

WORSHIP

**Wednesday,
March 1, 2017**

6:15pm in the Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday Service

Music, Meditation and
Imposition of Ashes

Children, Youth and Adults
Worship Together

**Sunday,
March 5, 2017**

10:30am in the Fellowship Hall

First Sunday in Lent

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: 1 Kings 17;
Matthew 6:26-34

Sermon: Hope for God's Provision

Hearing aid receivers and magnifying
glasses available for all worship services.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Fellowship Hall
today are given in memory of Ruth G.
Shealy by her family.

If you would like to donate flowers
to adorn our Sanctuary for worship,
please contact Kimberly Coates at
233-2527 ext. 128 or kimberly.coates@
firstbaptistgreenville.com. The next
available dates are March 19 and 26.



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Divided families are always a challenge. Some manage better than others. I grew up in a divided family – biological parents in Mississippi and adoptive parents in Arkansas. I entered adulthood with a divided family – adoptive mom remarried in Kentucky and adoptive dad remarried in Georgia. It's not always negative circumstances that divide. I have siblings in five different states because that is where life and work and time have taken us. Currently, because of personal choices and the aging of children, I have daughters in different states desiring to honor relationships with parents who live in different states. As in many families, holidays and family time are negotiated. We try our best to love well.

Our church family will be divided on Sunday, March 5. Nothing negative has caused this cleft. Quite the opposite; it will be a positive and productive day. Part of our congregation will be attending the Annual Churchwide Retreat at Black Mountain, NC. Another portion of the faith family will be celebrating the First Sunday of Lent

here at 847 Cleveland Street. If you are not attending retreat, our Sunday morning worship service will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am – regular worship time. There will be no Sunday School that morning, and no childcare will be provided; feel free to bring the babies and children to worship. I will be returning from Black Mountain on Sunday morning to lead this service. Having spent Friday and Saturday with church family on retreat, I'd like to return and spend Sunday with church family as we enter the holy season of Lenten reflection and discipline. I'm looking forward to beginning our study of Elijah in a slightly more intimate setting.

I'm speaking a word of thanks today that it is only miles dividing us on March 5. We are a church – a family – that has learned to live and love with a great sense of and appreciation for our diversity. Our differences have made us stronger and more loving rather than dividing us. Our alternative perspectives have nurtured grace and wonder rather than judgment and ignorance. At times we are in different places – geographically and philosophically, but we really aren't divided. It is only miles that separate us. We are connected by much more. We are family. We love well.

— Jim

Reminders

Save the Date

March 18 - Operation Inasmuch

Registration is open at
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/oiam2017/>!



Youth Family Mission Trip

PERRY COUNTY, ALABAMA



Perry County, Alabama

Sowing Seeds of Hope is a faith-based non-profit organization in Marion, Alabama, with a mission to serve the people of Perry County. It is also a 25-year commitment and partnership between

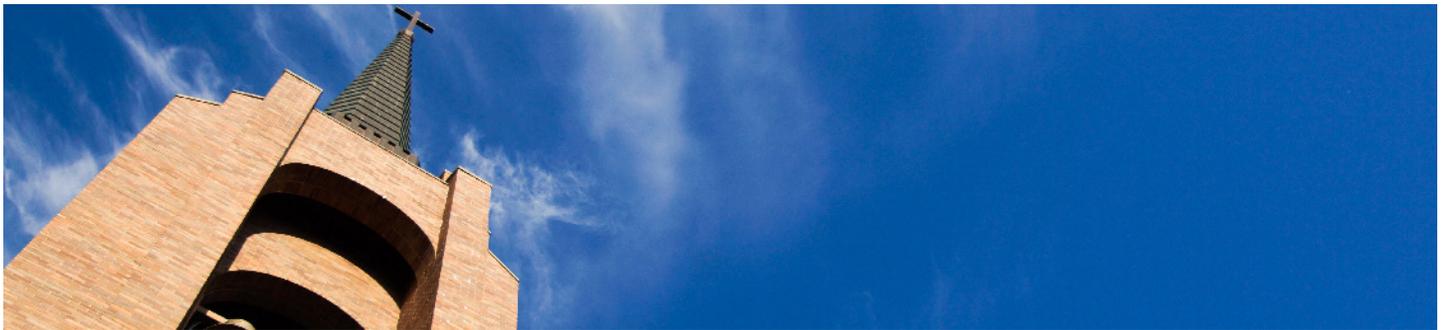
the people of Perry County and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to help raise the standard of living with housing solutions, healthcare assistance, spiritual renewal, and educational resources. Perry County is 1 of 20 poorest counties in the U.S. Population – 10,623 with 32% of those people living in poverty.

Our annual Youth Family Missions Trip is June 18-23. During our time in Perry County we will engage and invest in the community to learn about their historic town with deep roots in the Civil Rights Movement. We will participate in construction projects to help

improve homes and other community buildings, and lead school-aged children's literacy camps at the Perry County library. Our lodging will be at Judson College in Marion, Alabama.

If you are someone who loves to mentor and work with teenagers in such a way to help teach them skills, who is comfortable with them working alongside of you, and who is also skilled or gifted at being a Project Leader for mission sites... we would love your help! Our projects can range from basic home repairs such as: painting, drywall, stairs and wheelchair ramps construction to heavier construction such as: roofing, tearing up/replacing bathroom floors, plumbing and electrical. Other projects include: leading Literacy Camps and a Thursday afternoon Block Party. If interested, please fill out this short survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/eVlabNG77y0wVyly1>

— Mary Carol



Dear Church Family,

It is with a mixture of excitement and sadness that I announce my plans to retire from my position on the First Baptist Greenville staff on May 31, 2017. It has been one of the great joys of my life to have served on this amazing staff as Administrative Assistant/Financial Services for the past 11 years. I have been privileged beyond belief to work alongside each of these wonderful and gifted ministers and to call them friends. Through all the good times and challenging times we have experienced, I have always known that I was in exactly the right place. First Baptist has been my home church for 37 years now, so this has been much more than just a job to me. I will definitely miss coming to work every day, but I look forward to having more time to spend with family, to pursue other interests, and to participate in more church activities. I would certainly appreciate your prayers during this time of transition in my life. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Personnel Committee for their constant support through the years. My plan is to continue working full time through April, and then 30 hours per week in May in order to assist with the transition.

Blessings,
Pam Spengeman

Happy Birthday!

Please remember these in our congregation celebrating birthdays in March who are not always able to be with us in worship:

March 15	March 17	March 21	March 22	March 31
Freddie Jameson 51 Richwood Dr. Greenville, SC 29607	Frances Treadway 810 East Butler Rd. #100 Mauldin, SC 29607	Lois MacRae 275 Commonwealth Dr. Greenville, SC 29615	Jean Coogler 30 Springcrest Ct. #206 Greenville, SC 29607	George Irwin 2 Hoke Smith Blvd. #203 Greenville, SC 29615

Roadrunners Recall...

On February 14, the Roadrunners enjoyed a delightful evening at the Greenville Little Theatre with Emile Pandolfi entertaining with songs of film and stage. His talent is amazing! With him this year were Dana Russell, singer, and a new feature of comedy with James Sibley. The group

had the distinct opportunity to be on the "Maiden Voyage" of FBG'S new van arriving in style at the theatre with a red rose in hand. This was a beautiful way to spend Valentine's Day!

— Jo Carson, Senior Adult Committee

First Friday Lunch and More

MARCH 10

First Friday Lunch and More will meet in the Fellowship Hall on the second Friday, March 10, to allow everyone to enjoy the churchwide retreat on the first Friday of March. Games and the book reviews will begin at 10:30am. Jimmy Stewart will be discussing *Silas Marner* by George Eliot, *Millie's Book: As Dictated to Barbara Bush* by Barbara Bush, and *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* by Maria Augusta Trapp. At 11:00am, Steve Luck will present a program on the Silver Haired Legislature of which he is a local representative. Following the program a meal of soup, salad, sandwich, dessert, and beverage will be served. The program itself is free and requires no reservation. Reservations for the meal are required by March 7, and the cost is \$5 which is paid at the door. All senior adults or interested members are invited to attend. Make reservations by contacting Shanda LaForge at 233-2527 ext. 111.

— Shanda

Holy Rollers March Trip

MARCH 14

On Tuesday, March 14, the Holy Rollers will travel to McAfee Packing Company in Wrightsville, GA, to purchase fresh meats and eat lunch at the Cornbread Café. They will leave at 7:30am and return around 7:00pm.

Roadrunners March Trip

MARCH 21

On Tuesday, March 21, the Roadrunners will travel to enjoy lunch at the Blue Willow Inn in Social Circle, GA. The bus will leave the church at 9:00am and will return by 5:30pm. The cost of \$23.00 includes the meal and bus transportation.

Roadrunners Fall Trip

SEPTEMBER 24-30

CAPE COD, MARTHA'S VINEYARD & PLYMOUTH

\$615 per person, double occupancy

Price includes: transportation, 6 nights lodging, 10 meals, guided tours of Hyannis and Sandwich, guided tour of the "Outer Cape," JFK Museum and Sandwich Glass Museum.

For more information and to make reservations, contact Frank Smith at 233-2527 ext. 125.

For Your Calendar!

- 3/1 *Wednesdays at First*
6:15pm Ash Wednesday
 Service in the Sanctuary is for children, youth and adults.
- 3/3-5 Church Retreat
 Black Mountain, NC
- 3/5 **10:30am** First Sunday in Lent
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer
 All worship together in Fellowship Hall – no child care or Sunday School.
- 3/6-9 Kindergarten Book Fair (Parlor)
- 3/8 *Wednesdays at First*
 MidWeek Fellowship:
 Submission Kyle Matthews, Proclaimer
- 3/10 **10:30am** First Friday Lunch and More (Fellowship Hall)
- 3/12 **9:30am** Protecting Our Children (E-317)
10:30am Second Sunday in Lent
 Communion
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 2/25
 \$384,616
 Receipts of 2/24
 \$304,296

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

February 27-March 5
 Jim Dant
 478-737-7298 (m)
 370-2522 ext. 199

March 6-12
 Frank Smith
 268-3890 (h)
 370-2522 ext. 199

If you are unable to reach this minister immediately, please call the Church Office, 233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number “3” for “Pastoral Care Emergencies.”

Wednesday Supper

Reservations are required and must be made by noon on Monday prior to the meal. Serving lines are open 4:45-6:00pm.

Menu March 1

Beef Stroganoff served with Noodles,
 Seasoned Mixed Vegetables, Green Salad,
 Yeast Rolls, Dessert

Kids: Meatballs, Buttered Corn,
 Fruit, Cookies

March 8

Fish Tacos, Black Beans, Seasoned Rice,
 Salad, Dessert

Kids: Soft Tacos, Refried Beans,
 Fruit, Cookies

Wednesdays at First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar.

3:00pm	Youth Hang Time and Supper
4:45-6:00pm	Supper Serving Lines Open
5:15pm	Youth Choir
5:30-7:00pm	Children's Missions and Choirs
6:00pm	Youth Bible Study
6:15pm	MidWeek Fellowship
7:00-8:30pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Care List as of 2/27/17

Hospitals

Greenville Memorial: Champ Scott, Melanie Smith and newborn Allen Darby Smith III

Returned Home: Ellen Wilson, Henry Barton

Sympathy to...

...the family of Basil Manley IV.

Lenten Booklets

Booklets to guide your meditation along this Lenten journey will be available at the Reception Desk. Pick up your copy of *Open My Eyes, Lord: Seeing God at Work in My Life* by Kathy McGovern as you attend the Ash Wednesday Service in our Sanctuary at 6:15pm on March 1.

Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
 (864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com



THE BRANCH (USPS No. 597060) is published weekly January thru December (except one week in July and December). Periodicals postage paid at Greenville, SC 29602. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BRANCH, 847 Cleveland Street Greenville, SC 29601. (Phone 864-233-2527). Kimberly Coates, Editor.

Vol. LVIII February 27, 2017 No. 9

Introducing...



Martin Russo, 123 Pimlico Road, Greenville 29607, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, February 19, by profession of faith

requesting baptism. Martin's parents are Brent and Sharon, and his brother is Woods.

FBCK Book Fair

March 6-9

The Kindergarten Book Fair will be Monday through Thursday, March 6 through March 9, in the Parlor. It will be open for business from 9:00am-12:00noon. The inventory will consist mostly of children books, but there will also be some adult selections. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the books will help support the kindergarten program. All are welcome!