

WORSHIP

Sunday,
March 4, 2018

10:30am in the Fellowship Hall
No Sunday School or Childcare

Proclaimer: Matt Rollins

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Sermon: When the Cat's Away

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.

From the Organist...

Psalm 130: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. The Psalms provide such wonderful meditation for the Lenten season. The prayers in this wonderful collection of songs and poems have become my own as I seek a closer relationship with God through this time of repentance and reflection. The praise included in this great book reminds us of the mighty power of God juxtaposed to his amazing love for his children. During Lent this year, I am planning to open each service with a prelude reflection of five different psalms. On February 11, I played a piece that portrays Psalm 130. The psalmist cries out to the Lord from a lowly place, but he never forgets this message of hope: With the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. Read more at The Organist's Blog (firstbaptistgreenville.com/the-organists-blog/).

— Shelton



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

This week the calendar flips from February to March. Black History month will end. I have tried but feel I cannot adequately express my gratitude to those who shared their voices with us: Kristan Pitts, Katrice Hardy, Scott Porter and Loretta Holloway. They were courageous, wise and competent in their attempt to help us 'close the gap' at First Baptist Greenville. Racism is a plague that persists not only in our nation, but all nations. It is the result of insecurity, ignorance and fear. Just about the time we think we've turned a corner in our national ethos...we realize it wasn't a corner, but a slight bend. We still have a lot of work to do.

If I've learned anything this month, I've learned giving attention to race – simply putting it on the table, in the conversation, out in the open – is an important step. We have to talk to one another. We have to listen to one another. We have to get to know one another. It is only in the 'knowing' that we are truly able to love. If I do not 'know' you, then I only hate or appreciate what I 'think' of you. Keep talking...keep listening...keep this issue in the forefront of your minds and hearts. Keep closing the gap.

Black History month is behind us, but Black Future is welcoming us forward. The voices shared with us were embraced and inspiring. If you need some continued inspiration in your life, let me suggest you turn to those who've pressed their thoughts and feelings into film and onto page. Take a little time to watch one (or all) of these movies in March: *Remember the Titans*, *The Help*, *Crash* (adults only), *12 Years a Slave*, *Selma*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *Lincoln*, *A Time to Kill*, *Hidden Figures*, *13th* (2016 American Documentary), and *I Am Not Your Negro*. (Truly too many to list them all.) Or read – reread – a book: *A Raisin in the Sun*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *White Rage*, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *The Color Purple*, *Black Like Me*, *Men We Reaped*, *The New Jim Crow* and yes, even *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. (Again, too many to list.) If you need a 'real' experience to keep you 'closing the gap,' look forward to our June BBQ with our brothers and sisters of Springfield Baptist Church – more details to come.

Do whatever it takes to lay ignorance, insecurity and fear aside. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

— 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

Caleb Avery



The AYMC's own Caleb Avery was nominated and chosen as one of twenty-eight black leaders of the Upstate to be highlighted on FM 96.3, The Block, during the month of February. He is the AYMC Weeknight and Weekend Supervisor.

Caleb is also the Program Director and Founder of 3 The Hard Way Basketball Academy. He uses the values of teamwork, sportsmanship and hard work to teach children from many different backgrounds in the Upstate. His mentor program through 3 The Hard Way gives three college students a semester to focus on the concepts of financial management, building a small business and understanding the principles of community development.

If that wasn't enough, he is the Athletic Director for Einstein Academy and a youth motivational speaker for elementary, middle and high school children.

Caleb's path began several years ago when he started training a family member for basketball and has since become Greenville's only year-round 'Basketball Academy', offering camps, personal training, coaches clinics and teams for every season of the year.

We are happy that Caleb is part of the AYMC and First Baptist and proud of him for all that he gives back to the Greenville community.

— Mittie

Moving Up The Giving Ladder

Where does FBG sit on your priority list? While our church is not perfect, as no church is, what I have experienced over the past two decades is a church congregation that seeks to walk through the journey of life together as Christians. We don't always agree on what being Christians at 847 Cleveland Street means, but I have witnessed this congregation have open and meaningful discussions about our beliefs, faith and mission. I have been fortunate to participate in the growth of this church as a deacon, member of the Personnel Committee and Stewardship Committee. As I reflect on our Stewardship theme for this year which is "Closing the Gap," I felt moved to reflect on where FBG sits on the list of organizations and activities that receive our attention and money. The programs that we are fortunate to provide for our members and the mission programs that we support for those who are less fortunate than we are, all require money and time commitments from our congregation. While a lot of us don't like to admit it, church is big business. Our Church has done a good job of meeting our budget the past three years;

however, think of how much more our Church could do if we all tried to move FBG further up on our personal priority lists.

Whether we realize it or not, we all have a priority list for where our money goes. Most of these organizations are worthy of our financial commitments, but so is FBG. In the past, Jim Dant has asked those of us who don't give to the mission and ministry budget of FBG, to consider giving and those that do give, to consider giving a little more. I would challenge you to consider whether FBG should move up on your financial priority list. Should FBG move ahead of some of your current commitments to your college alumni association, private club or gym dues, travel or charitable organizations? I guess it is ironic that my Clemson IPTAY pledge deadline notification is sitting on the desk next to me as I write. Just something to think about as you go through your week...

— Charles McDonald
Stewardship Committee Member

Deacon Nominating Committee Election

FBG members are requested to submit nominations for the 2018 Deacon Nominating Committee:

- Todd Ramsey will serve as the 2018 Deacon Nominating Committee chair.
- Nominees for the additional eight Deacon Nominating Committee members are requested early in the year so the committee can be formed and begin their work during the summer months.
- In the fall, Deacon Nominating Committee members will contact Deacon nominees equal to the number of vacancies on the Diaconate as to their willingness to serve.
- Once the slate of new deacons is complete, it is submitted to the church for a vote.
- Installation and ordination of new deacons are in early January.

Below is a ballot that will be used in submitting recommendations for the eight positions on the Deacon Nominating Committee. Ballots will also be available on Sunday morning, March 11. Ballots must be signed by members. They may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office by Sunday, March 18.

Because the persons on the committee are ineligible to serve again for two years, do not nominate any of the following: Pat Booker-Christy, Becky Bouton, Charlie Bryan, Greg Crowe, Ana Gibbs, Ed Good, John Harris, John Jones, Pam Jones, Jennifer Murphy, Neil Rabon, Todd Ramsey, Marie Richards, Cherron Saad, Susan S. Shelley, Louise Stanford and Stephanie Wright.

NOTE: This is NOT a ballot to nominate Deacons, but a ballot to nominate members of the Deacon Nominating Committee. Ballots must be signed.

BALLOT FOR MEMBERS OF THE DEACON NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Signed _____

New Partnership with Canterbury Counseling Center

Mission statement of Canterbury Counseling Center:
To provide quality pastoral counseling services to all seeking help in the greater Greenville community regardless of faith affiliation, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.

I have been serving on the Board of Canterbury Counseling Center for a little over a year and have been privileged to have insight into the unique way that Canterbury serves the Greenville community by providing high quality pastoral and mental health counseling to anyone needing it, regardless of ability to pay. Canterbury fills a niche in our community by working on a sliding scale, meaning that clients pay according to what they can based on salary and size of family. I refer both church members and community members who walk through our doors needing counseling services to Canterbury. That's why I am pleased to announce that First Baptist has joined a number of other local churches in becoming a "Partner Church" to Canterbury, supporting them with an annual donation from our budget as well as outspoken support in the local community.

If you'd like to learn more about Canterbury, please check out their website (<http://canterburycounseling.org/>), give me a call (233-2527 ext. 104), or shoot me an email (kendra.plating@firstbaptistgreenville.com). I'd be happy to give you a referral to a specific counselor or give you information about how to support the work of Canterbury through the volunteering of your time or financial resources. This partnership is just one of the ways that we as a staff at First Baptist continue to nurture sound mental health and spiritual health within our congregation and community. Counseling is one of the ways we can work toward the wholeness God longs for each of us.

For Your Calendar!

- 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
 3/14 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
 3/17 Operation Inasmuch
 3/18 10:30am Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer
 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live
 for Youth
 3/21 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
 3/23-24 Yard Sale for Neighborhood
 Partnership Missions (Practice
 Gym)

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 2/24
 \$400,000
 Receipts of 2/22
 \$336,782

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

February 26-March 4

Frank Smith
 268-3890 (h)

March 5-11
 Matt Rollins
 346-0971 (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 28

Adults: Sliced Pork Loin, Roasted Potatoes, Butter Basil Carrots, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert
Kids: Chicken Fingers, Tater Tots, Veggies and Dip, Fruit, Cookies

March 7

Adults: Chicken Pot Pie, Rice, Fried Apples, Salad, 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 2/26/18

Hospitals

Neil Cochran, Maggie Brown

Returned Home: Beth Hardin

Sympathy to...

...the family of Stanley Sheftall.

...Carol Ann Bell and family in the death of her cousin.

...McKenzie Guinan and family in the death of her mother-in-law.

...the family of Jack Pressley.

...Mike Stamm and family in the death of his father.

...the family of Lynn Thomasson.

Community Event from Pastoral Care

Understanding Dementia: Caring for a Loved One and Yourself

6:30pm on Tuesdays, beginning March 6 - Six Weeks

Do you have a friend or family member with dementia? Are you caring for a loved one with dementia? Come be educated and encouraged! Register at the link below:
<https://gracechurchsc.wufoo.com/forms/zlydh1c0f20ihw/>

— Howard Wimmer
 Chaplain: The Gardens at Eastside

847 Cleveland Street,
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
 (864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com



First Baptist
 Greenville

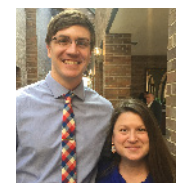
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Introducing...



Sawyer Cruce, 211 Quail Run Circle, Fountain Inn, 29644, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, February 18, by profession of faith awaiting baptism. Sawyer is the 5th grade son of Carrie and Jonathan.



Maggie Brown and Charlie Greer, 115 Colvin Road, Greenville, 29615, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, February 18, by transfer of letter from another Baptist church. Charlie works with Greenville Mental Health, and Maggie is employed with Spartanburg Schools District 6. They are expecting a child any day now.