

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Wednesdays@First will resume in August.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 14

10:30am

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
(Sanctuary)

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon: For Everything a Season

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-17

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir
Sara Kathryn Coates, Soloist



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

On July 7, the flowers in the Sanctuary were given in memory of Dan Batson—husband, father and grandfather—by Gerry Batson. On July 14, the flowers in the Sanctuary are given by the Music Ministry in honor of Dr. Vivian Hamilton, Minister of Music and Worship, in thanksgiving for her sixteen years of service to our congregation. Since 2008, she has encouraged and inspired our congregation and community by sharing her many gifts, musical and otherwise.

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



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

A couple of weeks ago, I preached about the personification of wisdom in Proverbs, where wisdom is depicted as a woman calling out to us. She seeks to guard us against making poor or harmful choices—choices that lead to death—not physical death, but a state of being that is opposed to the full and abundant life God desires for each of us. Wisdom calls out and encourages us to make decisions and spend our time in ways that lead to life.

One of the key ways you can nurture and develop wisdom is to establish a regular practice of introspection, getting quiet and attuning to the voice of wisdom. Whether running, knitting or sitting on the back porch, find whatever helps you clear your mind and get quiet. In those moments of stillness, remember that wisdom resides within you. This voice of wisdom is not just your intuition but the wisdom of God, which is present in every follower of Christ. Once you get quiet, one spiritual practice you can turn to in order to align with this inner wisdom is The Daily Examen. This

practice involves reflecting on your day, week or even year and discerning when you were moving towards Consolation (life) or towards Desolation (death). Consolation, or life, is a state where you are moving closer to God's presence and activity in the world, growing in love, mercy, compassion and other spiritual gifts. This state of consolation leads to a more Christ-centered and abundant life. On the other hand, desolation is a state where you are moving away from God's active presence. As Vinita Hampton Wright aptly puts it, you know you are "moving in this way when you sense the growth of resentment, ingratitude, selfishness, doubt, fear and so on." When your perspective becomes increasingly self-centered and miserable, it's often an indication that you are making choices that are leading you toward a state of death, feeling dead inside.

To practice The Daily Examen, find a quiet moment and ask yourself, "What was the most life-giving part of my day, week, or year? What brought more joy, hope, peace, and goodness? What was the most life-thwarting part? What felt like death?"

continued on page 4

Engaged Aging Plans



I am excited to join the staff here at First Baptist Greenville. This church has such an amazing team and a rich history of which I am now proud to be a part. Stepping into the role of the Minister of Engaged Aging has such a promising future.

We first learned the term Engaged Aging from the innovative work of Clemson University through their recently established Institute for Engaged Aging, now in partnership with Prisma Health. According to their research, census estimates predict that the number of adults 65 and older is expected to double to almost 20% of the U.S. population by 2030, and in South Carolina, the percentage will be even greater at 22%. FBG has recognized this coming shift in demographics, and I am looking forward to how I can work with our teams and leaders to better engage this community and better equip them to continue to engage in the areas of life and faith that they love.

I see my initial work unfolding in a few ways. First, I want to devote time to developing relationships and learning people's stories. The body of Christ is fascinating because it is made up of fascinating people. Everyone brings something to the success and life of our body of faith, and I enjoy discovering how we connect and thrive in this space. This

step will be essential for caring for and ministering alongside so many in our congregation. Second, I wish to learn from those who are already leading and serving in this area to support and strengthen the existing ways we currently engage aging. I look forward to teaching in Sunday School classes, taking trips with our Road Runners and Holy Rollers, sharing meals at Lunch and More, and working with the variety of teams and councils that already shape the good work being done. Third, I hope to intentionally strengthen our intergenerational and multigenerational work within our faith family in partnership with our capable staff to deepen our bonds created around Christ's table. We are better and stronger together. Helping our children, youth and adults of all ages connect to one another is one of the greatest gifts of the Church and part of what we strive to offer at FBG. Finally, I want to look and listen for new ways we might engage deeper into this demographic, expanding our breadth and reach through serving, technology, activities, collaboration, formation and more. There is so much wisdom and life in this age span, and I hope to capitalize on ways to capture more of that and share it with our faith family and beyond. I welcome all ideas and dreams as we work together to lean into what God is doing in our midst.

—Michael McEntrye, Minister of Engaged Aging

Lovingkindness Seeks Volunteers

What does Lovingkindness look like in your family? Perhaps you practice respectful listening at home. Or maybe your family is involved with service projects in the community. The Spiritual Formation Committee is looking for a family with school-age children to help guide the combined adult Sunday School class on July 14. Guiding will involve reading a children's book that exhibits Lovingkindness with the class. The family will also share three examples or characteristics of what it means to practice Lovingkindness as a family. Children are invited to participate too! Please contact me at Intern@firstbaptistgreenville.com if you're interested in participating.

—Erica Jackson, Pastoral Intern

End-of-Life Planning Seminar

She came to see me for some peace of mind. She said that she lived alone and her adult children lived out of state. She wanted to be sure that when the time came, the ministers at her church knew and would convey to her family that all her final arrangements had been made, were pre-paid, and all her bank accounts, insurance and savings information, deeds and passwords were compiled in a notebook. "Please assure them that it's all been taken care of!" she said. Yes, ma'am.

Then one day she went out to get the mail and died suddenly in the driveway. I went to my notes: we had no next-of-kin information and had to wait for them to call us, if they would. When they did, I told them what she told me. They turned the house upside

down looking for that precious notebook. They never found it! They had a funeral and sold her house without the benefit of any of that information. She thought of everything except to tell them where it was!

The church offers many services and benefits that other organizations only offer for a price. One of those services is the regular reminder that a full, wholehearted life is one in which we help each other live—in faith—with the end in mind. To give substance to that goal, we are hosting an "End-of-Life Planning Seminar" on Friday, August 16. Attorney Duke McCall will walk us through the legal and financial issues for which we need to prepare and keep in mind. Rev. Joe Farry will be there to explain

how hospice care works. Janice Johnson will be on hand to answer questions about our Columbarium, and I will explain how funerals are usually handled and what you might do to prepare.

We'll put the coffee out in the Fellowship Hall at 9am, have a couple of sessions and be done well before noon. If you'll bring \$10, you can help us defray our expenses. But don't let that be an obstacle! Bring a friend or family member and come prepare the best gift you can give your family! **Just let us know you're coming by emailing Angie at angie.knight@firstbaptistgreenville.com or calling her at 864-233-2527, ext. 103. See you there!**

—Kyle Matthews, Minister of Pastoral Care

General Assembly Greetings

Greetings from the 2024 Cooperative Baptist General Assembly! Staff and church members gathered in Greensboro June 19-21 for fellowship, worship, learning, business and celebration. Days were filled with workshops on best practices in ministry, advocacy opportunities, attending to financial business of CBF, encouraging colleagues and worshipping alongside members of sister congregations. One of the highlights was celebrating Matt Rollins' receipt of the "Passion for Equality Award" from the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

Church members are heartily encouraged to attend the General Assembly! Funds are available to assist with travel and lodging. CBF also provides activities for children and youth during the week. Make plans to attend next summer!

—Camille Loomis Rehnborg, Minister of Spiritual Formation & Outreach



Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 7/8-12 Unidiversity Youth Camp (Maryville College)
- 7/9 5:30pm Pool Party for Children 1st-5th Grades (2023-2024 school year)
- 7/14 9:30am Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall): Summer of Lovingkindness
WATCH 10:30am Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
 2:00-4:00pm Retirement Reception in Honor of Vivian Hamilton
- 7/16-19 Camp Prism for Rising 4th-6th Grades
- 7/17 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek Missions & More for Youth (AYMC Terrace)
 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBD)
- 7/18 10:30am Roadrunners Depart FBG for Lunch at Brick Street Cafe
- 7/21 9:30am Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall): Summer of Lovingkindness
WATCH 10:30am Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Erica Jackson, Duke Ministerial Intern
- 7/28 9:30am Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall): Summer of Lovingkindness
WATCH 10:30am Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Furman Singers Alumni Choir
 5:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group (Parlor)


First Baptist Greenville
 847 Cleveland Street,
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
 (864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com

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Summer Choir

During the months of June, July and August, our Sanctuary Choir is on a summer choir schedule: Rehearsal on Sundays at 10:00am in the Choir Room; singing in our 10:30am worship service. If you are interested in singing, this summer is a great time to try out the choir!



<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/focus-on-missions-school-tools-3/>

Open Positions

Join our team at First Baptist Greenville. Visit <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/open-positions-at-fbg/> for information on open positions.

Yoga Classes

Join others on the lower level of the AYMC at 2pm on Tuesdays and/or 3:30pm on Thursdays for yoga. No equipment other than a willing spirit is required! For further information, email aymc@firstbaptistgreenville.com. If you aren't already a member of the AYMC, stop by the welcome desk to receive information and join in on the fun!

Sympathy

...to Al Mathiasen and family in the death of his mother.

...to Julie Wagoner and family in the death of her father.

Introducing



...Dana Dodson who joined FBG during worship on June 23. Dana's husband is Will Dodson, and she is employed with New

Horizon Family Health. Offer her a warm welcome!



Scan here to support the financial needs of First Baptist Greenville.

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Revenue Report

6/25/2024 YTD: \$1,248,518

6/30/2023 Actual: \$1,146,719

6/30/2024 Budget: \$1,467,500

For After Hours Pastoral Care Emergencies, please

call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, leave a message by pressing the number "2" for "Pastoral Care Emergencies" or email pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com. One of our staff ministers will respond to your message.

From the Senior Minister, *continued from p. 1*

These questions can help you get in touch with wisdom, bring clarity, and help you discern your movement toward or away from God's abundant life. The Daily Examen is a great spiritual tool that can help you make choices that lead to a more abundant life.

—Carol