

WORSHIP

**Sunday,
February 25, 2018**

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Black History, Black Future

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Guest Voice: Loretta Hollaway,
SC's Official First Lady of Song with
accompanist Russ Long

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Sermon: It's Never Too Late to Change

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

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are
given by Dawn Strickland in gratitude
for her husband, Bo Campbell, and
their children, Tigist and Peter.

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he
is good; his steadfast love endures
forever!"* Psalm 118:1 (NRSV)

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.

From the Organist...

Can you imagine what must have
gone through Abraham's mind when,
at ninety-nine years old, God changed
his name from Abram and reminded
him that he would be the ancestor of
a multitude of nations? At that point,
following God had already led Abraham
on some pretty exciting adventures!
Abraham had not always followed God
in exactly the way that God intended,
but he was still chosen by God to be
the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
During Lent, we take time to refocus
our minds, to reaffirm our dependence
on God and to recognize God's guiding
hand. With Jesus as our example, we
come before God fully surrendered to
his will. Read more at The Organist's
Blog (firstbaptistgreenville.com/the-organists-blog/).

— Shelton



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Very little surprises me anymore. I've
heard enough confessions, attended
enough youth camps, facilitated
enough counseling sessions, sat
through enough children's sermons
and visited enough cities that very
little surprises me anymore. I've
come to expect the unexpected...
and often there's a lot of joy in the
unexpected.

Some of you have told me you
are continually surprised during
worship at First Baptist. Sermons
often offer an unexpected twist. Our
music – while typically traditional
and classical in tone – sometimes
segues into the sound of Broadway,
pop, country or R&B. New friends
and faces have been known to
appear on the platform: Livingston
Taylor, Morten Lauridsen and Victor
Wooten. The creative beauty of
a novel prayer, litany or blessing
delights the ear and heart. We have
come to expect the unexpected
when we enter the presence of God.

I'm not sure any of us were
prepared for the challenge of Ash
Wednesday. It's true. Most expect
me to encourage our members to
monetarily support the ministries

of the church and the needs of the
community. Most are not surprised
when I discuss the importance of
making generosity a pillar of faith
and regular spiritual practice. Most
are accustomed to giving money
when they enter the church building,
so no one expected to be given
money during our Ash Wednesday
service!

This past Wednesday, families
attending our Ash Wednesday
service received the imposition of
ashes...and then received \$100.
Because of the generosity and
missional passion of a donor, we
gave 100 families/persons \$100
this past Wednesday. We gave
away \$10,000! Rather than 'giving
up something' this Lenten season,
each recipient was challenged to
take the \$100 and 'add something'
to someone else's life in need. Index
cards were provided, so recipients
can write their stories and share
them on the bulletin board outside
my office. What did God tell Isaiah?
"This is the fast I desire, that you
loose the chains of injustice, relieve
the burdens of the needy, and
bring freedom to those who are
oppressed...share your bread with
the hungry, bring the homeless into
your home, clothe the naked..." We
are fasting by adding...not by giving
up. What a great Lenten season this
will be...

— Jim

Reminders

**Operation Inasmuch
March 17**

Registration Open at
<http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/oiam2018/>

**Yard Sale
March 23-24**

To Donate Items or Volunteer,
Contact Frank Smith, ext. 125

FBG Youth Family to Serve in Puerto Rico

SUMMER 2019

In September of 2017, Puerto Rico endured two of the most powerful hurricanes to ever hit the Caribbean. The hurricanes left devastation all over the island. Tragedy and heartache remained as the hurricanes departed. Our FBG Youth Family has made a commitment to Praying Pelican Mission to be one of the many teams of youth to respond to Puerto Rico.

Why should your teenager consider this trip in Summer 2019?

Presenting opportunities for teenagers to encounter Jesus outside their normal context allows them to deepen their faith and broaden their perspectives. Mission trips are life-changing events that have the ability to change the way teenagers interact with the world for the kingdom of God.

We are in the beginning stages of developing our High School Mission Trip scheduled for June 22-28, 2019, for youth who have completed 9th-12th grade. We anticipate this missions venture to cost no more than \$700 per participant.

Please click the link below to complete a “Puerto Rico Interest Form” to receive information and details of our missions venture. We have limited space available for this trip, so please be timely in responding. More details and an informational meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Puerto Rico Interest Form: <https://goo.gl/forms/DNV8TtnOzAdESms2>

— Mary Carol

Middle School & High School Youth on Mission in 2018

PRICING AND REGISTRATION

This summer our Middle School and High School youth will have inner city missions opportunities in Asheville, NC and Washington, DC 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.

Early Bird Pricing: \$150/person due by Sunday, March 4

After Sunday, March 4: \$160

Register online by clicking here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/msmissiontrip2018/>

For our High School Mission Trip the week of June 23 – 29, we look forward to partnering with Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC where our own Rev. Maria Swearingen and Rev. Sally Sarratt are co-pastors. Our host organization while we are in DC, 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.

\$150/person Deposit due by Sunday, March 18

Total Cost: \$375/person due by Sunday, April 29

Register online by clicking here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/hmissiontrip2018/>

I hope you will encourage your youth to consider participating in our Youth Family missions endeavors this year as we work, learn and serve together.

— Mary Carol

Name that Room

We are looking to rename the classrooms in the AYMC/Youth Ministry area, and we need your help to get creative. Currently, our classrooms are named by grade level and “multipurpose” for the big room, and those just seem to be, well, boring. We’d love to be able to direct people that use the facility to a fun and interesting named room instead of saying, 6/7 grade room. We know that you already have ideas running through your mind so, please take a few minutes, visit <https://goo.gl/forms/EwDZGllkvkSlhzSkG3> and submit your suggestions to us. There are three classrooms and a big gathering room. Ideally, all of the room names would be connected by a common theme. Other than that, the sky’s the limit on creativity. All ages are welcome to participate, and if we end up using your suggestion, you will be featured in an article in *The Branch*. However, you are not required to submit your name with your entries; you can remain anonymous.

— Mittie and Mary Carol

Happy Birthday!

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS WHO ARE NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO BE WITH US IN WORSHIP:

March 3

Lois MacRae
Gardens at Eastside
275 Commonwealth Dr.
Greenville, SC 29615

March 15

Freddie Jameson
51 Richwood Dr.
Greenville, SC 29607

March 17

Frances Treadway
Palmettos Assisted Living
810 East Butler Rd.
Room 122
Greenville, SC 29607

March 31

George Irwin (90)
Rolling Green
2 Hoke Smith Blvd.
Room 203
Greenville, SC 29615

Shirley Young
102 Hathaway Cr.
Greenville, SC 29617

First Friday Lunch and More

(on the Second Friday)
March 9, 10:30am

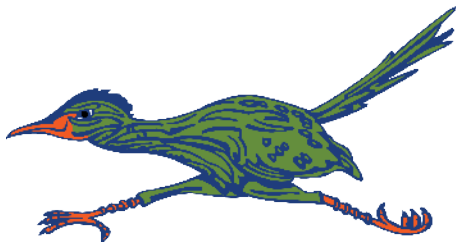
Speaker: George Coundoussias, Oreno Ladi Olive
Oil Company

Holy Rollers Tour Atlanta

March 13

Leave Enoree: 7:30am
Return: 5:00pm
Atlanta City Tour
Lunch at Cornbread Café

Roadrunners to Anderson Senior Follies



March 18

Depart after Worship

Lunch on Your Own in Anderson
Entertainment Begins: 2:00pm

Cost: \$25 for Ticket and Bus

To make reservations for First Friday Lunch and More meal or to register or receive more information on Holy Rollers or Roadrunner trips, contact Shanda at 233-2527 ext. 111 or shanda.laforge@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

Senior Adult Fall Trip to Niagara Falls and Toronto

September 23-29

Cost: \$625 per person, double occupancy (add \$219 for single)

Due at Signing: \$75

Final Payment Due: July 16, 2018

Trip Includes: Transportation, 6 Nights Lodging, 10 Meals, Guided Tours of Niagara Falls and Toronto

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Frank Smith at 616-5444 or frank.smith@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

For Your Calendar!

- 2/21 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
 2/23-24 Christian Couples' Seminar:
Created for Connection
 2/25 10:30am Second Sunday in Lent
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer
 Loretta Holloway, Soloist
 11:30am Children's Ministries
 Event: Lunch and a Movie
 5:00pm LGBTQ & Friends
 Support Group (Parlor)
 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live
 for Youth
- 2/28 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
 3/2-4 Church Retreat
 3/4 10:30am Third Sunday in Lent
 No Sunday School, Worship Only
 No Childcare (Fellowship Hall)
 3/7 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
 3/9 10:30am First Friday Lunch and
 More (Fellowship Hall)
 3/11 9:30am Protecting Our Children
 (E-317)
 10:30am Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer
 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for
 Youth
- 3/13 7:30am-5:00pm Holy Rollers
 to Tour Atlanta and Lunch at
 Cornbread Café

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 2/17
 \$350,000
 Receipts of 2/16
 \$304,193

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

February 19-25

Jim Dant

478-737-7298 (m)

February 26—March 4

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

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 21

Adults: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Spinach Salad, Butter Biscuits, Dessert

Kids: Buttered Noodles with Sauce on the Side, Veggies and Dip, Fruit, Cookies

February 28

Adults: Sliced Pork Loin, Roasted Potatoes, Butter Basil Carrots, Green Beans, Salad, 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 2/19/18

Hospitals

As of 2/19, there are no hospitalized church members of whom we are aware.

Returned Home: Amy Paul Carr

Sympathy to...

...the family of Olivia Morrow.

...Lora Johnstone and family in the death of her uncle.

...George Begg Jr. and family in the death of his father.

...the family of Mike Horne.

Introducing...

Cathie and John McFadden, 2 Creekridge Road, Greenville, SC 29607, joined FBG



during worship on Sunday, February 11, by statement of prior profession of faith and baptism. They are both now retired and members of the Carson Class.

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Need a Ride to the Doctor's Office?

The Medical Appointment Transportation Committee, a part of Ministry to Families, offers rides for members to and from medical appointments. Requests made a week in advance will be appreciated. Those in need of this service may call Committee Chair Mary Rankin at 630-2894.

Follow us on Livestream!

If you are not already aware, all of our worship services are broadcast live, online, and may be viewed from anywhere on the planet using this link:

<https://livestream.com/fbcgreenvillesc>

Also, by going to that page and clicking the "follow" button, you will be notified with a link whenever we create a new event, and will be also be notified when that event goes live. It's an easy way to participate in worship if you cannot be there in person, and to also share our services with others. The links to services are easily copied and shared with friends via email, text or social media. The video remains available online up to 90 days after the service.