

## WORSHIP

**Sunday,  
February 11, 2018**

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Youth Sunday

Black History, Black Future

**Proclaimer:** Jim Dant

**Guest Voice:** Katrice Hardy, Greenville News and USA Today

**Scripture:** Mark 1:40-45

**Sermon:** Holy Choices – Holy Consequences

**Anthem:** “Shed a Little Light”  
– arr. JASPERSE

**Service Choirs:** Vocare,  
Sanctuary Choir

**Soloist:** Bootie Cothran

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

### Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed in the Sanctuary this Sunday are given by Margaret Ulmer in memory of her parents, Helen and Frank Ulmer, to honor them on their birthdays.

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).

The next available date is February 18.

### From the Organist...

I love being part of a church that has a thriving youth ministry. The youth of First Baptist are blessed to have leaders who not only provide them a place to come and enjoy special activities with their friends but who also lead them to learn, question and live out their faith in order to create a better world that focuses on loving God and loving others. As we focus on African-American history this month, we are reminded that throughout history – and still today – so many people use “faith” to ostracize and create division. This Sunday, the prelude is an arrangement of “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens.” I encourage you to read The Organist’s Blog ([firstbaptistgreenville.com/the-organists-blog/](http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/the-organists-blog/)) to learn more about the message of this hymn and its relevance to our true Christian mission.

– Shelton



## Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

It is not the longest book I’ve written. It is not the deepest or most personal book I’ve written. It may be, however, the most important piece I’ve taken the time to pen.

Nurturing Faith Publishing Company has released my new book titled *This I Know: A Simple Biblical Defense for LGBTQ Christians*. I have been encouraged to write this book by numerous people for numerous months. I decided it was time. If you are an LGBTQ Christian and struggle to combat the biblical attacks hurled at you by our non-welcoming brothers and sisters in the faith, this book is for you. If you are a church member still struggling to understand how LGBTQ Christians can be welcomed in light of particular biblical verses that ‘seem’ to exclude them from faith, this book is for you. If you innately sense that God requires you to love and welcome all people but can’t explain it biblically, this book is for you. If you have family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, parents, children or other individuals who do not understand how you or your church can welcome and include LGBTQ Christians in the practice of faith, this book is for you... and them.

In a very simple pocket-guide format, I take each biblical challenge posed against LGBTQ Christians and provide: 1) a simple response, 2) a brief, understandable biblical explanation for the response and 3) an entertaining anecdote/verbatim of a tense personal conversation I’ve had concerning the specific challenge. The book is short, entertaining and to the point.

We are not a ‘one issue’ church. However, this one issue has differentiated us and distinguished us to some degree from many other churches. I hope this book provides the insight you need to personally understand and explain to others why we have chosen to be welcoming and non-discriminatory. I am praying this book will bring some measure of solace and strength to those LGBTQ Christians seeking to validate their faith.

The book is available in e-book form and paperback. Speaking engagements and signings have been scheduled and those dates are inside this issue of *The Branch*.

— Jim

## Reminders

**Christian Couples’ Seminar:**  
*Created for Connection*  
February 23-24

Kathy Chamlee and Andy Johnston, Facilitators  
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/createdforconnection/>

**Church Retreat**  
March 2-4, 2018  
Unmasking God

Joy Yee, Retreat Leader  
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/churchwide-retreat/>

# Youth Sunday, February 11

YOU BE U

YOUTH



We are unique children of God, and we are called to offer our uniqueness to God. *You Be U* is an empowering statement that offers students the freedom to be called to love and serve God's world with their own gifts and giftedness and to offer that same freedom to those around them.

Join us on Sunday, February 11, for a moving Youth Sunday worship as our youth join Katrice Hardy in leading and challenging us in worship and continue our theme for the month —Black History, Black Future.

Our youth are working hard to bring their voices and diverse backgrounds to worship to encourage us to be ourselves and own who we are created to be and to help *others* to find the strength to do likewise while reminding us of our loving God who leads and supports us in this difficult world.

All of our Youth Family members are invited and encouraged to wear their Youth Family t-shirt and participate by sitting together in our youth pews, collecting offering, being greeters or leading in worship. We want everyone to be there for this special Youth Sunday worship service. Contact me to purchase a Youth Family t-shirt for \$10 and for more information about Youth Sunday.

— Mary Carol

## Every Member a Marketer?

COMMUNICATIONS

At First Baptist Greenville, we have become comfortable with the phrase pulled from our Mission Statement: every member a minister. It makes sense, and we absorb the role where we are the church ministering in Sunday school, missions, service, evangelism and in so many more areas.

We'd like you to consider the phrase: Every member a marketer. How uncomfortable is that, right?

The Communications Committee is tasked with, among other things, determining the best way to let others know about First Baptist Greenville. We have committed to an active social media campaign in 2018 where we will post information about many events.

There are two ways that information can extend to reach our members who are on social media and out into the community. One way is to PAY for exposure. Another way is to have a broad base that will share, retweet, like and comment on the church's posts.

We're inviting you to think about social media marketing in the same manner Jim asks us to consider tithing. Try taking one more step and stretch a little farther in 2018. If you're a shy social media lurker, we're not asking you to become "that person," but perhaps you can Like posts and Share a few along the way.

Here's how everyone can help:

- Follow First Baptist Greenville on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

- When you see FBG posts, don't think of them as information that ends with you. Think of yourself as a conduit for the information.

- Retweet, share, attend, like and comment as much as you are comfortable – and then add 10%!

Let's get viral together!

— Communications Committee

# 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 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

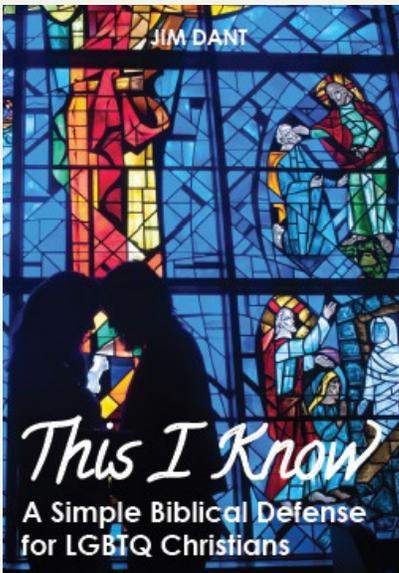
## Mission Projects on Display

In the Parlor on the afternoon of February 21, meet Haitian educator Marie Flore Chipps and learn about Partners in Literacy Haiti mission projects – a Teacher Training Resource Center and the first school libraries in an extremely rural region. Learn how support from FBG and others will help educate 10,000 students! Drop in the Parlor and chat, 4:00-6:30pm, Wednesday, February 21.



— Sara Mansbach

## February Signing Events



**Monday, February 5**

San Francisco Academy of Art  
San Francisco, CA  
7:00-9:00pm

**Tuesday, February 6**

Dog Eared Books (The Castro)  
San Francisco, CA  
7:00-8:00pm

**Sunday, February 11**

First Baptist Church,  
Fellowship Hall  
Greenville, SC  
4:00-6:00pm  
(5:00pm Author Presentation, Q&A)

**Thursday, February 15**

M. Judson Booksellers  
Greenville, SC  
6:00-8:00pm

**Thursday, February 22**

Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
Macon, GA  
5:00-8:00pm

## For Your Calendar!

- 2/2-5 Vocare to San Francisco  
 2/4 6:00pm-Halftime Youth Big Game Party  
 2/7 *Wednesdays at First Activities*  
 2/9 5:30-8:00pm Children's Ministry Event - Fifth Grade Night: Pizza and SkyZone  
 2/11 9:30am Protecting Our Children (E-317)  
 10:30am Youth Sunday Baptism  
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer  
 Katrice Hardy, Guest  
 Vocare  
 11:30am Roadrunners to Lunch and Milltown Players Production of "California Dreamin'"  
 2/13 7:30am-5:00pm Holy Rollers to Asheville Outlet Mall  
 2/14 *Wednesdays at First Activities*  
 6:15pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)  
 2/18 10:30am First Sunday in Lent Communion  
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer  
 Scott Porter, Guest  
 11:30am Lunch for Visitors (Fellowship Hall)  
 2/21 *Wednesdays at First Activities*

### LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 2/3  
 \$250,000  
 Receipts of 1/31  
 \$190,969

## Pastoral Care

### On Call Nights and Weekends

February 5-11  
 Matt Rollins  
 346-0971 (m)

February 12-18  
 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

#### February 7

**Adults:** Pasta Bar with Lasagna, Salad, Italian Green Beans, French Bread, Dessert  
**Kids:** Pizza Bread, Tater Tots, Carrot Sticks and Dip Fruit, Cookies

#### February 14

**Adults:** Beef Tips and Rice, Broccoli Casserole, Pineapple Casserole, Layered Salad, Yeast Rolls, Dessert  
**Kids:** Mac and Cheese, Veggies and Dip, Fresh 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 2/5/18

### Hospitals

Greenville Memorial: Mike Horne

Returned Home: Mary Barr Behlke, Sara Mansbach, Freddie Jameson, Jennie Taylor to NHC

### Sympathy to...

...Danette Patterson and family in the death of her father.

...Sandra Corder and family in the death of her uncle.

...Michael Stogner and family in the death of his mother.

...Judy Pace and family in the death of her father.

...Logan Campbell and family in the death of his grandmother.

...Susan K. Shelley and family in the death of her aunt.

...Helen Irby and family in the death of her sister.

  
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## Please Forgive Our Mistake

In last week's issue of *The Branch*, sympathy was mistakenly given to Joan Puryear. Her brother was ill but is recovering.

## Sanctuary Flowers Continued...

The flowers in our Sanctuary on Sunday, February 4, were given in memory of Arthur and Jean Coogler in their anniversary by their children: Art Coogler, Karen Dobson and Steve Coogler.

The flowers in the Narthex on Sunday, February 11, are given by the Youth Ministry in honor of the youth of FBG 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.