

WORSHIP

Sunday,
September 17, 2017

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4-7;
Revelation 22:1-2

Sermon: Creation and the Cross

Anthem: "Come, Thou Fount of
Every Blessing" – *arr. WILBERG*

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

Instrumentalists: South Carolina
Governor's School for the Arts and
Humanities Wind Ensemble

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

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given
in loving memory of Henry and Ruth
Lewis by their 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](mailto:kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

Extended Session

Directors: Gary and Laura Darnell

Twos/Threes: Jay and Kimberly
Stephens

Fours: Josh and Rebecca Gault

Fives: Ben and Elaine Barnhill

Pianist: TBD

Worship Leader: Helen Lee Turner



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

It all happened in one day. During my morning run, I slid in with some United States Marine Corp (USMC) trainees on the Swamp Rabbit Trail. Their steadiness, chants and camaraderie made my run much easier. I thanked them for their service and for helping me keep pace...and I moved on. As I slowed to a walk and cooled down on North Main, I chatted with some Auburn University Band members. They had spent the night in Greenville before heading to Death Valley. They were astonished that I was so friendly to them. I told them their suppositions with regard to my football allegiances were unfounded, but I assured them even the most ardent Clemson fans pride themselves on neighborly friendliness toward the competition. And speaking of Clemson, I ended my day by attending my first Clemson game. I carpooled with the fans, tailgated with the multitudes, learned the cheers and got to bed too late. Throughout the day, I allowed myself

to engage people and activities new to me. Each incident brought a measure of joy to my life, provided me with a learning opportunity, and I hope brightened the lives of those I engaged as well.

This issue of *The Branch* is chock full of ways you might involve yourself at First Baptist Greenville. Volunteer opportunities abound in the areas of education, music, missions, committee work, children's ministry, youth ministry, preschool ministry, maintenance and much, much more. Each of these service opportunities will make a difference in the lives of people, our church and our world. In addition, they will make a difference in your life. It's the unexpected benefit of running with marines, chatting with band geeks and hanging out with football fans. We get as much from these experiences as the persons we are engaging.

— Jim

So peruse these pages. Keep you heart and mind open. Listen to where the Spirit might be tugging or pushing you. Move beyond the familiar pew and pattern of your life at First Baptist. Get involved with something new, different, challenging and fun. See how it changes the people you serve...and changes you.

Reminders

Friday, October 13

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Get Involved...

There are a multitude of ways to get involved at First Baptist – far too many to fit in one newsletter. Today, a few ministries in and outside of the church will be highlighted. You can also follow the links to more comprehensive lists of places to get involved with your church and community. Follow this link: firstbaptistgreenville.com/member-engagement-survey/ to take our Member Engagement Survey and let us know what areas of involvement interest you.

... AT FIRST BAPTIST

Monetary donations are not the only way to give back to your church. We are a big congregation, and every single ministry here relies on volunteers in order to run smoothly. Below are some ways to get involved. For a more comprehensive list, visit our website at firstbaptistgreenville.com/involvedfirstbaptist.

Garden Friends is a group of people who work to enhance the hospitality of our church by working to make our entrances and grounds a more inviting environment. If you enjoy nature and gardening and would like to help in some way, contact Janice Johnson at janicerj31@gmail.com for more information.

Preschool Extended Session, which takes place during Sunday morning worship, is in need of a pianist. The pianist volunteers one Sunday each month to assist Helen Lee Turner who leads a short and educational worship service in the Carpenter Chapel. Contact Juli Morrow (juli.morrow@firstbaptistgreenville.com) for more information about volunteering as a pianist or any other preschool area position.

All of our ministries to young people – youth, children and preschool – need volunteers, whether it's a weekly volunteer commitment or a one-time chaperone gig. To volunteer with youth, contact Mary Carol (mary.carol@firstbaptistgreenville.com); to volunteer with children, contact Becky Ramsey (becky.ramsey@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

The *Ministry to Families Committee* provides care and assistance primarily to our homebound members. The committee is always looking for volunteers who believe that visiting those in need of a caring touch is a high and holy calling – those who are willing to occasionally assist in providing transportation for members in need of a ride to a medical appointment, those who are willing to arrange and deliver flowers or Wednesday suppers to church members, and those who have experienced support and loving care from others in times of personal need and who desire to respond to that blessing by caring for others. If you would like to explore the possibility of using your gifts in and through the ministries of this committee, please call one of the chairs: Jeanette Cothran (288-6227) or Janet Huskey (288-5914).

... WITH THE SACRED

During the week, you can find many opportunities to nourish and grow your faith at First Baptist. There are currently three different Bible studies (in addition to MidWeek Fellowship). On Tuesdays, join Jim Dant's *Hop on Hop off Bible Tour* at noon in the Fellowship Hall. On Wednesdays, come to the AYMC for a Bible study led by Bert Strange at 6:30am. On Fridays, join Michelle McClendon's Bible study on Corinthians. In order to register for Michelle's study, email Becky Bouton (beckybouton@gmail.com). To see all of our spiritual opportunities, visit the list at firstbaptistgreenville.com/involvedsacred.

There are two prayer groups at our church – *Intercessory Prayer* and *Centering Prayer*. Both meet weekly and welcome newcomers – no need to give notice that you're coming. Members of the *Intercessory Prayer* group meet on Fridays and offer prayers on behalf of church members. *Centering Prayer* meets on Tuesdays and provides a space for contemplative prayer. For more information on meeting times and contacts, visit firstbaptistgreenville.com/prayer-groups.

On the weekends, in addition to Sunday worship, we also offer *Spiritual Enrichment Events (SEE)* on three Saturdays this fall – September 23, October 14, and December 2. These *SEE Retreats* focus on a variety of topics presented by different facilitators (some church members, some not), but ultimately are designed to provide a space of rest, prayer, personal nurture and retreat. For more information, visit firstbaptistgreenville.com/spiritual-enrichment-events.

... THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

Get to know your fellow members at First Baptist beyond those who sit on the same pew as you. Although all of the opportunities above provide a space where you can get to know other members, highlighted here are a few more areas where you can find camaraderie and form closer friendships. For a more comprehensive list, visit firstbaptistgreenville.com/involvedfellowship.

The Knit One, Crochet Too group at our church works faithfully to make prayer shawls, baby bibs, baby blankets, hats, scarves and other handmade items to gift to church members when they are needed. There is no knitting or crocheting experience needed – group members are enthusiastic to teach newcomers. If you're interested in finding fellowship and a way to tangibly offer your support to church members, contact Laurie Waldrop (lauriewaldrop@bellsouth.net).

MidWeek Fellowship is a time for the whole church family to gather for worship in a more casual and intimate way than on Sunday mornings. Come and break bread with church sisters and brothers on Wednesday evenings and join us in worship. The Wednesday Night Supper line opens at 4:45pm, and MidWeek Fellowship begins at 6:15pm. For more information, go to firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesday-night-supper.

Sanctuary Choir is a friendly group of people who sing, laugh and learn together. Singing in the choir is a meaningful way to experience worship from a different vantage point. The choir's mission is to build, cultivate and educate our worship community in the teachings and liturgy we celebrate. Choir members are worship leaders and active participants in the worship and glory of God. Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm – weekly September-May and once a month June-August. For more information, contact Vivian Hamilton (vivian.hamilton@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

... IN THE COMMUNITY

Greenville is a growing, diverse community, and First Baptist partners with and gives support to a large number of community organizations. Giving back to our community through volunteer work is a great way to connect with our community. But there are also opportunities to connect in other ways – sometimes the simple act of showing up makes an impact. Below, you'll find ways to volunteer in the community and opportunities to show up and participate. To see a full list, visit firstbaptistgreenville.com/involvedcommunity.

Members of First Baptist will be joining hundreds of Greenvillians on Sunday, October 1, for this year's *United Ministries' Transformation Walk*. Josh Beeby (josh@barleystown.com) will be heading up our team of walkers. From 12noon-2pm there will be food trucks, a raffle, games and entertainment at Fluor Field. After an awards ceremony, the 3-mile walk will start at 2:30pm. To register, sign up for a t-shirt, or get more information, visit transformationwalk.everydayhero.do.

This fall, First Baptist will be partnering with *World Relief* – an organization that settles refugees in the upstate. Jenny Lee will be heading up our *Good Neighbor Team*, which partners with a refugee family to welcome them to the Greenville area and empower them to reach self-sufficiency. This can include

setting up an apartment for the family, welcoming them at the airport, helping them acclimate to our culture, visiting them weekly, and – most importantly – forming relationships with the refugees. If you are interested in joining First Baptist's Good Neighbor Team, please contact Jenny (jennbe814@gmail.com).

In the past, First Baptist has partnered with organizations in the upstate that offer space for dialogue with people that come from different faith, cultural and racial backgrounds. The purpose of the *Interfaith Forum* is to build understanding, respect and cooperation among the various religious denominations and faith groups in our community, our region, our nation and our world. Visit their website – interfaithforum-sc.org – to learn more about the events they sponsor throughout the year. *Speaking Down Barriers* facilitates community dialogue with the goal of healing the wounds of difference, including race, gender, class, religion, national identity and sexual orientation. Attend their next *Learning Us* event on November 13 at 6pm at the Phyllis Wheatley Center. For more information, visit speakdownbarriers.org. The *Atlantic Institute's* mainstay is to engage in educational activities about social and cultural matters. Visiting atlanticinstitutesc.org will give you a comprehensive look at what the South Carolina branch has to offer.

For Your Calendar!

- 9/10 11:30am-1:30pm Acolyte Training
4:00pm *Vocare* (Choir Room)
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth
- 9/12 12:00pm Hop On Hop Off Tour of the Bible (Fellowship Hall)
- 9/13 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
- 9/15 6:00-8:00pm Children's Ministries Event: Movie and Pizza Night
- 9/17 10:30am Recognition of First Grade Children
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
South Carolina Governor's School of the Arts and Humanities Wind Ensemble
11:30am Church Conference with Youth Fundraiser Baked Potato Bar (Fellowship Hall)
4:00pm *Vocare* (Choir Room)
No Sunday Night Live for Youth
- 9/19 9:00am Roadrunners to Lunch at Dillard House in Helen, GA
12:00pm Hop On Hop Off Tour of the Bible (Fellowship Hall)

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 9/9
\$1,730,772
Receipts of 9/8
\$1,566,099

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

September 11-17
Kyle Matthews
551-0829 (m)
370-2522 ext. 199

September 18-24
Jim Dant
478-737-7298 (m)
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 on the church website or by calling the Reception Desk by noon on Monday prior to the meal. Serving lines are open
4:45-6:00pm.

Menu

September 13

Adults: Beef Tips and Rice, Roasted Veggies, Layered Salad, Yeast Rolls

Kids: Chicken Fingers, Tater Tots, Fruit, Cookies

September 20

Adults: Chicken Enchiladas, Black Beans, Mexican Rice, Mexican Salad

Kids: Tacos, Black Beans, Fruit, Ice Cream Cup

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
5:30-7:00pm	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 9/11/17

Hospitals

St. Francis-Downtown: Harvey Sanders

Returned Home: Bob Morris,
Monty Laffitte

Sympathy to...

...Cliff Williams and family in the death of his mother.

...Julie Cline and family in the death of her father.

...Jim Childress and family in the death of his uncle.

Church Conference & Youth Fundraiser

Baked Potato Bar
September 17, 11:30am
Fellowship Hall

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



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Kimberly Coates, Editor.

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Prayer Groups Resume

Two prayer groups will resume meeting this month. Each of these groups is always open to new members and visitors.

Centering Prayer resumed its Tuesday gatherings on September 5. This group gathers weekly, 11:00am-noon, in the Prayer Room (E-317) next to Carpenter Chapel. For more information contact Susan D'Amato (420-2016).

Intercessory Prayer will resume its Friday gatherings on September 22. This group meets weekly at 9:00am in E-340. For more information, contact Mareon Stall (288-2447).