

WORSHIP

**Sunday,
December 16, 2018**

10:30am in the Sanctuary
Third Sunday of Advent

Proclaimer: Kendra Plating

Scripture: Luke 1:39-57

Sermon: Now We Know

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

Ensemble: Bell Tower Ringers

Soloist: Emily Matthews

Sanctuary Flowers

The wreaths on the gates of the Remembrance Garden are given in loving memory of Dr. William Mitchell by Patsy Mitchell.

The Chrismon Tree is given in loving memory of Don Bolt.

The Advent wreath is given by Mac and Regenia McClain in honor of her parents, George and Naomi Urban.

The poinsettias are given by members of our congregation. The listing will be printed in issues of the newsletter.

From the Organist...

To read past blog entries, visit the Organist's Blog at <http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/the-organists-blog/>

— Shelton



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

I'll confess. I'm one of those 'pre-Thanksgiving Christmas music listeners.' It does not bother me in the least when radio stations go all-Christmas two days before Halloween. I do not mind listening to 'Winter Wonderland' on a 78 degree South Carolina November afternoon. I do have my rules. Classic Christmas music (by my definition) may only be heard after Thanksgiving. Pre-Thanksgiving music may only be Junk Christmas music. (I realize this is extremely subjective, but it's my life, so I get to play by my rules.) The Carpenters, Elvis Presley, Amy Grant, James Taylor, choral Rutter works, Jackson Five, Mariah Carey, Charlie Brown Soundtrack and Harry Connick Jr. (as well as a few others) may only be played after Thanksgiving. Everyone else – Air Supply Christmas, Partridge Family Christmas, 38 Special Christmas, Barry Manilow Christmas, Nsync Christmas (you get the picture) may be played pre-Thanksgiving.

This year has been musically interesting. My listening patterns have included a lot of blues during the season. Along with the traditional holiday tunes, I've found Muddy Waters' "Baby, Please Don't Go," Jimi Hendrix's "Red House," "Stormy Monday" by the Allman Brothers, and "Cold Shot" by Stevie Ray Vaughn slipping into my playlists. Maybe it's just my continued bass lessons driving me toward these tunes, or maybe it's something more. Maybe it's the losses I've endured over the past year or that lingering sense of loneliness most of us carry in the missing of those we love.

I'm grateful our pastoral care ministers provide a Longest Night Service for us each December. It's a quieter, shorter service that allows space for us to grieve – sense, name, hold and affirm – the harder side of the holiday season. This year's Longest Night Service will be held on Wednesday, December 19, at 6:00pm in the Carpenter Chapel. Attend if you need it. Attend and be present for others who need it. Sometimes the blues is part of the holiday season...

— Jim

Reminders

Make Reservations for
the Churchwide Retreat
March 1-3, 2019 | Downtown Greenville
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/churchwide-retreat/>

Make Reservations for
Wednesday Night Supper
Enjoy Family Time
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesday-night-supper/>

Make Reservations for
the Churchwide Breakfast
December 30, 9:15am
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/churchwide-breakfast>

2019 Summer Youth Mentoring Team

For interested college students, our Ministry Education and Formation Committee is now taking applications for our Summer 2019 Youth Mentoring Team. The program is an 11-week program that will consist of a college student or students who have an interest in assisting with all aspects of ministry to youth (grades 6 through college). Their primary focus will be on building and strengthening relationships within our Youth Family. The program is designed to provide an opportunity for college students to identify strengths, gifts, interests and abilities; invest in this Youth Ministry and its members; and help create a sense of trust, respect and bond between our youth and youth leaders.

First Baptist's Youth Mentoring Team will be made up of 1 or more college students who have completed at the minimum their first year of school. The preference will go to those college students who have shown genuine interest and commitment to the First Baptist Greenville Youth Ministry.

If you are interested, do not delay. Deadline for application is Sunday, January 13, 2019.

— Mary Carol

INTERESTED?

Go to www.firstbaptistgreenville.com/internships for full information and the application. Please submit Youth Mentor Applications to the Youth Ministry office no later than Sunday, January 13, 2019.

Know a College or Seminary Student in Need of Financial Assistance?



The Scholarship Committee of First Baptist Greenville is accepting applications from qualified individuals seeking financial assistance in pursuing an undergrad, graduate or seminary degree. This opportunity is not restricted to church members. Friends and loved ones are also welcome and encouraged to apply. These scholarships are made available through the First Baptist Greenville Foundation and funded by the incredible generosity of current and former church members.

Scholarship applications are due to Sarah Carter by mail or email no later than Sunday, April 21. Applications can be downloaded on the College page of the church's website – <http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/college-ministry/> Note that there are two applications: a first-time application and a renewal application for previous recipients. Please complete the appropriate one.

For more information on how you can help support these worthy students through the Foundation, please contact Stacey Shinas at stacey.shinas@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

— Sarah and Scholarship Committee

S.C. Bach Choir to Give Christmas Concert

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:00PM

PRE-CONCERT TALK, 6:30PM

The South Carolina Bach Choir and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra under the direction of David Rhyne will present Parts I and III of the Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248 in our Sanctuary on Thursday, December 13, at 7:00pm. Soloists will be Annabelle Martin, soprano; Bryce McClendon, alto; Tyrese Byrd, tenor/evangelist; and Adrian Smith, bass. (Bryce McClendon grew up at First Baptist Greenville.) Come a little early and be present for the Pre-Concert Talk at 6:30pm.

Tickets are \$20 each with a reduced \$10 price for seniors and \$5 price for students with their ID. Tickets are available in advance at SCBach.org. They will also be available at the door for the same price.

Don't miss this opportunity to get into the spirit of the season with wonderful music!

— Kimberly



S.C. BACH, SOUTH CAROLINA'S BACH SOCIETY PRESENTS

Christmas Oratorio, Parts I and III

THE NORTH CAROLINA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA
MARTHA PERRY, CONCERTMASTER

THE SOUTH CAROLINA BACH CHOIR
DAVID RHYNE, CONDUCTOR

{GREENVILLE}

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:00 PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
847 CLEVELAND ST.
GREENVILLE, SC 29601

{SPARTANBURG}

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 7:00 PM
ROSALIND SALLENGER RICHARDSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, WOFFORD COLLEGE
130 MEMORIAL DR.
SPARTANBURG, SC 29303

PRE-CONCERT TALKS WILL BE OFFERED 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO EACH CONCERT

Visit www.scbach.org for more information and to purchase tickets

 www.facebook.com/scbach



MUSIC

Poinsettia Gifts

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE...

A poinsettia in honor of Gene and Betty Morin is given by Gail House.

Rosalind and Ted Tedards place a poinsettia in memory of Mell and J.D. Todd Jr.

A poinsettia in memory of Helen and Frank Ulmer is given by Margaret Ulmer.

Jada and Vin Rampey place a poinsettia in memory of his parents, Alvin and Edna Rampey.

Keeter Horton gives a poinsettia in memory of her husband, E.M. "Sonny" Horton.

The Carson Class gifts a poinsettia in memory of this year's deceased members: Mike Horne, Richard Pace, Coy Carson and Bill Carpenter.

Peggy Morgan places a poinsettia in memory of Bill Carpenter.

A poinsettia in memory of their beloved mother, Margaret Baker Bell, is gifted by her family.

Nancy Horne places a poinsettia in memory of her husband, Mike Horne.

Manuel José Torres gifts a poinsettia to honor the memory of Maria Teresa Anjel.

A poinsettia in memory of Pepper Martin is given by Nina Martin, Jim and Ethel Childress, Jim and Dewanda Martin, and Lew and Joyce Moss.

Shirley Young places a poinsettia in memory of her husband, CJ Young.

John Cothran places a poinsettia in honor of Jeanette Cothran, one in honor of Bootie Cothran and one in honor of the entire staff of First Baptist Greenville.

Two poinsettias in loving memory of Ben and Mary Frances Willingham are given by Benje and Debbie Willingham.

Four poinsettias in memory of Catherine Ann Jeter are gifted by her family: Jimmy, Scott, Greg and Brad.

A poinsettia in honor of the birth of Gladden Charles Tollison Hartness is given by his family.

A poinsettia in loving memory of Sherwood Mobley is gifted by the Mobley Women.

Miriam and Erik Rieder give two poinsettias in honor of Oma Rosa Maria Rieder and Grammy Regenia McClain.

A poinsettia in memory of Callie and Othniel Wienges, Lib and Monk Laffitte, and Sterling Laffitte is given by Carol and Monty Laffitte.

Betty Sheftall, along with her children: Pam Sheftall Huffman and Stan Sheftall Jr., gives a poinsettia in loving memory of their husband and father, Dr. Stanley W. Sheftall.

ADVENT

For Your Calendar!

- 12/11 8:30am-5:00pm** Holy Rollers to Asheville Outlet Mall and Harbor Inn Seafood
- 12/12 Wednesdays at First**
MidWeek Fellowship: Children's Choirs Christmas Program
- 12/13 7:00pm** S.C. Bach Choir Christmas Concert – ticketed event (Sanctuary)
Pre-Concert Talk, 6:30pm
- 12/16 9:00-10:15am** Youth Christmas Fellowship Breakfast and Candy Bar Exchange (AYMC)
- 9:30am** Joint Adult Sunday School: *The First Christmas Cards* (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:30am** Third Sunday of Advent
Kendra Plating, Proclaimer
- 4:00pm** Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 6:30pm** Stations of the Cross Dedication Service (Carpenter Chapel)
- 12/19 11:30am** FREE Lunch for College Students (Grill Marks - Haywood Mall)

Wednesday Supper

Required reservations for the meal must be made by noon on Monday by visiting the church website or calling the church office. Permanent reservations for the 2018-2019 year are available. Serving lines are open 4:45-6:00pm.

Menu

December 12

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

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

Wednesday Night Supper returns on January 9, 2019.

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



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 December 10, 2018 No. 49

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 12/8
\$2,450,000

Receipts of 12/5
\$2,235,911

Lula Whilden Offering
Receipts as of 12/5
\$65,154

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

December 10-16
Matt Rollins
346-0971 (m)

December 17-23
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."

Care List as of 12/10/18 Hospitals

As of 12/10, there are no hospitalized church members of whom we are aware.

Rehab

Roger C. Peace: Rusty Browning

Cascades: Pat Stephens

Returned Home...

Kevin Treu, Theo Lee

Congratulations to...

...Samantha and Daniel Harpham on the birth of a daughter, Abigail Elaine Harpham, in Wilmington, NC, on November 30, 2018. Abigail's great-grandparents in our church are Don and Jo Carson.

Churchwide Breakfast

Our congregation will join together for breakfast at 9:15am on Sunday, December 30, in the Fellowship Hall.

Reservations may be made on the website by choosing Online Registrations or directly at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/churchwide-breakfast> or by calling the church office.

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 contact Committee Chair Mary Rankin rankinma@yahoo.com or 630-2894.

Drivers Needed

Residents of Cascades and Rolling Green are transported to and from First Baptist Greenville on Sunday mornings. We are in need of additional drivers to continue this needed ministry. Please contact Juli Morrow at juli.morrow@firstbaptistgreenville.com or 233-2527 ext. 117.