

## WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Wednesday, October 18

Plan now to join your church family for *Wednesdays@First* activities. Round 2 continues this week:

MidWeek Classic—Belonging to God’s Church: Insiders and Outsiders in American Church History led by Elizabeth Jemison, Associate Professor of Religion at Clemson University (Fellowship Hall)

Running with Doug facilitated by Doug Stout (Meet at AYMC Reception Desk)

Please make a reservation for dinner by noon on Monday: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>.

There are activities for all ages: nursery through adult. Come to find out where you belong!

## WORSHIP

Worship Service—October 22, 10:30am (Sanctuary)



On October 22, Interim Senior Minister Tony Hopkins will serve as proclaimer with sermon “The God Who Works for Good” based upon Romans 8:22-28 and Genesis 37:25-28 and 50:15-20. The Sanctuary Choir will sing Mack Wilberg’s arrangement of “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” For more information on the music in some of our services, visit the Organist’s Blog at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/category/organists-blog/>



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 are given by Mareon Stall and her family with gratitude and thanksgiving to God for the blessings given to their family, church and community through the lives of Wade Bryant and Newt Stall. 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.

## Church Picnic 2023

The Church Picnic is back this fall in a NEW location! It will be held at Grove Station Farms, owned by The Kennedy/Flaspoebler Family, on October 22 from 4:00-7:00pm. Even if you haven’t registered, come anyway! Tickets are \$12 per adult and \$5 per child, with a \$50 family maximum. Visitors are welcome and eat for free. Bring your lawn chairs and games and join the fun for an afternoon of live music, food, yard games, inflatables, hayrides and all-around good vibes!



**Sunday, October 22 from 4:00-7:00pm**

Grove Station Farms

421 Piedmont Highway, Piedmont, SC 29673

October 22  
4-7pm  
Church Picnic  
Grove Station Farms

October 28  
10am-12Noon  
SEE: Walking the Way—  
Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago  
Fellowship Hall

November 5  
10:30am  
All Saints Worship Service

# Meet CBF Field Personnel

## LULA WHILDEN WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's (CBF) mission is to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission. The field personnel are called to live and work alongside the neglected, forgotten and marginalized peoples of the world, sharing the love of Christ and helping to meet their physical and spiritual needs.

FBG has ties to four groups of field personnel who are living out this mission. This week, please take some time to get to know their stories and pray for them and those they serve. Consider making a gift to the Lula Whilden World Missions Offering, which supports these field personnel through our support for CBF.



Carson and Laura Foushee serve in partnership with Kanazawa Baptist Church in Kanazawa, Japan, to help meet the various needs of the internationals living in the area. They hope to continue to learn and teach as they journey alongside these sisters and brothers, sharing the love of Jesus with their neighbors.



Missy Ward-Angalla and her husband, Francis, are the co-directors of Amani Sasa Ministries in Kampala, Uganda.

Amani Sasa serves more than 2,000 refugees each year by providing care and support through emergency food, medical care, housing and counseling.



Jonathan Bailey serves in Bali, Indonesia, by equipping and empowering artists to become the hands and feet of Jesus by attending to their spiritual and professional needs.



Tina Boyles Bailey lives in Graz, Austria, where she serves as Minister to the Arts Community. Through her work there she assists the immigrant and refugee communities in Europe by mentoring artists and providing trauma-informed care to those communities.

— Nancy Schleppehorst,  
Missions & Affiliations Committee

## Crazy 8s Circle

We have missed getting together with our Crazy 8s group! You're invited to a kick-off gathering on Tuesday, October 24, at 7:00pm. We'll enjoy fellowship and learn about supporting missions in our church and community. Supper will be provided. Please contact us for location details and to RSVP for dinner: Dewanda Martin (864-304-5151) [dewandamartin@gmail.com](mailto:dewandamartin@gmail.com) or Marie Hall (864-270-0226) [hallmc7591@gmail.com](mailto:hallmc7591@gmail.com).

## Decorating for Advent and Christmas at FBG

The Flower Guild needs people to join us to decorate the church for the 2023 Advent Christmas season and someone to train alongside me to take over leadership for the 2024 Advent Season. We would also appreciate some more help in decorating the Chrismon Tree.

The Christmas decorating is done over several days the week before the First Sunday of Advent. The chairperson works closely with Kimberly Coates to develop the timeline for decorating, ordering

wreaths from Expressions and communicating with the group of volunteers that work to hang garlands in the Narthex and Sanctuary and on the two entrance signs.

During the worship service on the First Sunday of Advent, the chairperson coordinates the children's part of the "hanging of the green" along with several volunteers. The decorations are taken down after the New Year.

This leadership opportunity has given me great joy for 8 years. However, it is time for me to turn over the leadership after this Advent season. I will be happy to remain as a volunteer.

If you are interested in this opportunity to serve our church, please contact Kimberly Coates at FBG or Regenia McClain, 292-6502, or email: [rmcclain074@gmail.com](mailto:rmcclain074@gmail.com)

— Chairperson: Regenia McClain

# What's Next (for You and for FBG)?

What's next? It's a question that every follower of Jesus should ask. What's the next growth opportunity that God wants me to seize? Where is my next opportunity to use my gifts to help my church? Where is the next place I can serve others in a way that helps God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven?

It's also a question for every church that is serious about fulfilling its mission from God. Every faith community, collectively, has a next opportunity, a next challenge, a next chapter. How exciting for FBG to know that its next chapter involves a remarkably gifted new Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre, who will begin her ministry here in early January. When the search committee began its work, knowing who was part of the committee, I was very confident that they would discern the person God had for FBG. Having spent some time with Carol, I am convinced that they have done just that. I'm so excited for what she and you are going to do together!

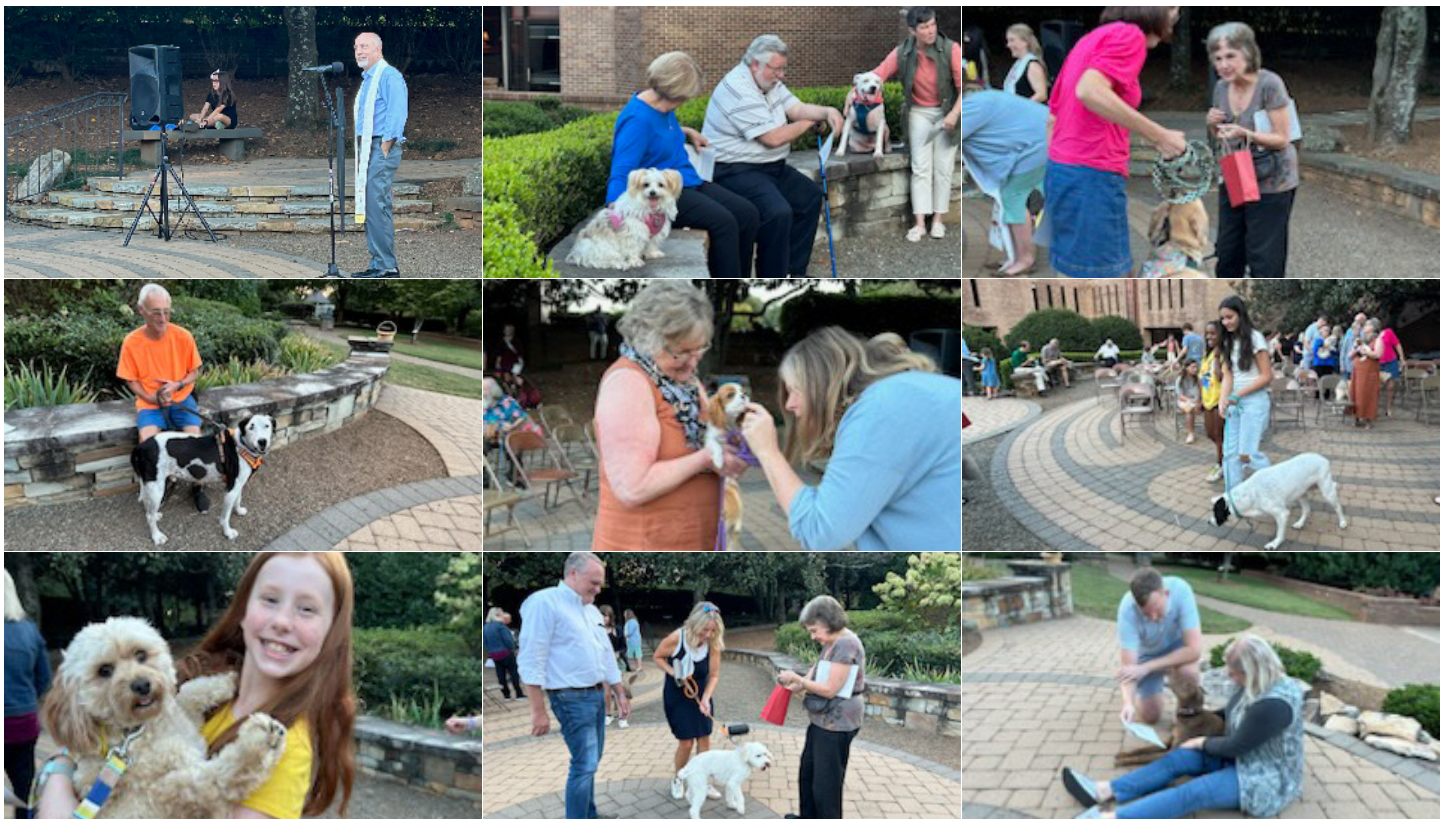
Lately my thoughts and prayers have focused on the convergence of these two threads, your individual discipleship—what's next for you—and the church's collective discipleship—what's next for FBG as it continues to fulfill its mission alongside a new Senior Minister. In light of this convergence, I've planned a four-part sermon series which I hope—and believe—will have meaning on both levels. Each sermon will explore the question contained in the sermon title:

- Do We Know Who We Are?
- Do We Know How to Trust?
- Do We Know How to Be Faithful?
- Do We Know How to Be Church?

It is my prayer that exploring these questions will have meaning for your individual discipleship; and that at the same time, it will help FBG prepare for Carol's arrival, continuing and building on the momentum we have felt as we've begun to envision her leadership at FBG. In other words, I pray that these times of worship will help you get ready for what's next!

Grace and Peace,  
Tony

Please enjoy these pictures from the Blessing of the Pets! A good time was had by all!



## Upcoming Events

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

- 10/18 6:30am** Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First* Activities  
 MidWeek Classic: Belonging to God's Church: Insiders and Outsiders in American Church History with Elizabeth Jemison (Fellowship Hall)  
 Running with Doug Stout (AYMC Reception Desk)
- 10/22 WATCH 10:30am** Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins  
**11:30am-12:30pm** Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
**4:00-7:00pm** Church Picnic (Grove Station Farms)
- 10/25 6:30am** Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First* Activities  
 See 10/18 for options for Adults
- 10/26 8:00am** Roadrunners to Ben Long Frescoes and Lunch at Dan'l Boone Inn
- 10/28 10:00am-12:00pm** Spiritual Enrichment Event: Walking the Way with Baxter Wynn—Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago (Fellowship Hall)
- 10/29 WATCH 10:30am** Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins, including Family Dedication  
**11:30am** Lunch for Visitors and New Members (Fellowship Hall)  
**4:00pm** Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
**5:00-7:00pm** Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 11/1 6:30am** Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First* Activities  
 Celebration Wednesday
- 11/2 6:00-8:00pm** Parent (Preschool, Children, Youth) Dinner Party (Fellowship Hall)
- 11/3 10:30am** Senior Adult Lunch and More (Fellowship Hall)
- 11/5 WATCH 10:30am** All Saints Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Kyle Matthews  
**11:30am** Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
**5:00-7:00pm** Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)

## 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)

- 11/8 6:30am** Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First* Activities  
 Round 3 Courses Begin
- 11/10 5:00-7:00pm** Children's Ministry Monthly Fellowship Event: Pizza and Movie Night (AYMC)
- 11/12 WATCH 10:30am** Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins, including Family Dedication  
**4:00pm** Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
**5:00-7:00pm** Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)

## Wednesday Night Supper



Please make reservations by noon on Monday at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

[com/wednesdays-at-first/](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/)

### October 18

**Adult:** Salad, Pasta Bar with 2 Pastas & 2 Sauces, Green Beans, Dinner Roll and Dessert

**Child:** Pizza Bread, Fruit, Cookie

### October 25

**Adult:** Salad, Lemon Pepper Chicken, Rice, Stir-fry Veggies, Dinner Roll and Dessert

**Child:** Fish Sticks, Mac & Cheese, Fruit, Cookie

## Sympathy

...to former Interim Music Minister Bing Vick in the death of his wife.

## Have Yard Sale Items?

Drop off any items for the Neighborhood Partnership Yard Sale on any Thursday, 10am-Noon. Contact Baxter Wynn for more info.

Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495  
 (864) 233-2527 [www.firstbaptistgreenville.com](http://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. LXIV October 16, 2023 No. 41

## LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 10/14  
 \$2,266,827

Receipts as of 10/10  
 \$1,822,263

**Lula Whilden**  
**World Missions Offering**

Goal: \$100,000  
 Receipts as of 10/10  
 \$28,803

## 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 you may email [pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com)