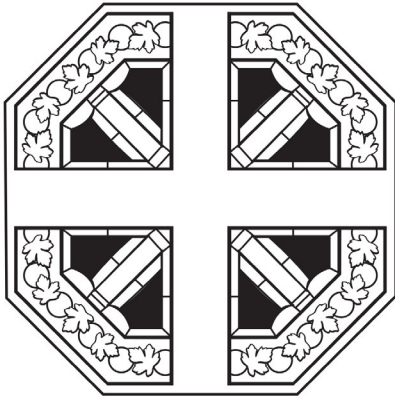




The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

August 23, 2026

Volume 49 Number 32

Put your name in the blanks

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

Last week, I had the honor of participating in the funeral of a former church member, a man whose friendship meant a lot to me. As I reflected on the memories of our relationship one stood out.



Years ago, my friend came to see me to tell me something he wanted to share on Men's Sunday in church. He told me that he'd heard a man share a story that made him look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 in a new light.

It seems that the man was having a hard time getting his daughter to understand that her boyfriend was not treating her with the love he believed God wanted her to receive. It was hurting their relationship. So, after much frustration he asked his daughter to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 every day for a week replacing the word "love" with the name of her boyfriend.

If at the end of the week she felt she

was being loved as she should be, he would not bring the subject up again. She agreed and toward the end of the week she told her dad they'd broken up. By placing his name there, she saw that what was being called love was not love at all.

1st Corinthians 13:4-7

My friend said that he'd been challenged to

read the passage the same way, but not placing someone else's name there but using his own. Doing so showed him where he needed to love those around him better, giving them the love that he knew God wanted them to receive.

The Sunday he gave his testimony we placed the passage in the bulletin as an insert. It had a great impact. When I shared this memory at his funeral, I saw quite a few smiles on people's faces.

Several have commented that they still have that insert; one person even sent me a picture of the one he keeps in his Bible.

It was such a good memory, I thought I'd share it with you. To take it further, below is an opportunity for you to put your name in the blanks. Let these words

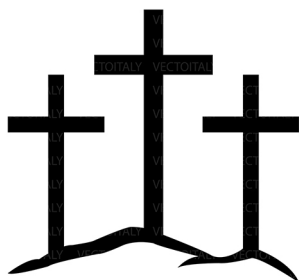
See Put your name in, page 3

Ice Cream Social

Church members and friends gathered in the Fellowship Hall this past Sunday for ice cream. Jake Parker won first place for his delicious Butterfinger-flavored homemade ice cream.



Needed: Women's Prison Ministry volunteers



For over 45 years, the Gladys Creech Long Term Prison Ministry has visited the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women in Raleigh to shine the light and love of Jesus. They visit the prison's Canary Unit the second Monday of every month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for a time of Bible study, devotion, prayer, fellowship and fun (games, arts and crafts, music).

The ministry is always looking for new volunteers. A short virtual training session will be held on Tuesday evening, October 6. If you would like to be a part of this vital and rewarding ministry, please contact Susan Parker at 919-333-8394 or sgjp54183@gmail.com.

**"When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?
The King will reply. 'I tell you the truth, whatever you
did for one of the least of these brothers and
sisters of mine, you did for me.'" - Matthew 25:39-40**

Put your name in

Continued from page 1

lead you to love others as Christ loves us. It will make a difference that will be remembered by those who receive your love.

“_____ is patient; _____ is kind; _____ is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. _____ does not insist on its own way; _____ is not irritable; _____ keeps no record of wrongs; _____ does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. _____ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Additional date added to photo shoot

Tuesday, September 15 has been added as an additional date for church directory photography sessions.

We would like very much that all First Baptist Church church families be included in the directory. To sign up, visit **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. Other dates are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 10-12.

If you have any questions or need help signing up, call Bronna Greer at 919-801-3000.



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

Missions Outreach is collecting items for Cooper Academy

The Missions Outreach team would like your help collecting needed classroom items and supplies for our partner school, Cooper Academy.

If you feel led to help meet the need, there is a drop-off bin outside the church office.

There will also be a basket in the northwest vestibule (where the wheelchair ramp is located) on Sunday morning.

Items needed include tissues, Chlorox cleaning wipes and paper towels.

Missions Outreach thanks you for your faithful support of the needs around us.

Thanks to all my beautiful family and friends for all your birthday wishes! I'm humbled to have received so many sweet messages, videos, cards, gifts and church donations in my honor. I'm also grateful for everyone who was able to celebrate with me in person. God bless you all.

– Margaret Gardner



NBC lunch is Aug. 31; new Bible study begins Sept. 9

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. Rev. Stephanie Parker will present a program on the Children's Ministry at First Baptist. This is a great opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the challenging but wonderful ministry work going on in this vital part of our church family.

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.

A new Wednesday Morning Bible Study, "Promised Land," will begin September 9 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the SALT classroom. There will be a Zoom option.

"Why here? Why now? Just as the time and place of our birth and life shapes our journey, so the land and culture of the Hebrew people shaped their story. In this first volume of *That the World May Know*, discover how God guided his people to a specific place – the Promised Land – to impact the world both in ancient times and today."

It will be a five session DVD-based study led by Ray Vander Laan. The dates are September 9, 16, 23, 30 and October 7. Discovery Guides are \$10 and are on order. Sign up in the church office.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

Organ Fund in Memory of

Ron Earp by Kay Earp

Waylon, Ava and Kim Spence by Laney Lee Johnson

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	4	New Members.....	12
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, August 16.....	203	Sunday, August 9.....	185
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, August 16.....	83	Sunday, August 9.....	113
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, August 16.....	\$12,623	Sunday, August 9.....	\$18,094
2026 Weekly Needs.....	\$17,470		