

WORSHIP

Sunday,

March 11, 2018

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9,
Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: Handling Snakes

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

Anthem: "Grace" — HAYES

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by the Seminar-Corder Class in loving memory of their deceased members.

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 51 is one that has become regularly associated with the Lenten season. The psalm is David's prayer to a gracious and merciful God. David has committed adultery and murder and is tortured by guilt, but God is in the business of restoration. Even after

David sins and neglects restitution for almost a year, God still calls him a *man after God's own heart*. No sin is too big for God to forgive! Our daily prayer should be "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Read more at The Organist's Blog (firstbaptistgreenville.com/the-organists-blog/).

— Shelton



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

I enjoy gathering. One of my favorite moments of every week is standing in the Narthex on Sunday morning and watching people flow into the Sanctuary, settling into their favorite pew. It's why I encourage our new members to attend worship as often as possible. I love to see the church gathered. It's why I love MidWeek Fellowship on Wednesday evening. People gather around the tables of our Fellowship Hall to share a meal and lively conversation. It's why I love our annual church retreat. We huddle together in the relative seclusion of the YMCA's Blue Ridge Assembly to study, pray, laugh, meet, think, dance, eat and deepen friendships. It's why we all love parties, BBQ's, holiday feasts, family reunions, class reunions, supper clubs and the like. I love to gather. We love to gather.

God is both a gathering and a scattering God. It was Jesus who taught us, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be present." It was the writer of the Book of Hebrews who admonished,

"Forsake not the assembling of your selves together." We know God is a gathering God, but God is also a scattering God. If all we do is 'hang out' with each other and enjoy the warm fuzzies emitting from our mutual affections, we've missed the mission of God. Gathering feeds the community, but scattering feeds the world, so God scattered the people at the Tower of Babel. Jesus scattered his disciples throughout the Galilee. At Pentecost, the gathered and empowered believers were scattered into the regions of the known world. Jesus' final instruction to his followers was, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations..." Don't just gather...scatter.

Next Saturday, the typically gathered saints of First Baptist Greenville will scatter into our world. March 17 is our Operation Inasmuch day of service. We will scatter to multiple sites within our community to participate in God's work. The truth is, we scatter every Monday after our gathering day of Sunday, and wherever we go, we are the hands of God and the face of First Baptist. I'll be scattering with you Saturday...and gathering with you Sunday. It's a joy to serve our gathering and scattering God.

— Jim

Reminders

Operation Inasmuch
March 17

Registration Open at

<http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/oiam2018/>

Church Conference
Sunday, March 18
at close of worship

Yard Sale
March 23-24

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

Focus on Missions

MARCH

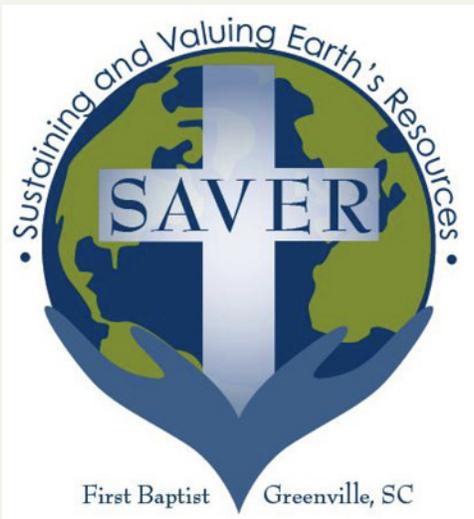
Triune Mercy Center is a non-denominational church with a strong mission to help the homeless and low income people of Greenville. Each Wednesday morning between 9 and 11 they distribute 30-50 food boxes to their clients. We will be collecting staples for these boxes during the month of March. Please pick up the following items when you are shopping:

- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Pasta sauce
- Tuna
- Macaroni and Cheese

Put these items in the purple monthly missions focus containers that are located around the church. This is a small way that we can help those that are in need of food in our community.

— Becky Bouton, Mission Committee

SAVER-Sponsored Events Scheduled



CAROLINAS CREATION CARE SUMMIT

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 11:00AM-6:00PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

The SAVER Committee is sponsoring an interfaith gathering of faith leaders concerned about creation care that will include speakers, workshops, networking, food and fellowship. Email any questions to scipl@sustainingway.com. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/341735376234078/> for more information and to sign up. Lunch will be provided.

SAFE SPACE AND MOVIE

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2-4PM

PARLOR

The SAVER Committee is sponsoring a showing of *Chasing Coral* followed by a 'Safe Space' style discussion around the movie and climate change. Visit <https://www.npr.org/2017/07/13/536644965/chasing-coral-documentary-vividly-chronicles-a-growing-threat-to-oceans> for more details on the movie.

— Rick Joye, SAVER Committee Co-chair

Greeter Appreciation Breakfast

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 11



Greeters on Sunday morning are the first faces that a visitor sees at First Baptist. Our greeters do a wonderful job of receiving each visitor (and member!) with a smile and hospitable attitude. This hospitality is especially helpful to the new visitors trying to navigate our sometimes confusing hallways. To show our appreciation for everything our greeters do in service to the church, we would like to invite all greeters to join us this Sunday, March 11, in the Fellowship Hall for a Greeter Appreciation Breakfast at 9:30am. To RSVP, please go to <http://evite.me/GfSmZDTVqV>.

We would also like to invite anyone who is interested in becoming a greeter to this breakfast as well. Greeting is a fun way to get to know the members at First Baptist and to learn your way through the church. You don't even need to be a member to become a greeter! If you would like to learn more about greeting and would like to meet some of our current greeters, please RSVP to the evite linked above.

Hope to see you this Sunday!

— Matt

Roses, Lilies and Poinsettias

Sharing flowers is a way to show care for loved ones – their beauty warms the heart. The same is true for FBG. The flowers in our Sanctuary are beautiful to see and a way to bring a little of outside, God's creation, inside our worship space. None of the flowers use church budget dollars. The arrangements on Sunday mornings are donated by members of our congregation, placed there in memory or honor of loved ones. Those flowers are a blessing twice: once as a beautification of our worship space and again as they are taken apart, rearranged and delivered to those in our congregation who are not able to be out and about. If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for one of our Sunday services, contact me at kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com, and we will get it scheduled.

The same is true of our Palm Sunday, Easter and Advent decorations. There is no budget for these. Purchases of Easter lilies and poinsettias help to cover the cost of the palms, lilies, poinsettias and wreaths. Although in the past we have spent more on flowers for Easter and decorations for Advent than was received, that will no longer be the practice. To that end, the cost of lilies and poinsettias will increase this year to make it possible to continue to decorate our worship space and buildings with the beauty of the seasons.

To celebrate Easter, an arrangement of lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary as both honorary and memorial gifts. All gifts will be published in the newsletter. If you would like to make a gift toward this arrangement, send the following information to my attention at the church (First Baptist Church, Attn: Kimberly Coates, 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601), along with your contribution of \$25 per dedication:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address (if applicable):

Number of Gifts (\$25 each):

In honor of:

In memory of:

Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Orders should be received by Palm Sunday, March 25.

— Kimberly

For Your Calendar!

- 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
 3/18 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)
 3/25 10:30am Palm/Passion Sunday
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer
 Rutter *Requiem*
 Amy Joye, Soloist
 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 3/3
 \$450,000
 Receipts of 2/28
 \$375,622

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

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

March 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

March 7

Adults: Chicken Pot Pie, Rice, Fried Apples, Salad, Dessert

Kids: Mac and Cheese, Veggies and Dip, Fresh Fruit, Cookies

March 14

Adults: Pasta Bar with Lasagna, Salad, Italian Green Beans, French Bread, Dessert

Kids: Pizza Bread, Tater Tots, Carrot Sticks 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 3/5/18

Hospitals

GHS-Patewood: Laura Darnell and infant son

Returned Home: Amy Paul Carr, Tom Batson, Neil Cochran, Louis Mathis, Jerry Hyche, Maggie Brown and infant son

Sympathy to...

...Mary Rankin and family in the death of her brother.

...Pam Spengeman and family in the death of her mother.

Congratulations to...

...Maggie Brown and Charlie Greer on the birth of a son, William Edward Brown Greer, on February 24, 2018.

Yellow Bag Project 2018

The Yellow Bag Project, through Miracle Hill Ministries, is an easy way to help provide for the needs of homeless children and adults in the Upstate by donating gently used clothing, shoes, handbags and accessories. This year First Baptist will participate in the Yellow Bag Project during the two weeks of OIAM and the Neighborhood Partnership Yard Sale, March 11-24. On Sunday morning, March 11, yellow bags will be available for members to pick up. Please fill the bags with clothing and return them to one of the pods located through the church and in the AYMC. Children's clothing is especially needed. Clothing can also be dropped off when brining items for the yard sale. The last day to donate is March 24th.



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Introducing...

Andrew Ryan Hall, 400 Rhett Street, Apartment 121, Greenville 29601, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, February 25, by statement of previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination. Andrew is employed with Wells Fargo.



Grice Hunt III, 16 Sunset Drive, Greenville 29605, joined FBG on Sunday, February 25, by statement of previous profession of faith and baptism. Grice is employed with NAI Earle Furman. He is pictured here with his wife, Caitlin.

