

WORSHIP

**Sunday,
January 21, 2018**

Family Dedication

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Ruth 3

Sermon: Welcoming Others

Anthem: "Grace" – arr. HAYES

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

Soloists: Barbara and Gayle
Gulley, Kyle Matthews

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 21.

From the Organist...

The Secret Place

Psalm 91 tells us, "You who sit down in the High God's presence, spend the night in Shaddai's shadow, say this: 'God, you're my refuge. I trust in you, and I'm safe!'" (*The Message*). Other translations refer to God's presence as *the secret place*. The lyrics of the offertory for Sunday paint a beautiful picture of this special place that God provides for us. "I find hope, I find grace far away from the world's embrace. He gives me rest; he keeps me safe; I find his strength; I seek his face in the secret place." More info about the arrangement will be included in *The Organist's Blog* on the church website.

— Shelton



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Thank you. Sincerely, thank you. I was the recipient of some wonderful gifts over the past Christmas season. I enjoyed the sight of every Christmas card – words and pictures. I enjoyed the taste of every snack (but will be running off the 'aftermath' for a few weeks). Every party and dinner was a true delight. Thank you for including me in your thoughts and social gatherings. While I in no way wish to name favorites among all these gifts, I need to mention one – a Phillips Sonicare Electric toothbrush. I promise I'm receiving no kickbacks from my dentist or from the Phillips Company. But the Sonicare toothbrush not only does a great job cleaning your teeth, it also is very relaxing. Two minutes of oral hygiene in the morning and two minutes in the evening have become four of the best minutes of my day. (I know, this is really sad at some level, but it is what it is.) In just a few moments, this gift provides cleansing and relaxation. It's a great gift.

You've all given wonderful gifts to your friends, family and ministers this year. I want to encourage you to give yourself a gift. (No, not a Sonicare toothbrush – that was simply a literary tool to move

you to this important paragraph.) Give yourself the gift of retreat this year. I want to encourage you to go online and register for our Annual Church Retreat at Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC, on March 2-4. In past years, this weekend has afforded me the opportunity to get to know many of you better, and it's afforded you the opportunity to get to know me and get to know each other better. Most importantly, it's provided you the space to get to know God better. Retreat is inherently a time of cleansing and relaxation. For a short period of time, we purge ourselves of life's distractions and relax into the fellowship of God's people, God's spirit and God's beautiful creation.

Truly, one of the greatest gifts you could give yourself this year is the gift of retreat. The bulletin board outside my office has a list of current registrants, a ride share sheet (if you need or can give a ride) and a room share sheet (if you need or want a roommate.) Register now at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/churchwide-retreat/>, and I'll see you there. Don't forget to pack your toothbrush. I'll be packing mine!

— Jim

Reminders

Church Retreat
March 2-4, 2018
Unmasking God

Joy Yee, Retreat Leader

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

Registration Fee by January 31: \$30

Registration Fee after January 31: \$55

Meet the AYMC's Trainers

You are lucky that the AYMC has four wonderful personal trainers available to help anyone with their fitness needs and goals regardless of what level they are on. I'd love for you to meet them, and hopefully one of them can help you along your wellness journey. Please let me know if you'd like contact information for anyone.

— Mittie



RAMONA GRAHAM-LEARY

Ramona is the owner of Fitness Boot Camp, Inc., LifeForce Fitness, and the South Carolina Fitness Corps. She is the developer/designer of the Ramona Graham Fitness Boot Camp Fitness Trail in Greenville's Cleveland Park. She has been a certified personal trainer, group fitness instructor and sports nutrition counselor for over twenty years.



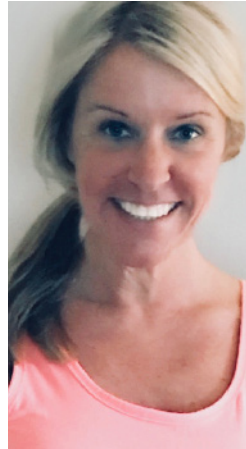
DERRICK HALLUMS

Derrick grew up all over the world but is in fact a 1981 graduate of Greenville High School. He spent twenty-two years in the army serving three tours in Iraq. He has a degree in kinesiology from the University of Texas and is a drafter with Fluor. He has been training people for fourteen years.



CHRIS JAMISON

Chris has been a Personal Trainer and Fitness Director for over 23 years. His past clients have included local high schools, businesses, area gyms, athletes, post-surgery rehabilitation and the general public. He has worked with one-on-one clients, small groups and fit-camps. Currently, he helps clients overcome obstacles to achieve preset goals which aid in overall health & fitness levels.



BEVERLY NORTON

Beverly's motto is "Any movement is good movement," and her mission is "To empower you to reaching your individual fitness goal and strive for excellence every day in order to live the best quality of life that can be lived." She has been a personal trainer for five years and is certified in several different areas, one of the most recent being Parkinson's Disease.

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 B-307) 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.

— Dewanda, Kathy and Rosemary

Middle School and High School Youth on Mission in 2018

They all run together after so many. Over the years, I have participated in or had the opportunity to lead over 25 summer youth mission endeavors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, as well as a couple of southwestern experiences in New Mexico and California. Short-term missions allow us to be the hands and feet of Jesus with hopes of an understanding that leads to positive transformation and growth in our lives and in our society. This summer our Middle School and High School youth will have inner city missions opportunities in Asheville, NC, and Washington, D.C., focused on advocacy and justice education.

Our Middle School Missions Blitz the weekend of Friday, March 23 through Sunday, March 25 will be in Asheville, NC, as we partner with various organizations whose mission is to invest in the local community of Asheville. Our service partners for our missions blitz are: Veterans Restoration Quarters, Asheville Greenworks, Black Mountain Children's Home, Brother Wolf Animal Rescue and Manna Food Bank.

For our **High School Mission Trip the week of June 23 – 29, we look forward to partnering with Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.,** where our own Rev. Maria Swearingen and Rev. Sally Sarratt are co-pastors. Our host organization while we are in D.C., Reach Beyond Mission, will provide for us an alternative mission trip opportunity during which our youth will not only serve but also learn how they might work in their own communities and throughout their lives. Our service partners for the week are: Capital Area Food Bank, Central Union Mission, Feeding America, National Coalition for the Homeless, S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat) and Denominational Advocacy Organizations.

I want to encourage our youth to consider participating in our Youth Family missions endeavors this year as we work, learn and serve together. Pricing and registration will be advertised soon.

— Mary Carol

First Baptist Greenville's Pastoral Residency Program

It is always hoped that a person who has just finished formal theological education will be able to put that knowledge into practice in the context of ministering to one's first congregation, creating a positive, transformative experience for both the new pastor and the congregation. However, it is sometimes an unspoken and unintentional journey that doesn't formally celebrate and support such a growth process. In addition, a gifted seminary graduate often finds that his or her practical ministry experiences do not match the needs of churches seeking to fill pastoral staff vacancies.

First Baptist Greenville's Pastoral Residency Program is designed to address both of these challenges in a two-year Residency Program for recent seminary and divinity school graduates. The Residency will provide an intentional supervised ministry experience. Over the course of two years, the

pastoral resident will engage in various responsibilities and educational opportunities that will expand the resident's knowledge and skills, as well as deepen their sense of pastoral identity and authority.

Our congregation has a rich and diverse history of formal theological education and of nurturing practical ministry exploration and formation. Over many years we have hosted interns representing a variety of ministry areas including pastoral interns, youth and children program interns, and music interns. We celebrate this diversity and expect to continue many of these programs. However, we now have new energy and commitment to the deeper investment in pastoral education and formation that our Pastoral Residency Program represents. We will welcome our first resident in mid-2018 and our second resident in mid-2019.

The Ministry Education and Formation Committee is seeking a recent seminary graduate to serve as pastoral resident. The pastoral residency program offers an exciting opportunity for the resident to gain invaluable pastoral experience in collaboration with our innovative pastoral staff and a "teaching congregation." Over the course of two years the pastoral resident will engage in various responsibilities and educational opportunities that will expand the resident's knowledge and skills, as well as deepen their sense of pastoral identity and authority. We anticipate the resident beginning in June 2018. The position is salaried and with benefits.

Potential candidates should go to <http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/pastoral-residency-program/> for more information and an application.

— Ministry Education and Formation Committee

For Your Calendar!

- 1/17 Wednesdays at First Activities
1/21 9:30am New Member Breakfast
(Fellowship Hall)
Protecting Our Children (E-317)
1/21 10:30am Communion
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
Kyle Matthews, Soloist
Barbara & Gayle Gulley, Duet
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 Deacon Ordination
and Installation
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
5:00pm LGBTQ and Friends
Support Group (Parlor)

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 1/13
\$100,000
Receipts of 1/11
\$86,931

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

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

January 22-28
Jim Dant
478-737-7298 (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 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

January 24

Adults: Sliced Pork Loin, Roasted Potatoes, Butter Basil Carrots, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert

Kids: Buttered Noodles with Sauce on the Side, 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 1/16/18

Hospitals

As of 1/16/2018, there are no hospitalized members of whom we are aware.

Discharged: Carolyn Godsey,
Bill Jones

Sympathy to...

...Eric Cain in the death of his cousin.
...the family of Kassandra Britt DeFranco.

Congratulations to...

...David and Elizabeth Ann McCuen on the birth of a daughter, Blakely Ann McCuen, on January 1, 2018, in Anderson, SC. Blakely Ann's older brother is Woods, and her grandparents in our church are David and Earle McCuen.



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. LIX January 16, 2018 No. 3

Roadrunners Recap

Nineteen Roadrunners enjoyed the group's final outing of 2017 – A Holiday at Peace – on December 15. The Greenville Symphony Orchestra was joined by noted vocalist, Rachel York, and members of International Ballet in presenting a program of sacred and secular holiday music that drew an enthusiastic response from the large audience in attendance. As you begin marking your 2018 calendar, this event deserves serious consideration.

— Roland Freeman