

WORSHIP

Sunday, December 5

10:30am

Sanctuary and via FBG Website,
Facebook and Radio

Second Sunday of Advent

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Sermon: Charles Dickens and John the
Baptist

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir with
Chamber Orchestra

Advent Devotional Booklets are
available at the Reception Desk.

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

Access Facebook here:
[https://www.facebook.com/
fbcgreenvillesc/](https://www.facebook.com/fbcgreenvillesc/)

Access Radio here:
89.3-HD4, 89.7 FM, 91.9 FM

If you are having trouble viewing this
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

I am not a visual artist. I appreciate the visual arts—painting, photography, sculpture—but I am not a visual artist. This condition is part lack of talent and part lack of education. I have a daughter who is a visual artist. She is talented and educated in the field. The one piece of advice she's given me that has influenced my understanding (not ability) the most is to paint the background first; layer by layer, paint the background. (Yes, I confess that in my earliest attempts at painting, I would paint a subject and then try to fill-in the background around them. Every painting was a mess.)

Paint the background first. The same idea holds true for faith development. We often jump straight into 'issues' without understanding the layers of historic and cultural backgrounds. We make judgments about biblical characters without considering their social, political and religious

contexts. We sing hymns—some with strange lyrics—without knowledge of their origins or their unique poetic elements. This year, rather than jumping straight into the nativity scene and into the subsequent Christmas carols, we are going to pause and paint the background first.

On Wednesday evening, December 1, at 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall (make a reservation and come earlier if you want to eat), I will be leading a MidWeek Fellowship session titled *Backgrounds: Stories Behind the Birth Narratives of Jesus*. On the next Wednesday, December 8 (same time, same place) Dr. Vivian Hamilton will lead an interactive singing-session titled *Backgrounds: Stories Behind the Carols*. I'm certain you will find these moments to be informative, provocative and inspirational. They might add a little depth to your faith, making this Christmas season a little more meaningful. I'll see you on Wednesday evening... no artistic talent required.

—Jim

AYMC Hours

AYMC Walking Track and Fitness
Room

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday,
8:00am-8:00pm

Wednesday and Friday, 8:00am-
2:00pm

Instructions for In-Person Worship Services

First Baptist Greenville has returned to in-person worship on Sundays at 10:30am. Services take place in the Sanctuary, masked and socially distanced. Please enter free of COVID-19 symptoms.

Senior Moment: Volunteering

Many of us volunteer in support of community activities. After we retire, we typically volunteer more hours than when we were working. Sometimes we need to step back long enough to take a close look at how we are spending those hours and ask ourselves if that's what we really want to do.

My volunteering in Scouting started when my son became a Cub Scout, long before my retirement. He was in Scouting for 8 years and earned his Eagle Award. I am now in my 27th year as an adult Scouter. I recently took that closer look and realized I needed to move into a role that doesn't include camping—too many aches and pains to get out

of my tent! Changing roles, I have agreed to chair a fundraiser for our Scout District.

Since retiring, I have become involved in many Senior-specific activities, such as ReUNITED, a United Way affinity group re-involving people who retired and became lost to UW. I joined the Silver Haired Legislature, which advocates for legislation benefitting seniors. I serve on the Regional Aging Advisory Committee of the Appalachian Council of Governments—a group that has input into how public dollars for seniors are spent. I have been a long-time member of the Master Gardener Speakers Bureau, teaching classes both

at local Garden Clubs and in the Junior MG program. I recently joined the Program Committee for FBC's Senior Adult Lunch and More activities.

I am fortunate to have an understanding wife who also values volunteering. She is passionate about Stephen Ministry, Greenville Women Giving, various OLLI committees and Delta Kappa Gamma. She also serves on the Scouting Executive Board. We enjoy our Volunteering, often working side by side. We believe we make a difference in our community, and you can, too.

—Steve Luck

Lula Whilden World Missions Offering

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP



As we continue highlighting our Lula Whilden World Missions Offering this week, we focus on the mission

work of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, or CBF. A core component of CBF missions is placement of field personnel in more than 30 countries and regions across the globe. These amazing leaders are serving the most impoverished and marginalized communities in places like Kiev, Ukraine; Harding, Ethiopia; Bali, Indonesia; Bass, Cambodia; but also, Raleigh, NC; Houston, TX; and Atlanta, GA. The CBF field personnel represent one of the main reasons the Lula Whilden World Missions Offering was created—and why it is so important that the entire congregation continues to support it each year.

Missy Ward-Angalla serves as a CBF field personnel in Kampala, Uganda, where she is the founder and

co-director of Amani Sasa. Amani Sasa ministers to refugees and their families who are traumatized, abused, trafficked and/or vulnerable to exploitation in Uganda. The ministry includes emergency services, counseling, group therapy and support groups for refugees. Amani Sasa also has in-depth trauma healing and empowerment programs for young mothers, women, men and children at risk.

Many of you met Missy and her husband, Francis, and heard their powerful story during one of their visits to our church. To learn more about Amani Sasa, visit www.amanisasa.org. You can also read about other CBF field personnel here: [Field Personnel—Cooperative Baptist Fellowship \(cbf.net\)](http://FieldPersonnel-CooperativeBaptistFellowship.com).

Lula offering donations can be made through the end of the year. Please remember CBF, along with the Alliance of Baptists and CBFSC, is directly impacted by your generosity. Thank you for your part in reaching our goal of \$100,000!

—Laura

Christmas Through the Generations

A JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENT SERIES

Growing up, my wife's family allowed the children to each open one gift from their parents on Christmas Eve. As her family became my family in the years after we married, I was encouraged to come to terms with this tradition that in my eyes was nothing short of yuletide sacrilege. As I was exposed to more and more Christmas patterns outside my own family's holiday tradition bubble, I eventually was able to make peace with the odd notion of opening a gift on a day other than Christmas Day and that not EVERY family religiously watches Christmas Vacation that afternoon (although I suspect that many do).

With this year's Advent Sunday School series, the Spiritual Formation Committee hopes the whole church can develop a new appreciation for other Christmas traditions as we hear from panels representing every generation of our congregation as they share with us Christmas Through the Generations.

November 28—Senior Adult panel, facilitated by Frank Smith

December 5—Youth panel, facilitated by Mary Carol Anderson

December 12—Children's panel, facilitated by Becky Ramsey

December 19—Young and Middle Adult panel, facilitated by Kyle Matthews

The series of interviews and stories will take place in our Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:15am) on each of the four Sundays of Advent. Everyone is invited to attend, whether you are currently part of a Sunday School class or not. Our hope is that the series will emphasize the joy of appreciating and honoring the many ways that Christmas is celebrated within our community of faith, not to mention around the world.

—Matt and the Spiritual Formation Committee

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Celebrate with Music

On Sunday morning, December 5, you will want to be in person in our worship service for the Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra music! We are excited about sharing choral music with you again, especially after not being able to have singing in our sanctuary last December because of the pandemic. Mendelssohn's "There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth," Holst's "Christmas Day," and Morten Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium" will be part

of the service music with choir and orchestra. Mr. Lauridsen's setting of this famous text on the birth of Christ has become the highest selling choral piece in the history of the music publishing company. Plan to be a part of this worship service and experience the hope, joy and mystery of sacred Christmas music shared by our excellent choir and soloists.

—Vivian

MUSIC

Happy Birthday!

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

December 1
Margaret Faile (91)
Gardens at Eastside
275 Commonwealth Drive
Greenville, SC 29615

December 12
Jim Childress
703 Carriage Hill Road
Simpsonville, SC 29681

December 13
Brooks Stuart
227 Enoree Circle
Greer, SC 29650

December 18
Dee Buford
Woodlands at Furman
1231 Trailhead Court
Greenville, SC 29617

December 30
Mary Wylie
616 Caroline Avenue
Greenville, SC 29607

PASTORAL CARE

Upcoming Events

(service links on church website)

- 12/1** *Wednesdays at First Activities*
5:00-7:00pm Youth Christmas
 Decorating Party and Senior
 Tree (AYMC)
6:15-7:00pm MidWeek Fellowship:
 Backgrounds—Stories behind
 the Birth Narratives of Jesus
 with Jim Dant (Fellowship Hall)
- 12/3** **10:30am** Senior Adult Lunch
 and More: Amy Joye—
 Christmas Music (Fellowship
 Hall)
- 12/4** Roadrunners to Mill Town Players
Jingle Bell Rock
- 12/5** **9:15am** Joint Sunday School
 Advent Series: Christmas
 through the Generations Youth
 Panel (Fellowship Hall)
10:30am Second Sunday of
 Advent
 Proclaimer: Jim Dant and
 Sanctuary Choir with
 Chamber Orchestra
11:30am-1:30pm Children's
 Ministry Monthly Event:
 Christmas Party (B-400 Hall)

Wednesdays at First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

- 3:00-6:00pm** Youth Hang Time
 (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 4:45-6:00pm** Supper Serving Lines
 Open (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30-7:00pm** Preschool and Children's
 Music and Missions
 (C300 and B400 halls)
- 6:00-7:00pm** Youth Bible Study
 (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 6:15-7:00pm** MidWeek Fellowship
 (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00-8:30pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 (Choir Room)
- 4:00pm** Preschool Ministry
 Christmas Ornament
 Decorating Event (B400 Hall)
*5-year-old Sunday School
 classes gather to decorate
 ornaments.*
- 12/5** **4:00pm** Vocare Rehearsal (Choir
 Room)
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live
 for Youth (AYMC)
- 12/8** *Wednesdays at First Activities*
3:00-7:00pm Youth on the Town
 (Antonino Bertolo's)



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 Kimberly Coates, Editor.

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LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 11/27
 \$2,530,762

Receipts as of 11/19
 \$2,205,479

Lula Whilden Offering
 Receipts as of 11/19
 \$39,267

Pastoral Care On Call Nights and Weekends

November 29-December 5
 Kyle Matthews
 864-551-0829 (m)

December 6-12
 Frank Smith
 864-268-3890 (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, 11/29

Hospital

Maude Maddox

Rehab

Barbara Alexander, Brenda Ballard,
 Claudia Caldwell, Marion Crooks (MD
 Anderson Outpatient Care), Beverly
 Greer

Discharged

Cecelia Jackson

Sympathy

...to Regenia McClain and family in
 the death of her mother and Carrie
 Rieder and family in the death of her
 grandmother.

Wednesday Night Supper

Meal reservations required by noon
 on the Monday prior by visiting the
 church website or calling the church
 office. Permanent reservations for
 2021-22 available. Serving lines open
 4:45-6:00pm.

December 1

Adult: Salad, Meatloaf, Mashed
 Potatoes, Roasted Veggies, Roll and
 Dessert

Child: Hamburger Sliders, French
 Fries, Fruit and Cookie

December 8

Adult: Salad, Parmesan-encrusted
 Pork Tenderloin, Roasted Potatoes,
 Italian Green Beans, Roll and Dessert
Child: Grilled Cheese, Tater Tots, Fruit
 and Cookie



CREATIVE. FROM TABLE TO TAP.