

## WORSHIP

Sunday,  
March 19, 2017

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Third Sunday in Lent

**Proclaimer:** Kendra Plating

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 19:1-18

**Sermon:** Hope for God's Voice

**Anthem:** "Guide Me, O Thou Great  
Jehovah" - arr. FERGUSON

**Service Choirs:** Sanctuary Choir  
and Bell Tower Ringers

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

### Sanctuary Flowers

There are no scheduled flowers for this  
Sunday. If you would like to donate  
flowers to adorn our Sanctuary for  
worship this Sunday or any other,  
please contact Kimberly Coates at  
233-2527 ext. 128 or kimberly.coates@  
firstbaptistgreenville.com. The first  
available dates are March 19 and 26.

### Extended Session

**Directors:** Jamie and Jay Womack

**Infant/Toddler:** Marian Pouch

**Twos/Threes:** Carmen and Will  
Feemster

**Fours:** Brandon and Leslie Roberts

**Fives:** Derek and Renee Dunlap

**Pianist:** David Petty

**Worship Leader:** Helen Lee Turner



## Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

I've been here long enough the repetitiveness of my speech is showing. Every once in a while, I'll repeat a sermonic story. In private conversation, I'll bore the listener with an anecdote to which their auditory nerves had already been subjected. It's the natural hazard of words and time. I try my best to keep it to a minimum. Please accept my apologies for the inevitable failures. There are some phrases, however, that you will never cease to hear. They are mantras, of a sort, that guide my life's center. I'll not share them all today, but here are a few...and of course...you've probably already heard them.

### *There are no spiritual emergencies.*

I've learned to move a little slower in life. I respond to the frenetic anxiety of others with patient pauses. If I am not God, and if I truly believe in God, then I assume 'God's got this.' I have no need to be God or get ahead of God in my life or yours. It's a hard discipline, but allowing God to be God is at the heart of Sabbath, serenity and security.

*We do not do God's work; we create space for God to do God's work.*

Again, there is personal relief in this clarification of our mission. I enjoy introducing people to God. I delight in creating events, services, programs and spaces for wanderers and wonderers to gather. But only God can accomplish in a person's life what needs to be accomplished. We simply create a space for holiness to happen.

*Your life is God's gift to you. How you live your life is your gift to God.* There are multiple well-meaning souls in this world that would love to steer and shape our lives. Typically, they are, intentionally or unintentionally, wanting our lives to be lived in such a way that 'their' lives are enriched. (Read that line again. Really. Maybe even read it two or three times.) We can completely lose a sense of who God wishes us to be and how God wishes us to live because we have succumbed to someone else's idea of who and how we should be. Your life is the only one you have. Others have their own lives to live as they choose. Why should they get to dictate yours? Live your life as a gift to God, and others will naturally benefit – but they need not be in control.

That's enough for today. I'd hate to repeat myself too much...

— Jim

## Reminders

March 18 - Operation Inasmuch

Registration is open at  
[https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/  
oiam2017/!](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/oiam2017/)





## 2017 Youth Mentoring Team (YMT)

The Internship Committee is excited to introduce two college students who will make up this summer's Youth Mentoring Team. The Youth Mentoring Team is a program that provides an opportunity for college students to identify strengths, gifts, interests and abilities; invest in this youth ministry and its members; and help create a sense of trust, respect and bond between our youth and youth leaders.

### ANNIE DEATON

I am currently well into my second semester at Gardner Webb University where I am majoring in Discipleship Studies with an end goal to become a Youth Minister. I was born and raised in this church family, and I would not have had it any other way. Throughout my high school years, I invested my entire heart and soul into this youth program and church. I have memories that will last a lifetime from the various trips I went on as a youth; for example, I was able to feed a camel, which is my favorite animal, during my senior trip. I am overwhelmed with joy and cannot wait to get more involved and invested with each of the youths' lives and help to create wonderful memories for them. I am also very excited for the opportunity to learn from Mary Carol about the backstage task of creating successful trips and discipleship opportunities, how to be a Youth Minister that youth truly love, and how to create a welcoming and safe place for teenagers.

### PEYTON MILLS

I am Peyton, and I am returning for a second year as a Youth Mentor. I am currently a sophomore at Clemson University studying Graphic Communications and loving every minute of it. Last summer made an impact on my life and faith journey that was irreplaceable which led me to profess my faith in Christ, and I was baptized in October of 2016. I eagerly await this summer based on past experiences and look forward to spending time, planning, worshipping and growing with the youth. Furthermore, I am thrilled to be working with Annie Deaton with her unique perspective and energy. This summer is going to be filled with many events, activities and opportunities. I look forward to seeing and working with everyone again.

## Youth Sunday 2017

Our youth did a wonderful job leading in worship on Youth Sunday. Thank you to all of our Sunday school teachers and parents for your hard work in helping make the morning of worship meaningful. I am so proud of our youth of First Baptist Greenville, whose energy and enthusiasm enable us to dig deeper and soar higher than we ever imagined and the Youth Sunday School teachers and the Youth Committee members whose dedication and support throughout the year strengthen all of us, Youth Family and youth leaders.

— Mary Carol



# A Special Message from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



160 CLAIREMONT AVENUE  
SUITE 500  
DECATUR, GA 30030  
770-220-1600

## To the Congregation of First Baptist Church:

At the start of this new year, all of us at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship want to thank the members of First Baptist Church for your dedication and commitment to sustaining Global Missions, supporting healthy churches and nurturing Young Baptists. We appreciate being your partner in ministries and missions.

You are special to us, and we are grateful for you. You are sharing Christ's love in profound ways as you join with nearly 1,800 fellow CBF churches to share and live the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your gifts, generosity and personal involvement accomplished great things for the body of Christ in 2016. You welcomed refugees from Syria and other countries around the world forced out of their homes from war, hunger and violence. You provided food, water, shelter, education, medical care and new opportunities for women, men and children marginalized by injustice. You offer peace, hope and love in a time when our country and our world are hungry for God's love.

And you do so much more through your faithful partnership with CBF. You started new churches for people who had never been part of a church or heard the message of Jesus. You provided a network of support for churches and pastors. You offered a path for Young Baptists to respond to God's call and guidance in their lives.

All of this work would not be possible without you and your compassion and kindness.

As the Apostle Paul writes to the Philippians, "I thank God for every remembrance of you." Thank you for all you are doing in your church, your community and in the world. We are grateful to have you as such an important CBF partner.

Yours in Christ,

Suzi Paynter  
Executive Coordinator  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

## For Your Calendar!

- 3/14 7:30am-7:00pm Holy Rollers to McAfee Packing Company in Wrightsville, GA
- 3/15 *Wednesdays at First*  
MidWeek Fellowship: Service  
Kyle Matthews, Proclaimer
- 3/18 Operation Inasmuch
- 3/19 10:30am Third Sunday in Lent  
Kendra Plating, Proclaimer  
Bell Tower Ringers
- 5:00-7:30pm Youth Guys/  
Gals Talk Series - Middle School Only (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 3/21 9:00am-5:30pm Roadrunners to Lunch at Blue Willow Inn in Social Circle, GA
- 3/22 *Wednesdays at First*  
MidWeek Fellowship:  
Confession  
Kyle Matthews, Proclaimer
- 3/24-25 Neighborhood Partnership Yard Sale

### LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 3/11  
\$528,847  
Receipts of 3/9  
\$354,366

## Pastoral Care

### On Call Nights and Weekends

March 13-19  
Kyle Matthews  
551-0829 (m)  
370-2522 ext. 199

March 20-26  
Matt Rollins  
346-0971 (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 15

Braised Irish Stew, Roasted Potatoes, McAndrew's Soda Bread, Green Salad, Luck o' the Irish Brownies

**Kids:** Chicken Fingers, Tater Tots, Fruit, St. Patty's cupcakes

#### March 22

Fried Chicken, Broccoli Casserole, Pineapple Casserole, Spinach Salad, Garlic Butter Biscuits

**Kids:** Fish Sticks, Buttered Corn, Sweet Potato Fries, 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 3/13/2017

### Hospitals

As far as we are aware on March 13, there are no members in the hospital.

**Returned Home:** Shirley Roberts, Caroline Maddox and infant Landon Maxwell Maddox

### Sympathy to...

...Kyle Matthews and family in the death of his father.

...Herbert Rieder and family in the death of his father.

## Lenten Booklets

Booklets to guide your meditation along this Lenten journey are available at the Reception Desk. Pick up your copy of *Open My Eyes, Lord: Seeing God at Work in My Life* by Kathy McGovern.

847 Cleveland Street,  
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 March 13, 2017 No. 11

## Congratulations to...

...Leah and Richard Allen on the birth of a son, Richard Kingsley Allen IV, born on February 27, 2017. Ford's older sister is Emma.

...Braxton and Caroline Maddox on the birth of a son, Landon Maxwell Maddox, born on March 4, 2017. Landon's older brother is Marshall. His grandparents in our church are Beth and Tom Maddox, and his great-grandmother in our church is Maude Maddox.

## Introducing...



Max Gravlee,  
215 Stewart St.,  
Greenville 29605,  
joined FBG  
during worship on  
Sunday, March 12,  
by statement of

previous profession of faith and baptism. Max is employed with the Pickens County Public Defender's office. He is pictured here with his wife, Carmen. They have a son, Wells.