

## WORSHIP

Sunday,  
January 13, 2019

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Luke 3:15-22

Sermon: Courageously Rooted in  
Baptismal Faith

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

### Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to enhance our worship space by placing flowers for one of our services, please contact Kimberly Coates at [kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or 233-2527 ext. 128. The next available dates are January 13 and 20.



## Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Decades ago, a spiritually sensitive architect designed the interior of First Baptist Greenville's Sanctuary. While many other sanctuaries throughout the world were designed around the shape of the cross, the shape of a boat, or sadly with no theological shaping at all, our architect imagined 847 Cleveland Street as a beautiful tree. Rising from the platform behind the pulpit, the trunk of the tree extends to an astounding height, and its branches reach out over all who've gathered for worship. Biblically, it is reminiscent of the tree of life, the tree that bears much fruit, the sycamore tree, and the many other scriptural trees which symbolize our faith.

Five years ago, we renamed our weekly newsletter. Following the structural theme of our Sanctuary, we decided to title our newsletter *The Branch*. My article was titled *Rustlings*. I like this title because the vast majority of my compositions are inspired – and often typed – while sitting alone in the Sanctuary. It's a place where the wind of Spirit and inspiration blow and rustle the leaves of my mind...continuing evidence of God's presence and work in that space.

This past September, our youth participated in their annual retreat at Rockmont. Their theme for the week was *Rooted*. Our Youth Ministry staff, led by Mary Carol Anderson, designed a weekend to help youth engage the basics of faith experience and expression. As part of the weekend's activities, they created a banner for the theme. Again...the Spirit moved and rustled. I asked Mary Carol if we could use the banner and theme for our worship during the early weeks of 2019. I thought it would be beneficial for our congregation to explore some of the basics of the faith. Beginning next Sunday, the *Rooted* banner will hang in the Sanctuary. Weekly proclamations in January and February will address being rooted in: baptismal faith, human worth, sacred purpose, a risky world, deep mystery, and empowered Spirit-filled lives. I'm looking forward to gathering under the tree with you in 2019!

— Jim

## Reminders

Make Reservations for  
Wednesday Night Supper

Enjoy Family Time

<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesday-night-supper/>

Make Reservations for the  
Churchwide Retreat

March 1-3, 2018 | Downtown Greenville

<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/churchwide-retreat/>

## JustFaith

### PHASE 2

“You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.” Believe it or not, Jesus uttered this odd phrase once. It’s recorded in Matthew 23, when Jesus berates the Pharisees for a long list of things. It’s a strange image, isn’t it? Someone standing over their kitchen sink, strainer in hand, pouring soup through the strainer; every effort is made to strain the tiny gnat, but the camel is not strained!

When Jesus said this to the Pharisees, he was pointing out the perversion of their religious practices. The Pharisees emphasized the practices that

benefited them directly over the practices of justice and mercy. This is a perpetual temptation for people of faith. In the routine of our lives and religious practice, it is all too easy to let justice and mercy take a backseat to the religious practices that seem to benefit us more directly.

*JustFaith* Ministries was started to help us keep justice and mercy at the forefront of our faith. *JustFaith* participants are encouraged and empowered to live a faith that stretches into the streets of our community through eight sessions of reading, conversations, spiritual

practices, and serving our community. The *JustFaith* journey is both meaningful and moving. On the journey, you might even learn how to strain the camel.

A *JustFaith* group will be starting at the church soon, and there are a limited number of spots left! If you are interested in joining or have any questions about *JustFaith*, please contact me (dylan.rigg@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or Matt Rollins (matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

Peace,  
Dylan

## Matt’s Sabbatical



Many of you are aware that I am in the final year of my Doctor of Ministry degree at Gardner Webb University. It has been a tough – but fun and rewarding – two and a half years of reading, writing and collaborating with my fellow cohort members and my professors. Now, my final hurdle is the write-up

and defense of the ministry project, which is the D Min’s version of a dissertation that I implemented here at the church over the course of the four Sundays in October. By the way, many thanks to the 136 members who participated in the experiment. I have been working through the results and trying to make sense of the outcomes and conclusions with respect to my original ministry hypothesis. This is

where my sabbatical comes in. Jim Dant and the Personnel Committee have approved my request to take time early this year (January 7 to February 10) to focus on the writing of the project paper and on the preparation for my defense in April. My primary areas of ministry will be in the good hands of my ministry assistant, Jennifer Craig, and the two committees with whom I work on a regular basis – the Spiritual Formation Committee and the Outreach Committee. Thank you all for supporting me and pulling for me during the times I have been working and in school (first in seminary and now with my doctorate), which probably feels like all the time to my wife and family! Thanks, also, for this opportunity to get away and focus on finishing my degree. I’ll be back before you know it, serving and loving the congregation that has served and loved me for so many years.

— Matt

# Interfaith Hospitality Network

JANUARY 20-27, 2019, FBG WILL HOUSE AND PROVIDE A WELCOME, SAFE, COMPASSIONATE HOME FOR THREE PRECIOUS HOMELESS FAMILIES ON A JOURNEY TO FINANCIAL STABILITY, EMPLOYMENT AND HOME OWNERSHIP.



Have you ever passed a homeless person and wondered, “What in the world can I do?” In 1982, New Jersey business woman Karen Olson faced this same question and purchased an extra sandwich at lunch. Karen sat on the sidewalk with Millie to listen to her story. Soon, Karen and her two sons began delivering lunches to homeless people on the streets of New York. In 1986, Karen approached the religious community to offer hospitality space within their buildings. In 1988, the National Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) was formed across the US. Programs for transitional housing, childcare and homelessness prevention were developed.

In 2005, First Baptist Church Greenville housed their first IHN families.

What in the world can **you** do? First, get on our email list. Every time we house families, our volunteers sign up online to do one or more of many available

jobs. You’ll receive updates and information on what is needed and how you can help. Email or talk to me (mary@pyett.net) or Laura Stout (laura.stout@firstbaptistgreenville.com). Secondly, join us on Sunday, January 20, right after church for an orientation. We’ll be setting up in the hallway outside the Practice Gym (one floor below the Fellowship Hall) at 11:30am, turning classrooms into bedrooms and living areas for our guests.

Locally in the past year, ten IHN families moved into permanent housing, two families are working towards Habitat Homes, and three families, if they stay on track with their financial plan, will qualify for a mortgage at the time of their program completion.

Thank you to all who have helped us care for these families over the last thirteen years.

— Mary Pyett

## Focus on Missions

### GREENVILLE’S GIFT

During January 2019, we will be collecting baby items for Greenville’s Gift. We started collecting for Greenville’s Gift in 2017 and have enjoyed stocking the crib with onesies, bibs and other necessities for the little ones. Greenville’s Gift is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to clothing newborns born into financial need in the Greenville community.

The mission of Greenville’s Gift is to help the over 2,400 babies born in need in Greenville each year. Greenville’s Gift gives these babies individual gift bags based on gender and season. The recipients are identified by community agencies and local hospitals, and local clinics and hospitals deliver the gift bags at the end of the pregnancy or during their stay in the hospital. All of the items gifted through the bags are donations of new and gently used items collected throughout the year. They want to make new moms and babies in the Greenville community feel celebrated and loved. To learn more, visit [greenvillesgift.org](http://greenvillesgift.org)

Please place your donations in the crib at the Reception Desk or in the purple collection bins located around the church. Thank you for your generosity!

**We will be accepting the following items-  
new or gently used  
(clean, no visible stains):**

Clothing (size 0-12 months)  
Baby Blankets  
Socks and Hats  
Bibs and Burp Cloths

— Shanda

## For Your Calendar!

- 1/7 10:00am-2:00pm Pasta and Fellowship for College Students (AYMC)
- 1/9 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
- 1/12 2:00pm and 7:00pm  
Greenville Symphony Orchestra Spotlight Series: A Wintry Mix – ticketed event (Fellowship Hall)
- 1/13 9:00am New Member Orientation (Clemons Conference Room)
- 9:30am Protecting Our Children (A-302)
- 10:30am Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
- 11:00am-3:00pm Fundraising Event for Youth Puerto Rico Mission Trip at Groucho's Deli (20 E. Coffee St.)  
Youth Mentoring Team  
Application **Deadline**
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 1/16 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
- 1/20 10:30am Jim Dant, Proclaimer
- 1/21 AYMC and Church Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

### LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 12/31  
\$2,600,000

Receipts of 12/31  
\$2,661,644

Lula Whilden Offering  
Receipts as of 12/31  
\$113,575

## Pastoral Care

### On Call Nights and Weekends

January 7-13  
Dylan Rigg  
205-500-2370 (m)

January 14-20  
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

Wednesday Night Supper returns on January 9, 2019. Required reservations for the meal must be made by noon on Monday by visiting the church website or calling the church office. Permanent reservations are available. Serving lines are open 4:45-6:00pm.

### Menu January 9

**Adults:** Pulled Roast Beef au Jus, Corn Casserole, Seasoned Green Beans, Heirloom Tomato Salad, Rolls, Dessert

**Kids:** Meatballs, Mac and Cheese, Fruit, Cookies

### January 16

**Adults:** Veggie Lasagna, Meat Lasagna, Gluten-Free Pasta with Marinara, Salad, Italian Green Beans, French Bread, Dessert

**Kids:** Mini Pizza, Buttered Noodles, Fruit, Cookies

### Wednesdays at First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar.

3:00pm Youth Hang Time and Supper

4:45-6:00pm 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 1/7/19

### Hospitals

Greenville Memorial: Garnette Bane Odom

St. Francis- Downtown: Howard Wimmer

### Rehab

NHC-Greenville: Joan Garrett, Joe Leaphart

NHC-Mauldin: Skip Foster, Earline Shabkie

Shepherd's Care: Anne Lindsey

### Returned Home

Henry Barton, Anne Cargill, Ann Golden, Judy Jett, Beverly Lambert, Bobbie Schwiers, Kevin Treu, David Gray, Carol Ann Good, Rusty Browning, Pat Stephens, Dann Kirby, Ed Holder

### Sympathy to...

...the family of Ned Clay.

...Betty Morin and family in the death of her sister.

...the family of Sarah Barton.

...the family of Abbie Jean Poole.

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## Enrollment in First Baptist Day School

for 2019-2020

January 13-20, 2019

For more information, contact Rosemary New at rosemary.net@firstbaptistgreenville.com or Dewanda Martin at dewanda.martin@firstbaptistgreenville.com

## Introducing...

Beth and Jeff Linville, 1964 Greenpond Road, Fountain Inn, SC 29644, joined FBG during worship on Sunday, December 30, by statement of previous profession of



faith and baptism. Jeff works with BMW, and they have joined the Carson Class.

## Congratulations to...

Ben and Nina Hallissy on the birth of a daughter, Lela Winn Hallissy, on December 12, 2018.

Bennett and Chris Chiles on the birth of a daughter, Rosemary Helen Chiles, on December 24, 2018, in New York, New York. Rosemary's grandparents in our church are Claude Stulting and Helen Lee Turner.