

## WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST

Wednesday, August 16

Plan now to join us for a FREE dinner when *Wednesdays@First* activities resume. (Please make a reservation: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>.)

There are activities for all ages. Come to find out where you *belong!*

## WORSHIP



**Sing in the Choir! Sunday Worship Service— August 20, 10:30am**  
(Sanctuary)

On Sunday, August 20, all are invited to sing in the choir—no audition necessary! Gather in the Sanctuary choir

loft 10:00am for a warmup rehearsal and sing for the 10:30am service—no choir robes. The choir will sing Z. Randall Stroope’s “A Shaker Celebration” following the Erskine family dedication. They will sing Emma Lou Diemer’s arrangement of “How Firm a Foundation” before Interim Senior Minister Tony Hopkins brings his sermon “The God Who Hears” based upon Romans 5:6-10 and Genesis 21:8-10, 14-21. Following the benediction, the

choir will sing “Christ Beside Me” based upon the text of *St. Patrick’s Breastplate* set to a traditional Gaelic melody.



Pews in front of the baptistry will be reserved for our Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. When available, an American Sign Language interpreter will be at the base of the baptistry.

The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, August 20, are given in loving memory of Catherine Ann Jeter by her family.

If you would like to provide flowers for one of our future worship services, contact Kimberly Coates at [kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or 864-233-2527 ext 128.

## Update from the Senior Minister Search Committee

### PROGRESS REPORT

As we reach the first anniversary of the beginning of our senior minister search, we are pleased to report that the process is going very well. Since we published our congregational profile and senior minister profile in April, we have continued to meet weekly in service to First Baptist Greenville and the eventual calling of an outstanding, spirit-filled senior minister.

This process has had four distinct phases:

*Phase 1*—Preparation  
*Phase 2*—Self Study

*Phase 3*—Profile Writing  
*Phase 4*—Active Search

The feedback that you provided to us in the congregational conversations of Phase 2 was instrumental not only in the development of the profiles in Phase 3—which you can still read on the SMRC web page (or from this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/fbg-profile>)—but in countless conversations and discussions since then.

Your participation has been a significant and substantive blessing.

As a reminder, we are now in the active search phase. Some wonderful candidates have been identified, and it has been a joy to prayerfully consider the many possible avenues that lie before us as a congregation. We are confident that our church family will continue to be lifted up by excellent hands.

From the start, the Holy Spirit has been guiding this process. Your prayers, insights and constant support have been invaluable. As we proceed toward the conclusion of the search, we humbly ask that you continue to hold the Church and all of the candidates up in prayer, that holy discernment will guide the decisions to come. We will keep you posted!

—Senior Minister Search Committee

August 16

*Wednesdays@First* Activities Kickoff  
with FREE supper

August 19

4:00-8:00pm  
Caregiver Respite Dinner

August 20

Sing in the Choir! Worship Service  
Gather in Choir Loft at 10:00am

## You *Belong* in Our Music Ministry

This year, we are inviting every person and family to find a sense of community in our Music Ministry when our choirs resume in mid-August. Our Sanctuary Choir needs more singers to join with us in singing in our worship services and in special seasons of the year like Advent, Christmas and Easter. There are no auditions; you don't need to be a professional soloist or have a degree in music. Singing in the choir here is really fun and a great way to be part of a group actively leading in our worship. The people are terrific, and we need your voice!

Our August 20 Sunday morning service is "Sing in the Choir Day!" Everyone is invited to sing in the choir loft (no choir robes) that morning. Come for a warmup rehearsal at 10:00am.

We are also offering a four-week class on Wednesday nights: First Baptist Sings...and YOU can too! This class will meet in the Choir Room August 23-September 13.

Our Children's Choirs resume on Wednesday evening, August 16, led by highly gifted leaders.

Our Vocare youth ensemble resumes on Sunday afternoon, August 20, to work on some beautiful music for this fall.

Our Bell Tower Ringers is another terrific ensemble in our Music Ministry here that will play in worship services and offer a concert on December 3.

I hope that you will seriously consider getting involved in our music ministry this year.

—Vivian

## *Belonging* in Our Youth Family

Both our identity and our sense of purpose are formed by the place(s) where we find belonging. As we find belonging in the church, we learn that we belong to God, which gives us our true identity: we are children of God, siblings to Christ and to one another. We want our youth and their parents to find a sense of belonging in our Youth Family, but how?

Our Youth Family regularly gathers for *Wednesdays@First*, Sunday Night Live, and Sunday School. We also have a variety of retreats, outings and events throughout the year! While our retreats and trips create core memories for our whole Youth Family, during the week we have time set apart from school and work to dig deeper into Bible study, discipleship and missions on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Our youth parents are key in helping us provide a place where

all youth find their sense of belonging. Our youth parents are needed to teach Sunday school, volunteer on our fellowship meal teams, chaperone trips, provide adult coverage during the week, and so many other ways! Find where you belong.

—Mary Carol

### ALL YOUTH FALL RETREAT— SEPTEMBER 2-4

Rockmont is a special time in the life of our Youth Family, when we catch our breath after a very busy start of school and fall schedules. Here, we will introduce our yearly theme, enjoy tons of fun activities, and grow stronger as a Youth Family. It is an important part of every year and of every youth's journey with our community, so please make plans for your youth to attend this weekend! Register now!

### WEEKLY FALL SCHEDULE— WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS

*Wednesdays@First* for Youth (AYMC)

*A great time for students to re-charge in the middle of the week.*

Hang Time, 3-5pm

Fellowship Around the Table,  
4:45-6pm

Youth Bible Study, 6-7pm

Youth Sunday School,  
9:15-10:15am (AYMC)

*Grade-specific spiritual formation for middle and high schoolers.*

Sunday Night Live, 5:00-7:00pm—  
Bible Study & Fellowship Meal  
(AYMC)

*The heart of our Youth Family Week, with fellowship, fun, and time to learn together.*

# Seniors in Missions—Again

Before his retirement, Frank Smith received a call from Oscar Bennett, who works for Annie's House, that his grandmother needed a ramp to exit her house. Frank called on Jim Cauble to design the ramp and to coordinate the overall building. Wofford Green was asked to coordinate the scheduling of a group of First Baptist Greenville volunteers. Funding for the project came from the Annual Neighborhood Partnership Yard Sale. Wofford reached out to Bruce Brown, Mike Kellett, Pat Counts, Ken Kraft and me for assistance. They began at 9:00am on Friday,

June 16. Jim had coordinated the ordering and delivery of all materials and supervised the overall construction. Shortly after noon, the heat and age had worn out the crew for the day (average age of the group was 77). Wofford suggested a start time of 7:00am for Saturday, and the ramp was finished by 3:00pm. Oscar's grandmother tried it out that afternoon.

Other seniors are always welcome to join the group. A drill and the ability to use it are the basic qualifications.

—Tom Kirby



# Faith and Justice

If Greenville is the field where God is calling us to harvest the fruits of compassion and justice on behalf of the vulnerable among us, then *JustFaith* Ministries (<https://justfaith.org/>) is one of the tools which helps till the soil for the growth to happen. Greenville's first *JustFaith* groups started 20 years ago at St. Anthony's Catholic Church and has spread to congregations across the county, including First Baptist, holding our first study group over ten years ago. We continue to offer *JustFaith* groups throughout the year, and a new one will begin Sunday, August 27. To celebrate the impact that *JustFaith* has had on our church's justice presence and on the Greenville community in general, you are invited to our Fellowship Hall on September 12 to break bread with members of our sister churches in the area and talk about justice ministry.

We will gather from 6:00-8:00pm for dinner and discussion about the justice work in which faithful people are currently engaged and how we might grow our efforts to continue to build the Beloved Community in Greenville. Susie Tierney, the Executive Director of *JustFaith* Ministries, and I will facilitate the evening's discussion. This will be a time for sharing

your work with others as well as an opportunity to learn from others.

The event is free, but we ask that people register so we know how many dinners to prepare. Please invite a friend or two to attend with you and be sure to register. It will be exciting and inspiring to be with other faithful people who are passionate about justice and equity in our community.

We have much work to do in our community and we have so much to learn from one another.

—Matt

**What:** Dinner & Workshop  
"Grow Your Justice Ministry"

**When:** September 12, 6:00-8:00pm

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Cost:** Free, but please register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/growing-your-justice-ministry-tickets-673767585987?aff=oddtcreator>

## Upcoming Events

**WATCH** indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 8/16 *Wednesdays@First* Activities Resume
- 8/19 4:00-8:00pm Caregiver Respite Dinner (AYMC)
- 8/20 **WATCH** 10:30am Sing in the Choir! Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins  
11:30am-7:00pm Youth Merge Retreat  
4:00-5:00pm Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live (AYMC)
- 8/23 *Wednesdays@First* Activities  
MidWeek Classic: Surprised by Belonging—Tony Hopkins (Fellowship Hall)  
Everything You Wish You Knew about Taking Care of Your Car—Todd Ramsey (Bus Parking Lot—off Faris)  
First Baptist Sings...and YOU Can, Too!—Vivian Hamilton (Choir Room)
- 8/26 9:00am-4:00pm Pride Link Youth Summit (Fellowship Hall, Media Center, AYMC)
- 8/27 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins, including Communion  
4:00-5:00pm Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)

### LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 8/12

\$1,769,231

Receipts as of 8/9

\$1,409,971

### Pastoral Care Emergencies

Please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number "2" for "Pastoral Care Emergencies." One of our staff ministers will return your call.

Or, email [pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com)

### Wednesdays@First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

- 3:00-6:00pm Youth Hang Time (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 5:00-6:00pm Supper Serving Lines Open (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30-7:00pm Children's Hang Time, Children's Choirs & *Children@First* (B400 hall)
- 6:00-7:00pm Youth Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 6:00-7:00pm Adults@First (Music & Prayer Time, MidWeek Classic & Other Adult Education)
- 7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live (AYMC)
- 5:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group (Parlor)
- 8/30 *Wednesdays@First* Activities (See 8/23 for options for Adults)
- 9/2-4 Youth Fall Retreat at Rockmont
- 9/3 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
- 9/4 AYMC and Church Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day
- 9/6 *Wednesdays@First* Activities (See 8/23 for options for Adults)
- 9/8 4:00-6:30pm Senior Adult Picnic
- 9/10 **WATCH** 10:30am Senior Adult Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins  
4:00-5:00pm Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live (AYMC)
- 9/13 *Wednesdays@First* Activities (See 8/23 for options for Adults)
- 9/17 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Guest Proclaimer Traci Smith  
11:30am Faith at Home Fair with Traci Smith (Fellowship Hall)  
4:00-5:00pm Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live (AYMC)
- 9/20 *Wednesdays@First* Activities

## Congratulations

...to Craig and Jenny Hewitt on the birth of a son, Thomas Griggs Hewitt, on June 25, 2023. Griggs' older sisters are Miller and Cora. In our church, his grandparents are Cindy and James Clanton, and his great-grandmother is Doris Clanton.



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## Wednesday Night Supper

Plan now to join us for a FREE dinner on August 16 when *Wednesdays@First* activities resume. Please make your reservations by noon on Monday! Menus and reservation information are available at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

### August 16

**Adult:** Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Mac n Cheese, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and Dessert

**Child:** Hot Dogs, French Fries, Fruit, Cookie

### August 23

**Adult:** Salad, Hawaiian Chicken, Coconut Rice, Roasted Veggies, Dinner Roll and Dessert

**Child:** Chicken Strips, Tater Tots, Fruit, Cookie