

## WORSHIP

Sunday,  
January 14, 2018

10:30am in the Sanctuary

**Proclaimer:** Jim Dant

**Scripture:** Ruth 2

**Sermon:** Welcoming God on  
God's Terms

**Anthem:** "Precious Lord, Take My  
Hand" – arr. RINGWALD

**Service Choir:** Sanctuary Choir

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 14.



\$30 Registration Fee

\$55 Registration Fee After January 31



## Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

I'm encouraging everyone to 'close the gap' this year. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, our church has been able to fulfill all her ministry and mission obligations in the last three years. We have reached and exceeded each of our annual budget goals. This year, we increased our budget to include new and expanded ministries. In order to 'close the gap' between last years budget needs and this year's, I'm asking everyone to 'close the gap' – just a small bit – in their giving. What would a tithe (10%) of your income be? If you do not give a tithe, how wide is the gap between your gifts and a tithe? Close the gap a bit this year. Give a little more than you gave last year and enjoy the blessing of increased generosity to God's work.

To relegate this discipline to financial gifts alone, however, would result in the persistence of many other gaps in our faith practice. More accurately said, we are going to 'close the gaps' (plural) in 2018. There are a multitude of things that divide us as a world, nation and culture. We stand on separate sides of political, religious, cultural, social and economic

chasms. By closing the gaps, I am not suggesting we have to think alike, believe alike or practice faith alike. Closing the gap doesn't mean we necessarily change. It means we do not let our differences create a space between us – a space often filled with ignorance, fear, suspicion and resentment. In January, we will close the gap between the established and the dynamic as we study the Book of Ruth. In February, we will close the gap between the white and black experience as we hear from four different African-American voices during Black History month worship; we will close the gap between spouses as we hold a weekend Marriage Enrichment Seminar; and we will close the gap between young and old as our children sponsor their annual Love Lunch with our senior adults. In March, we will close the gap between new and long-time church members as we deepen our fellowship at our Annual Church Retreat. In May, we will close the gap between Muslim and Christian citizens as First Baptist hosts the Muslim community for the first night feast of Ramadan.

This is just a sampling of the spaces we will be creating in 2018 to allow God to do God's work on the many gaps in our lives. As you begin the new year, give attention to the gaps with which you struggle...and watch God do God's good work.

— Jim

## Reminders

Church Retreat  
March 2-4, 2018  
Unmasking God

Joy Yee, Retreat Leader

<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/churchwide-retreat/>

# New Member Breakfast

JANUARY 21, 9:15AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

New Members,

We are so happy that you have chosen us as your church family, and we look forward to many years of co-ministry with you. Please join us for a breakfast in your honor and for your benefit! We will gather around the table, get to know each other better and talk about the many ministry, volunteer and spiritual formation opportunities available within the church, as well as how to plug into small groups and other useful information.

To let us know you are coming, please respond to [matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or to (864) 370-2515 ext. 144. We hope you can make it!

— Matt

# Greenville's Gift

During the months of January and February, our church will collect baby items for Greenville's Gift. You were so generous last year, and we look forward to "stocking the crib" again this year! Greenville's Gift's is a non-profit organization dedicated to clothing newborns in need in the Greenville community. While many babies are born to families who have the means to provide for them in terms of clothing and blankets, other families are unable to provide these necessary items. Greenville's Gift works to bridge this gap and to meet their needs.

## Gently used (clean and no visible stains) or new:

- Clothing (size 0-12 months) including onesies, footed pajamas and outfits
- Baby blankets
- Socks and Hats
- Bibs and Burp Cloths

The objective of Greenville's Gift is to collect gently used and new infant clothing and blankets from the Greenville Community and then gift these items to moms in financial need. Greenville's Gift will rely on community agencies and local hospitals to identify the recipients. Local clinics and hospitals will present the gift bags to moms at the end of their pregnancy or during their stay in the hospital. The hope is to make new moms and babies feel celebrated and loved by the Greenville community by presenting beautifully wrapped gift bags filled with newborn essentials. To learn more, visit [greenvillesgift.org](http://greenvillesgift.org) or contact Marshall Johnson at [greenvillesgift@gmail.com](mailto:greenvillesgift@gmail.com).

Please place your donations in the crib at the Reception Desk or in the purple collection bins located around the church. Thank you for your generosity!

— Laura

# Foundation Sunday

Sunday morning, February 4, is Foundation Sunday. We set aside this Sunday each year to celebrate and give thanks for the extended ministry and generosity of our church family. In addition to being regularly faithful to our Annual Mission and Ministry Plan (budget) and the Lula Whilden Offering for Global Missions, many members have contributed to the First Baptist Foundation. The earnings from the Foundation provide additional funds for mission causes, property needs, internships and more.

A breakfast will be provided this year for those who have made donations to the Foundation as well as those who receive funds from the Foundation. We realized, however, that many others might have listed the church or the Foundation in their will as part of their estate planning. If you have, we'd like to extend our thanks to you and host you at this breakfast, too. **If First Baptist Church is a beneficiary of your estate, please call the church office and make a reservation to join us at breakfast.** Your gifts and your love for the ongoing work of First Baptist are much appreciated!

— Jim

# Created for Connection

CHRISTIAN COUPLES' SEMINAR COMING TO FBG

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS JANUARY 25



Do you long for a stronger, more loving connection with your partner? If so, please mark your calendars to join us 6-8pm on Friday, February 23, and 9am-4pm on Saturday, February 24, for a relationship education and enhancement weekend for Christian couples in the AYMC. Based on the groundbreaking research of Susan Johnson, the creator of Emotionally-Focused Couples Therapy, First Baptist Greenville is proud to offer this internationally known seminar for the first time in Greenville.

Improving the quality of our emotional bond allows our homes to be more peaceful, our children to feel more secure, and our bodies to be healthier. Developing a stronger emotional bond in a relationship takes time and effort, and we often encounter roadblocks along the way. In this seminar, Rev. Kathy Chamlee and our very own Andy Johnston will help couples identify the circular arguments, uncomfortable emotions, and raw spots that make it difficult to connect more deeply. This seminar involves a mixture of presentations from the leaders, video clips, and exercises for couples to work through.

Pastoral Care is pleased to sponsor such an important event at our church at such an affordable price (scholarships are also available – just ask me!). Space is limited, so sign up today! Please use this link for more information and to sign up: <http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/createdforconnection/>

— Kendra

## New Year Transitions

Normally, a church might have to do a nationwide search to fill shoes left by someone like Baxter Wynn, but when Kendra Plating appeared at a Visitor Luncheon in 2014, it was as though God was out ahead of us, raising up the right person “for such a time as this” to help us meet the challenge of the day. She gave us a seamless transition and expertly oversaw the church’s “culture of care” during a season of growth and change.

Among the many things I’m grateful for as my job title changes to “Minister of Pastoral Care” is that we will retain Kendra’s many gifts. She will continue to keep office hours (9am-2pm Monday-Wednesday). She will continue to provide leadership for worship, Grief Support and other small groups. She will continue to visit our homebound members, and she will be available for counseling and consultation for which she’s the best-suited member of the staff. What a bargain!

My job? Well, let’s be clear: my job is *not* to do all the pastoral care at First Baptist. I love this church, but frankly, that’s *your* job! At First Baptist, “every member a minister” is an organizational principle, not just a slogan. My job will be *coordinating* our Pastoral Care efforts. The goal is not merely to make sure every person is ministered *to*, but that every member has the chance to *be* a minister.

It’s a daunting task. I still see faces I cannot match with names, and I still haven’t figured out how to be in two-or-more places at once. I’m going to need lots of help. Can I count on yours?

— Kyle

## For Your Calendar!

- 1/10 *Wednesdays at First Activities*  
 1/14 10:30am Jim Dant, Proclaimer  
 1/15 AYMC and Church Offices Closed  
 in Observance of Martin Luther  
 King Jr. Day  
 1/17 *Wednesdays at First Activities*  
 1/21 9:30am New Member Breakfast  
 (Fellowship Hall)  
 Protecting Our Children (E-317)  
 10:30am Communion  
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer  
 2:15-4:15pm Children's  
 Ministries Event: Swimming at  
 the Kroc Center  
 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live  
 for Youth  
 1/23 11:00am Roadrunners to Sweet  
 Catherine's in Fountain Inn  
 for Lunch  
 1/24 *Wednesdays at First Activities*  
 1/26-27 All Youth Winter Retreat  
 1/27-28 College Winter Retreat  
 (Montreat Conference Center)  
 1/28 10:30am Jim Dant, Proclaimer

### LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 12/31  
 \$2,500,000  
 Receipts as of 12/31  
 \$2,540,717  
 Lula Whilden World  
 Missions Offering Goal  
 \$125,000  
 as of 12/31  
 \$128,652

## Pastoral Care

### On Call Nights and Weekends

January 8-14  
 Matt Rollins  
 346-0971 (m)

January 15-21  
 Kyle Matthews  
 551-0829 (m)

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

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 10

**Adults:** Beef Tips and Rice, Broccoli Casserole, Pineapple Casserole, Layered Salad, Yeast Rolls, Dessert  
**Kids:** Mac and Cheese, Veggies and Dip, Fresh Fruit, Cookies

#### January 17

**Adults:** Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Spinach Salad, Butter Biscuits, Dessert  
**Kids:** Chicken Fingers, Tater Tots, Veggies and Dip, 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  
 5:30-7:00pm 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 1/8/18

### Hospitals

Greenville Memorial: Carolyn Godsey, Bill Jones

### Sympathy to...

...Winnie Williams and family in the death of her brother.

...Will Feemster and family in the death of his grandmother.

...Anne and Paula Cargill in the death of their brother.

...Melanie Smith, Caroline Reinhardt and Caitlin Hunt and families in the death of their grandmother.

## Roadrunner Testimonial

Want to socialize with kindred souls? Need to get out of the house? There are many reasons that senior citizens would enjoy the Roadrunners group. Every month we visit various places of interest, usually enjoying a noon meal.

On a beautiful October morning, Frank Smith drove 26 FBG members and guests to the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mills River, NC. This center is a complex of truly epic proportions, located on 1500

acres and funded by six private groups who have already invested 125 million dollars with more to come. It will be the site of the 2018 World Equestrian Games, but you and your family can enjoy a free horse show at 5:00 on Saturday evenings.

We don't always visit sites of epic proportions. Sometimes it's just quaint hideaways, but it's always an adventure. Come join us!



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## Introducing...

Sue and Tony Ugenti, 4 Placid Falls Court, Simpsonville 29681, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, December 31, 2017, by statement of previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination. Sue is employed with Fluor Corporation and Tony with Palmetto Framing. They have two children, Jacob and Rebekah.

## Circle to Gather

The Susie Lee Bagwell Circle will meet at 10:00am on Tuesday, January 16, at the home of Marietta Bolt, 200 Hidden Hills.