

WORSHIP

**Sunday,
March 18, 2018**

10:30am in the Sanctuary
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: John 12:20-33

Sermon: Our Limits, God's Possibilities

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

Soloist: Catherine Crowe, Violin

Anthem: "Thy Will Be Done"
— COURTNEY

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Caroline and John Plyler Jr. in loving memory of his parents, Beatrice Dennis Plyler and John Laney Plyler.

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...

Psalms 121 has long been one of my favorite Psalms. I would never be able to count all the times that I have turned to this Psalm for encouragement and assurance. The first verse asks, "From where will my help come?" to which the second verse replies, "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Let that really sink in: the Lord of all, the creator of everything, God of gods is my helper. That mighty God cares about my individual wellbeing. How can I ever fear or forget to trust when I know that God keeps me night and day? What an amazing God! Read more at The Organist's Blog (firstbaptistgreenville.com/the-organists-blog/).

— Shelton



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

I settled onto the sofa last week for an hour of PBS. While earlier scrolling the evening's television offerings, I noted PBS was airing the documentary "Mister Rogers: It's You I Like." The documentary celebrates the 50th anniversary of Mister Roger's Neighborhood, was hosted by Michael Keaton (a 1970's employee of the show) and includes appearances by Sarah Silverman, John Lithgow and Yo-Yo Ma. I grew up with Mister Rogers. My admiration of his work has increased through the years with my awareness of his gifted, gentle confrontations of this world's wonders and injustices. He worked to close the gaps between races, disabilities, gender and much more. This hour on the sofa with PBS reminded me of the ongoing importance of our ministry here at First Baptist.

In January, we worshiped with Ruth – a classic Hebrew story of closing cultural and ethnic gaps. In February, we celebrated Black History month. Guest speakers and artists from the African American community helped us work toward closing the gap of

racial injustice and prejudice. At our annual church retreat, we closed the gap between newer members and long-time members of our church, and as we look ahead, we excitedly anticipate closing the gap between religious faiths. On Tuesday evening, May 15, we will host our local Muslim community for the first night of Ramadan feast in our Fellowship Hall. This Summer, one of our joint Sunday School options will be the study of world religions with representatives from different faiths leading us in study. Finally, in early June, we will continue to close the racial gap by sharing a BBQ with our brothers and sisters at Springfield Baptist Church. Thinking of all these events and opportunities, it's easy for me to celebrate the life, songs and philosophy of Mister Rogers – the man who encouraged us all to be neighbors.

And finally (because Jim Dant can't write a treatise without mentioning finances), don't forget to close the gap in your generosity. How much would a true tithe (10%) of your income be? How much do you give to the work of God in your church? I encourage you to 'close the gap' – even just a little bit. Give a little more than you are giving right now. It is your gifts that make all the work mentioned above possible.

— 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

Preschool and Children's Ministries Are Getting Ready for Summer!

Summer 2018 is just around the corner, and we hope that your children can be part of all the fun and spiritual growth that will be going on this season at First Baptist Greenville.

FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

Vacation Bible School

For Preschoolers who've *finished* 3K-5K
June 10-13, 5:30-7:30pm
Register HERE: <http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/vbs-2018-3456k/>

Art Experience

For Preschoolers who've *finished* 4K or 5K
July 9-12, 9:00am-Noon
Register HERE: <http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/preschool-art-experience-2018/>

— Juli

FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Register for all activities HERE:

<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/childrens-summer-2018/>

VBS Blast

(<https://tinyurl.com/y9g5qmre>)
For children who've *finished*
Grades 1-5
June 10, 9:15am-June 11, 7:00am

Missions Week 1

(<https://tinyurl.com/yc3qgc99>)
For children who've *finished*
Grades 1 or 2
June 12-15, 9:00am-Noon

Missions Week 2

(<https://tinyurl.com/y9b4mrqk>)
For children who've *finished*
Grades 3, 4, or 5
June 18-21, 9:00am-3:30pm

Camp Prism

(<https://tinyurl.com/ybjp8n4t>)
For children who've *finished*
Grades 3, 4, or 5
July 10-13

— Becky

Vocare Called to San Francisco



Vocare received an invitation from Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church (NABC) of San Francisco, CA, where Joy Yee is senior pastor, to sing for their congregation. On February 2, singers and chaperones met at GSP to begin a weekend of missions, music and sight-seeing. Before even boarding the plane the music began as we presented our first impromptu concert of the trip!

Saturday, it was time for missions as we arrived at St. Martin de Porres House of Hospitality, one of the largest soup kitchens in San Francisco. We spent the morning chopping vegetables, prepping bread trays, cooking and setting up to serve lunch to

the guests. We were honored to share our music as they ate. We worked with members of NABC serving lunch, visiting with guests and cleaning the dining room, patio and kitchen afterward.

The day at St Martin's was truly an eye-opening and life-changing experience for all of us. We learned that St. Martin's becomes a home for those with no homes – a place where family members or friends can send mail or leave messages, a place where they are not forgotten. A beautiful tree is painted on the wall of the courtyard. On its leaves are written the names of those who were served at St. Martin's but are no longer living. We took a group picture under those love-spreading branches.

On Sunday morning, we participated in the worship service at NABC. Vocare sang beautifully, and we were blessed to be a part of such a meaningful service with our "sister church."

We enjoyed sightseeing, visiting Fisherman's Wharf, walking the Golden Gate Bridge, marveling at the redwoods in Muir Woods, and even attended NABC's Super Bowl party at Joy's house. NABC's hospitality was absolutely amazing!

This trip truly showed us the value of our calling: how we as Vocare are called to minister to others through our gifts of song and ourselves. We are grateful to all who helped make it possible.

View more photos here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/vocare-called-to-san-francisco/>

— Amy

Church Conference and...a Fire Drill!

On Sunday, March 18, our congregation will convene a church conference in the Sanctuary immediately after the worship service. The agenda items for this conference are the membership report (review the names of persons who have been removed because of death or transfer of membership), a report from our Finance Committee, an update on our covenant relationship with Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg and an update on our Residency Program. That's it. No new business. No controversy. No fussing or fighting or feuding. Just the typical required reports and updates that keep our congregation informed and involved. Some people feel that Church Conferences are boring, repetitious and uneventful, so... to insure this will be a Church Conference long remembered, we are adding....A FIRE DRILL!

In reality, it is an Emergency Evacuation Drill. Our deacons are trained to assist in evacuations during their orientation each year. Parents of children and preschoolers are given evacuation information during the year, but we have realized many of you may not be aware of how to

exit the building or where to find your children during such an event. Here's the simple information. Everyone should leave by the nearest exit. Parents of children (2 year old through 5 year old classes) vacate the building at the nearest exit and meet their children on the Peace Playground on the rotunda side of the driveway. Parents of infants and toddlers will meet their children on the nursery playground. (Should the drill occur during Sunday School, parents of elementary-aged children would meet in the garden above the Peace Playground.) **In all cases, please DO NOT go to your children's Sunday School classes since they will already be exiting the building.**

If this sounds confusing, don't worry. We're going to practice on Sunday morning, March 18...and it will be a Church Conference to remember.

— Jim

Hello First Baptist!

WE NEED YOU! YES, YOU! (AND YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY)



We still have Operation Inasmuch projects needing volunteers – see the project list below. If you are available on Saturday morning, March 17th, please follow this link to register for Operation Inasmuch 2018: <http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/oiam2018/>

Don't forget to fellowship with us by signing up for lunch after your project – free for first-time participants and children 5 and younger! We look forward to serving alongside you!

— Walt and Sara Herbert
Operation Inasmuch Chairs 2018

THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS STILL AVAILABLE ARE...

Habitat for Humanity – Participating in a neighborhood revitalization (ages 18 and older)

Homebound Goody Bags – Assembling treat bags for FBG homebound members (4K and older)

Julie Valentine Center – Cleaning and organizing inside, assembling self-care bags (9th grade and older)

Preschool Project – Project for children 3K-5K and a parent

Serenity Place Moms – Treating mothers at Serenity Place to a morning of pampering (ages 18 and older)

Sustaining Way – Exterior painting at a house (9th grade and older)

Trees Greenville – Planting trees (6th grade and up, Youth Family project)

To register, go to www.firstbaptistgreenville.com/oiam2018

For Your Calendar!

- 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 Communion
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
Catherine Crowe, Violin Soloist
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)
- 3/23-25 Middle School Missions Blitz (Asheville, NC)
- 3/24 11:00am-1:00pm Preschool Ministry Event: Easter Egg Hunt
- 3/25 10:30am Palm/Passion Sunday
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
Rutter *Requiem*
Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Ensemble
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth
5:00pm LGBTQ and Friends Support Group
- 3/28 *Wednesdays at First Activities*

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 3/10
\$500,000
Receipts of 3/8
\$433,740

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

March 12-18
Kyle Matthews
551-0829 (m)

March 19-25
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

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

March 21

Adults: Beef Tips and Rice, Broccoli Casserole, Pineapple Casserole, Layered Salad, Yeast Rolls, Dessert

Kids: Macaroni 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 3/12/18

Hospitals

GHS-Patewood: Ben Turner

Returned Home: Laura Darnell and infant son

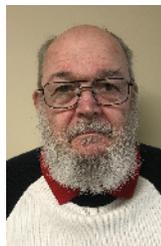
Congratulations to...

...Gary and Laura Darnell on the birth of a son, Grant James Darnell, on March 1, 2018. Grant's older brother is Andrew.

Introducing...



Norma Higgins, 11 E. Augusta Place, Apt. 210, Greenville 29605, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, March 4, by transfer of letter from another Baptist church.



Dann Kirby, 111 Jones Avenue, Greenville 29601, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, March 4, by profession of faith, requesting baptism. Dann is employed with Dry Clean Express.



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

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 March 12, 2018 No. 11

Easter Lilies

If you would like to make a gift toward the Easter Lily Arrangement, send the following information to me (First Baptist Church, Attn: Kimberly Coates, 847 Cleveland St., Greenville, SC 29601) by Palm Sunday, March 25:

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.

Yellow Bag Project

Yellow bags from Miracle Hill are available at the Reception Desk. 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. Donations must be made by March 24.