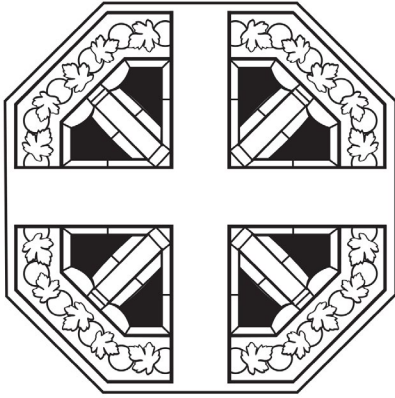




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

August 2, 2026

Volume 49 Number 29

Children's Ministry needs you

By Rev. Stephanie Parker
Pastor of Children and Families

If you grew up in a church, think about your experience in the children's ministry. Who were your teachers? What names do you remember most?

Did you participate in some kind of missions education like Mission Friends, GAs, or RAs? What camps or retreats did you attend? Who went with you? Who at your church was most formative in your faith formation as a child? What is something you remember a leader teaching you? Any bad experiences that left a mark?



As a child growing up in this church, I had countless Sunday School teachers and children's ministry leaders who showed up and taught me the ways of faith. Many times, these were women and men who did not have children in the room, but who took time to serve in this special way.

I still remember things taught in those sacred spaces. In the last year, I have had the privilege of sharing at the funeral services of two of those teachers almost 30 years

after learning from them. Sunday School and children's ministry teachers matter.

As a mom myself, I am so very grateful for the teachers who have taught my children. With the nature of my role, you can pretty much count on the Parker girls being in church when the doors are open.



In my over eight years of ministry service here at FBCC, I have watched my girls love the faithful adults who demonstrate what it means to welcome children and value them. My girls have special relationships with those adults and as a parent, it means the world to me to know there are others in this church who love, pray for, and take time to teach and get to know my own children.

I know I am not alone, as so many parents do the often-challenging task of getting children up and out the door to church.

So, when considering the questions about

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Lois Weeks Prayer Bench

To commemorate Lois Weeks' 100th birthday, the Lois Weeks WMU Group purchased a bench that will be placed in a quiet place on the First Baptist Church Clayton campus to serve as a place for prayer. The WMU hopes to incorporate a garden around the bench in the future. Lois has been a member of FBCC for nearly 80 years and has always been a faithful supporter of our ministries.

Acolyte sign-ups have begun

If you are a 3rd-5th grader and would like to participate in worship, consider signing up to acolyte for the 2026-2027 church year!

For more information and to sign up visit: <https://forms.gle/agK8mVb-9vZ9XtDGy9> or contact Rev. Keeley at ktarkington@fbcclaytonnc.org.



Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Doris Grissom by Earl and Hope Johnson
Nancy Frazier and Doris Grissom by David and Jo Earp
Doris Grissom by David and Pam Outlaw

Heck Jones Fund in Honor of

Lois Weeks' 100th birthday by the Faith Sunday School Class

Organ Fund in Memory of

Doris Grissom by Tom and Ida Mayes
Doris Grissom by Ann Abene

Organ Fund in Honor of

Margaret Gardner's 90th birthday by Jo Ann Hardee

Volunteers sought

Volunteers are needed to assist Bronna Greer with the upcoming church directory project.

First, two volunteers are needed on Sunday, August 2 and 9 to register church members for church directory photo sessions. After the morning worship service on these two Sundays, a table will be set up in the church vestibule to help church members schedule a time for their photos.

Secondly, volunteers are also needed to greet and sign in members at the September 10-12 photo sessions. The church directory is a big undertaking and we need all the help we can get.

If you are able to offer a your time on either dates, please text or call Bronna Greer at 919-801-3000. Thank you to everyone willing to help make this project a success.

Sign up now 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



Children’s Ministry

Continued from page 1

your own experiences as a child at church, and when you think of the names of the saints who taught you, I have another question for you. Why not you? Truly ask yourself why not? Because if not you, who?

While reflecting on the outstanding volunteerism during VBS, I can’t help but feel discouraged to find so few partnering in FBC3M as we begin a new ministry year. Our youngest churchgoers need you more than just one week of the year.

Please consider volunteering in the children’s ministry this church year, whether through Sunday School, nursery during worship, or Wednesday evening activities. If not you, then who?

Senior Adults to make annual trek to Lane’s Seafood on August 13

First Baptist Senior Adults will travel to Lane’s Seafood and Steakhouse on Thursday, August 13 for an evening of fellowship and great dining. This is the fourth annual trip.

The bus will leave the church at 4:30 p.m. and return at 8 p.m. In order to get a clear count, please sign up in the church office no later than Monday, August 10, and indicate whether you plan to ride the bus or to drive separately.

All are invited to Senior Adult Movie Night on Friday, August 14 at 5:30 p.m. The featured film will be “The Lady Vanishes,” a 1938 Alfred Hitchcock production starring Margaret Lockwood. In the movie, a young woman on a train in continental Europe discovers that her elderly travel companion has vanished while fellow passengers deny she ever existed. Blending suspense, wit and romance, this is one of Hitchcock’s finest British-era thrillers.

Sandwiches from Firehouse Subs, popcorn and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side, snack or dessert to share.

Please notify the church office no later than August 12 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.

Mark your calendars for the NBC (New Beginner’s Club) Luncheon on Monday, August 31 at 11:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. The meal will be catered by Venero’s. The cost is \$8. The program is yet to be determined.

Please notify the church office no later than August 27 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list but plan to attend.

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	4	New Members.....	12
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, July 26.....	198	Sunday, July 19.....	184
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, July 26.....	129	Sunday, July 19.....	114
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, July 26.....	\$25,676	Sunday, July 19.....	\$14,128
2026 Weekly Needs.....	\$17,470		