



FBCC Youth spent the weekend at Fort Caswell and had tons of fun exploring the forts, fishing, swimming at the beach, worshipping together, and growing in their relationships with one another.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

Phil and Phyllis Crane by Van and Lynne Martin
Phil and Phyllis Crane by David and Pam Outlaw

Organ Fund in Memory of

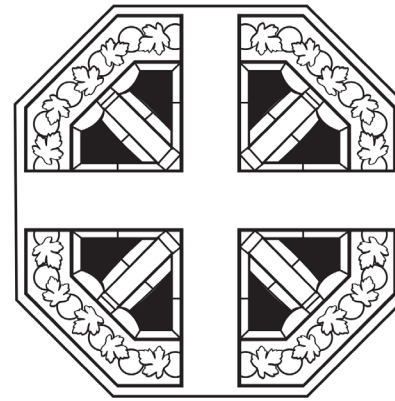
Phil and Phyllis Crane by Carol Gilbert

Heck Jones Fund in Memory of

Phil and Phyllis Crane by Judy Wood

Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....4	New Members.....12
Worship Attendance	
Sunday, October 4.....175	Sunday, September 27.....181
Sunday School Attendance	
Sunday, October 4.....122	Sunday, September 27.....No classes
General Fund Giving	
Sunday, October 4.....\$30,529	Sunday, September 27.....\$5,540
2026 Weekly Needs.....\$17,470	



The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

October 11, 2026

Volume 49 Number 39

Don't be too grown up to miss the wonders of God's world

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

This morning as we gathered for chapel with the Child Development Center, Madelynn, one of our 4's, asked a very important question: "What is all that stuff on the table?"



Children are astute observers. They often see things that adults miss. The objects that Madelynn was pointing to are the decorations for fall in the sanctuary, reminders of God's blessings, how

God shows us God's love by providing food for the winter. If you look closely, you will see carrots, squash, many kinds of gourds, wheat to make bread and chaff to feed the livestock. Indeed, God is good.

How many of us miss things because we don't approach the day with the inquisitiveness and curiosity of a child? How much do we miss hurrying from one thing to another thinking we have to be somewhere, or worse that we already know about things, so we don't bother to stop investigating them.

The wonder of a child calls us to take no-

tice, to slow down, to marvel at leaves falling from trees, see the beauty in an acorn and assign value to a single rock that has a unique color.

Recently, I listened to a meditation on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18:3, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." The leader asked us to take a moment to stop and think about what we miss about being a child?

It took a moment. I have been considered an adult for over 60 years, and while I have been accused of being childish at times, it has been a while since I have been childlike. The key to discovery for me was thinking about the children I see in church. I changed the question to ask myself what I see I'm missing as I watch them. That's when the answers began to flow.

I miss the way children believe. They don't need proof; they just need someone they trust to share with them. I miss the way children accept one another. When a new child enters their classroom, the others flock to show acceptance.

As grown-ups we are cautious. We rarely

See God's Wonders, page 3

Mission Moment†



Operation Christmas Child



Christmas is a wonderful time to remember that God's love is meant to be shared with people around the world. An ongoing ministry here at FBCC is that we participate in Operation Christmas Child, a ministry that sends shoebox gifts to children around the world as a tangible expression of God's love. We have 150 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes available for you all to put together. You will find them in various places around the church; they can be found in both church vestibules, the Fellowship Hall hallway, and the church office.

Participating is easy! All you need to do is find a box, fill it with gifts, and return it to the church by Sunday, November 15. We especially encourage families, RAs, GAs, and Youth to participate. This is a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to work together and share the joy of Christmas with a child who may not otherwise receive a gift. Some items that are great to include are small toys, stuffed animals, balls, dolls, small cars, coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, puzzles, small games, school supplies such as pencils and notebooks, toothbrushes, combs, hair accessories, socks, and other small personal-care items. A small Bible or age-appropriate Christian materials can also be included.

As you pack your box, please remember that there are some items that cannot be included. These include used or damaged items, food or candy, liquids or lotions, medicine or vitamins, breakable items such as glass, weapons or toy weapons, war-related toys, and anything with political, violent or inappropriate messages.

On Sunday, November 15, FBCC will have a dedication service for all of our Operation Christmas Child boxes during our worship service. This is also the deadline for returning your completed shoebox to the church. When you drop off your completed box, please place it up front on the platform as we have done in years past. We hope you will join us in making this Christmas special for children around the world. Whether you pack one box or several, every shoebox is an opportunity to remind a child that they are loved and that God's love reaches everyone. Find a box, fill a box, and bring it back by November 15! Let's bring joy to this upcoming Christmas season!

– Drew Langdon, Youth Minister

CAM seeks donations for Thanksgiving meals

Clayton Area Ministries (CAM) is gearing up for the Thanksgiving holiday as they plan to give away 300 turkeys to needy families in the Clayton community.

CAM is asking the First Baptist Church family to help provide side dishes and fixings. To follow is a list of items requested: instant mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, jar of gravy or packet of gravy mix, box of stuffing, cans of cream soup, yams, cornbread, pumpkin mix, cake mixes and frosting.

Items may be dropped off at the church office or CAM, 780 Durham Street, Clayton. CAM dropoff hours are 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. All donated Thanksgiving food items need to be delivered by November 13.

God's wonders

Continued from page 1

flock with welcome, more often we interrogate trying to find a common connection before we show acceptance. I miss how creative children are. They have yet to learn many of the restrictions that have taught us to stop trying.

A lot can be said about the loss of imagination. Imagine a world where people love one another, where a wolf will live with a lamb, the leopard and the kid will curl up and take a nap. Isaiah imagined that. Children believe

it is possible; adults put parameters around it before they can see it.

When Jesus calls us to change and become like children, I wonder if he isn't inviting us to stop for a bit and watch them play, discover, hear them ask questions. They can teach us so much. I miss being in awe of lightning bugs and taking time to watch a spider spin a web. What a wonderful world God has created for us; too bad we are often too grown up to notice it.

Carve out a
new tradition.
Give Blood!



First Baptist Church of Clayton
Fellowship Hall

Friday, October 23, 2026

Noon until 5:00 pm

To schedule an appointment please visit:

<https://arcpublicity.bottomlineink.net/Common/SocialClick?oid=2008366&sk=FBClayton&src=QRCode>
or visit redcrossblood.org
1-800 RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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BRING CANNED SOOPS FOR
CLAYTON AREA MINISTRIES

GRAB YOUR BEST COSTUME AND
JOIN US FOR FREE FALL FUN!



WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 28
5:30-7:30

FBC CLAYTON

FAYETTEVILLE ST PARKING LOT