



CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

January 2023

Volume LXXV, No. 01

A New Year Brings New Opportunities



New Wednesday Night Meal Options

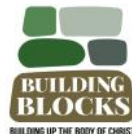
Robby Stevenson, Jeff Rush, and Dennis Moore have agreed to prepare the Wednesday night meals on a trial basis for the spring 2023 *Building Block*. The cost of the Wednesday Night meal will remain the same: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and no family pays more than \$30.00. All meals include a full salad bar, roll/bread, dessert, and beverage.

Tentative menus listed inside. Menus are subject to change based on food availability.



Building Blocks 2023

A new series of Building Blocks will begin on Wednesday, January 11 and last for six weeks. The new series features three new and exciting options.



- 1) **The Way of Christian Mysticism:** Persons who have discovered the path of Christian mysticism have become aware of the immediate presence of God in all things and in all persons and of their own oneness with the Great Mystery of God. They recognize the sacredness of creation and the unity of all things. The study will explore the simple pathways of Christian mysticism—awareness, contemplation, compassion, suffering, discovery, transformation, and openness. This study will be taught by Dr. Bill Harris in the Mauldin Classroom - Room 208.
- 2) **Lesser Known Bible Characters:** This study will explore the stories of some of the people who are often overlooked when studying scripture. Questions and discussion is desired and encouraged during this study. This study will be taught by Mary Frances Thompson in the Trinity Classroom - Room 211.
- 3) **Money Solutions from Grandma:** Best selling author, Dave Ramsey, is fond of saying that the much of the advice he gives comes from lessons taught by his Grandma. The *Growing on Grace Street* group invites anyone who is interested in spending some time looking at the lessons taught by Dave Ramsey from his best selling book *The Total Money Makeover*. If you are serious about understanding where your money is going each month and ways to get out of debt, then this "block is for you!" This study will be taught by Dr. David Jennings in the Carpenter Classroom - Room 210.

January Preaching Schedule

January 1	David Jennings
January 8	Anna Burch
January 15	Joey Fuson
January 22	Joey Fuson
January 29	Joey Fuson



Tentative Wednesday Night Menus (Subject to change due to food availability)

All meals include a full salad bar, roll/bread, dessert, and beverage.

January

- January 11: Oven Fried Chicken, Green Beans, Mac & Cheese
January 18: Soup and Sandwich, Cornbread
January 25: Breakfast for Supper

February

- February 1: Chicken Pot Pie
February 8: Hamburgers
February 15: Chicken Parmesan with Spaghetti
February 22: Potato Bar

March

- March 1: Meat Loaf
March 8: Pork Loin, Cream Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans
March 15: Hot Dogs with Chili
March 22: Baked Spaghetti, Corn on the Cob
March 29: Pulled Pork



Flower Calendar Openings

The flowers on the Communion Table each Sunday add to the beauty of the Chancel. The following dates are available for someone to provide flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one.

March 5	March 12	March 19	April 30
June 11	June 25	July 16	July 23
August 27	October 29	November 19	November 26

Please contact Mary Frances Thompson (229-5557) to reserve one of these dates. Please remember, the persons who contribute flowers are responsible for making arrangements with the florist of their choice to prepare and deliver the arrangements to the church.



Worship in January

Worship—January 1 First Sunday after Christmas

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11-13
Meditation by David Jennings

Anthem:
"I Wonder as I Wander"
Keith Jameson

Worship—January 8 Epiphany Sunday Holy Communion Deacon Installation and Ordination

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12
Meditation by Anna Burch

Anthems:
"Do You Hear What I Hear?"
Bonnie, David and Lauren Corbitt
"Let Us Break Bread Together"
Chancel Choir

Worship—January 15 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7
Sermon: "Servants and Kings"
Joey Fuson

Anthem:
"Praise to the Lord, His Glories Show"
FBC Octet

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hancock, Sr. by their daughter, Anne Hancock.

Worship—January 22 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23
Sermon: "Repent!"
Joey Fuson

Anthem:
"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"
Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jim Ridgeway by his family.

Worship—January 29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Sermon "A Sophomoric Message"
Joey Fuson

Anthem by *Sounds of Grace*

In lieu of flowers, a donation has been made to Habitat for Humanity to the glory of God and in memory of Claude and Sara Burnett, Grady and Martha Strom, and Erin Smith by the family.

Music Notes



A new year, with new beginnings. How about joining Chancel Choir? It's a great time to join. Chancel Choir provides a shared love of great music, of fun and frivolity, of laughter and love, and of Keith dancing to the music on Wednesday nights. You even get your own robe, stoles, folders and music. Plus, you get to see the congregation and church from a whole new viewpoint! What makes the choir so special? It's a fabulous group of people who love God, who love music, and who love sharing that gift with their church family. The Chancel Choir will begin working on Lenten and Easter music in the coming weeks, so it truly is a terrific time to make that leap and come on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in the Choir Room. You will have so much fun. We would love to welcome you!



Transition Team Update

The First Baptist Transition continues to meet to formulate a plan during this time of pastoral transition. The team has concentrated on learning about the various options available to the church regarding a transition pastor as well as assistance in organizing a Pastor Search Committee. The Transition Team has interviewed two organizations by Zoom that can assist the church during the transition. The team has also interviewed three top candidates by Zoom for the interim position. The goal of the Transition Team is to have someone in place by February. Please be in prayer for the Transition Team as they continue to meet and gather information.

How This Year's Advent Conspiracy Donations Helped Palmetto Works

Elizabeth Coker-Nance, Coordinator of CBFSC, called to thank First Baptist for making Palmetto Works our Advent Conspiracy Offering recipient. Elizabeth said that one of the pressing needs of Palmetto Works is a bus. The organization has found a suitable vehicle. CBFSC has given Palmetto Works \$10,000.00 toward the purchase of the bus. Palmetto Works needs an addition \$22,000.00 to complete the transaction. All donations to FBC's Advent Conspiracy this year will go to Palmetto Works to help provide them with much needed transportation.



Deacon Class of 2025

The following individuals were selected to serve as deacons following a called business meeting on Sunday, December 4. These individuals will serve for three years.

- George Coleman
- Vaughan Free
- Alice Gilchrist
- Nick Nichols
- Kenny Poston
- Ashley Wilkie.

Ashley Wilkie will be ordained as deacon and the rest of the Class of 2025 will be installed during morning worship on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

The first meeting of the Diaconate will be in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm on Sunday, January 15.

The diaconate officers for 2023 are: Erin Nodine, Chair; Robert Riley, Vice-Chair; Beth Hardage, Secretary.



Salt Shakers Return
Sunday, January 8
6:00 pm



Committee Orientation January 8 2:00 pm

The First Baptist Church 2023 Committee Orientation is **Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Everyone serving on a committee in 2023 is asked to gather for a time of orientation before meeting with members of your respective committees. Following a brief orientation in the Fellowship Hall, committee members are asked to continue discussion in the following room assignments.

- Children's Committee
Anna's Office - LL120
- Church Visitation Committee
Timms Class - LL106
- Congregational Life Committee
Faith Builders Class - LL107
- Global and Local Missions Committee
Bowers Class - LL103
- Heritage Committee
Heritage Room - UL209
- Nominations and Lay Leadership
Fellowship Hall
- Outreach and Membership Comm.
Sojourners Class - LL108
- Personnel Committee
Trinity Class - UL211
- Property Committee
Fellowship Hall
- Spiritual Formation Committee
Carpenter Class - UL210
- Stewardship Committee
Mauldin Class - UL208
- Worship Committee
Sanctuary
- Youth Committee
Youth Lounge - LL102

For additional information or questions about the 2023 Committee Orientation Meeting, please contact David Jennings by phone (229-5557) or by email (jennningsdaj@gmail.com).



Childcare Available for Committee Orientation on Sunday, January 8

Childcare will be provided in God's Backyard for the Committee Orientation on Sunday, January 8. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 5, if your child(ren) will be there.



Thank You for Your Thoughtfulness

All the FBC staff wishes to thank you for remembering the staff during the Christmas season. The staff enjoyed the various food items, encouraged by the cards and greetings, and were gladdened by the contributions made to Global Missions, Advent Conspiracy/ Palmetto Works, the Ministry Plan, and other causes. The staff looks forward to worshipping and serving God and the Greenwood Community with you during 2023.

Weekly Need of the 2023 Ministry Plan



In order to pay bills, salaries and commitments to ministry partners as well as purchase literature and provide various activities for all ages, FBC needs to receive an average of \$19,381.14 each week. Please share your blessings and give as you are able to help FBC be the heart and hands of Jesus



2022 Contributions

Anyone wishing to make a contribution for the 2022 tax year must do so before the end of the year. All gifts must be received or postmarked no later than December 31. Individuals may place a check in the mail, or use the FBC online giving tool at fbcgwd.org/giving. For information about 2022 contributions, contact Linda Miller at lindamillerfbc@gmail.com.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Sallie Varnadore, Sister of Annie Ruth Brown
- JoAnn Fennell
- Charlie Watson
- Ava Boyter, great-granddaughter of Peggy Allen
- Steve Wallner

Home: Nancy Thomason

Edgewood Cemetery and Mausoleum Officers

The Edgewood Cemetery and Mausoleum Board met for their fourth quarter meeting. In addition to regular business, the Board elected the following officers to serve for 2023: Keith Sneed - Chair, Mike Burton - Vice Chair, Hillary Craigo, Treasurer, and Brenda Rickborn - Secretary.

2023 Offering Envelopes



The 2023 Offering envelopes are available in the office for pick-up. If anyone is unable to get out or is uncomfortable about picking up their envelopes, please contact the church office and your envelopes will be mailed to you. If for some reason you cannot locate your envelopes, please contact David Jennings by phone (229-5557) or by email (jenningsdaj@gmail.com).

2022 Ministry Plan

November Income	\$54,416.95
November Expenses	\$56,621.97
November Deficit	(\$ 2,205.02)

November 21-December 18

Monthly Need	\$ 82,653.22
Monthly Gifts	\$140,688.47
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	\$972,769.82
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	\$815,092.03
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(\$157,677.79)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	173
Worship Attendance (Avg)	197



Upcoming Dates

- **December 25:** No Sunday School
Children invited to wear PJs to worship
- **January 1:** All children meet in God's Backyard for Sunday School
- **January 20:** Children's Movie Night
5:30 pm-8:30 pm



Children's Movie Night

What's better than watching a movie on a cold (or maybe not so cold in SC) winter's night? Watching that movie with friends at church. Come and bring friends to the next Children's Movie Night on Friday, January 20 from 5:30 pm-8:00 pm. Please RSVP to Anna Burch (aeburchfbc@gmail.com) by Thursday, January 19.



Music Maker Children's Choir Leader Needed

Kayla Beard will be shifting up to the Young Musicians (2nd-5th grade) choir. A leader is needed for the Music Makers (4K-1st grade) choir. Contact Anna Burch (aeburchfbc@gmail.com) if interested in leading the choir.



December Children's Schedule

No Wednesday Night Activities:

Dec. 28, Jan. 4

Christmas Eve

- Childcare is for babies to 2K.
- Childcare will be in the toddler room and will start receiving children at 4:45 pm. RSVPs are not required, but are appreciated!
- Communion will be served from 4:15 pm - 4:55 pm.
- Worship will start at 5:00 pm.

Christmas Day

- There will be no Sunday School.
- Children are welcome to wear PJs to worship.
- For Extended Session, RSVPs are not needed, but are appreciated to help ensure the right number of volunteers with Sunday falling on a holiday.

New Year's Day

Children will have a one room Sunday School in the backyard on January 1 (note this is a change from the November newsletter). Again, RSVPs are not needed, but are appreciated to help ensure the right number of volunteers with Sunday falling on a holiday.

Choirs and CIAs will return January 11!



Regular Wednesday Night Activities Resume January 11

- 5:30 pm Children's Music Activities and Choirs
- 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal
Oven Fried Chicken,
Green Beans, Mac & Cheese
- 6:30 pm CIAs and Infant and Toddler
Childcare
Holy Ground for Youth
Building Blocks for Adults

Youth News



Youth Lock-in

Kick off the new year with the hottest social event of the winter - the youth lock-in! The Youth Lock-In is from Friday, January 6, at 8:00 pm to 7:00 am Saturday, January 7. The evening will be filled with a night of fun! There will be games! There will be food! There may or may not be sleep! But best of all, the evening will be with the greatest youth around. Can't wait to see everyone there!



Day in Greenville

The Winter Youth Summit might have been canceled, but it does not mean the youth cannot hang out anyway. Therefore, on Saturday, January 1 the youth will hop on the bus and take a trip into town—not Greenwood but GREENVILLE! Exact details are still being worked out, but expect to do a service project in the morning and a fun activity in the evening with a break for lunch in between. Looking forward to a GREAT DAY in Greenville!



Resumes

Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 pm



The First Baptist Church newsletter, *Connections*, is printed once a month. Office staff have the goal of families receiving the newsletter approximately a week before the end of the previous month. Holidays, weekends, and the number of days in a month affect when the newsletter is mailed. To help everyone remember when articles are needed for the newsletter, the deadline for articles the fifteenth of each month. Thank you for helping First Baptist include relevant information in the newsletter.



Just a Reminder

Since December is such a busy month and January holds the possibility of very cold and/or inclement weather, the Never Grow Old Club (NGO) does not meet in January. The next NGO meeting is Tuesday, February 14. Program and menu will be announced later.



Have Your Singing Voice Ready

Thank you, *Sounds of Grace* members for your help in leading worship during December and for your excellent program for NGO. Your short break will soon be over. Have your singing voice ready when *Sounds of Grace* resumes rehearsals at 10:30 am on Tuesday, January 10.



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Website: fbcgwd.org

Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers and Staff

Joey Fuson	Senior Pastor	joey.fbcgreenwood@gmail.com
Anna Burch	Associate Pastor and Minister to Youth	aeburchfbc@gmail.com
David Jennings	Minister to Children	jenningsdaj@gmail.com
Keith Jameson	Minister of Administration	keithjameson@hotmail.com
Josh Harrington	Church Music Director	jhharrington31@gmail.com
Claudia Burch	Organist	claudiaburch5@gmail.com
Mary Frances Thompson	Director of Cheerful Cherubs	gfbcsc@gmail.com
Linda Miller	Ministry Assistant	lindamillerfbc@gmail.com
	Financial Assistant	

Helping Hands Ministry Information Line (864) 229-8051