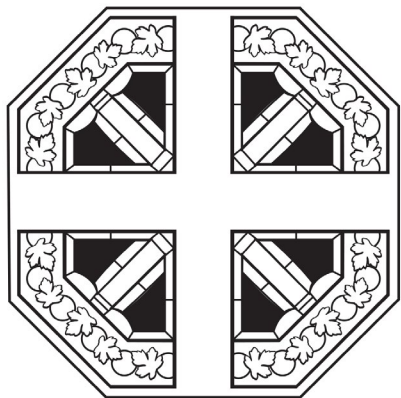




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

June 28, 2026

Volume 49 Number 25

Let's share Jesus' compassion

By Dr. Len Kever
Pastor

I like to ask questions that make a person think. For example, on a mission trip I try to ask the participants, "Where did you see God today?"

It is a good question to ask. God is actively working around us all the time. Many miss God's activity because we get so wrapped up in our daily routines that we become short-sighted and don't think to look for God's movement.

But on a mission trip, away from the daily rhythm we have back home, away from the distractions that have become common place, it can be like we have a new vision, a new understanding of what is happening around us and how God is present. This year, however, something I witnessed caused me to ask myself a new question, "Where did

you see Evil today?"

Monday afternoon, I drove some of the adult chaperones to Walmart to get some supplies. Waiting in the checkout line, I witnessed a mother yell at a child. I don't know what may have precipitated her words. What I know is that I saw a very frightened little girl, who looked paralyzed with embarrassment, quivering while her mother stood over her shouting.

My heart hurt for that child. My heart hurt for the mother. I don't know what stress she was under or what her story may have been. Though the little girl did not cry – I wanted to cry for her. Strangely, I wanted to cry for the mother too.

On a day where we saw so much evidence of God's presence around us. When we were doing our work being the answer to people's prayers, I stood in line praying for that child and her mom.

I had seen God that day as we worked to

See Share Jesus' compassion, page 4



**The Outlook will not be published July 5
Happy 250th Independence Day**

The church office will be closed Friday, July 3 and Monday, July 6.

Youth Mission Trip to Waynesville



The youth from First Baptist Church Clayton spent the week of June 14 serving others and spreading the Good News while on a mission trip to Waynesville, N.C. Drew Langdon, FBCC Youth Director, said it was great week and spiritually rewarding. The youth and adult chaperones stayed at First Baptist Church in Waynesville and worked on various construction projects at another church and a food bank. They also performed some landscaping and drainage projects.



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 on Sunday, July 5, 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.



Young adults invited to Echo

What is Echo? It is a gathering of younger adults (and those who think young) sharing what they've heard in the worship service. It is an opportunity to share what continues to reverberate after the benediction. Younger adults face different challenges when it comes to building relationships in church. We are offering time to drink coffee, get to know one another, and discuss issues that are unique to their lives. If you want to come and check it out, we meet in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday morning worship service. We look forward to seeing you!

– Dr. Len Keever

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.



**Church
Photo
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

Share Jesus' compassion

Continued from page 1

gether. I had seen joy in our youth and watched them care for each other. Before the evening was over, I would hear them sing choruses, listen to them pray, even try to answer a few of their questions about faith.

But what woke me up in the middle of the night was the image of that shivering child standing helpless, perhaps only being protected from her mother's rage by the presence of so many witnesses. And as I think about that now, I can't help but think I was seeing the presence of Evil.

During the week in our devotions, I shared various ways to pray with the youth. We talked about writing our prayers in a journal, praying the Psalms, the prayer of Examen, and introduced Centering Prayer.

What I am asking today is that we all will pray a prayer of Intercession for the child and her mother, for all the children and all the parents who are overwhelmed with the difficulties of life. There are systems and circumstances many of us may know and some we will never know that oppress and harm people.

Scripture tells us that when Jesus saw what was going on in his day, he had compassion because the people were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (see Matthew 9:36). There is so much more that needs to be done. People need to see God in us.

Do me a favor and join me in praying that before this day is out, that little girl and her mom will catch a glimpse of God this day – and that it will make all the difference in the world to them.

Save the Date - WMU Kickoff Dinner

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

Additional information to come...

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

John Zullo by Pat Zullo

George and Francis Lovering by Gary and Karen Lovering

Weekly Reports			
Baptisms this Year.....		4	New Members.....10
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, June 21.....		213	Sunday, June 14.....218
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, June 21.....		75	Sunday, June 14.....145
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, June 21.....		\$14,785	Sunday, June 14.....\$17,934
2026 Weekly Needs.....		\$17,470	