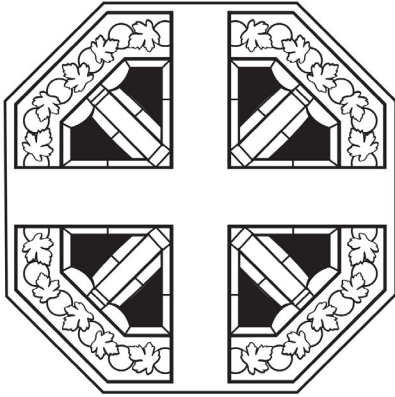




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

July 26, 2026

Volume 49 Number 28

Spiritual discipline will get you through the droughts of life

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

As most of us know, our area has been in a drought for quite some time. You would never know it based on the amount of rain we have had the last week or so, but our water tables are low.

This is especially evident in farm ponds and reservoirs like Falls Lake and Jordan Lake. One or two good showers may make our grass greener, but they don't solve the larger issue of catching us up to where we need to be this time



of year.

A few weeks ago, I heard a meteorologist say that to make up for the nearly 3 feet we are behind in rainfall, we would need 1/2 inch of rain every other day for the rest of the year. His point is that a sudden deluge or flash flood wasn't the best answer.

A slow and consistent amount of rain is what is needed to help repair the damage caused by drought and extremely high temperatures. Hearing this, I couldn't help but

think about how this is a metaphor for why we need to consistently attend to our faith.

Droughts are a part of our lives both in the natural world and in our spiritual life. It is natural to go through times when the rain does not fall, and it is just as natural to go through dry spells in our spiritual lives.

The difference is that although we cannot control the weather, we can control our attentiveness to God.

Just as a regular routine of smaller amounts of rain is best for catching up the water tables, so too a regular routine of spiritual disciplines is best to keep us well nourished for when those times come that seem dry. As a slow and steady rain has time to soak deep into the soil, a regular routine of time with God is best in keeping our spirituality fed.

It is the steadfastness of faith that helps keep us hydrated with the living water of Christ.

To shift the metaphor, think of how dehydration occurs in our bodies during intense heat. Doctors tell us that if we become thirsty, we are already showing signs of dehydration. The secret is to hydrate before

See Spiritual discipline, page 4

WMU kick-off set for Tuesday, August 4

Ladies of First Baptist Church Clayton of all ages – including the Acteens and GAs – are invited to the Joint WMU Kick-Off meeting on Tuesday, August 4 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you're not in a WMU Group, this is a great time to get involved.

You are...

MEANT for the
MISSION

happened in the last year. Isaiah House provides a comforting home for children who have been removed from their families by child protective services out of concern for their safety.

Normally children are taken to child welfare services to await placement in a foster home. This can take several hours, but sometimes it takes many days.

These children are often scared, lonely and hungry and often have nothing, but the

Randa Gay and Jessica Brown of the Isaiah 117 House in Selma will be the guest speakers to give us an update on what has

Isaiah 117

changing the way foster care begins

clothes on their back.

The Isaiah House is a safe place with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, toys, warm blankets, care and love. Their mission is to reduce trauma for children awaiting placement in a foster home, lighten the load for child welfare services and ease the transition for foster families.

The WMU will be collecting school supplies to be distributed to children/families in need at the August 4 meeting. Donated items may be placed in totes present at the dinner and they will also be located outside the church office for those wishing to bring items before the dinner.

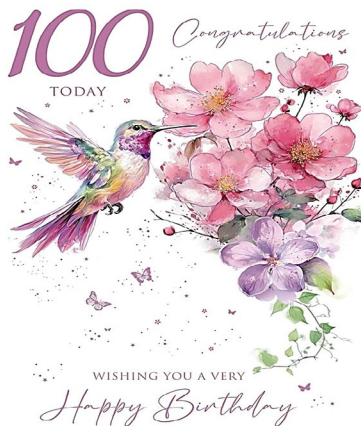
Our Baptist Men have volunteered to prepare dinner again for us this year. Donations will be greatly appreciated and accepted to go towards the meal. If any extra is collected, we will use it to fund WMU Mission Projects during the year.

Call the church office no later than Wednesday, July 29 at 919-553-4161 to get your name on the list.

August 2, 2026
Let's Celebrate
100 Years
with Ms. Lois Weeks

Birthday Greetings may be mailed to:

Lois Weeks
The Phoenix at Braselton
Apt. 3205 - 1929 Friendship Road,
Hoschton, GA 30548
or call 678-960-4039



Now's the time to sign up for church directory photos

First Baptist will be conducting photography sessions for our new church directory on September 10 – 12 (Thur., Fri., & Sat.) on the second floor of the church in the Basic classroom.

To register, go to www.ucdir.com or use the QR code on the right. Click on the box to the right that states Photography Session Sign-up; our Church Code is NC640, the Password is photos640. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If your family consists of more than six members you will need to choose two time slots.

On the first two Sundays in August, a table will be set up in the vestibule af-

ter church with someone to assist you in registering for your session if you choose not to register online.

We hope everyone can participate in making our directory complete.

If you need any further information, you may contact me at 919-801-3000.

Blessings,

Bronna Greer, Directory Coordinator



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

Ninety

— JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
**MARGARET GARDNER'S
90TH BIRTHDAY**

Saturday, August 8th
3 to 5 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

No gifts please - just birthday wishes

Whether you attend or not, please send a video or message with a hello, birthday wish, memory or anything else you would like to say to Margaret. Please send to Cindy Morgan at 919-631-1307 by August 1st.

Spiritual discipline

Continued from page 1

we are thirsty.

The same can be said about spiritual hydration. When we keep up a regular routine of Bible study, prayer, worship, service and giving, we are more likely to be prepared for the trials and challenges we will face than if we wait until they are on our doorsteps.

Summer can be difficult for our plants and for our spiritual lives. It takes constant attention to keep our flowers hydrated and healthy in the heat.

It also takes a disciplined approach to our relationship with God to grow in our faith. Don't let the heat lull you into the doldrums. Don't let the dryness of the season discourage your attention to your faith.

Fall is coming and we all want to be fruitful when harvest time arrives.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

- Doris Grissom by Jeffrey Bennett
- Doris Grissom by Patricia B. Bennett
- Doris Grissom and Nancy Frazier by Jiles and Kim Harrell
- Doris Grissom by Carol Gilbert

Organ Fund in Memory of

- Doris Grissom and Nancy Frazier by Gerald and Glenda Toler
- Doris Grissom, Jerry Carroll and Nancy Frazier by Lowell and Dorothy Harris

Organ Fund in Honor of

- Jim Elmore by Joyce T. Lee
- Heck Jones Fund in Honor of**

Margaret Gardner's 90th birthday and Lois Weeks' 100th birthday by Gerald and Glenda Toler

Special Needs Fund in Memory of

- Doris Grissom by Stewart and Tammy McLeod

Children's Ministry Fund in Honor of

- Rev. Stephanie Parker by Tammy and Caroline McLeod



Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	4	New Members.....	12
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, July 19.....	184	Sunday, July 12.....	192
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, July 19.....	114	Sunday, July 12.....	148
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, July 19.....	\$14,128	Sunday, July 12.....	\$19,503
2026 Weekly Needs.....	\$17,470		