



November

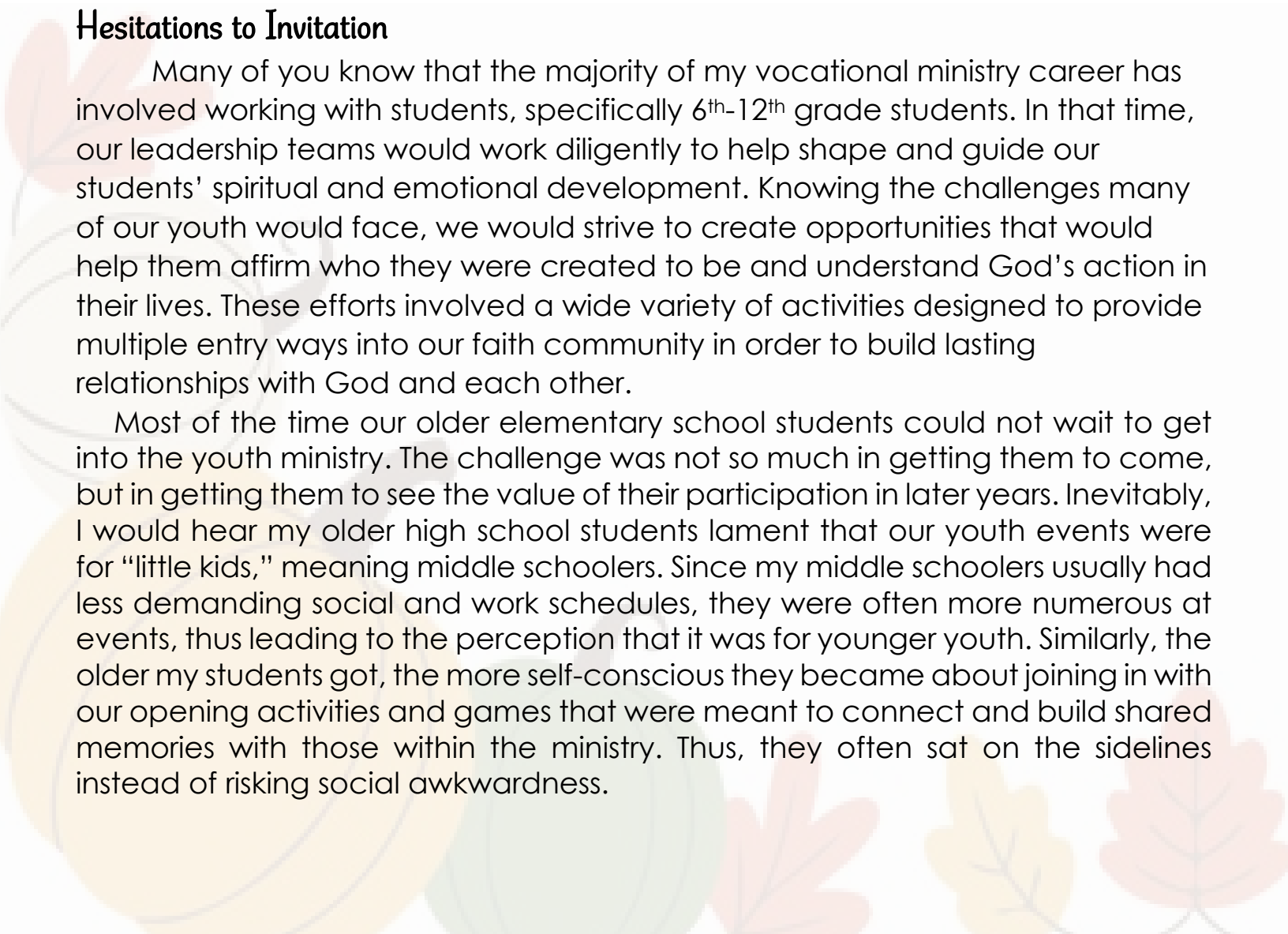
First Baptist Church
Greenville, SC
Engaged Aging Ministry

A Message from Michael

Hesitations to Invitation

Many of you know that the majority of my vocational ministry career has involved working with students, specifically 6th-12th grade students. In that time, our leadership teams would work diligently to help shape and guide our students' spiritual and emotional development. Knowing the challenges many of our youth would face, we would strive to create opportunities that would help them affirm who they were created to be and understand God's action in their lives. These efforts involved a wide variety of activities designed to provide multiple entry ways into our faith community in order to build lasting relationships with God and each other.

Most of the time our older elementary school students could not wait to get into the youth ministry. The challenge was not so much in getting them to come, but in getting them to see the value of their participation in later years. Inevitably, I would hear my older high school students lament that our youth events were for "little kids," meaning middle schoolers. Since my middle schoolers usually had less demanding social and work schedules, they were often more numerous at events, thus leading to the perception that it was for younger youth. Similarly, the older my students got, the more self-conscious they became about joining in with our opening activities and games that were meant to connect and build shared memories with those within the ministry. Thus, they often sat on the sidelines instead of risking social awkwardness.



But here is the thing they didn't realize- by opting out, they were missing the chance to be a part of the ministry that was happening in their midst. I'm not just talking about what they might get out of the event but more the invitation and opportunity they had to forever shape the lives of those very youth they were seemingly disinterested in getting to know. Part of the core mission of our ministry was to help students experience the transformational love of serving others and how it feels when God works through us to bring the beauty of the kin-dom into someone else's life. Being a part of those moments are some of the highlights of my life.

It is interesting to me that when I talk with some folks about the work of our Engaged Aging ministry, I hear echoes of the challenges of youth ministry, but with a different twist. Instead of feeling like the ministry is for "little kids," the substituted sentiment is, "old people." One group felt if they participated, peers might think they were not mature. The other group hesitates to join because they do not want to be considered old. In the end, both miss out.

We all know there is a world of difference between a 6th grader and a High School senior, and that is just a 7-year period. Engaged Aging can cover 50 years! That is a vast span of life with many different needs and challenges, but I believe that is part of why God, in God's wisdom, created the Church. We can learn from each other. This is a big tent, and we want to make it bigger, and we need all of our Engaged Aging folks to make it work. My dream is that together, we can create something life-giving that will help provide ministry and care for a wide variety of adults. This is important because I believe it is through connecting with and serving others that we find the divine purpose within us that fosters fulfillment and joy. I think embracing this higher purpose, especially in post-retirement years, helps remind us that we are more than our careers or past and that there is still beauty ahead, even if the road is harder to navigate.

With that in mind, I hope you will help us grow the ministry that God is stirring here at First Baptist Greenville. If you have ideas about ways we can better engage (and are willing to help to see those ideas become a reality), I would love to hear from you. You will see some of the items that are bubbling up included in this newsletter. Maybe you are the person we've been looking for to help make them possible. If so, I look forward to your call!

Grace and Peace,

Michael McEntyre
Michael McEntyre





Engaging Ideas-A Look Ahead

As our ministry continues to grow and we look ahead to 2026, I wanted to share a few ideas that we are working to expand towards.

For our Engaged artists (and aspiring artists), we are working to design a painting party where canvas, conversations, and creativity can come together for an afternoon of fun. In a similar style, our team is connecting with a local pottery studio for an opportunity to throw some clay, hopefully not at each other! For those who are looking for a way to stay active, we are working with our AYMC to explore Tai Chi and movement classes. If you are looking for a bit more pep in your step, we've had the recommendation for a Line Dancing night designed for all levels of expertise. Another growing area for us is creating a Tech Talk/Tech Support space to offer education and assistance for the ever-changing world of cell phones, computers, and AI. These ideas are still in their formation stage so keep watch for more details, or if you can help these dreams become reality, let's chat!

Needs and Seeds

For some ministry ideas that are moving along but need some volunteers or resources, I'm introducing our Needs and Seeds section. If you can help, contact michael.mcentyre@firstbaptistgreenville.com.



-Calling All Christmas Candy Confectionaries!



I have a dream of finding 5-6 of our Engaged Aging crowd that enjoy making Christmas treats the old fashioned way (not just cutting the tube of Christmas cookies and putting them in the oven). The goal is to have each person bring a recipe for a treat that they can teach some of our young people how to make after church on December 7th. We would meet for a light lunch and work on mixing, prepping, and baking (if needed) our Christmas goodies. Then, we will plate up our creations and our youth could deliver them to some of our members. It's a great way to spread some intergenerational holiday cheer!

More Needs and Seeds

-Bridge and Mahjong Teachers

Several folks have expressed an interest in learning and playing Bridge and/or Mahjong (me being one of them). If you understand the game AND are willing to help others learn to play, I am looking for some instructors to help share their wisdom and insight. Hopefully this could lead to some future gatherings to play.



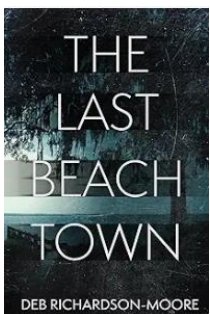
-Tech Needs



Do you have an old iPad lying around that you no longer use? We are in need of 2-3 iPads at the church to use with our tech. It would need to be a 4th generation iPad (released in 2013) or newer. We are also looking for a few flat screen TVs (40 inches or larger) to create some media carts for classes and meetings. If you have a TV in working condition that needs a new home, let me know. If it will work for our needs, we can arrange pickup.

November 7- Lunch & More - Moments That Matter: Living with Awareness - featuring Joel Koontz, M.S., LPC, with Canterbury Counseling Center

Our Friday Lunch & More crowd will welcome Joel Koontz, from Canterbury Counseling Center, this November. We all know that as we enter the holiday season, our stress and worry can often increase dramatically. With this in mind, Joel will be discussing ways to better manage the stress, worry, and physical discomfort of life. Joel will bring his expertise and experience to share with our group and offer some guided practices to help us along the way.



As a reminder, Book Club and Games & More will begin that morning at 10:30am. We are excited to welcome back Deb Richardson-Moore to the Book Club, as she will offer readings from her new book, *The Last Beach Town*. Copies will be available for purchase. We will all gather at 11:00 am for our welcome and program, followed by lunch at 12:00 pm. The price for lunch is \$5 and can be paid online during registration, or at the door (registration is needed to reserve lunch). Sign up online ([click here](#)), through Realm, or by calling Jalyn Rutledge at the church office.

November 11- Holy Rollers Trip to the Cove

Join the Holy Rollers on November 11th for a trip to Asheville to tour the Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove.

The bus will leave from First Baptist at 9:00 am from the area between the Rotunda and the Fellowship Hall entrance. If you plan to drive separately, our group will reach the center and begin the tour at 10:45 am. We will plan to have lunch at 12:30 PM at a local restaurant and return to the church at 3:30 pm. There is no cost to ride the bus, but money will be needed for lunch.

Sign up online [here](#), by Realm, or by calling Jalyn Rutledge at the church office.



November 13- Let's Take a Hike! Join us as we hike Pinnacle Lakeside Trail at Table Rock, followed by lunch at Aunt Sue's!



- To ride the bus, meet at 10:00 am between the Rotunda and the Fellowship Hall entrance.
- If you are driving separately, you can meet us in the Nature Center parking lot at 11:00 am.
- After the hike, we'll eat at Aunt Sue's for lunch and be back by 3:00 pm.

We will start our hike from the West Gate Road Parking Lot across from the Nature Center and follow the path around the lake. Along the way, we'll see some beautiful views of the lake. There are several benches to rest and take in the scenery along the way. The trail is mostly shaded, with some open areas by the water where you can see Table Rock and Stool Mountains. As always, trails contain roots and rocks, so sturdy shoes and hiking poles are recommended. To register for the hike, sign up online [here](#) or through Realm. Hope you can join us!

November 16- FBG Church Conference- Fellowship Hall

The Church Conference will be held in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, November 16, 2025. Lunch will be served with meal registration needed by November 12. Sign up by clicking [here](#) or on Realm. Agenda items include: 2026 Mission and Ministry Plan vote, Deacon Class of 2028 vote, 2026 Committee list vote, and Committee reports.

November 20 - Special Roadrunners Event- Tickets are \$10 Tour of Historic Greenville with John Nolan (Space is Limited)

Our Roadrunners are trying something a little different for November. We have contracted with John Nolan for two privately guided excursions around town on Thursday, November 20. The tour can accommodate 12 people at a time, so we have had to get creative with our logistics.



When you sign up to register, you can choose the early tour at 10:00 am, or the after-lunch tour, beginning around 12:30 pm. All are invited to share lunch together at the Grill Marks restaurant located at 209 S. Main St at 11:15 am. The plan will be to meet at the church at 10:00 am for the first group and begin the tour. The second group can meet at the church at 11:00 am to ride the church bus to Grill Marks for lunch (this will help avoid the stress of parking downtown).



The first tour will end at Grill Marks at approximately 11:15 am and everyone will share lunch together (meal is not included in cost). After lunch, the second group will load the tour bus for the second tour, and the first group will load the church bus to return to the church. After the second tour, the group will be dropped off back at the church to head home.

It is a bit of organized chaos, but a great chance to learn about Greenville's history and share a delicious meal. The cost of the tour is only \$10, and space is limited, so reservations will be first come first serve. You can register on the church website, [here](http://michael.mcentyre@firstbaptistgreenville.com), or on Realm. Payments can be made online or brought to the church.

I know this is a bit complicated, so if you have any questions, please email (michael.mcentyre@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or call us at the church office, 864-233-2527. Thanks for your patience as we step out of our normal routine and try something new!

Fun Facts About Greenville

- Greenville is named after Nathaniel Greene, a Revolutionary War hero and was originally called Pleasantburg.
- Greenville native Joel Roberts Poinsett is credited with introducing the U.S. to the poinsettia in 1928 after returning home from his role as the U.S. Minister to Mexico.
- Hans Albert Einstein, son of the famous physicist, lived and worked in Greenville for about five years in the 1930s. He worked for Clemson University.

November 25- You are Invited to Join our next Late Lunch Bunch

We had 15 people meet at our October meal and we had a blast! November's trip to City Range promises to be just as fun. As part of our Invite initiative, our Engaged Aging family will gather to share a meal, laughs, and stories around the table. This is an informal way to get to know others in the group and/or invite new folks to get to know us. We plan to meet at the restaurant at 1:00 pm to avoid the lunch crowd and help with parking. No reservation needed. This is a great way to get to know others in our Engaged Aging community.



November 25-
City Range
615 Haywood Rd, 29607

November 30- Advent Begins with the Hanging of the Green

Advent begins November 30 and our Flower Guild is scheduling workdays to get our worship space and exterior of our building festive for the season. The order deadline for poinsettias is quickly approaching. As a faith family, we will celebrate the symbolism of the decorations in our Sanctuary during the Hanging of the Green Service on Sunday morning, November 30. Don't miss this meaningful service!



If you are interested in helping decorate our spaces, be in contact with Charmaine Fuller or Leah Wynn, Flower Guild Co-Chairs, or me (kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or 864-233-2527 ext. 128). Help is requested for decorating the Chrismon Tree, Sanctuary, and beyond. The decorations are provided by the donations of church members. Church members may purchase poinsettias to help provide all of our decorations. The poinsettias may be given in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of a living person. A list of all memorials and honor gifts will be published in upcoming editions of the newsletter. We have an online option for giving again—this year utilizing Realm. (Be sure to get your account set up, if you have not yet done so. It has many helpful uses!) If you are interested in providing a poinsettia, visit tinyurl.com/FBG-Christmas-Poinsettias and follow the instructions to submit your dedications. You may even pay online! If you would prefer, you may still mail the information and your payment (checks payable to First Baptist Church) to me at church or drop it off at the Reception Desk. Orders and checks (\$30 each) should be received by Friday, November 21.

—Kimberly Coates, Music & Worship Ministry Assistant

The MinisTREE Returns- All Through November



It is time, once again, for one of FBG's favorite holiday traditions: the MinisTREE! During the month of November, you will see a Christmas tree in the Reception Area filled with numbered paper ornaments. Each ornament will have a gift request for one member of several families who find themselves in need of a little help with Christmas this year. Many of these families are enrolled in the United Ministries Housing Stability Program due to having experienced homelessness this year (this program is the successor to what long-time members may remember as GAIHN).

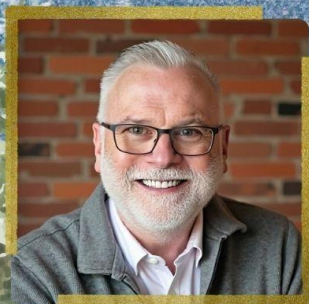
If you would like to participate, simply choose an ornament to take and sign your name next to that ornament's number on the provided list. Then it's time for some early Christmas shopping! Unwrapped gifts, along with the ornament and a gift receipt if possible, should be returned to the Reception Area by November 30.

Thank you for your generosity!

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement

The Healing Powers of Our Tears

Grieving During the Holidays



Dr. David A. Jones, PhD
Licensed psychologist (27 years) specializing in grief and trauma work.

Friday Nov. 14th
10 AM- 2 PM

There is no cost for this event, but registration is necessary to accurately account for all of those having lunch. Lunch is provided at no cost, though donations are appreciated!



Call the church office
or
scan the QR code to
sign up.



Kyle Matthews
Minister of Pastoral Care