



CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

First Baptist Church

GREENVILLE, SC

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Introduction

WELCOME TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENVILLE, SC

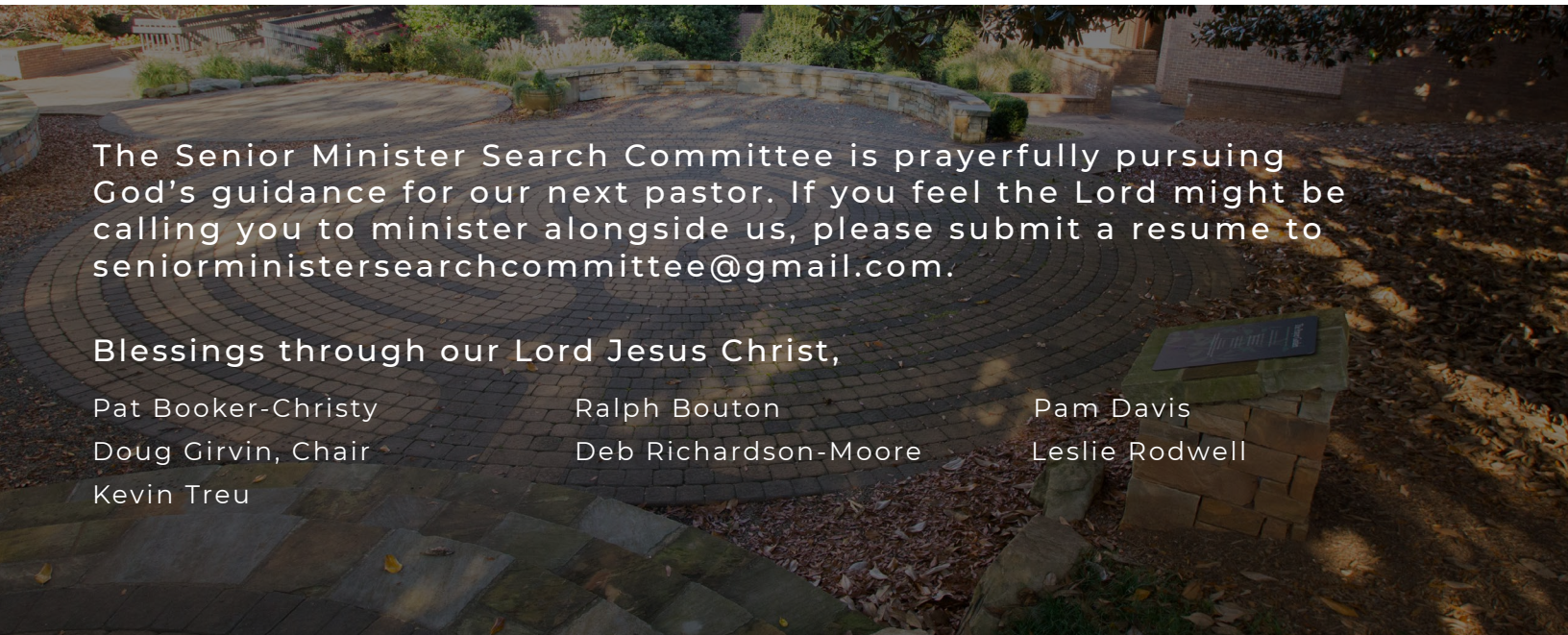
We are a progressive, wholly welcoming church in the Carolina foothills, a place “where big city cool meets small-town America,” according to Forbes magazine.

Our ministerial staff calls our church a “unicorn,” emphasizing our 19th-century roots, our pioneering ordination of women, our early leadership in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Alliance of Baptists, our liturgical worship, and our unambiguous welcome of LGBTQ+ members in all aspects of church life.

We fiercely value the freedom and autonomy of our Baptist heritage and proclaim that “every member is a minister.” Our recently retired pastor of eight years, Dr. Jim Dant, led us to a healthy space. Journeying forward, we have the desire and the facilities to share Christ’s love with many more hurting people who may have given up on church in our secular and post-Covid times.

We inhabit a large, tree-lined campus a mile southeast of downtown Greenville. We have a strong music program with ties to Furman University, a day school, a variety of mission partnerships, a gifted ministerial staff of nine, and a budget of \$2.8 million.

The position we seek to fill is a challenging one: A courageous, loving senior minister who can nurture discipleship within our church, innovatively attract those outside it, oversee a 129-member staff, including the day school, and provide a strong voice for justice in the greater Greenville community. Recent congregational conversations have affirmed our openness to candidates regardless of race, gender, and sexual orientation.



The Senior Minister Search Committee is prayerfully pursuing God’s guidance for our next pastor. If you feel the Lord might be calling you to minister alongside us, please submit a resume to seniorministersearchcommittee@gmail.com.

Blessings through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Pat Booker-Christy
Doug Girvin, Chair
Kevin Treu

Ralph Bouton
Deb Richardson-Moore

Pam Davis
Leslie Rodwell

Senior Minister Profile

First Baptist Church Greenville is seeking a Senior Minister who will effectively lead our church into its future, guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

FBG has a proud history with cherished traditions, deeply held core values, and leadership in the Greenville community. We also are open to change and recognize that it is a critical part of our spiritual growth and evolution. We are a “different kind of Baptist.” As a congregation, we have engaged in a rigorous and reflective self-assessment process. The information that we have gathered has provided insights regarding what this church needs in its next pastor. The successful candidate is expected to have a maturity gained from experience, and must hold an advanced degree in ministry, theology, religion or a related discipline.

PROCLAMATION AND EDUCATION

- Mastery in delivering spiritually impactful sermons
- Ability and willingness to challenge the congregation to grow in faith through critical thinking
- Proficiency in educating individuals of all ages and faith journeys, supporting spiritual formation and discipleship for all
- Proclamation and teaching with a strong biblical foundation informed by an open-minded, progressive theology

LEADERSHIP

- Demonstrates collaborative leadership skills that inspire and empower ministerial staff
- Possesses strong administrative skills, including the willingness to make difficult decisions and delegate effectively
- Capable of building consensus and fostering unity among a diverse team of leaders
- Encourages and entrusts lay leadership, including deacons, committee members, and other volunteers
- Works in partnership with other ministers and lay leaders to create and implement a forward-looking vision for the church

OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

- Displays creativity and innovation in implementing the church's vision and engaging an increasingly secular world
- Possesses the willingness and ability to enhance the church's leadership role within the broader community
- Demonstrates a deep commitment to community outreach, missions, and social justice
- Focuses on growth and diversity of the congregation by connecting with and welcoming those in need

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- Prioritizes the spiritual growth and well-being of congregation members
- Encourages member engagement in a world of increasing demands of daily life, distraction, and secularization
- Devotes time and effort to developing lay leaders and cultivating their growth within the church
- Demonstrates a commitment to building small group fellowship opportunities, including Sunday School classes for individuals of all ages
- Displays compassion and a caring demeanor, serving as a shepherd to all members of the church

PERSONAL TRAITS

- Possesses excellent collaboration and communication skills and serves as a talented group facilitator
- Approaches challenges with creativity, innovation, and fresh ideas
- Displays a healthy respect for tradition and formality, while also demonstrating the courage to embrace modern ideas and processes as needed
- Is approachable, available, and authentic in relationship with individuals of all ages

Our Community

In the past, Greenville was defined by neighboring attractions: Mountains a half hour to the north. Beaches four hours to the east. Charlotte and Atlanta up and down the I-85 corridor. Lakes Hartwell, Keowee and Jocassee close enough for a morning boat ride. Today, Greenville is a destination of its own, with a reputation for culinary adventure and a public-art-rich downtown lauded by national media. Here's what some of them had to say:

[10 Most Beautiful and Affordable Places to Live in the U.S.](#) – *Travel + Leisure*, March 2023

[Top 52 Places to Go in the World](#) – *The New York Times*, January 2023

[No. 6 Best Small City - 2022 Readers' Choice Awards](#) – *Conde Nast Traveler*, October 2022

[Top 12 Places to Visit in the World](#) – *CNN Travel*, August 2022

[Third Friendliest City in America](#) – *Travel + Leisure*, 2017.



With wide, tree-lined sidewalks that a former mayor championed as a reminder of his European youth, downtown Greenville welcomes tens of thousands of visitors to popular street festivals – [Artisphere](#) in May, [euphoria Greenville](#) in September (for foodies), and [Fall for Greenville](#) in October (for foodies and music lovers). But people flock from across the region on ordinary days, too.



At the north end of Main Street, outdoor concerts run Thursdays and Fridays all spring and summer. At the south end, the [Peace Center](#) for the Performing Arts presents Broadway shows, dance troupes and hot musical acts. A minor league ballpark hosts the [Greenville Drive](#) on a field that mimics Fenway Park, home to its parent Boston Red Sox. And on Saturdays from May to October, the [TD Greenville Saturday Market](#) pulls farmers, cheese makers and bakers into the mix. All told, there's something scheduled downtown 300 days a year.

THEN AND NOW

Once known as “the textile capital of the world,” Greenville grew from its mill village roots to a city of 72,000. Surrounding Greenville County has a population of 547,000, making it the most populous county in South Carolina.

As textile manufacturing declined in the 20th century, the area re-positioned itself as an automotive hub. Today, BMW, Michelin, ZF, Borg Warner and Bosch are located here, as well as the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR). The historic mills, meanwhile, are being repurposed as condos, apartments, breweries and restaurants.

Lockheed Martin Aircraft and Honeywell operate aerospace facilities. The county is also recognized as an emerging biotech hub with research centers for cancer, biomaterials and genomic profiling running alongside South Carolina's School of Medicine-Greenville, Prisma Health, and Bon Secours St. Francis Health System.

Our Community *cont.*



THE GREEN

True to the city's name, green spaces abound. [Falls Park](#) anchors the south end of Main Street, a 32-acre gem spanned by the Liberty Bridge, the only single-sided suspension bridge in the Western Hemisphere. Falls Park is home to the Upstate Shakespeare Festival and its outdoor summer productions. [The Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail](#), a 23-mile walking and bike path, connects Falls Park to other recreational spaces, including the recently opened [Unity Park](#).

More than 55 parks, soccer complexes and recreation facilities dot the county. Furman University shares its beautiful campus with local citizens who walk and bike around its lake. The professional [Greenville Triumph Soccer Club](#) plays its home games in Furman's Paladin Stadium.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Within walking distance of Main Street is Heritage Green, a collection of museums, galleries and a theater sharing a grassy common. [The Greenville County Museum of Art](#) houses one of the world's largest collections of Andrew Wyeth watercolors as well as works by South Carolina native son Jasper Johns. [The Upcountry History Museum](#) features multimedia displays of the region's textile history. At the [Greenville Theatre](#), live shows ranging from Shakespeare to Cole Porter are performed year-round. [The Smithsonian-affiliated Children's Museum of The Upstate](#) offers hands-on exhibits for the

younger set. [The Sigal Music Museum](#) shows off harpsichords and pianos dating from 1570 to 1845, including one played by Chopin. The main branch of the [Greenville County Library](#) is located here.

Nearby, you'll find the [Warehouse Theatre](#), [Centre Stage](#), the [South Carolina Children's Theatre](#), and the local comedy flavor of [Café And Then Some](#). One of Greenville's best-kept secrets is the [Bob Jones University Museum and Gallery](#) that draws scholars from all over the world to see its collection of European masters.

The [Bon Secours Wellness Arena](#) is a 15,000-seat sports and entertainment venue that hosts major music acts, circuses and monster truck jams. The arena also serves as home ice for the [Greenville Swamp Rabbits](#) hockey team.

EDUCATION

The 74,000-student [Greenville County School District](#) is the state's largest. Greenville is also home to:

- [Furman University](#)
- [Bob Jones University](#)
- [Greenville Technical College](#)
- [North Greenville University](#)
- [University Center of Greenville](#)

**Pictures used with permission, City of Greenville, SC*



Our Church

MISSION STATEMENT

First Baptist Greenville is a community of believers in God as revealed in Jesus Christ as Lord. We believe in the authority of the Bible, the equality of all members, unity in diversity, and the priesthood of all believers. In communion with and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we follow the Way of Jesus the Christ and share the Good News through worship, education, ministries, and missions. As an autonomous Baptist church, we value our heritage and the freedom it allows us to minister alongside other groups, both Christian and non-Christian. We express our love for all in gratitude for the love God has shown to us.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In all facets of the life and ministry of our church, including but not limited to membership, baptism, ordination, marriage, teaching and committee/organizational leadership, First Baptist Greenville will not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

COVENANT

As members of this fellowship, our only calling is to be the people of God at this time and in this place. We are here by choice for the specific purpose of worshiping God and ministering in the name of Jesus Christ. As recorded in Galatians 3:28, "We are no longer Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, men or women, but we are all the same – we are Christians; we are one in Christ Jesus." As all are equal under God, so they are in this congregation. Every member is a minister.



Our Church *cont.*

AS A MEMBER OF SUCH A FELLOWSHIP, AND BECAUSE OF OUR LOVE FOR GOD,
I COMMIT MYSELF TO THESE RESPONSIBILITIES.

- **I will** attend regularly and support faithfully the opportunities for worship and education provided by this congregation.
- **I will** offer to know and love other members of this fellowship, and I am willing to be known and loved by them.
- **I will** respect the right of all members to express their beliefs. Although we will not always agree, I will respect the action of the majority and will work for unity of spirit and purpose as fellow Christians in this fellowship.
- **I will** enlist and welcome visitors to this fellowship, and will help them feel a part of our community. I will pray habitually for myself and others so that we may grow in our relationship to Christ and to each other.
- **I will** take seriously my gifts and actively share them in ways that will strengthen this fellowship.
- **I will** give systematically a sacrificial percentage of my income and possessions to support financially our church's ministries in gratitude for the grace of God and the ministry of this fellowship.
- **I will** be open to hearing and responding to God's message as it comes to me in all areas of life.
- **I will** take seriously my responsibility in training and educating our children and youth in biblical truths, with the hope that they will affirm their heritage, declare their faith in Christ, and live accordingly.
- **I will** be an example of Christ in the world, being just, merciful and honest in my dealings and faithful in my obligations with all people. We will cooperate with believers everywhere within the larger body of Jesus Christ.
- **I will** be aware of the depth and extent of human needs both in my immediate community and in the world at large. I will obey the command given in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), and will support the efforts of this fellowship in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

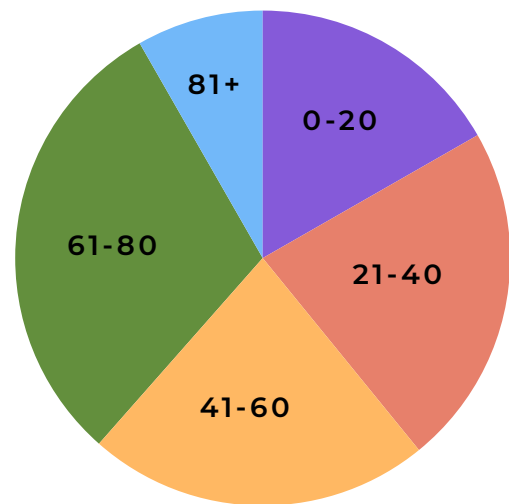
**With God's help and with the help of our brothers and
sisters in this fellowship, I make this covenant.**

Our Church *cont.*

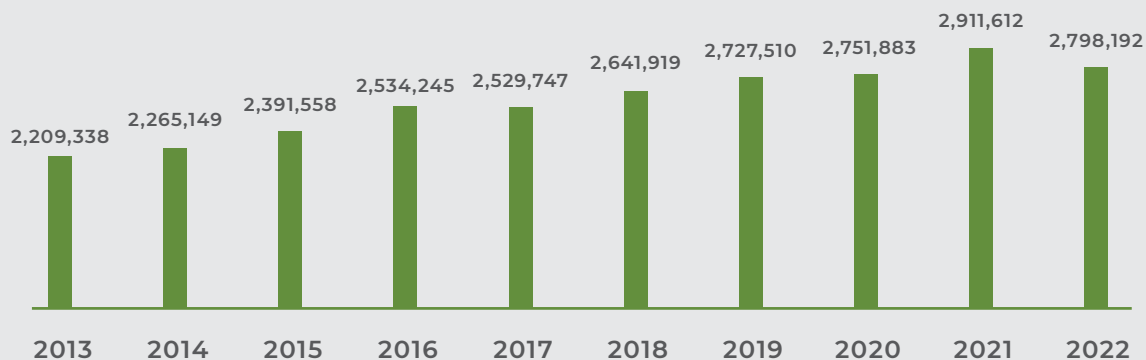
MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

First Baptist Greenville today is a community of approximately 1,700 with a budget of \$2,795,000. The membership includes many of the professional, business, educational and civic leaders from the Greenville community. The worship services are traditional/liturgical with a wide variety of musical offerings. First Baptist Greenville's uniqueness is due in part to the outstanding men and women who have served as ministers through the years as well as gifted lay leaders. The congregation is grounded in the historic Baptist principles of the authority of the Bible, freedom of the individual led by God's spirit, freedom of the local church, religious liberty, and the priesthood of every believer. On the basis of these principles, the church seeks to live out its faith in the world as a "Community of Believers, Each Member a Minister."

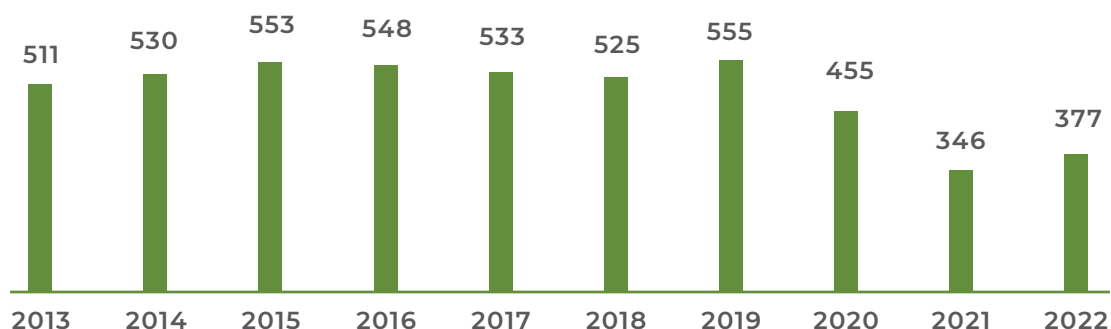
Membership by Age



Annual Budget Giving



In-person Worship Attendance Trends



Our History

First Baptist Church of Greenville traces its beginnings to 1822 when Reverend William Bullein Johnson, a Baptist minister, moved to Greenville to become principal of the Greenville Female Academy. Since there was no Baptist church in the village, Johnson began holding preaching services in the courthouse.

In 1825, he began raising funds to build a Baptist meetinghouse. Vardy McBee donated a lot on East McBee Avenue and the building was completed in 1826. After Johnson left Greenville, the Greenville Baptist Church was organized on November 2, 1831, in the building that Johnson provided.

There were ten charter members, nine women and one man, but by the end of 1832, there were 45 members. In the 1850s, several significant events occurred that impacted the life of the church and laid

the foundation for the progressive spirit characteristic of First Baptist. In 1851, Furman University relocated to Greenville on nearby property across the Reedy River. Three years later, the Greenville Baptist Female College, later known as Greenville Womans College, opened a few blocks from the church. By this time, the brick meetinghouse was crowded, and the congregation erected a new building on West McBee Avenue.

Dedication service for the new building was held in February of 1858. The following year, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was established, and the vacated meetinghouse became its first home. The opening of the seminary brought some of the best minds in Southern Baptist life to Greenville and into the life of the church.



Our History *cont.*

The missions outreach began in the 1850s when a mission Sunday School was established. Interest in missions increased in 1872, when Lula Whilden, a member of the congregation, was appointed a missionary to China. As the city expanded, a missions committee was appointed. Greenville Baptist Church established three mission churches in new communities and assisted with others. As a result, the name of the church was changed to First Baptist Church.

The first half of the twentieth century saw the expansion of Christian education with graded Sunday School classes and multiple organizations for all age groups. Also, a graded choir program began, and the outstanding music ministry had its beginnings in the 1930s.

The church grew steadily, and by the early 1960s, the landlocked facilities on West McBee Avenue were crowded. Needing more space, First Baptist constructed a new building and moved to Cleveland Street in 1974. The present sanctuary was completed and other additions and renovations were made in 1984 and 1993. A new Activities and Youth Ministry Center was completed and dedicated in the summer of 2009.

Women have had a significant role in the life of First Baptist since the beginning. By the 1840s, “The Ladies Working Society” was raising money to help the church with expenses, missions, and the poor. Women began serving as deacons in 1975 and now are found in all leadership roles. Ordained women have been part of the pastoral staff since 1989, and the first woman was ordained to the ministry in 1991.

In 1979, the fundamentalist takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention caused First Baptist to re-examine its contributions to the Cooperative Program. In 1987, the church sent a resolution to the Southern Baptist Convention protesting the stance taken by the convention of opposing the ordination of women, the defunding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty, and the recent events at Southeastern Baptist Theological

Seminary. When the Alliance of Baptists was formed in 1988, First Baptist was a participant and provided leadership.

Realizing the fundamentalists had gained complete control of the SBC in 1990, moderate Baptists organized the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as an alternative. Again, First Baptist Greenville was a part of the vanguard of this effort.

In 1998, the Baptist Faith and Message was revised by the SBC to include the statement that “a wife is to submit herself graciously” to her husband. In response to this action, First Baptist Greenville voted in 1999 to disaffiliate itself from the Southern Baptist Convention.

First Baptist’s commitment to missions and involvement in the community began early in its history and continues today in the form of financial support to local and international efforts. Recent and current “hands on” missions include: Haynie-Sirrine neighborhood partnership, adult and youth mission trips, Habitat for Humanity, “Operation Inasmuch”, Cuban partnership, Gandhi School in Hungary, Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), Annie’s House, and Mission Backpack.

In an effort to be open and welcoming to all people, a task force was charged by the Diaconate in February 2014 to determine the church’s relationship to the LGBT community. At the conclusion of a yearlong process of study and conversations, the LGBT Discernment Team, with the approval of the Diaconate, issued the following statement:

“In all facets of the life and ministry of our church, including but not limited to membership, baptism, ordination, marriage, teaching and committee/organizational leadership, First Baptist Greenville will not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The congregation affirmed the consensus statement during the worship service on May 10, 2015.

Ministerial Staff



Rev. Mary Carol Anderson serves as the Minister to Youth and College at FBG. "Over the years First Baptist Greenville has been a place where I was taught, loved, encouraged, and given the freedom to discover who I am as a gifted child of God. It is the nurturing of this congregation that led me to discover my calling as a minister to youth and college. I am honored to have returned home to the place that has raised me. It is my greatest joy to work and learn alongside our teenagers, helping them to find a place where they can be their authentic selves, and the freedom to discover who they are as children of God. I am passionate about missions, community involvement and guiding our youth to be the

hands and feet of Christ in this world." Mary Carol served as Minister to Youth and College at Aiken's First Baptist Church in Aiken, South Carolina, for seven years and has been on staff at First Baptist Greenville since 2015. Mary Carol has a Bachelor of Science degree in Graphic Communications from Clemson University and earned her Master of Divinity degree from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.



Dr. Vivian Hamilton conducts the Sanctuary Choir and is the primary planner for music in our worship services at First Baptist Greenville. An accomplished pianist as well as vocalist and conductor, Dr. Hamilton also conducts the Furman University Women's Chorale and serves as a collaborative pianist on the music faculty of Furman University. Dr. Hamilton has been a singer in the Robert Shaw Institute Festival Singers where she had the opportunity to work with Robert Shaw and has studied conducting with Dan Lewis and Edvard Tchivzhel. She has worked with choirs at Simmons College, Emerson College, the University of South Carolina, Northeastern University, and Clemson University. She

received her doctor of musical arts degree in choral conducting from the University of South Carolina, her masters degree in piano performance from New England Conservatory of Music, and her bachelors degree in music education from Furman University. Vivian has been on staff since 2008.



Rev. Bridget Kokolis serves as the Children's Minister at FBG. Previously, she served as Minister to Families at Augusta Road Baptist Church here in Greenville for six years and served as the Associate Minister of Spiritual Formation at Greenlawn Baptist Church in Columbia, SC, for ten years. Bridget has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of South Carolina and earned her Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Bridget has a passion for teaching each child about God's abundant love and walking alongside families as they seek to deepen their faith together. Bridget is married to Michael Sr. They have a 12-year-old son, also named Michael. She loves

spending time with her family, their pets, and finding chances to create. Bridget is one of the newest staff members, called in September 2022.

Ministerial Staff *cont.*



Rev. Camille Loomis Rehnborg serves as the Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach at First Baptist Greenville. “FBG’s community is a jewel of the Upstate! We work to be a faith community where all questions, testimonies, joys and curiosities are enthusiastically welcome. I am grateful for the lively spirit in our congregation and the ways we support one another through thick and thin. Despite being a large church, our deep love for each other makes it feel like home.” Camille attended the University of Virginia and Duke Divinity School, where she received certificates in Baptist Studies and Theology & the Arts, as well as the 2020 Jameson Jones Preaching Award. Prior to seminary,

Camille worked as a middle school orchestra director in Mississippi. She is particularly drawn to God’s creative beauty expressed in music, art, and story. Camille is married to Matthew, a fellow seminary graduate and expert in community design. Camille joined FBG’s staff in 2020.



Franklin Lowe serves as the Associate Minister to Youth and College. “I have always been fascinated by small communities that change society for the better. Here at FBG, that positive change is happening all around us – during Sunday worship, through missions and partnerships, and in the classes we offer for every age. In particular, I see the Youth Family as a source of good growth and change for our community. I want to encourage our youth and young people to see themselves as integral members of this congregation, the Church at large, and God’s great story of creativity, redemption, and hope.” Franklin joined our staff in 2022, after studying at the University of the South, the College of William & Mary, and the Community of St. Anselm.



Jenna Manning serves as Church Operations Coordinator at First Baptist Greenville. She began attending FBG in elementary school and worked multiple jobs, in various areas of church life, during her college summers. These were perfect ways to keep her connected to the church. Jenna graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in Applied Communications and spent 10 years in hotel and apartment management before coming back to FBG as an Infant Room teacher. She eventually took on a full-time role as Executive Assistant to the Senior Minister and Minister of Administration. These roles helped her find her real love for church work. Jenna’s main responsibilities include coordinating

and supporting the work of the staff and especially the Senior Minister. She supervises the finance office, technical operations and First Baptist Day School. She serves as the staff liaison for numerous committees and provides valuable support to the lay leaders who carry out the committee work of the church. Jenna has been on staff since 2005.

Ministerial Staff *cont.*



Rev. Kyle Matthews serves as Minister of Pastoral Care at FBG. “Here, gifts are matched to ministries, and the fruit of that approach is evident in the quality, substance, and diversity of our ministries... First Baptist is unique, and it is a privilege to serve in such a church!” Kyle is a graduate of Furman University where, as a religion, philosophy, and music triple major he did a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education and a course of study in the Holy Land. His master’s work in music theory at Baylor University was interrupted by a publishing contract to write songs for BMC Music Publishing and later Universal Music Publishing Group. His songs

have been recorded by multiple artists, have appeared on TV and film, and have won industry awards. For two decades, Kyle traveled full time as a guest preacher, performer, and worship consultant, presenting at seminaries, colleges and conferences. After coming to First Baptist in 2008 as Artist-in-Residence and being ordained, Kyle shifted into the role of Pastoral Care in 2017 where he now facilitates the caregiving ministries of the church. He is a 2013 graduate of the Riley Institute’s Diversity Leadership Initiative and is in a supervised continuing education learning group for “Integrating Mental Health and Ministry.” He and his wife, Susan, have two adult children, Emily and Christopher.



Rev. Dr. Matt Rollins serves as the Minister of Community Engagement. “I love the people of FBG, how they take care of each other, and how seriously they take becoming God’s people. Their concern for the community and their willingness to both lead and follow in mission and ministry initiatives are also things I admire and encourage. What a great place to be a minister!” Matt attended Furman University and Clemson University where he received degrees in physics and Masters in Engineering. Matt later graduated from Gardner-Webb University with Masters of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry degrees. Matt and his wife, Rolyn, have three children, Jack, Celie Ann, and Lucy. He has been on staff at First Baptist Greenville since September 2003.



Rev. Frank Smith serves as the Minister of Neighborhood Partnership Missions and Christian Fellowship. “First Baptist Church Greenville continues to be the place where I am able to fulfill my call to ministry. I have had the privilege of ministering with and beside this caring congregation for over 25 years. New and exciting ministries continue to provide opportunities for the entire congregation to be involved in reaching out and meeting the needs of our neighbors.” Frank attended North Greenville Jr. College, Campbell University, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Following graduation from seminary in 1971, Frank served First Baptist Churches in Lenoir, NC, Myrtle Beach,

SC, High Point, NC, Charleston SC, and Boone, NC. Frank and his wife, Gwen, have two married daughters—Tess (and Kevin) Camp, and Chesnee (and Brian) Marshall—and three grandchildren. Frank has been on staff at First Baptist Greenville since September 1997.

Organization and Governance

LEGAL OWNER AND AUTHORITY

The Rules of Church Order of FBG establishes that the Congregation is the legal owner and authority of the Church. It sets forth the rights of members, the processes to become members, and the termination of membership.

SENIOR MINISTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Further, it sets forth the requirements to become the senior minister, the responsibilities of the senior minister, and the process of termination of a senior minister. It also provides for employment of ministerial staff, their supervision, and duties. It also provides for employment of support staff, their supervision, and duties.

QUALIFICATIONS AND COMMITTEES

The rules provide the qualification of lay officers including deacons, their election, term of service, and duties

and responsibilities. The rules also provide for three types of committees: standing committees, distinctive purpose committees and organizations. It sets forth their responsibilities and duties, their terms and purposes.

CHURCH CONFERENCES

The rules provide for church conferences, the notice required for them to be held and the quorum required for the church conferences to do business. Church conferences may be stated conferences of the church or called conferences. A called conference is required for real property transactions. The senior minister serves as moderator of all conferences.



Organization and Governance *cont.*

Standing Committees

Faith Formation

- The Bridge
- Children's Ministries
- Preschool Ministries
- Spiritual Formations
- Youth Ministries

Core Operations

- Finance
- Personnel
- Property

Mission Partnerships

- Ministry Education and Formation
- Missions and Affiliations
- Picnic
- Scholarship
- Senior Adults

Organizations

- Lay Officers
- Remembrance Garden/Columbarium
- FBC Foundation Trustees
- First Baptist Day School

Distinctive Purpose Committees

Core Operations

- Communications
- Garden Friends
- Grounds
- Technical Operations

Mission Partnerships

- IHN(Interfaith Hospitality Network Hosting Committee
- Neighborhood Partnership
- Sustaining and Valuing Earth's Resources(SAVER)

Liturgy Committee

- Communion
- Flower Guild
- Sanctuary Guild
- Ushers
- Wedding

Fellowship Committee

- AYMC
- Receptions
- Greeters
- Pastoral Care Ministry Committees
- Special Needs Committee



Missions & Affiliations



Missions at First Baptist Greenville is a way of approaching the world. It is Imago Dei. It is Namaste. It is the appreciation that we all belong to God and that if we look hard enough, we might find Christ in each person we meet, including ourselves. At First Baptist Greenville, Missions involves members of all ages engaging in ministry with partners in our backyard, Cuba, South Africa, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, and places in between. Across the varying natures and locations of available service opportunities, Missions at First Baptist Greenville encourages the development of individuals' spiritual gifts as new ministries "bubble up" from the passions of members and their willingness to be servant leaders. Missions at First Baptist Greenville respects genuine reflection and the depth of experience we can have when we expand our comfort zones and get to know our brothers and sisters in other parts of our church family, Greenville, and the world. It celebrates that we can encounter God through these encounters with others, regardless of the degree of similarity (or dissimilarity) in the many backgrounds and life experiences of those with whom we work and serve.

INASMUCH DAYS

For over 20 years, our church participated in Operation Inasmuch which was our annual day of service for our neighbors and community. The name is based on the scripture Matthew 25:40 where Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you did it for the least of these, you did it for me." After COVID-19 delayed this event for two years, we were

determined to bring back this important service opportunity in as meaningful a way as possible. To that end, Inasmuch is now more than just a single day. Inasmuch Days are now held continually throughout the year, and consist of opportunities to give back to our community in a variety of service projects, primarily through partnerships with local nonprofits.

PROJECT HOST

Project Host is a soup kitchen located on Academy Street in downtown Greenville. Its mission is to use food as a tool to nourish the hungry and train the unemployed. Project Host includes a soup kitchen, culinary school, cooking for kids program which feeds children a meal and snack during the summer, a mobile soup kitchen, and a bakery. First Baptist Greenville partners with Project Host to provide volunteers to feed the hungry on the fourth Sunday of each month.

MISSION BACKPACK

Mission Backpack is a way for First Baptist Greenville to assist local students who face food insecurity by providing them with a bag of food and snack items to eat at home over the weekend. Volunteers purchase food items that are easy for students and their families to prepare, and then sort them into bags for distribution. Volunteers then deliver the bags to one of the three schools we service, where they are discreetly given to approximately 100 students before school adjourns for the weekend.

Missions & Affiliations *cont.*



UNITED MINISTRIES FRUIT COLLECTION

First Baptist Greenville has a long history of collecting canned fruit for the United Ministries Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is just one of the crisis assistance programs offered by United Ministries, and canned fruit is one of the most requested items from our neighbors in need. FBG is the primary supplier of canned fruit to the UM Food Pantry (as other area churches provide different items to the pantry), and we have a wonderful team of volunteers who gather fruit donations each month and deliver them to United Ministries on behalf of our congregation.

MONTHLY MISSIONS FOCUS COLLECTION

Every month, First Baptist Greenville focuses on one local organization to support. These organizations directly serve people in need in our area.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ABRAHAM BUILD

First Baptist Greenville has been a participating congregation in Habitat for Humanity Greenville's first two "Abraham Builds." This initiative invites members of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities to work together on designated build days to serve the community and to strengthen their relationships with members of other faiths. In addition to the build days, members of the participating congregations are invited to gather for a shared dinner event to reflect upon and celebrate the relationships they have formed with one another.

MINISTREE

In partnership with United Ministries, First Baptist Greenville provides Christmas gifts for families receiving housing services through the United Ministries Emergency Shelter or Interim Housing. Church members take an ornament from the "MinisTREE" in the weeks before Christmas and purchase items from a family's wishlist. Gifts are collected at the church and then taken to United Ministries for distribution to the families.

LOCAL RELIEF COUNCIL

The Local Relief Council works to establish and uphold fair and equitable practices for financially assisting local residents who are in a state of crisis and have exhausted other community resources. Typically, individuals receiving assistance are referred to First Baptist Greenville by either United Ministries or United Way. Many of these residents have critical needs in areas such as rent/mortgage, utilities, family emergencies, etc.

LULA WHILDEN OFFERING

The Lula Whilden Offering supports ongoing missions on the state, national, and international level and supports the work of three mission-focused partner organizations: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), CBF of South Carolina, and the Alliance of Baptists. It is named for Lula Whilden, who was a member of First Baptist Greenville and was the first single woman to serve as a career Southern Baptist missionary on the foreign mission field.

Missions & Affiliations *cont.*

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES

First Baptist has two working partnerships with our neighbors in the Nicholtown and Haynie-Sirrinc communities. Each fall after collecting candy during October, we provide a Trunk or Treat for all community children. Each Christmas, we provide presents for the children from Nicholtown Missionary Baptist church. We also support work at the Phillis Wheatley and City Recreation Centers. Senior adults from Haynie-Sirrinc community participate in a monthly program and luncheon at the church. The second Tuesday of each month, they travel to enjoyable locations in North and South Carolina as well as Georgia. Funding for these events comes from the proceeds of the church's annual yard sale. Our newest partnership is with Eleos Ministries in Nicholtown and their work with middle and high school age young people. Once each year we provide transportation for moms and babies to attend "Young Lives Matter" camp in North Carolina.

KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO

This group meets monthly to knit and crochet prayer shawls for members

who are homebound, undergoing rehabilitation, or living in assisted living facilities. They also make baby blankets for newborns.

UNITED MINISTRIES INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

United Ministries' IHN program is a ministry for families experiencing homelessness. Currently families seeking emergency shelter are housed in six apartments on the Greenville Tech campus. Our church volunteers have helped with a Christmas bazaar, provided childcare for Lunch and Learn sessions, and helped to stock the apartments with bedding, kitchen items, and bathroom supplies.

CUBA MISSION PARTNERSHIP

FBG partners with our sister church, Iglesia Bautista del Camino in Guanajay, Cuba by supporting the ministry initiatives in their village, by encouraging the spread of the gospel in their communities, and by learning from them new and creative ways to be the hands and feet of God in the world.



Missions & Affiliations *cont.*

AFFILIATIONS

The following are organizations with which FBG is officially affiliated through the Missions and Affiliations Committee:

- [Alliance of Baptists](#)
- [Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists](#)
- [Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty](#)
- [Baptist Peace Fellowship](#)
- [Baptist Seminary of Kentucky](#)
- [Baptist Women in Ministry](#)
- [Baptist World Alliance](#)
- [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship \(CBF\)](#)
- [CBF of South Carolina](#)
- [Duke Divinity School Baptist House](#)
- [Emory University's Candler School of Theology Baptist Studies Program](#)
- [Furman University Exploration of Vocation and Ministry](#)
- [Furman University Mere Christianity Forum](#)
- [Furman University Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection](#)
- [Gardner-Webb School of Divinity](#)
- [Good Faith Media](#)
- [Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Baptist Studies Program](#)
- [McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University](#)
- [South Carolina Christian Action Council](#)
- [Wake Forest University School of Divinity](#)

MISSION PARTNERS

The Missions and Affiliations Committee receives funding requests on a specific grant funding and approval cycle to be used for ministry in the following calendar year. Below is a list of mission partners receiving funding for 2022 for ministry in 2023. Funds given were provided from the Foundation for a total of \$108,000.

Iglesia Bautista del Camino: Our sister church in Guanajay, Cuba

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America: Witnessing to God's peace, rooted in justice; working together until it comes

Eleos: Equipping and elevating youth leaders in the Nicholtown and Welcome communities

Fostering Great Ideas: Advocating for children in foster care

Gateway: Helping those with mental health diagnoses establish routines and build meaningful relationships

Missions & Affiliations *cont.*

Greenville Jewish Federation: Creating a sense of community for Jewish residents in the Upstate

Greenville Homeless Alliance: Increasing options for those experiencing homelessness in Greenville County

Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership (GOAL): A diverse coalition of congregations across Greenville who answer the call to “do justice”

Habitat for Humanity, Greenville County: Providing a path to affordable home ownership

Jasmine Road: Providing a path for women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction

Loaves & Fishes: Rescuing food to reduce hunger

Mental Health America of Greenville: Impacting mental health through advocacy, awareness and service

Mere Christianity Forum: A collegiate ministry at Furman University

Momentum Bike Clubs: Supporting under-resourced young people using the platform of cycling

Partners in Literacy Haiti: Transforming the lives of Haitian children through literacy

Pendleton Place: Keeping children safe and supporting families in crisis

PrideFest Collaborative: Bettering the overall health and well-being of our local LGBTQIA+ community

Pride Link: Improving the quality of life for all LGBTQ+ people in the Upstate SC

Project Host: Building community through food

Sustaining Way: Creating sustainable, caring and equitable communities

United Ministries: Empowering self-sufficiency in the community

West Greenville School: Providing educational experiences that prepare students for lifelong learning

YouthBASE: Equipping children in grades K5-2nd and their families to build the child’s competencies

864Pride: Reducing barriers to life-saving and identity-affirming services in the LGBTQ+ community

19th Avenue Baptist in San Francisco: Establishing a center for biblical studies

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

First Baptist Greenville also supports and works with other community agencies that are not part of the Foundation grant cycle:

- The South Carolina Fair Lending Alliance
- Self Help Credit Union
- Greenville Jewish Film Festival
- Upstate Fatherhood Coalition
- Soteria
- The Affordable Housing Coalition
- Friends of the Reedy
- Mill Village Ministries
- United Way of Greenville
- The Community Remembrance Project

Spiritual Formation

OUR CONGREGATIONAL PILLAR

Spiritual Formation is a congregational pillar of First Baptist Greenville. Historically, we are a congregation that values and promotes faith education for all ages.

We believe that God speaks through curiosity, wonder, discovery, and challenge. Members and visitors participate in Spiritual Formation throughout the week, though primarily on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We offer a mix of traditional Sunday School classes for all ages, Forum@First (intergenerational courses surveying the basics of theological education), spiritual practice groups (including Bible studies, women's circle groups, and prayer groups), and periodic retreats.

For those desiring a more in-depth study of missions and justice issues, JustFaith is a year-round small group option offered in four ten-week sessions. Participants can learn about issues and give a voice to specific issues in their community. In the Fall of 2023, we plan to expand our offerings to include more discussion and interest-based small groups geared towards community building.



PASTORAL CARE

Kyle Matthews is the minister on staff who deals with pastoral care concerns. This includes visiting in homes and hospitals, performing funerals and weddings, making counseling and Stephen Ministry referrals, and a whole host of other pastoral needs.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our Stephen Ministry program includes church members who have been trained to provide love and support to congregants who are going through some difficulty in their life including, but not limited to, divorce, terminal illness, grief, job loss or infertility. The Stephen Ministry program operates independently of the church staff and maintains strict confidentiality to whom it offers ministry.

Age-Based Ministries

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry at First Baptist Greenville seeks to help all children feel God's love, learn to wonder and to grow in their faith. Our ministry programs are intended for children ages birth through 5th grade.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children at FBG spend the Sunday School hour experiencing the sacred stories from the Bible through Godly Play, a Montessori form of Christian nurture that encourages a playful and wonder-filled approach to learning the stories of our faith. During our worship service, children are cared for in nursery or extended session or participate in the children's sermon and worship in our sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH, SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND SUMMER CAMPS

Children in fourth and fifth grades can serve as acolytes leading us into worship each Sunday. All children have the opportunity to lead in Children's Sabbath in May each year. On Wednesday nights, our children gather for spiritual formation, missions, and choir. Additional opportunities for fun and fellowship include monthly fellowship events where children come together to have fun and grow in community. Summers at FBG include Worship Arts Camp, Missions Weeks, and Camp Prism.



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Our Special Needs ministry works with our families to develop an individual participation plan addressing each child's spiritual gifts for Sunday School, worship, and fellowship time.



FIRST BAPTIST DAY SCHOOL

First Baptist Day School welcomes over 200 children ages two months to five years and their families from Greenville and the surrounding area. Our school strives to provide the highest standards in early childhood education in a supporting and enriching environment inspired by the Reggio philosophy. First Baptist Day School is a place where each individual is respected and valued. We believe children, families and teachers are partners in the research of life, building a community which respects childhood as a time to think, explore, create, and be joyful.

Age-Based Ministries *cont.*

YOUTH FAMILY

We call our youth ministry the “Youth Family” because we strive to create a safe space for students to be who they are while discovering and forming new pieces of their identities.



GROUPS AND TRIPS

Just like a family, we see each other at our best and at our worst, but we continue to love one another and share life together. We love discipleship, fellowship and social activities like mission trips, youth camps, and annual retreats. Choir, group games, shared meals, and hanging out are all important parts of our time together. Our Youth Family is made up of youth from grades 6 through 12.

RETREATS AND MISSIONS

Throughout the year, we retreat to spend time together. In the summer, we join other churches at Unidiversity Youth Camp and our high schoolers embark on either a domestic or international mission trip. During the school year, middle schoolers have a weekend-long missions blitz, welcome new sixth graders at the Merge Retreat, and get away for our Fall Retreat over Labor Day weekend.

STUDENT TRAVEL

Each of these retreats and trips create core memories for our whole Youth Family. In addition to having lots of fun, we also dig deeper into Bible study, discipleship, and missions – all essential topics for spiritual formation that are easier to explore when it's just us, on retreat. We love the time we get to spend together, on regularly scheduled Wednesdays and Sundays, but we find that the students who choose to travel with us grow closer to one another and closer to God.

HANG TIME AND FELLOWSHIP

We meet Wednesday afternoons and Sunday evening for Hang Time and “Fellowship Around the Table,” and enjoy games, family meals, and Bible study. On Sundays mornings, we meet for grade-specific Sunday School taught by parent volunteers.

Age-Based Ministries *cont.*

THE BRIDGE: COMMUNITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS



The Bridge is a small group for college students, grad students, and young adults living in or around Greenville. The group meets a few times a month to share meals, explore Greenville, and build a community together.

FBC COLLEGE FAMILY



We love to connect with our college students anytime they are in the area, but especially during winter and summer breaks. College students are invited to return for trips and retreats with our youth, and many serve as junior counselors and mentors for camps and mission trips. The Youth Mentoring Team is another opportunity for college students to serve. Students who have completed their first year of college are able to apply for this summer-long internship.

Age-Based Ministries *cont.*

ADULT MINISTRY



Adults in our congregation may choose from several different classes during the Sunday School hour. Currently, there are eleven different class offerings. Classes are led by lay teachers and leaders. The classes are diverse in their approach to teaching and in the curricula they choose. Each class attempts to meet the individual and corporate needs of its members through study and fellowship. Many classes engage in mission projects and are active in ministry outside the

class time. Our overall goal is to provide an environment of lifelong learning that enables adults to mature in faith, deepen relationships, and learn to invest their God-given gifts in ministry. Each summer and each Advent season, the Spiritual Formation Committee sponsors a combined Sunday School series of lessons for classes to come together and learn together. The topics and speakers vary from year to year but are published ahead of time. Recent topics include presentations from area nonprofits, a series on women in church history, and highlights of ministry areas within FBG.

THE LGBTQ FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY GROUP



This community group consisting of LGBTQ people and their allies offers a time of fellowship, support and story sharing to celebrate every person as a beloved child of God.

SENIOR ADULTS



The Senior Adults and Lunch and More committees assume a major responsibility for planning and coordinating the ministry and fellowship of a very active senior adult group. The senior adults in our congregation are offered a variety of classes, including classes for men only, women only, and couples. There are classes for men only, women only and couples. Each first Friday of the month the committee hosts luncheons with various entertainment and educational opportunities. During the fall, FBG hosts a special senior adult emphasis weekend

designed to honor and recognize our senior adults. Day trips and fellowship lunches are planned multiple times each year. The Roadrunners and the Holy Rollers enjoy traveling together to domestic and international sites.

Music Ministry

Gifted musicians work with children's choirs for those three years old through elementary school. Many students in our youth group not only sing in the choir but play a variety of instruments. We are fortunate to maintain a strong relationship with Furman University. Furman students sing in the Sanctuary Choir and have

additional leadership opportunities through the Herring church music internship and Herring choral scholar program. The Sanctuary Choir is the primary choir for our worship services and usually prepares from four to six music services each year.



Music at First Baptist Greenville is a thriving ministry with a high level of talent.

The Sanctuary Choir is an energetic, dedicated group of people who sing everything from Handel and Mendelssohn to Latin American sambas and jazz.

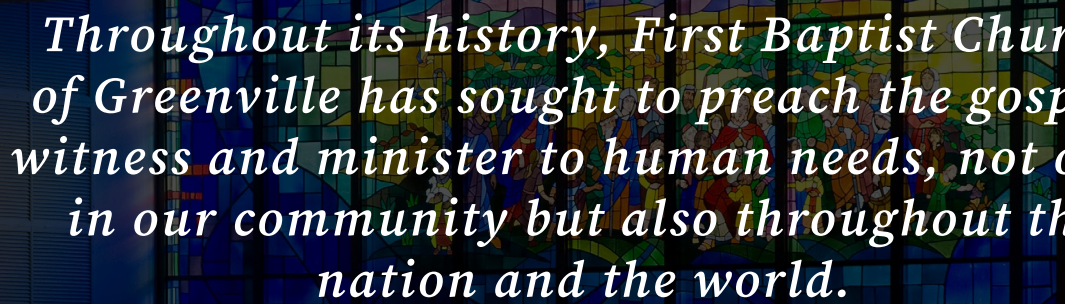
The Sanctuary Choir has had the honor of performing for national and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association. They have sung for Furman Church Music Conferences with guest conductors Mack Wilberg, Andre Thomas and John Ferguson. In 2016, they hosted a residence with composer Morten Lauridsen and had the opportunity to work with him on his *Lux Aeterna* with chamber orchestra.

They have also traveled to sing in the Riverside Church in New York City, Duke Chapel in Durham, NC, and to the National

Cathedral in Washington, D.C. They have sung major choral and orchestral works including: Handel's *Messiah*, Faure *Requiem*, Brahms *Requiem*, Rutter *Gloria* and *Magnificat*, Pinkham *Christmas Cantata*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

The six children's choirs range in age from three years old to fifth grade. They meet on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. *Vocare* is the vocal ensemble of youth in grades 6-12. They rehearse on Sunday afternoons before Youth Family activities begin.

The Bell Tower Ringers ensemble handbell choir was born in the spring of 2016 and consists of 13-14 ringers, and they provide music for worship services throughout the year.



Throughout its history, First Baptist Church of Greenville has sought to preach the gospel, witness and minister to human needs, not only in our community but also throughout the nation and the world.

FAITH AND TITHE FUND

The Foundation of First Baptist Greenville is part of that work. It was created in 2004 when the Faith Fund, established in 1992, was merged with three other endowment funds. The Foundation added funding stability to, but was separate from, the church's budget. It provides a vehicle that allows individuals to supplement their annual giving with endowment gifts to fund the church's work in general or areas of special interest. In 2019 the Foundation added a new fund called the Tithe Fund that allows endowed gifts to be directed toward the annual operating budget if a donor so desires.

FUND MANAGEMENT AND TRUSTEES

The Foundation's total asset value as of December 31, 2022, was \$4.7 million. The funds are professionally managed by an outside management company and carefully invested in stocks, bonds, and other investments. It is overseen by nine trustees elected by the congregation, each serving a three-year term, limited to two consecutive terms.

The trustees have established a policy that annually distributes a percentage of the endowment to the church for its work without invading the principal. The Foundation has distributed more than \$2.7 million to the church since its beginning.



FBG Campus

The corner of Cleveland Street and Faris Road in Greenville, SC has been home to First Baptist Greenville since 1974. The church occupies approximately 240,000 square feet on a 24-acre debt-free campus and has undergone additions and renovations over the years. The most recent addition was a new Activities and Youth Ministry Center, which was completed and dedicated in the summer of 2009. The campus includes a 1400-

seat sanctuary, chapel, parlor, office and conference room space, classrooms for both Sunday School classes and our First Baptist Day School, fellowship hall, full-service industrial kitchen, and two gymnasiums which are often utilized by community groups as well as the youth group. Space in various areas of our facilities are offered to outside organizations for educational and other business purposes.



The Remembrance Garden and columbarium are located in view of the church where so much spiritual nurture has been invested. Through the vintage McBee Avenue church gates and into the garden, you will view the beautiful Good Samaritan statue, hear the laughter of children on nearby playgrounds, and experience the steeple bell melodies. The superb trees and landscapes provide a place of peaceful reflection. Whether the celebration of births, dedications,

baptisms, marriages, or a life coming to the end of an earthly journey, the First Baptist Church heritage of peace, hope, joy, and love is conveyed to those who enter the garden gates.

First Baptist Greenville has two labyrinths, one in the Remembrance Garden and a canvas portable one. These can be used for prayer and reflection individually or for groups.



The Activities & Youth Ministry Center (AYMC) serves as an inexpensive community center that allows the congregation of First Baptist Greenville and the Greenville community to come together for exercise, fellowship, and a place to serve. Open seven days a week, the AYM offers a

wide range of activities and amenities in which ALL are welcome to participate. From pilates to limited mobility classes, we extend our services with certified trainers and instructors to provide quality fitness training and nutrition advisement - in house and virtually.

Acknowledgment

The Senior Minister Search Committee is grateful for the guidance, wisdom, and assistance of our consultant, Dr. David Hull of the Center for Healthy Churches.

He has led the committee and our church through a series of congregational conversations of our past, present, and future. These conversations were affirming of who we are as a church and the work we hope to do in the community around us in the years ahead. David has been instrumental in helping us manage this important work of the church. He has allowed us space to fully discuss and discern and has provided us thoughtful recommendations. His knowledge of the issues impacting church life have been helpful to the committee and our congregation. Our time with David has been a gift, and we are grateful!

