



CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Volume LXXV, No. 02

Announcement from the First Baptist Transition Team



Rev. Dr. Carlton Allen

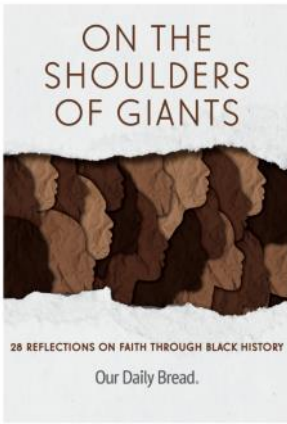


Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

On Sunday evening, January 15, 2023, the First Baptist Church Diaconate voted unanimously to approve a recommendation from the First Baptist Pastor Transition Team to extend a call to Rev. Dr. Carlton Allen to serve as Interim Pastor and Rev. Dr. Layne Smith to serve as Interim Process Coach/Facilitator.

WELCOME CARLTON ALLEN and LAYNE SMITH Sunday, February 5

The Women's Ministry Council is hosting a drop-in reception for Carlton and Layne in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning worship service. This will be Carlton's first Sunday to preach. Layne is scheduled to preach on Sunday, February 19. Make plans to "Welcome" Carlton and Layne during this time of transition.



February Devotion Book Available

Last year, First Baptist ordered *On the Shoulders of Giants* from *Our Daily Bread's* Voices Collection for use during Black History Month. Unfortunately the booklets did not arrive in time for use last February. **Therefore, the devotional guides are now available in the narthex and in the church office.** The booklets contain twenty-eight reflections written by Black authors to remind us of the faith and contributions of our African American Christian brothers and sisters.

Ash Wednesday Worship and the Imposition of Ashes

**Ash Wednesday, February 22
6:30 pm**

Youth and Adults in the Sanctuary

**Children in the Chapel
and God's Backyard**



Ash Wednesday



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
June 11
August 27

March 12
June 25
October 29

March 19
July 16
November 19

April 30
July 23
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 February

Worship—February 5 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 5:13
"The Purpose of Our Calling"
Carlton Allen

Anthem:
"Blessed Are You" - Chancel Choir,
with Judi Neufeld, guest organist

Worship—February 12 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Matthew 5:21-37
Sermon: "R-E-S-P-E-C-T:
Find Out What It Means to Jesus"
Carlton Allen

Anthem:
"If Ye Love Me" - Chancel Choir
"People to People" - Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Linda Self and memory of Jimmy Self and Elizabeth Self Wheeler by their family.

Worship—February 19 Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9
Sermon: "Trying to Listen"
Layne Smith

Anthem:
"Praise to the Lord, God's Glories Show"
FBC Octet with Noah Skinner, congas
"Seek First the Kingdom" - Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mike Koone by Linda, Matthew, and Laura.

February 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Meditation: "A Mark of Humility"
Carlton Allen

Anthem:
"Speak to Me in Ashes"
FBC Octet with Kelly McWhorter, soloist

Worship—February 26 First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11
Sermon: "You Know You Want It"
Carlton Allen

Anthem:
"Litany" and "I Shall See"
Voices of Grace Youth Choir
and Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Craig Holbrook Parham by his family.

Music Notes

A Journey in Four Verses

One of my favorite hymns is "O, Sing a Song of Bethlehem" (Tune: KINGSFOLD). The tune was given the name for where it was 'discovered' (Kingsfold, Sussex, England) by Ralph Vaughan Williams (my favorite composer). The tune is actually a medieval folk tune from England and Ireland, and is set in a minor key. What I love about this hymn besides the beautiful melody (which we sang as our final hymn on Epiphany), are the moving words written by Louis F. Benson (1855-1930). Each successive verse speaks of different places and events in Christ's life. The first verse details Christ's humble birth in Bethlehem, the visiting shepherds, the angels, and the joyful news of His coming to Earth. The second verse talks of Nazareth, the childhood of Jesus, and that His fame was beginning to spread. The third verse speaks of Galilee and of Jesus walking on water and calming the storm. The fourth verse leads us to Calvary and Christ's death upon the cross; however, the final lines detail His rising from the grave, and His salvation for all mankind. I find this Hymn the perfect segue from Epiphany to the coming season of Lent, which begins on February 22 with Ash Wednesday. I invite you to be aware of your own personal places, both physical and spiritual, as we make our way forward into Lent. Consider your own personal journey this year, as you seek to renew your commitment to our physical church FBC Greenwood, and the broader world-wide church. May your faith find hope and renewal.



Library Corner, February 2023

Revisiting the January 2023 Connections Newsletter prompted me to consider how the church library might Connect with the variety of New Year's opportunities for Spiritual Formation at First Baptist. Relevant to Building Blocks, the library has an extensive collection of books on contemplative worship, Christian mysticism and spiritual formation, David Ramsey's book, *The Total Money Makeover*, and also collective and individual biographies of well-known and lesser-known Biblical characters.

For those who have and continue to experience the pain of grief, particularly in the loss of a child, Lee Wyndham has written and made available in print a beautiful booklet, *From Grief to Gratitude*. As a tribute to the life of Angela Lee Wyndham Powers, Lee uses free-verse poetry to vividly express her pain as well as her sustaining faith in the hope that her journey may help others who experience loss. Free copies of the booklet are available in the library.

Be reminded that The Graham Shaw Library is a resource center for all age groups in making available information, materials and services that stimulate education and spiritual formation, enhance the quality of worship and witness, and equip people to be the heart and hands of Jesus.

- June Shaw, Librarian



Salt Shakers
Sunday, February 12
6:00 pm



Adult Building Blocks

The March/April Adult Building Blocks offerings are in the "planning" stages. An announcement will be made soon regarding the March/April Adult Blocks Offerings. Be watching church publications for additional details.

In the meantime, a Building Blocks Survey will be available during the week of February 12-19 in both electronic and paper format. Watch for instructions on how to complete the survey. FBC leadership is attempting to evaluate and improve future study options offered on Wednesday Nights for adults. Ideas from the congregation are instrumental in helping to accomplish the goal of providing the most relevant, engaging, and spiritually beneficial adult programing possible.



UPDATE: Wednesday Night Meals

Progress continues on the renovation of the kitchen following the Christmas Day water leak. Unfortunately, the kitchen continues to be unavailable for Robby Stevenson, Jeff Rush, and Dennis Moore to prepare meals as planned. There is hope that meals will be able to be served soon. Until then, **Wednesday Night Meals will continue to be BYOM (Bring your Own Meal.) including beverage!** The Fellowship Hall is open for conversation and BYOM meals around the table. Watch church publications for information on when the new Wednesday night meal schedule will begin..



January Diaconate Update

The Diaconate meeting was held on Sunday, January 15. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, the Diaconate approved the following items of business.

- 1) The Diaconate unanimously approved a recommendation from the Edgewood Cemetery and Mausoleum Board for George Cone, Alan Ogles, and Bruce Culbertson to serve a three-year term on the Edgewood Cemetery and Mausoleum Board.
- 2) The Diaconate unanimously approved a recommendation from the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee for Jackson Williams, Kelly Rhodes, and Andy Westbrook to serve on the Global and Local Missions Committee; Shawn Snead to serve on the Outreach and Membership Committee; and Kirsten Neufeld to serve on the Worship Committee.
- 3) The Diaconate received an update on the broken pipe in the kitchen.
- 4) The Diaconate unanimously approved a recommendation from the First Baptist Pastor Transition Team. (See cover for details.)

First Baptist Church Foundation Officers

The First Baptist Church Foundation Board had an orientation meeting in January for all members of the First Baptist Foundation Board as well as the Foundation Advisory Board. In addition to reviewing regular items of business, the Foundation Board elected the following officers to serve for 2023: Tom Gordon, - Chair, Vaughan Free - Vice Chair, Jerry Timmons - Treasurer, and Brenda Rickborn - Secretary.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Ray Wardlaw, Jordan Hewitt's grandfather
- Carolyn Crowe, Erin Nodine's grandmother
- Ernest Harris "Hammer" Deadwyler, Mary Moore's brother

Home: Sherri Chandler, George Coleman. Joann Gray, Carole Mauldin

Birth

Zachary Lovatt, great-grandson of Jeanne Hughston, and Julia and Nick Nichols.

2022 Missions Gifts

Although First Baptist is in the process of finalizing the 2022 financials, it is important to share gifts to "missions" given in 2022. The following is a list of "extra" donations to missions emphasis this past year.

State Missions

\$1,250.00

Beverly Greer/Munchin for Missions

\$4,920.00

Global Missions

\$3,784.00

Ukraine Relief

\$13,600.00

Hurricane Relief

\$2,930.00

Advent Conspiracy/Palmetto Works

\$2,900.00

January 1– January 22, 2023

Monthly Need	83,984.96
Monthly Gifts	26,344.30
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	76,061.84
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	26,344.30
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(\$49,717.54)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	133
Worship Attendance (Avg)	150



Spring Dates

- February 1-15:** Valentine Thank You Boxes
- February 2:** RSVP for Pizza and Cookies due
- February 5:** Pizza and Cookies 5:00 pm
- February 22:** Ash Wednesday
- March 19:** Two older children's choirs sing in worship
- March 29:** No choir;
Picnic 6:00 pm
Playground and Bikes
- April 2:** Palms in worship
- April 2:** Egg Hunt, 3:30 pm
- April 5:** No Wednesday Night Activities
- April 6:** Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 pm
- April 9:** Alleluia Bells in Worship
- TBA:** Operation InAsMuch
- May 3:** Last children's choirs practice
- May 5:** Playground Night, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- May 10:** M&M Night, 6:30 (all 3 children's choirs and CIAs)
- May 17:** CIA Fun Night, 6:30 pm
- May 21:** Two older children's choirs sing in worship
- May 24:** Youth's *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat*
- May 31:** Splash Pad, 6:00 pm



Pizza and Cookies

Sunday, February 5, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, the children and families will have a pizza supper and decorate their own cookies night! Please RSVP Anna Burch by Thursday, February 2 for a food headcount.



Valentine Thank You Boxes

It takes a lot of people to help the Children's Ministry run at FBC! To show our teachers and leaders some love and say thank you for their hard work and time spent with our kids, we will have Valentine boxes in the carpeted part of the Children's area from February 1-15 for our Sunday School teachers and CIA and choir leaders. Families can draw pictures, write a note, or find your own way to say thank you to your child(ren)'s teachers!

Other church members are welcome to add their cards of thanks as well!

Oldest CIAs Learn about Worship and Plan Children's Ash Wednesday Service



The oldest CIA group will plan and lead the children's Ash Wednesday service for the younger children. Ash Wednesday is February 22. Leading up to Ash Wednesday, we will be having the CIA unit on worship on January 25, February 1, 8, 15.

Adults will have an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. Childcare is available in the toddlers room as usual on Wednesday nights from 6:30 pm -7:30 pm.



Sunday Night Live is back on February 5! This is a great time to hang out and fellowship (and of course, steal the beds of unsuspecting younger siblings). I have an idea where it will be, but let me finalize with them before I post it here. Regardless of where it is, it will be a great time celebrating the return to school, church, and the new year! Can't wait to see y'all then!



Joseph Dates to Know:

Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday May 23
Performance: Wednesday May 24



LOOKING FOR . . . ?

**Community
Spiritual Development
Service Opportunities
Caring Relationships
Bible Application**

These desires and more can be fulfilled by being involved on a Sunday School class. Exciting things are happening during the Sunday School hour each week. Come at 10:00 am next Sunday and see.



NEVER GROW OLD FELLOWSHIP 2023

The next NGO meeting is Tuesday, February 14. The NGO program schedule for 2023 is below. The NGO year follows the calendar, which means dues for 2023 are due in February.

February 7	GRACE ST. QUARTET Keith Jameson, Joey Fuson, David Corbitt, and Lewis Walker, with Betty Walker as accompanist
March 7	JIM FOOTE Storyteller Concert
April 4	SOUNDS OF GRACE SPRING CONCERT
May 2	NAT CHANDLER Singer, Entertainer
June, July, August, and September: SUMMER BREAK	
October 3	BEN BAGWELL Singer, Guitarist
November 7	RED, WHITE, & BLUE - Election Day Tribute to USA
December 12	SOUNDS OF GRACE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

NGO MEETING SCHEDULE

Welcome: 11:45 am
Catered Meal: 12:00 pm

(Reservations are due the Wednesday prior to the meeting)

Program: 12:30 pm
Annual Dues: \$5.00/year



Cheerful Cherub Registration



Registration is now open for children ages 1-4 and for 5 year old kindergarten students for the 2023-2024 school year. Forms are available in the church office or from Claudia Burch. If you have any questions, please call Claudia at 229-2787.



722 Grace Street
(864) 229-5557
Greenwood, SC 29649
(864) 229-2561 Fax
Website: fbcgwd.org

Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

Ministers and Staff

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

Helping Hands Ministry Information Line (864) 229-8051

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED