

WORSHIP

Wednesday, January 27

Via FBG Website and Facebook

MidWeek Fellowship

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Bible Study: Wise Leadership During
Wearisome Times: A Study of Nehemiah

Sunday, January 31

10:30am

Via FBG Website, Facebook and Radio

Stephen Ministry Commissioning

Proclaimer: Camille Loomis Rehnborg

Sermon: Listening In, Looking Out

Scripture: Mark 1:1-28

Access FBG Website here:
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/>

Access Facebook here:
<https://www.facebook.com/fbcgreenvillesc/>

Access Radio (Sunday morning only)
here:
89.3-HD4, 89.7 FM, 91.9 FM

If you are having trouble viewing the video stream or have had trouble in the past, please email live@firstbaptistgreenville.com. Include your name, email and description of your problem. Thank you for your continued support.

—Will D.



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Every once in a while, a sermon gets me in trouble. I have typically preached in 'free pulpits.' These pulpits are surrounded by congregants who know two things: 1) the minister is free to preach what they sense the Holy Spirit is leading them to preach, and 2) the congregant is free to believe it or not! It is the Baptist way. Our soul freedom—at its best—allows us to wander and ponder the mysteries of God without judgement and repercussion. You may leave a worship service and via narthex discussion, telephone call or email inform me of your deep disagreement with the content of my thought... and that's okay. We are okay. We know that God is too mysterious for us to confine to any individual interpretation. Our differing perspectives help us appreciate and navigate the many facets of God and faith, but...every once in a while, a sermon gets me in trouble.

It happened over a decade ago. It was Easter Sunday morning. The sanctuary was packed with people awaiting the grand and glorious liturgy of our most holy day. They hymns

were sung, the Great Thanksgiving was spoken, the brass had played, and then...the first words of my sermon rang out, "Easter—the resurrection—is nothing more than a rumor." There were a few who could not hang with me for the rest of the sermon. Their bottoms stayed in the pew, but their minds were busy constructing their narthex argument, phone call and email. The point of my sermon was after the resurrection, the risen life of Jesus existed in the witness—the spoken testimony—of those who saw the resurrection. It passed from the women, to the disciples, to gatherings of believers and today throughout the world. It is a rumor...a powerful rumor...a rumor we can trust and believe.

Okay, here is one more Easter rumor. I think you will like this one. I have heard—and again, it's only a rumor—First Baptist Greenville will hold two worship services this Easter, April 4. Our regular 10:30am service will be broadcast via radio and internet as is COVID-19 usual. We will also gather—in person, masked and distanced—at 8:00am at Fluor Field Stadium for worship and an outfield Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Yes, we will get to see each other on Easter morning. Again, it's only a rumor, but like the first Easter rumor, it's one you can trust and believe. I'm looking forward to it. See you there!

—Jim

AYMC Hours

AYMC Walking Track and Fitness Room are open by appointment only,
Monday-Friday, 8am-12noon.

Additionally, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, appointments are available 5-7pm.
Email aymc@firstbaptistgreenville.com for appointment.

Happy Birthday!

Please remember these members of our congregation celebrating birthdays in February who are not always able to be out and about:

February 10

Annie Mae Clark
731 Parkins Mill Road
Greenville, SC 29607

February 14

Sharon Taylor
Woodlands at Furman
1340 Trailhead Court
Greenville, SC 29617

February 19

Anne Lindsey (98)
Shepherd's Care
2100 N. Pleasantburg Drive
#107
Greenville, SC 29609

February 22

Martha Johns (95)
Woodlands at Furman
1343 Trailhead Court
Greenville, SC 29617

Tech Tips

It has now been several months since we switched to a new streaming service. I want to thank you for your patience and continued support during the transition. We have partnered with vimeo.com to provide a higher quality and more accessible live worship experience.

The FBC Studio@First Team continues to work to make the stream the best it can be. That said, I want to give you some tips for the FBG livestream:

- We are available on Facebook Live and the Church's website (www.firstbaptistgreenville.com). If one stream source isn't working smoothly, try the other.
- Worship Archives are available here: vimeo.com/showcase/fbgsundayworship
- MidWeek Archives are available here: vimeo.com/showcase/midweeklive
- We broadcast our stream in a High HD Resolution. Sometimes this can cause your video to buffer or pause briefly. Using the gear symbol in the bottom right hand of your screen, you can decrease the quality, resulting in a smoother streaming experience.

- If you are watching the streams on a Smart TV or other streaming device, you may have noticed that the Vimeo TV App does not allow you to view the stream live. We are working with Vimeo to bring that option to you later this year. In the meantime, Facebook offers a Facebook Watch app on most smart TVs and streaming devices. You don't have to be a Facebook user to use it, but it does help with finding the service.
- If you are watching on a mobile device, tablet or computer, then we recommend using external speakers or headphones. We have optimized our audio for the best overall sound for all users.

If you are ever experiencing problems with the stream, have comments or suggestions, email us at live@firstbaptistgreenville.com. We want to work with you to find a solution. We want our congregation to be able to access and watch the streams as easily as possible. Thanks again for your continued support of the livestream ministry at First Baptist Greenville.

—Will Dodson

Retreat at Home

The Bridge Young Adult and College Group has met once a month on every second Thursday throughout the past several months. We have met outside the AYMC Terrace Level while wearing masks and adhering to social distancing guidelines. Our discussions have been focused on Kingdom Ethics, or how do we as followers of Christ be true to both our faith and ourselves as we traverse this stage of life. We have given attention to what it means to live with an ethic, how we can be both salt and light in an increasingly polarized political climate, and why the separation of church and state is such an important Baptist principle. Our time together has been filled with lively discussion and laughter, and we are looking forward to more this year.

to join us on Saturday, January 30, for a morning and afternoon of service, fellowship and study. We will meet at the AYMC at 8am and walk over to Annie's House to serve alongside the staff there as they minister to the community of Nicholtown. Following the morning, we will break for lunch and fellowship before regathering to study what it means to live out the call to care for God's creation. In the past, this weekend has been devoted to a college retreat in Montreat, NC. Unfortunately, we are unable to travel at this time, so we are grateful to be able to still provide a time of fellowship and retreat for this wonderful group.

—Will Raybon

In less than two weeks, we will be on "retreat" here in Greenville. All college and young adults are invited

First Baptist's 2021 Basketball Experience



As I noted in an article in the fall about the decision to delay church basketball this year, the

Basketball Committee intends to provide a way for our children and youth to enjoy an organized basketball experience here at First Baptist, even if it is not in the context of competing with other churches. To help families look ahead and get this on their calendars, I want to share a few details of content and timing. I hope these bulleted details are helpful in giving you an idea of what to expect and when.

Registration: Signups will begin in February.

Schedule: Practices and games will be on Saturdays and Sundays in March and April.

Ages: K4 through 12th grade

Format: Intrachurch (in-house)

Safety protocols: More details will be provided during registration, but masks will be required for players, coaches and fans. (Attendance will be limited in order to abide by the church's current COVID-19 guidelines.)

As is the case every season, the Basketball Committee's goals for this year will be to:

1. Provide an opportunity for our kids to learn, appreciate and enjoy the game of basketball
2. Encourage friendship and teamwork in an athletic setting
3. Promote Christlike behavior in competitive situations

An additional goal for this particular year will be to do

all of the above in a way that minimizes the risk of exposure to the corona virus and that adheres to the current guidelines and covenant put forth by the church's Reopening Taskforce (<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/covid-19-covenant/>).

If you have questions, I would love to hear from you. Email me at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com

Thank you for your continued support of our basketball ministry, and we look forward to sharing the First Baptist Basketball 2021 Experience.

Peace and Grace,

Matt, Nikki and the First Baptist Basketball Committee

Upcoming Events

(service links on church website)

- 1/27 4:00pm Preschool Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Elementary Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Youth Wednesday Nights
 6:15pm (Virtual) MidWeek Fellowship: Jim Dant—Wise Leadership During Wearisome Times: A Study of Nehemiah
- 1/31 10:30am (Virtual) Stephen Ministry Commissioning Camille Loomis Rehnborg, Proclaimer
 5:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth—Middle School
- 2/3 4:00pm Preschool Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Elementary Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Wednesdays for Youth—High School
 6:15pm (Virtual) MidWeek Fellowship: Jim Dant—Wise Leadership During Wearisome Times: A Study of Nehemiah

- 2/7 10:30am (Virtual) Worship Foundation Sunday
 Jim Dant, Proclaimer
- 2/7 6:00pm All Youth Drive-In Big Game Party (till end of halftime)
- 2/10 4:00pm Preschool Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Elementary Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Wednesdays for Youth—Middle School
 6:15pm (Virtual) MidWeek Fellowship: Jim Dant



Meals to Go

Uptown Catering continues to provide meals to go as well as Wednesday Night Specials at FBG pricing! Visit their website (<https://theuptowncompany.square.site/s/shop>) to view their menu options. All meals will be available for drive-thru pick up at the kitchen door—you don't even have to get out of your vehicle!

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. LXII January 25, 2021 No. 4

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 1/23
 \$161,538

Receipts as of 1/22
 \$135,948

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

January 25-31
 Kyle Matthews
 551-0829 (m)

February 1-7
 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

Care List as of Morning, 1/25

Hospitals

Prisma-Greenville Memorial: Steve Coogler

Prisma-Patewood: Pamela Dickerson Davis

Rehab

Patewood-Congaree: Brenda Ballard

Cascades: Claudia Caldwell

Clemson Downs: Woodie Williams

Discharged

Betty Smoak, Virgil Story

Sympathy

...to Marietta Bolt and family in the death of her brother.

...to the family of Lois MacRae.

...to Debbie Shelnut and family in the death of her father.

...to Kelley Pitts and family in the death of her father-in-law.

Introducing

Tricia Austin, 308 McCarter Avenue, Greenville 29615, joined FBG on December 12, 2020, by statement of previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination. Tricia works with Children's Advocacy Center of Spartanburg. She and her husband, John, are members of the Adkins-Bouton Class and have two sons, Jack and William.

Lydia Hull, 801 Chamberlain Court, Mill Valley, CA 94941, joined FBG on December 25, 2020, by previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination.

Meredith and Scott Dobson, 1422 Parkins Mill Road, Greenville 29607, joined FBG on January 4, 2021, by previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination. Meredith is employed with Cottage Grove Gift and Home, and Scott is employed with Parkside Pediatrics. They have three children: Ava, Sam and Reeves.