

WORSHIP

Sunday,
December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45

Sermon: Are We There Yet?

Anthem: "All Is Well" – SMITH

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

Soloist: Bootie Cothran

Sunday,
December 31, 2017

First Sunday after Christmas

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Luke 2:21-35

Sermon: Holy Mulligans

Anthem: "O Come, Divine
Messiah" – HELVEY

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

Soloist: Sara Kathryn Coates

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

Sanctuary Flowers

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 date is January 7.



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Christmas morning is different from every other morning of the year. The level of anticipation preceding the day, make the waking hour unlike any other. As a child, my eyes were wide-open at 4:00am, 5:00am, 5:30am, 6:00am..., waiting and wondering when it was safe to get up. (I was never worried about running into Santa, but prior years had revealed my parents grumpy disdain for pre-6:00am races to the Christmas tree.) When it was determined safe to arise, my brothers and I would run down the hall to gaze upon the wonders deposited by our favorite saint. (We couldn't touch anything until our parents got up, went potty, brushed their teeth, put on some clothes, poured their coffee...well...you get the picture.) Meanwhile, we just stood there – in our underwear – looking at the tree with all its bounty. That didn't happen on any other morning of the year. Finally, we would dig into the pile: wrapping paper flying, boxes ripped open, screaming for batteries, showing each other our

treasures. (This only lasted about 10 minutes.) Then we settled into a game and eventually a nap, while our sleepy-eyed parents sipped coffee on the sofa. It was a morning like no other.

Our next two mornings at First Baptist will be a little different. On Sunday, December 24, we will worship together as usual at 10:30am. We will not, however, have Sunday School. On Sunday, December 31, we will again worship together at 10:30am, we will not have Sunday School, but we will enjoy breakfast together prior to worship in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00am. Since these two Sundays fall on the eve of holidays, the schedule for each day is a little different. We hope these changes help ease the stress of your holiday season and offer you the rest Sabbath was intended to provide. So, I'll see you in worship this Sunday...and I expect us all to be fully clothed.

— Jim

Reminders

Longest Night Service
December 20
7:00pm
Carpenter Chapel
Kendra Plating, Proclaimer

Christmas Eve Service
4:30pm Prelude/5:00pm Service
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
Anna, Dianna and Tom Joiner,
Strings
Paul Sewell, Tenor

Church Retreat
March 2-4, 2018
Unmasking God
Joy Yee, Retreat Leader
[https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/
churchwide-retreat/](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/churchwide-retreat/)

Enrollment for First Baptist Day School

2018-2019

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year for First Baptist Church members will be held January 16 through January 21, 2018. To enroll children ages two months up to two years, pick up enrollment materials on the table in the nursery lobby. The enrollment card and \$200 enrollment fee must be returned during that week to secure a placement. For more information, contact Rosemary New at 370-2515 ext. 127 or rosemary.new@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

To enroll children turning two years old prior to September 1, 2018 through age five, enrollment packets will be available in the office (Room B307) beginning January 10. Enrollment packages and the \$200 enrollment fee must be received in the office by January 21 to secure a placement. Contact Dewanda Martin at 271-2613 ext. 131 or dewanda.martin@firstbaptistgreenville.com with questions.

Happy Birthday!

Remember these folks in our congregation celebrating birthdays in January who are not always able to be in worship with us:

January 14

John Curry

208 Boxwood Lane
Greenville, SC 29601

January 23

Joylyn Lynch

810 East Butler Road
Room #122
Greenville, SC 29607

January 24

Bob Rogers

Brookdale Nursing
Home
Room 121
23 Southpointe Drive
Greenville, SC 29607

Roadrunners

January 23, 2018

Lunch at Sweet Catherine's
(Fountain Inn)

Depart FBG: 11:00am

Cost: \$2 (bus) + Lunch

Contact Shanda LaForge at
ext. 111 to make reservations.

Making a Difference

BREAK OUT!

Sometimes it's comfortable to do things the same old way: buy the same brand of breakfast cereal every week, drink from a favorite coffee mug every day, or snuggle into that old sweater that's a little too small. However, sometimes it's good to stretch into something new. **Stephen Ministry** may be where God is calling you to S - T - R - E - T - C - H.



Applications to join our Stephen Ministry team are available at the Reception Desk and at the FBG Website under "Serve." A 50-hour training class will begin on January 9 and continue until the end of April. Weekly sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 5:30-8:00pm. Additional Saturday sessions will be held on January 27 and April 21, from 9:30am-3:00pm. Commissioning will take place during a worship service in May. The deadline for applications is January 3. Please contact a Stephen Minister for further information: Robin Barton, Wofford Green, Hazel Harris, Duke McCall or Ann Quattlebaum.

How to Request a Stephen Minister: If either you or someone you know is having a difficult time dealing with a life crisis and need the caring friendship and support of a Stephen Minister, please contact one of FBG's Stephen Leaders/Ministers to ask for a referral card or get one at the church Reception Desk.

— Your Stephen Ministry

College Care Packages

Our college care packages are sent to 7 states, traveling over 3,050 domestic miles. These boxes packed with love and handwritten prayers can really brighten up a student's day!

Last week our Youth Family packed and mailed over 55 exam care packages to our college and graduate school students. In less than 24 hours, we started to receive texts and pictures expressing their gratitude and appreciation for their *Box of Love* they received from their home church.

We want to thank our church family who donated all the snacks, homemade goodies and school supplies for the care packages. Your contributions helped to make our *Boxes of Love* extra special!

— Mary Carol and Sarah

Thank you so much for my care package! It's so great to be reminded of my church family during times of stress.

— Sophie Harris

I want to not only thank the congregation for providing me a care package for finals, but also for everything the congregation has done for me. It's a blessing to have you guys by my side. You guys are the best, and I love the package! Happy holidays!

— RJ Styles

Last week, I received a small brown box in the mail. From the moment I tore off the tape, my day was changed. As the semester begins to dwindle down, more and more stress and assignments are piled on top of me. However, I forgot all that once I tore open that box. The food, snacks, and school supplies inside the box were so wonderful, but that was not the best part of the box. It was the love that came from the people who sent the box. For those who do not know, while the youth are packaging the box they place handwritten notes inside. Reading over those notes, I was brought to tears. One small brown box changed my day completely around. On behalf of all the college students, your love is felt and we are so grateful for it.

— Annie Deaton

I've sent off care packages to students every year for the 7 years of my time in the youth group, so receiving one was a transcendent experience. I had always wondered what it was like on the other end; now I know. Being away from home for so long made me appreciate the care package even more. Even the notes from names I didn't recognize still held resonance because they were from my home church doing what I did, writing letters to students I didn't know. It was less about the items in the box, but more so the thoughtfulness of the gesture and the memories it brought back. On top of all that, it reminded me how much I love my church!

— Chris Matthews

Academic Scholarships

Academic scholarships are awarded by the Scholarship Committee of First Baptist Greenville to qualified individuals seeking financial assistance in pursuing an undergrad or seminary degree. This opportunity is not restricted to church members. Friends and loved ones are also welcome and encouraged to apply. These scholarships are made available through the First Baptist Greenville Foundation and funded by the incredible generosity of current and former church members.

Hard copies of the applications are available at the front reception desk. They can also be downloaded from the College page on the church's website - <http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/scholarships/> *Note that there are two applications: a first-time application and a renewal application for previous recipients. Please complete the appropriate one.

2018 Summer Youth Mentoring Team

FOR INTERESTED COLLEGE STUDENTS ...

FIRST BAPTIST GREENVILLE
YOUTH
Mentoring
-TEAM-
SC

OUR INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE IS NOW
TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR OUR
SUMMER 2018 YOUTH MENTORING TEAM

This is a 10 week Internship that will consist of
one or more college student(s) who have an
interest in assisting with all aspects of youth
ministry for grades 6 through college.

Visit firstbaptistgreenville.com for more information and application

First Baptist's Youth Mentoring Team is a 10-week program made up of one or more college students who have completed at the minimum their first year of school. These college student(s) must have an interest in assisting with all aspects of ministry to youth (grades 6 through college). The team's primary focus will be building and strengthening relationships within our Youth Family. The program is designed to provide 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.

For interested college students, go to www.firstbaptistgreenville.com/internships for a full program description and the application. Please submit applications to the Youth Ministry office by Sunday, January 14, 2018.

— Mary Carol Anderson

For Your Calendar!

- 12/17-21 Host IHN (formerly GAIHN)
Guests
- 12/20 7:00pm Longest Night Service
(Carpenter Chapel) – Kendra
Plating, Proclaimer
Priscilla Harris and Susan
Matthews, Vocalists
- 12/22-26 AYMC and Church Offices
Closed
- 12/22 6:00pm College Christmas
Party (Mary Carol Anderson’s
Home)
- 12/24 10:30am Fourth Sunday of
Advent
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
Bootie Cothran, Soloist
No Sunday School
- 4:30pm Prelude
- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service
of Communion
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
Paul Sewell, Vocalist
Thomas, Anna and Dianna
Joiner, Strings
- 12/30-1/1 AYMC Closed

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 12/17
\$2,403,850
Receipts of 12/13
\$2,244,798

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

December 18-24
Kendra Plating
828-208-1313 (m)

December 25-31
Jim Dant
478-737-7298 (m)

January 1-7
Frank Smith
268-3890 (h)

If you are unable to reach this minister at the above number, please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number “199” for “Pastoral Care Emergencies.”

Wednesday Supper

Wednesdays at First activities resume January 3. Required reservations for the meal must be made by noon on Monday by visiting the church website or calling the church office. Serving lines are open 4:45-6:00pm.

Menu

January 3

Adults: Pasta Bar with Lasagna,
Salad, Italian Green Beans,
French Bread, Dessert

Kids: Pizza Bread, Tater Tots, Carrot
Sticks and Dip, Fruit, Cookies

The Branch on Holiday

This is the last issue of The Branch for 2017. We will return January 2, 2018. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Correction

A poinsettia dedication was omitted from the newsletter: Ruth Reid places a poinsettia in honor of Louise Pfrangle.

Care List as of 12/18/17 Hospitals

St. Francis Eastside: Freddie Foster

Returned Home: Priest Fuller,
Kassandra DeFranco to Patewood
Rehab, Bob Simmons

Sympathy to...

...Ben Mullinax and family in the death of his father-in-law.

...Catherine Crowe and family in the death of her father.

...Shelton Love in the death of his grandfather.

...Barbara, Joe, Don and David Watson and families in the death of her cousin.

Lula Whilden World Missions Offering

Goal \$125,000
as of 12/13
\$74,948


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Introducing

Ben and Nina Hallissy, 800 Butler Springs Road, Greenville 29615, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, December 3 – Ben by transfer of letter and Nina by previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination. Ben works at GE, and Nina is employed at CH2M.



Melanie O'Brien and Garrett Vanderpool, 513 Gloucester Ferry Road, Greenville 29607, also joined during worship on December 3. Melanie is employed with Schumacher Homes.



Tucker Jones, 104 Freeport Drive, Greenville 29615, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, December 18, by profession of faith and baptism. Tucker's parents are John and Pam Jones.



Barbara Jones, 1106 Bradford Court, Greenville 29615, joined FBG on December 18 by previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination.

