

January 6, 2025

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

January 8

Breathe Week—No activities other than Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Activities Return on January 15

Make reservations at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

WORSHIP

January 12

10:30am

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Communion

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Scripture: Luke 3:1-22

Sermon: Redefining Reality: A Kin-dom Perspective—Marked by Peace: The Sign of the Dove

Annual Church Yard Sale

To donate items to the Annual Church Yard Sale, contact Matt Rollins at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

First Baptist Greenville,

Last summer, a much-needed renovation of our organ was scheduled but postponed due to delays in receiving the necessary parts. We are excited to announce that the renovation will begin on January 6!

2024 marked the 40th anniversary of the installation of our Casavant Pipe Organ in the Sanctuary. One of the largest in the state, this instrument is a true treasure for both our church and the larger community. Over the past four decades, we have maintained and tuned the organ regularly, but no significant upgrades have been made.

The upcoming work involves an essential renovation of the organ console, including new keyboards, pistons and relays, as well as an upgrade to the electrical wiring and memory components. These improvements will bring the wiring up to code and enhance the organ's digital and memory capabilities.

We are grateful to Vivian Hamilton, who retired last summer as our Minister of Music & Worship, for her

dedication to making this project a reality and to Baxter Wynn for his invaluable assistance. Additionally, we are incredibly thankful for the extraordinary generosity of several individuals whose gifts have made this important work possible. Becky and Bobby Hartness, Sarah Herring, Oz Rogers, Earle Furman Jr., Dr. John A. Taylor, and the estate of Margaret Ulmer have all contributed to this renovation. Without their support and vision, this important work would not be possible.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Charles Tompkins, our Organist, for his leadership in overseeing this renovation. The work will be completed on-site by Parkey Organ Builders, based in Braselton, Georgia. During this time, the organ will be unavailable for worship services. The work is expected to be completed by the end of February. However, we are fortunate to have our Steinway concert grand piano, our wonderful Sanctuary Choir, the Bell Tower Ringers, and other instruments to support our Music Ministry during this period.

Thank you for your continued support of our Music Ministry. We look forward to celebrating the completion of this renovation soon.

—Carol

January 15
Wednesdays@First Activities Return

March 7-9, 2025
Churchwide Retreat
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/church-retreat-2024-creation-calls-and-i-must-go/>

MinisTREE Ministry 2024

“Thank You SOOOOOOO Much!!!!”

Being the minister who oversees our relief ministry, I am often the one who receives the messages of appreciation and thank you, like the one above from a mom whose family was a recipient of some of our MinisTREE gifts. I make sure they know it is the generosity of our church members who make programs like this possible, and I assure them that I will pass along their gratitude. I see it as a privilege to be the one who is able to see the looks on faces and hear the relief in their voices when we are able to help. I also want to be sure to tell a little of the story after your generous gifts and donations reach the church.

Relief ministry is important to communities and churches, not

only because it is a ready-made way to put our compassion to work, but because it is a practical way to alleviate some of the expenses of holidays, even if only temporarily, while a family continues to work towards financial stability.

These gifts keep the lights on, keep the water running, help bridge the gap for rent occasionally, and in this case, help with gifts for Christmas.

On behalf of the Missions & Affiliations Committee and Susan D’Amato and Gayle Brown, who coordinated this year’s MinisTREE program, please know that your generosity touched many families this year, including twelve through MinisTREE. In addition, I want to share with you some more of those thank you messages from the families we worked with this year:



“Thank u so much!! God bless you!!”

“Please tell your church I said thank you for all of this.”

“This means so much to us.”

“Thanks so much. God bless you all. And Merry Christmas!”

“...such a blessing to me and my children.”

Sincerely, and with much appreciation,

Matt Rollins,
Minister of Community Engagement

FBG to Host “Fueling Change in Our Community”

January 21, 6:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall

From their website, www.remembranceprojectgvlsc.org: The Community Remembrance Project of Greenville County, SC, was formed in the spring of 2019 in collaboration with the Equal Justice Initiative’s (EJI) work to bring the discussion of race and racial injustice in America into the forefront of our society. EJI launched the Community Remembrance Project to help communities around the country remember and address the legacy of slavery, lynching and racial segregation that still impacts communities to this day. EJI has documented 4 victims of racial terror lynching in Greenville County, SC:

- Robert Williams—November 4, 1881
- Ira Johnson—July 15, 1895
- Tom Keith—August 16, 1899
- George Green—November 16, 1933

The CRP focuses on ways to engage in consistent and substantive community building through addressing racially sensitive issues with the goal of education and empowerment. They want to not only

preserve truthful historical narratives but emphasize the resilience, strength and leadership of the Black community and other marginalized people despite the existing legacy. The dominant theme of future work is truth and reconciliation, continuing to engage the community through educational events that seek to heal relations between opposing sides by uncovering all pertinent facts, distinguishing truth from lies, and allowing for acknowledgement, appropriate public mourning, forgiveness and healing. Creatively engaging the community with the Soil Collection exhibit at the Upcountry History Museum and historical markers will keep the names of our victims relevant in the minds of our community.

We are honored to host CRP’s first event of 2025 in our Fellowship Hall as they continue their campaign of truth-telling and light-shining. I invite you to learn more about Greenville’s Community Remembrance Project and how First Baptist can continue to support their mission.

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement

Wednesdays@First Activities Resume January 15

Gather around the table 5:00-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for a meal and prayer time. Sign up for meals from Uptown Catering at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>. Meals are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, and free for visitors. Adults are invited to explore three new MidWeek courses January 15 through February 5. Each group meets 6:00-7:00pm.

MidWeek Classic: Exploring Heaven, Pondering Hell

Led by Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre, Fellowship Hall

As a child, my ideas about heaven were shaped by hymns like “I’ll Fly Away” and “I’ve Got a Mansion,” while my understanding of hell was influenced by frightening sermons about souls facing eternal punishment. In this series, we will explore the historical development of these concepts and delve into what Scripture reveals (or doesn’t reveal) about the afterlife. Since none of us have experienced the afterlife, and we can’t know for sure, we will approach the subject with humility and curiosity.

Journaling

Led by Ken Kraft, Parlor

If you’ve ever—or never—kept a journal, this class is for you! We’ll explore various forms of self-expression and play with different styles of writing. Come share in fun and fellowship as we get to know ourselves better. All materials provided! Just bring an open mind and a spirit of adventure. Class is limited to 30 participants.

Intro to Weightlifting

Led by Dante Gliatta, AYMC Weight Room

Start the new year with a commitment to health! In this

introductory class to weightlifting, participants will learn about progression functional movement with free weights and techniques on all strength machines. This group is for all ages and levels of experience and will meet in the Weight Room of the AYMC (across from the Walking Track).

Programs for children and youth also resume on January 15. Please see those ministry areas for details.

—Camille Loomis Rehnborg,
Minister of Spiritual Formation &
Outreach

Get Active at the AYMC: Join a Group Exercise Class!

The AYMC offers a variety of group exercise classes designed to meet the needs of all fitness levels and age groups. Whether you’re looking to improve your flexibility, build strength, or enjoy a friendly game, we’ve got something for you!

Pickleball (Practice Gym)

Join us on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:00am-1:00pm, in the Practice Gym for pickleball! This fast-paced, social sport is a great way to get your heart pumping and have fun while meeting new friends. All skill levels are welcome!

Senior Exercise (Fellowship Hall)

Our Senior Exercise classes are perfect for those looking to maintain or improve their strength, balance and flexibility. Held on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00am in the

Fellowship Hall, these low-impact sessions are designed to keep you feeling strong and energized, no matter your age.

Yoga (Magnolia Classroom)

Unwind and recharge with our calming Yoga classes. Held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-4:30pm, these sessions focus on stretching, breathing and mindfulness, helping you reduce stress and improve flexibility and overall wellness.

Why Join?

- Convenience: There are multiple classes throughout the week to fit your schedule.
- Community: Meet others with similar fitness goals and create lasting friendships.

- Health Benefits: From improved cardiovascular health to enhanced flexibility, exercise is essential for maintaining overall wellness.
- All Skill Levels Welcome: Our classes are designed for everyone!

Join us at the AYMC and get moving! Whether you’re here for the friendly competition of pickleball, the strength-building exercises in our senior class, or the calming flow of yoga, we’ve got the perfect class for you.

For more details, or to sign up, stop by the AYMC front desk. We can’t wait to see you there!

—Dante Gliatta, AYMC Director

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 1/8 *Breathe Week—No Wednesdays@ First Activities* except Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 1/10-12 Children's Ministry Winter Retreat for Grades 3-5
- 1/12 **WATCH** 10:30am Baptism of the Lord Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Communion
- 11:30am Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 1/15 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)
- Wednesdays@First Activities Resume*
- Adults@First Opportunities*
- 6:00pm MidWeek Classic:
Exploring Heaven, Pondering Hell, Part 2 (Fellowship Hall) with Carol McEntyre
Journaling (Parlor) with Ken Kraft
Intro to Weightlifting (AYMC) with Dante Gliatta
- 1/19 **WATCH** 10:30am Second Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol

Introducing



... Justin and Rachel Hanley, who joined FBG during worship on December 8. They are pictured here with their children, Marley and Avery. Offer them a warm welcome!

Thanks, Flower Guild

At FBG, we have a long tradition of dedicated decorators. In my tenure here, the wonderful members of the Flower Guild have been expertly led by Keeter Horton, Becky Hartness and Regenia McClain. This year, Regenia McClain has shepherded our new co-leaders, Charmaine Fuller and Leah Wynn, to prepare our worship spaces for the Advent/Christmas season. Wreaths and poinsettias were ordered, decorating days scheduled and maintenance planned. The poinsettias were watered and received care to keep them beautiful through the entire season. Decorations will be carefully taken down and stored today to be revisited next season. If you see any of these hard-working folks, be sure to offer thanks: Jim Altenbern, Carol Ann Anderson, Don & Jo Carson, Susan Dodson, Rebecca Feldman, Charmaine & Mike Fuller, Clay Gilbert, Pam Jones, Leigh Joye, Regenia McClain, Susan Merritt, Pam Shucker, Anne Woods, and Camp & Leah Wynn. Offer thanks to Jimmy Paul and Joseph Gorrin, our Facilities Staff, who have gone above and beyond through this holiday season!

—Kimberly Coates, Music & Worship Ministry Assistant

Wednesdays@First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

- 4:00-7:00pm Youth Hang Time (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 5:00-6:00pm Supper and Prayer Time (Fellowship Hall)

Children@First

- 5:30-7:00pm Childcare for Ages 3 & Under (C208, C214)
- 5:45-7:00pm K4 & K5 Co-Creator Block & Playtime (B422)
- 5:45-6:10pm 1st-5th Grades Choir (B423) Gathering Time (Media Center)
- 6:15-7:00pm Co-Creator Block (B424) Gathering Time (Media Center)

- 6:00-6:50pm *Adults@First* MidWeek Classic & Other Adult Education Offerings (Fellowship Hall)

- 7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)



Wednesday Night Supper

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

January 8—*Breathe*

Wednesday Night Supper returns next week!

January 15
TBA

Sympathy

...to the family of Miriam Faess.
...to John Smith and family in the death of his mother.


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Revenue Report

12/30/2024 YTD: \$2,799,088
12/31/2023 Actual: \$3,040,582
12/31/2024 Budget: \$2,935,000



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

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.