



# CONNECTIONS

## NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Volume LXXV, No. 03

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
GREENWOOD COMMUNITY  
LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

**FEBRUARY 22ND: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**MARCH 1ST: IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**MARCH 8TH: ST. MARK UMC CHURCH**  
**RIVERS STREET CAMPUS**  
**MARCH 15TH: SOUTH MAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**MARCH 22ND: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**MARCH 29TH: MAIN STREET UMC CHURCH**  
**APRIL 5TH: MORRIS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**



Lunch Seatings are before and after  
Worship. 12 and 1 p.m. \$2 for lunch  
Worship will be from 12:30-1 p.m.



**Celebrating the  
RICH HERITAGE  
of  
First Baptist Church**

The First Baptist Church Pastor Transition Team invites everyone to a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning worship service on March 19. This will be a wonderful time around the table remembering and celebrating some of the redemptive things God has done in the rich history of the church. The Transition Team is providing childcare for all children after the meal in the Fellowship Hall. Please circle this date on your calendar and plan to be a part of the discussion around the table.



## THE SEASON OF LENT

By the time you receive this newsletter, First Baptist will be in the midst of the season of Lent. Lent is the 40-day period that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes with the celebration of Easter. The length of the season matches the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing to begin his earthly ministry.

We observe Lent as a time of reflection and repentance. Some may choose to give up certain things they enjoy in order to heighten the focus of their reflection. Others may choose some type of fasting practice. One may also choose to emphasize increased giving during this time or commitment to a service project as a means of increasing one's focus.

This year Lent occurs during a special time in the life of our church. As the Transition Team continues its work under the leadership of Dr. Layne Smith, the congregation will be invited to participate in a series of events designed to help us focus our reflections on the life and ministry of First Baptist Greenwood. You will be asked to reflect on the best times in the history of the church and on the times when the church has had to struggle. You will be asked to evaluate the current ministries and programs of the church. You will also be asked to reflect on what the church needs to do and be in order to continue to fulfill our calling as followers of Jesus in today's world. All of this will prepare the congregation to seek, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the next person to pastor this wonderful church.

Just as you would in reflecting on your own life, I urge you to devote time to praying for the church and its leadership during this Lenten season. I said in the February 12 sermon that I am convinced that the Holy Spirit does its most effective work when a diverse group of people seek the Spirit's leadership. I am confident that by prayerfully seeking that leadership you will ensure that this church's best and most faithful days are ahead.

- Carlton Allen

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### Pray for the First Baptist Church Pastor Transition Team

Please continue to keep the First Baptist Church Pastor Transition Team in prayer as they continue their work during the interim process. Members of the Pastor Transition Team include:



Kenny Poston – Chair  
Erin Nodine – Diaconate Chair  
Robert Riley – Diaconate Vice Chair  
Beth Hardage – Diaconate Secretary  
Mike Craig – Former Diaconate Chair  
Trey Jenkins – Personnel Committee Chair  
Gene Russell – Stewardship Committee Chair  
Anne Craig – Former Stewardship Committee Chair  
Stephanie Turner – Worship Committee Chair  
David Jennings – Ex-Officio Member - Staff Liaison

If you have an opportunity, please thank the members of the Pastor Transition Team for their hard work during the interim process.



## Worship in March

### Worship—March 5 Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 3:1-17, (OT: Psalm 121)

Sermon: "Questions in the Dark"  
Carlton Allen

Anthem: "God So Loved the World" -  
Chancel Choir, with Paul Peart II, violin  
and Beverly Psomas, guest organist

### Worship—March 12 Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 4:5-42 (OT: Psalm 95)

Sermon:  
"In the Eyes of Jesus, Everyone Is  
Somebody" - Carlton Allen

Anthem: "I Shall See" - Chancel Choir

### Worship—March 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Philippians 3:17-4:1  
(OT: 1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Sermon: "Poor Imitation of Spitting Image"  
Carlton Allen

Anthems:  
"Create in Me" - Chancel Choir  
and Music by Children's Choirs

**The Sanctuary flowers** are given to the  
glory of God by Mike Craig.

### Worship—March 26, 2023 Fifth Sunday in Lent Holy Communion

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Meditation:  
"When Dry Bones Become Flesh and  
Blood" - Carlton Allen

Anthem:  
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"  
"Dry Bones" - Chancel Choir

**The Sanctuary flowers** are given to the  
glory of God and in honor of Kenneth and  
Carol Richard by their son, Keith  
Jameson, in celebration of their 56th  
Anniversary.

## Wednesday, March 22 Community Lenten Pilgrimage Service

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Meditation by Mary Balfour Dunlap

Anthem:  
"The Old Rugged Cross/When I Survey  
the Wondrous Cross"  
Keith Jameson and Betty Walker

## *Music Notes* J.S. Bach Sunday, and "Dry Bones"

We celebrate the 338th birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) on March 21 (N.S.) or March 31 (O.S.), depending on which calendar you consult, either the Old Style (O.S.) or New Style (N.S.). J.S. Bach was one of the greatest composers of all time, especially of church music, with over 200 cantatas, the *St. John Passion* and *St. Matthew Passion*, *Christmas Oratorio* (actually six Christmas cantatas performed together), the beautiful and joyful *Magnificat*, motets, organ Preludes and Fugues, and harmonizations of hymns and chorale tunes. On Sunday, March 26, the Chancel Choir will be singing the ever popular "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" as part of the Prelude. It comes from Cantata BWV 147 *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben* ("Heart and Mouth and Deed and Life"). The lyrics were written by Martin Janus (Jahn) in 1661, and our English translation is from Robert Bridges. The piece is frequently used at weddings, or during Christmas or Easter seasons. The familiar triplet melody (3-notes on one beat) slowly rising and falling can sound like water flowing, or a gentle wind blowing, with the choir singing the chorale at moments between these triplet instrumental sections. In addition to this beautiful piece, the congregation will be joining in the great PASSION CHORALE "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," harmonized by J.S. Bach.

Also, on that Sunday, Carlton speaks about Ezekiel prophesying to the dry bones and the Lord covering the bones with flesh and breathing new life into them. The Chancel Choir will be singing the fantastic and rousing African-American spiritual "Dry Bones." It promises to be a special Sunday of varied and wonderful music during our Lenten journey.

## Lenten Devotional Booklet



"Living Well Through Lent 2023" from Living Compass is the devotional booklet the Spiritual Formation Committee ordered for the congregation this year. Please pick up a copy for your family from the table in the narthex or from the church office. The daily reflection is also offered through email at [LivingCompass.org/Lent](http://LivingCompass.org/Lent). The Lenten devotions begin this Wednesday, February 22, which is Ash Wednesday. Please see the article at the beginning of Church News for more information about the FBC Ash Wednesday service.

The Spiritual Formation Committee wants to remind everyone that daily devotions are available year round at [d365.org](http://d365.org). This website includes a weekly musical selection to aid your devotional practice of pausing, listening, thinking, praying, and going.



## Opportunities to Honor or Remember for Easter



On Easter Sunday, FBC will publish a list of donors and those honored or remembered through a special offering during Lent. This year, honoring and memorial donations may be designated for the purchase of lilies, for the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions, or for the Ministry Plan. After worship on Easter, lilies may be picked up by the donor or recipient. Flowers not picked up will be given to shut-ins. The cost of lilies is \$19.00 and orders must be received no later than March 31. **Checks for lilies should be payable to The Floral Case.** All other checks should be made payable to First Baptist Church. A form is in the church office for donors to indicate where the donation is to go and who is being honored or remembered. Since cards will be available in the church office for donors to send to recipients, no acknowledgements of these gifts will be sent by the church office.



## Adult Building Blocks

A new eight week Building Blocks series will begin on Wednesday, March 1 and conclude on Wednesday, April 26. The new series features four exciting options.

**Esther and Joseph:** Carole Russell, the leader of this study, says, "Looking at the Book of Esther, we will see more than her beauty. As the story unfolds, problems become victories and God joyfully and dependably protects His own." After studying Esther for four weeks, the group will explore the life of Joseph. The study on Joseph is timely since *Voices of Grace* Youth Choir is presenting *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in May. This study meets in the Carpenter Classroom - Room 210.

**Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus/ Lenten Study:** Mary Frances Thompson will use video, scripture, and discussion to help participants envision world the way Jesus saw it. Spiritual disciplines and faith practices that strengthen our commitment to Christ and His mission will be examined. This study meets in the Trinity Classroom - Room 211.

**Coping with Anxiety:** The *Growing on Grace Street* group invites anyone struggling with anxiety to join them as they study the book *Anxious: Fighting Anxiety with the Word of God* by Scarlet Hiltibidal. Kelly Rhodes will facilitate the discussion. This study meets in the Mauldin Classroom - Room 208.

**Let Every Voice Rejoice:** If you have thought about joining the Chancel Choir but were not sure you wanted to make a long-term commitment, this is your chance to try the choir for eight weeks. Keith Jameson and the Chancel Choir invite all interested singers to join them for rehearsal every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm in the Choir Room.



## January Diaconate Update

The Diaconate meeting was held on Sunday, February 19. In addition to receiving reports from the ministry staff, the Diaconate also received an update from Dr. Layne Smith and the First Baptist Church Pastor Transition Team. The Diaconate also approved a 2023 Ministerial Housing Allowance for the interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Carlton Allen.

The Diaconate received updates on the 2022 Year-end financials as well as the financials for January 2023. Please see the related financial report on the next column for the numbers.



## Turkey/Syria Earthquake Response

Please join First Baptist Church and Cooperative Baptists around the world in offering prayers and financial support to provide emergency assistance following the devastating earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria. CBF Global is coordinating disaster response donations that will be used to help people and communities affected by the earthquake. Gifts will support the provision of goods and services through CBF partners to those affected as needs become known. Donations to the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Response may be made in several ways: 1) Place donations in the basket in the Narthex. Please place cash or checks in an envelope and indicate Earthquake Response on your check or on the envelope; 2) Send donations to the church by mail, noting that they are for Earthquake Response; or 3) Donate securely online by selecting "Disaster Response" from the "Give" menu at the top of the church website, or by using the Tithe.ly app.

## Church Family News

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to the family of

- Rachel Logan, Donna Allen's mother
- Alva Boyce
- Karen Robinson

**Self:** Charlie Mauldin

**Home:** Reed Rickborn, Charlies Bobo

### New Members

Dick and Betsy MacDougall

### Birth

Charles McDaniel White, son of Katie McDaniel White and Michael White, grandson of Liz and Wayne White



## Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 13

Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 11. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 am Sunday, March 12. Check the batteries in your smoke detectors, too.

## 2023 Year-End Ministry Plan

Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	\$991,838.63
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	\$923,747.39
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(\$53,474.49)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	143
Worship Attendance (Avg)	191

## January 2023 Ministry Plan

January Income	\$35,916.61
January Expenses	\$81,973.18
January Deficit	(\$46,056.57)

## January 29– February 19, 2023

Monthly Need	\$83,984.96
Monthly Gifts	\$54,974.48
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	\$152,123.68
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	\$ 82,269.09
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(\$69,854.59)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	151
Worship Attendance (Avg)	195





## Spring Dates

- 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 7:** Two older children's choirs sing in worship
- May 10:** M&M Night, 6:30 (all 3 children's choirs and CIAs)
- May 17:** CIA Fun Night, 6:30 pm
- May 24:** Youth's *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat*
- May 31:** Splash Pad, 6:00 pm



## Egg "Stuffings" Needed

Candy and small surprises are needed to help "fill the plastic eggs" for the children's **April 2 Easter Egg Hunt**. Anyone who would like to donate some "stuffings" can drop them off at the church office or give them to Anna. Monetary donations are also welcome. **Please make donations by Wednesday, March 29.** Thank you for helping make this event special for the children.

## Family Activities on Wednesday Nights during District 50 Break

During District 50's intercession week and Spring Break, the March 29 and April 5 Wednesday Nights will look different.

On March 29, we'll start at 6:00 pm with a picnic supper followed by a night of playground, bikes, and kites. Bring your bike, picnic supper, and blanket or chairs. There will also be material to make kites and to decorate cardboard eggs! A reminder the lot will be closed for parking this night. There will be no choir or CIAs. This is a family event and Kelly and Cherry will have the night off for childcare.



On April 5, there will be no Wednesday Night activities. Instead, the church will have a Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary on April 6. Childcare is available.



## FLOWERS FOR THE LIVING CROSS

The church family is asked to bring flowers from home to decorate the "Living Cross" on Easter. A cross with greenery will be placed in the Narthex prior to service.

# Youth News

## March Sunday Night Live

*Sunday Night Live* will be back on its regular schedule this month. That means on March 5, from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm, we will go to the home of Bryce and Kelly Rhodes to have a fun night of food and fellowship. I can't wait to see y'all there as we get ready for March Madness together!



## NEVER GROW OLD FELLOWSHIP 2023

The NGO Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, March 7, at 11:45 am in the fellowship hall. Jim Foote of Clinton will present a unique storytelling program, featuring some Irish tales and humorous senior tales. Jim is a member of the National Storytelling Network and the South Carolina Storytelling Network. The catered meal is \$10.00 and will be BBQ sandwiches, slaw, chips, fruit, and a cookie. Dues for the year are \$5.00. If you would like to attend and are not a member, please call the church office to make your reservation by Thursday, March 2. Visitors are always welcome!

## PASSPORT

Empowering Students • Embracing the World • Extending Grace

### Passport Sign-ups Have Begun

This year, the youth will be going to Passport at Converse College, in Spartanburg SC. Passport is from June 26 -July 1. This is the most popular week for Passport - it sells out every year so youth can expect a packed group this year! For more information or to sign up, see the link in the youth newsletter or email Joey at [joey.fbcgreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:joey.fbcgreenwood@gmail.com).



### Flower Calendar Openings

Putting flowers in the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship or giving to the church or one of our ministry partners is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone or to commemorate a special occasion. The following dates are available for someone to provide flowers for Sunday worship or to have a notice in the bulletin of a donation in memory or honor of someone.

March 5	March 12	April 30
June 25	July 16	July 23
Oct. 29	Nov. 19	Nov. 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.



### Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat

Everyone is invited to see the youth performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evening, May 24.



### Salt Shakers Sunday, March 12 6:00 pm



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

### Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 [www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com](http://www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com)

#### Ministers and Staff

Carlton Allen	Interim Pastor	cellisallen42@gmail.com
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
Josh Harrington	Organist	jhharrington31@gmail.com
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