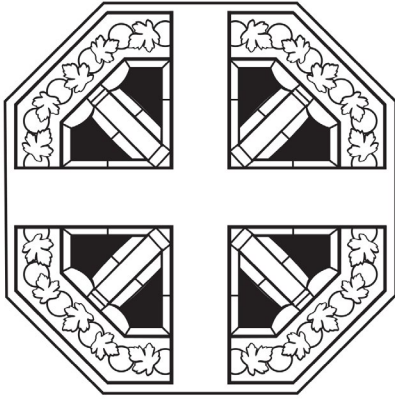




# *The Outlook*

## **First Baptist Church Clayton**

Show • Tell  
Grow • Serve

August 30, 2026

Volume 49 Number 33

## **Deacons have an awesome task and a wonderful responsibility**

By Dr. Len Keever  
Pastor

This evening, First Baptist will conduct a service of ordination for several of our members who are beginning their tenure as deacons. I hardly attend or participate in a service of ordination that I don't remember my father's ordination as a deacon, and my own ordination to the gospel ministry.



I was just a child when dad was ordained. Frankly, I didn't know what was going on or what it meant. Still, I was aware that something special was happening. Our family usually

sat near the back of the sanctuary, but that evening we were sitting near the front where the lights seemed brighter and the sermon more personal.

I wanted to look back to see who was sitting behind us, but mom warned us that that was not what we were supposed to do. The sanctuary was God's room; there was a sense of sacredness. That night seemed

even more mysterious; and wonderful.

Dad knelt and the pastor put his hands on dad's head. The other deacons came by and did the same. I distinctly remember my grandfather leaning forward and praying for my dad.

Even then I didn't have a sense that dad was being elevated to a higher place in the church, but rather that more was expected of him. I knew he would be trusted to help the pastor look after others and help make hard decisions. I knew that because I had seen other deacons doing that.

When my dad became a deacon, I remember he began to take church even more seriously. He visited people, took on more responsibility at church, and although our family was already active, it was rare that we missed both Sunday morning and Sunday night services. Dad never missed prayer meetings or those times the Baptist men gathered for meals and projects.

I can't help but think of these things as I think about our ordination this evening. I am greatly influenced by the deacon leadership I observed as a child. Perhaps I was

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# Worship aids available for children

At First Baptist Church Clayton, we value having children participate in worship. To help make their experience more meaningful, each Sunday we have several ways for them to participate.

- **Worship Bags** - Grab a worship bag in one of the vestibules with activities to explore during the service. Please return at the end of worship.

- **Children's Worship Bulletins** - Ask an usher for one of our special children's bulletins. We have two options (3+ and 7+) with activities that correspond with the scripture focus each week.

- **Rocking Room** - Check out our rocking room off the sanctuary with chairs to help make the service more comfortable for you and your little ones.

- **Children's Message** - Following the first hymn, all children through 5th grade are invited to come down front for a special message tailored for them.

- **Nursery** - If you would like for your child to have extra love from one of our amazing volunteers, we have nursery available for infants through 2-year-olds during the service. See an usher for directions to our nursery hallway.



Many thanks to our Piecemakers sewing ministry for creating our new bags with a variety of fun patterns. And thank you to Audrey Harrell for carefully packing each one with special activities for our children.

Dear friends,

Thank you very much for all of the beautiful Get Well cards and your prayers. My recovery from back surgery appears to be a long one, but God is always with us. I feel His presence daily.

Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to improve. May God bless all of you.

— Love in Christ, Joyce T. Lee



## New Wednesday morning Bible study begins Sept. 9

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.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
of Clayton

You are cordially invited to the  
**FBC CLAYTON  
HOMECOMING**

★  
SEPT. 27, | 9:30  
2026 | AM

411 N. Fayetteville Street,  
Clayton

Guest Pastor, Dr. Barry Jones, Dean of  
Campbell Divinity School; Special music by  
Mr. Gerald Toler and the FBC Choir

LUNCH TO FOLLOW  
BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE  
MEAT AND BREAD PROVIDED

# Memorials and Honorariums

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE**

**General Fund in Memory of**

Doris Grissom by Joyce T. Lee

Mac Jones by Jerry and Sharon Poole

**General Fund in Honor of**

Donnie Pollard by Joyce T. Lee

**Organ Fund in Memory of**

Doris Grissom by Walter and Jill Rasor

Patricia Dean Ellis by Bucky Coats

**Organ Fund in Honor of**

Margaret Gardner and Bucky Coats by Walter and Jill Rasor

## Wonderful responsibility

Continued from page 1

naive, but I looked up to our deacons.

I saw them as men and women who would always be there to make sure the church was running smoothly, that care for all the members was present, that those who were sick were visited and prayed for, that those in need had someone who would help them. I saw them show respect to the older members of the church, and welcome the newer ones, inviting them to Sunday school classes and other church organizations.

As a child riding my bike downtown or going to the store for my grandmother, whenever I saw one of our church’s deacons it made me feel safe like someone was looking out for me. They were my coaches, Scout leaders, and my barber. Our deacons played a very important part in my life.

I pray that all our deacons will have such an impact on the life of our church and community. It is an awesome task and a wonderful responsibility. May we never take our calling lightly – someone is always watching.



### Weekly Reports

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Baptisms this Year.....4       | New Members.....12             |
| Worship Attendance             |                                |
| Sunday, August 23.....258      | Sunday, August 16.....203      |
| Sunday School Attendance       |                                |
| Sunday, August 23.....170      | Sunday, August 16.....83       |
| General Fund Giving            |                                |
| Sunday, August 23.....\$11,533 | Sunday, August 16.....\$12,623 |
| 2026 Weekly Needs.....\$17,470 |                                |