she stood up to seek justice and help the oppressed (Isaiah 1:17).

It was a great week filled with growth and memories.



Join the First Baptist Church family for a church-wide Sunday School class and special Fourth of July Covered Dish Brunch. Following the 9:30 a.m. worship service, gather in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our freedom and faith, and enjoy the fellowship and delicious food. Bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert to share.



Dr. Stevens to speak at 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.

Father's Day Reflection

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words but certainly by example. These memories are evidence that his life still matters.

There are two events in my life that have taught me how important Father's Day is. The first was the birth of my first born. Seth was born in the spring. On that first Father's Day I became a part of a very special fraternity.

On that day, I began to appreciate my dad even more. The second was the first year he was gone. I know more now how blessed I have been.

Today, as we celebrate Father's Day, take a moment to reflect. Take a moment to be thankful.

It's time for our new church photo directory

We are very happy to announce that we're creating a new Photo Directory for all of our members.

Universal Church Directories will be providing this service. The photography dates will be September 10, 11 and 12. Please mark your calendars so you'll be sure to participate in this exciting event.

During your photo session you'll be provided with a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options. Everyone who participates will receive a FREE 8x10 portrait and a directory.



We will soon be sending out directions on how to register for your photo session. There will be an online option as well. If you need assistance in

registering, we will have someone available to help you. A sign-up table will be available following worship services for a few Sundays. Dates to be announced in the near future.

Please plan to join us for this special event, and be a part of what God is doing right here at First Baptist Church. Our Church Directory will not be complete without you.

Blessings, Bronna Greer, Coordinator

Volunteers sought for With Love From Jesus

On Sunday, June 28, First Baptist Church Clayton will take its once-monthly turn to serve those in need of a helping hand at the With Love From Jesus house.

If you would like to serve, please let Rudy Oliver know as soon as possible and come to the WLFJ house at 4 p.m. for sign-in and instruction. We will distribute food, clothing and share the Gospel until around 7 p.m. You can also bring any items you would like to donate to the ministry.

They are currently in need of nonperishable items. WLFJ often has over 80 guests come for food and clothing items. With Love From Jesus is an evangelical outreach to the needy in Clayton and Raleigh region. Their goal is to minister to the spiritual needs as well as physical needs of those individuals we serve each week.

The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of West 2nd and South Robertson streets. Rudy can be reached at 919-271-1178, or email him at reholston@gmail.com.

I would like FBCC members to know that I am not worshipping with you on this Fathers Day because I am in our hometown, Radford, Va. where yesterday, June 20, 2026 we buried Dottie's earthly remains in a grave only 3/4 mile from the house in which she was born and where she lived until we married shortly after her 21 st birthday. God blessed us with 68 years together, including dating. Our large extended family thanks FBCC members for the grace, mercy and kindness that so many of you showed to Dottie, and to me, over the last two years of her life when Alzheimer's was at its worse. And I thank you all for your patience and support during the past six months while I grieved Dottie's absence yet cherished my life with Dottie through fond memories.

thank you



– CP Brezeale

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....4	New Members.....10
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, June 14.....218	Sunday, June 7.....189
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, June 14.....145	Sunday, June 7.....131
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, June 14.....\$17,934	Sunday, June 7.....\$23,723
2026 Weekly Needs.....\$17,470	