

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Our *Wednesdays@First* activities for Spring 2025 have ended. We look forward to gathering again in August. Watch for details later!

WORSHIP

June 29

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Stephen Ministry Emphasis

Proclaimer: Kyle Matthews

Sermon Series: After the World Has Ended: Jeremiah's Call to Resilience

Sermon: A Nuisance in the Temple

Scripture: Jeremiah 7:1-11

Anthem: "O Love" — Hagengerg

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir, Bell Tower Ringers Ensemble, Instrumentalists

Bell Tower Ringers Ensemble: Cathy Goldfarb, Barbara Gulley, Will Livingston, Kathy Stewart, Bexx Summey, Julie Summey and Julie Treu

Instrumentalists: Daniel Gulley, Ceng-Ceng; Doug Stout, Bells & Klentong; Carla Brazell, Kendang; Jonathan Bailey, Kajar; Catherine Crowe, Violin

If you would like to provide flowers for one of our future services, email kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or call 864-233-2527, ext. 128. Open dates are June 29, July 6, and July 13.



Empathy Fatigue?

KYLE MATTHEWS

Are you tired? "All cared out"? As summer arrives, I imagine many of us are!

Compassion fatigue is a term often associated with donor loss in the non-profit fundraising sector. It can be a problem for the church when we think of the church as "just another tax break" rather than an extended family with whom we find rest and rejuvenation.

But there is another term more germane to the Christian life: empathy fatigue. In a recent interview on The People's Pharmacy podcast, Dr. Allan Hamilton recommended that when we feel "all cared out," we should:

- Take breaks from heavy emotional experiences. It's not a betrayal of care to take a break.
- Allow ourselves to feel. It's exhausting to always stifle honest emotion!
- Get closer. The closer we get, the easier it is to feel.

Around the time that episode aired, headlines were dominated

by the death of Pope Francis and the election of his successor. One reporter noted that Pope John XXIII—the first pope to encourage priests to celebrate Mass facing the congregation and to speak in languages other than Latin so they could be understood—also happened to be the first to make pastoral visits to sick children and prisoners.

The closer we get, the more compassion we feel!

What's fascinating about Dr. Hamilton's list of remedies for empathy fatigue is that Jesus modeled all three of those things 2,000 years ago. He took breaks, expressed emotion unreservedly and drew close to hurting people—which is what incarnation is all about!

It's important to take vacations from work and breaks from obligations that deplete our emotional energy; but spiritual wisdom is always paradoxical. It turns out that one cure for empathy fatigue is not to run from others' needs, but to move toward them so our natural empathy and God's spirit of compassion can once again fill us... and fulfill us.

Praying that you find both rest and fulfillment this summer,

— Kyle Matthews, Minister of Pastoral Care

HoSEA Program: Housing Stability & Eviction Avoidance

The HoSEA Program is a collaboration among four partner congregations that was created to address Greenville's eviction crisis by pooling funds and intervening with rental assistance for families facing eviction—so they can continue making payments as they normally would.

The idea for this program came out of meetings I had with local pastors, where we noticed an unusual increase in requests from the community for rent assistance. Yes, requests for utility help have also gone up, as our Local Relief Team can attest, but rental assistance continues to rise. In those conversations, we often noted that a congregation's typical "maximum" assistance—a few hundred dollars—can't stave

off eviction. One time, someone said, "Wouldn't it be nice if we could just pool our money in one account? Then we could actually help someone avoid eviction!"

One year later, we have pooled and raised almost \$50,000, which has been leveraged to help nearly 30 families avoid eviction and regain financial footing, allowing them to resume making their payments themselves.

The HoSEA Program is not only about pooling our funds and resources—it's also about pooling our wisdom and compassion. Currently, four congregations (First Baptist, Christ Church, St. Michael's, and Fourth Pres) and two nonprofits (United Ministries and Triune Mercy Center) work

together to intervene in the eviction process for families who need a little help stabilizing their housing situation. The HoSEA Team—volunteers from the congregations—shepherds candidates through the application process, while case workers from the nonprofits provide professional vetting and official recommendations.

How You Can Help:

- Know someone facing eviction? Invite them to visit: firstbaptistgreenville.com/assistance
- Volunteer to serve on the HoSEA Team
- Help spread the word

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement

Habitat for Humanity Greenville County and Juneteenth GVL



The official kickoff for the build was on June 11, and as a member of the steering committee, I was asked to help with the "wall raising." That's me with some of the leadership from Habitat for Humanity, Juneteenth GVL and other local nonprofits.

Are you wondering if you are "qualified" to help on the build site? Don't worry! **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.** Habitat worksite supervisors are specially trained and capable of putting anyone to effective and safe work at the build, so please consider volunteering for one or both of the shifts available here: <https://forms.gle/kbmPU2vH2qqJkKdv6>

Volunteer Dates:

July 10: Install siding, 8:00am –11:30am

August 28: Shelving and hardware, 8:00am–1:30pm

P.S. I'm signed up for both work days. Hope to see you out there too!

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement

So, now that I have "finished my shift," it's your turn!

A Budding Partnership with First Haitian Wesleyan

First Baptist Greenville and First Haitian Evangelical Wesleyan in Fountain Inn recently came together for a time of fellowship in our Parlor. We got to know each other, enjoyed good food and shared our dreams and prayers for our two congregations as we continue to explore what a partnership could look like.

Both churches were asked to write down their hopes and dreams for this joint venture. Some of the responses are listed below.

If you'd like to be part of the work to build on these dreams and support First Haitian as they grow and expand, consider joining the

joint committee forming between our churches. Contact me at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com for more info. Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 8, here at First Baptist.

- Praying together for spiritual growth
- Sharing facilities when possible
- Workshops on topics like worship and leadership
- FBG to help provide leadership training
- Combining ministry opportunities
- Understanding the needs and unique barriers of the Haitian church
- Building community between congregations

- Continuing shared experiences
- A joint Bible study group—a chance to learn from each other
- Joining together for Engaged Aging events
- Praying for mutual support and benefit
- First Haitian youth joining FBG youth for activities and summer camp to build connection
- Technical workshops on media, livestream, and audio
- Joint kids and youth events
- Women's ministries meeting once or twice a year to learn from one another
- Help First Haitian pray for a new facility

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement

Pastoral Care at FBG

Did you know scientists found anti-cancer agents in Periwinkle flowers and soil microbes, or that our first anti-retroviral treatment for HIV came from a sea sponge? Believing that God is a good God who cares about us carries the strong implication that everything we need to thrive has already been supplied and that it's our job to put it together.

This belief drives my love for Pastoral Care. I'm inspired by the Acts 2 vision of a community in which the resources required to meet the needs are already present, just waiting for us to have enough compassion and generosity to make the connection.

That's why I go around saying "did you know..." in reference to the church. Did you know we address loneliness by matching our members who can't come to church with a regular visitor? That we brighten hospital and hospice rooms with the same flowers that grace our worship services? That hundreds of cards are handwritten and sent out by our Card Writing Team and our Care & Concern Team of ministers each year? That two different ride-share teams get members to worship on Sunday and

to medical appointments on weekdays, and other volunteers deliver meals to grieving families and to those unable to join us for our MidWeek Fellowship supper?

In addition, we also have a ministry for caregivers, a special team of ushers welcomes the funeral guests who have never visited our facility before, and our Stephen Ministry is so confidential you might not know to tell a hurting friend that this companionship ministry is an option. Have you considered becoming a Stephen Minister yourself? No doubt you have some professional expertise or life-skills that could be invaluable to a person seeking guidance through one of life's transitions. Ever heard of a Phoebe Fellowship?

I hope your time in nature this summer will inspire you to return with a fresh vision for the ecosystem of the church! There's no happier day at FBG than when we discover we are already equipped to meet a need! Just bring compassion and generosity, and we'll make the connection!

—Kyle Matthews, Minister of Pastoral Care

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 6/23-27 9:00am-12:00pm Children's Worship Arts Camp
- 6/25 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek Missions & More for Youth
- 6/29 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
- WATCH** 10:30am Third Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Kyle Matthews, including Stephen Ministry Emphasis and Bell Tower Ringers
- 7/2 12:00-1:30pm Youth to Lunch at Rocky's Hot Chicken Shack (drop off & pick up at Rocky's)
- 7/4 FBG Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- 7/6 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
- WATCH** 10:30am Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Communion
- 7/7-11 Unidiversity Youth Camp
- 7/10 9:00am Engaged Aging Hike to Jones Gap Falls
- 7/13 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
- WATCH** 10:30am Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication
- 7/15-18 Children to Camp Prism
- 7/16 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek Missions & More for Youth
- 7/17 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)
- 7/20 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
- WATCH** 10:30am Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Missions Moment
- 7/21 Youth to Carowinds
- 7/23 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek Missions & More for Youth
- 7/24 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)
- 7/27 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
- WATCH** 10:30am Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication
- 3:00pm Roadrunners to South Pacific at Mill Town Players in Pelzer
- 7/31 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)
- 8/3 **WATCH** 10:30am Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Bridget Kokolis, including Communion and Missions Moment
- 4:00-7:00pm Youth End-of-Summer Pool Party (Location TBA)
- 8/7 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)
- 8/10 **WATCH** 10:30am Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Bridget Kokolis, including Family Dedication
- 8/14 9:00am Engaged Aging Hike to Bad Creek Pump Station
- 8/17 Small Group Fair (Narthex)
9:00am Youth Blessing Sunday Breakfast (AYMC)
- WATCH** 10:30am Blessing Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Commissioning of our new Minister of Music, Laura Ritter, Blessing Leaders and Teachers, and Presentation of Bibles to 3rd and 6th Graders
- 5:00-7:00pm Youth Family Block Party
- 8/20 Wednesdays@First Activities Resume


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Revenue Report

6/17/2025 YTD: \$1,200,437

6/30/2024 Actual: \$1,315,866

6/30/2025 Budget: \$1,491,000



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

For After Hours Pastoral Care, please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, leave a message by pressing the number "2" for "Pastoral Care"

or email pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com. One of our staff ministers will respond to your message.

Sympathy

...to the family of Mildred Clardy.