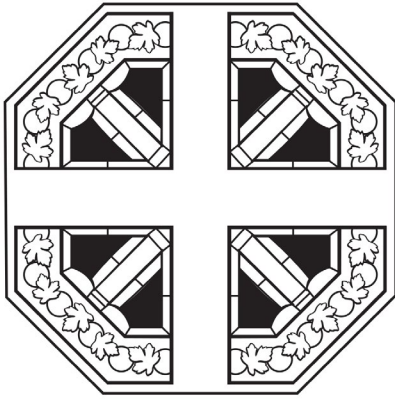




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

August 16, 2026

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A church family is a gift from God

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

It happens nearly every year. Something about the August heat and humidity, the smell of grass drying, a heavy dew in the morning, and I'm transported back more than 50 years ago to two-a-days, wind sprints and up-downs.

Though the memories are farther in the distance these days, I still have the August urge to shed a few pounds and get into better cardiovascular shape. I don't have to be told it is football season; I can feel it.

But football isn't the only thing on my mind as I think about school starting soon and the month being nearly half over. Fall has always been a time of excitement in the church for me.

This is especially true during my years as a pastor. Just like going back to school and getting to see my friends again, I look forward to seeing returning faces as we begin Love Well Wednesdays. I have missed our Wednesday night fellowship.

I'm also excited about Homecoming on September 27. Homecoming has always

been a highlight for me. Growing up, I remember being in awe of all that fried chicken, roast beef, the casseroles and of course the desserts.

We ate on the church lawn sitting with friends – one of the best parts was my mom not knowing about the number of trips I made to get another slice of cake.

Then there was the ice cream social. The phrase, "A good time was had by all" surely applied. As youth, there were the fall retreats, the hikes on Sunday afternoon, raking yards on Saturday to earn money to help pay for Christmas presents for those who couldn't afford them.

It was so much fun getting together and helping our older members by working in their yard and then getting to spend the money to help someone else.

I loved church in the fall. Practicing for a cantata, maybe being promoted to another Sunday school class, welcoming and getting to know a new teacher. Thinking about these things excites me about our upcoming Fall at First Baptist.

What we do in the months ahead will become wonderful memories for others many years from now. This wonderful gift of being a church family is such a treasure.

See Gift from God, page 3



Members of the First Baptist Church Clayton Missions Outreach and staff provided and served breakfast to the teachers and staff at Cooper Academy on their first day back at school.

BAPTISTS ON MISSION

Help N.C. Missions Offering reach its goal

The North Carolina Missions Offering is an annual effort to raise funds to support the many functions of Baptists on Mission.

Your financial support provides Baptists on Mission to share the Gospel, relieve suffering and treat the sick, plant new churches, mobilize volunteers and respond to disasters. The statewide goal for this year is \$2.8 million.

The First Baptist Church Clayton Missions Outreach encourages our congregation to support the offering so Baptists on Mission can continue to glorify God by involving churches and individual Christians in meeting human needs in Jesus' name.

To give visit ncmissionsoffering.org or for detailed information about mission work, visit www.baptistsonmission.org.

Gift from God

Continued from page 1

Fall has always been a time of spiritual discovery for me. It has been a time of renewed emphasis on my faith; a time of growing deeper in Christ. It is the harvest time. It is a time to share.

A time to do a little extra, to set aside something meaningful for the cold winter months. It is a time of thanksgiving and praise. I hope in reminiscing you have had your own thoughts of how good this season can be. I hope you feel challenged to be a part of this year's wonder, a servant of Christ ready to do good works in honor of our Lord.

I don't need to be told that God wants us to grow closer to Christ, I can feel that too.

*Do not look out only for your own interests, but also
for the interests of others. – Philippians 2:3-4*




Cool off with us at an

Ice Cream Social

The sweetest way to spend the day!

AUGUST 16

4:00 PM

FBCC Fellowship Hall

PACKED WITH PURPOSE

SUNDAY,
AUGUST 23
9:30 WORSHIP
SERVICE

BACKPACK
BLESSINGS AND
BIBLE
PRESENTATION

BRUNCH FOR ALL YOUTH
AND CHILDREN FAMILIES
AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE



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 fam-

ily consists of more than six members you will need to choose two time slots.

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



Mission Moment†



Backpack Buddies

First Baptist Church Clayton partners with Cooper Academy by delivering Backpack Buddies bags each week during the school year. The bags are filled with healthy food provided by the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle for students to take home and eat over the weekend. Many students will not get a nourishing meal over the weekend if not for Backpack Buddies.

The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, a non-profit organization supported by donations and volunteers, delivers food bags to First Baptist and in turn, the bags are taken to the school each Thursday by Tom Mayes, Andy Pleasant and Douglas McCormac.

Teachers distribute the food bags to students to take home on Friday. In each bag, there are two breakfast meals, two lunches and two suppers. The program begins in mid-September and ends the last day of school.

The Cooper Academy staff is much appreciative of our efforts, but most of all this is an important mission to help children in need of healthy food. Please pray for these children and consider contributing to the Backpack Buddies Fund or the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Nancy Frazier and Doris Grissom by John and Lynn Gibson
Doris Grissom by Andy and Gloria Pleasant

General Fund in Honor of

Lois Weeks' 100th birthday by Andy and Gloria Pleasant

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....4 New Members.....12

Worship Attendance

Sunday, August 9.....185 Sunday, August 2.....172

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, August 9.....113 Sunday, August 2.....114

General Fund Giving

Sunday, August 9.....\$18,094 Sunday, August 2.....\$10,555
2026 Weekly Needs.....\$17,470