



February

First Baptist Church
Greenville, SC
Engaged Aging Ministry
NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER
SENT TO YOU
EACH MONTH
BY EMAIL**

A Message from Michael- Weather You Like it or Not

When I wrote in the last newsletter that January can be a tough month, I was not anticipating that the first half of the month would feel like April and the last half would feel like Antarctica! I'm hoping all of you have been able to stay safe and warm and are checking in on each other. As you may be aware, we have had to adjust several of our ministry plans in recent weeks, with more changes on the way. We will do our best to communicate any updates on the website and by email.

As I write this, the snow is gently falling outside my window (much better than the ice pellets from last week). There is something so beautiful to me about a gentle snowfall, especially when the forecast is slated to hit 50 degrees two days later, ensuring life will not be disrupted for too long. Yet, I have to admit, I have come to appreciate times of disruption. Disruptions, such as inclement weather, catching a cold or caring for a sick family member, a broken bone or surgical recovery, a change in employment, and even the death of a loved one, push us out of our normal routine, for good or bad. But to be clear, I do not equate appreciation with enjoyment. Many of life's interruptions are painful and can leave lasting challenges and hurt. That is not the part I appreciate. What I have learned to value is the reminder that so much of life is out of my control and that, too often when I settle into a normal rhythm of day-to-day life, I become insulated from a larger reality that I can't do it alone, nor was I meant to.

Times of disruption offer opportunities to reengage my faith, both my faith in God, and my faith in others. When my normal routine is set on its head, instinctively I turn to God with questions and concerns. Admittedly, in the moment I sometimes realize it has been a while since I stopped to talk to God about my day. I am used to praying for others, but when life is clicking along at a “normal” pace, it can be easier to let my personal conversational prayer life slide to the backburner. Life’s disruptions tend to snap me out of autopilot and remind me that I am connected to my Creator and that relationship is designed to share ALL of life, not just the traumatic parts.

Similarly, life’s disruptions often serve as avenues by which my connections to others are restored. Moments when I need help, or can be of help, challenge my drive to be “productive” and gently remind me that God’s love, and our care for each other, is not meant to be transactional. Instead, the disruptions that often leave us reeling and feeling disconnected from “normal” life can offer opportunities to reconnect and remember that we are part of eternal life and kin-dom. Our invitation to care for one another is a divine gift of life abundant, of purpose, and of grace. For some reason our Creator trusts us enough to be God’s tangible presence on earth, and sometimes it takes a bit of disruption for us to remember that calling.

So, in these days of uncertainty and disruption, remember that you are not alone. God is there for your joys and pains and may God’s people be there to lend a helpful hand, a listening ear, a warm meal, or whatever else may be necessary in the moment. To that end, I pray life’s disruptions will not be long-lived, but that they serve as reminders of who God is and who we are called to be will.

Grace and Peace,

Michael McEntyre
Michael McEntyre

New Intercessory Prayer Group Update from Camille Loomis Rehnberg

A new prayer group is forming to support community members inquiring for Local Relief Assistance (rental and utility assistance). Callers frequently offer prayer requests even when FBG cannot help them financially. Participants in the prayer group are asked to pray for a few specific community members each month, on their own time and in their own way, along with sending an encouraging card to prayer recipients. Interested pray-ers are invited to attend an informational meeting from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Media Center on February 4 or can contact Beth Miller (ejfmiller901@gmail.com) with questions.

CANCELLED-February 2- Groundhog's Day Souper Celebration



Sadly, our Groundhog Day Extravaganza has been buried under several inches of snow. For safety concerns, we are canceling our EA activities scheduled for Monday, February 2. Since this event (and all the decorations) are fairly theme specific, be sure to mark your calendars now for Tuesday, February 2, 2027! Be safe.

Lunch & More February 6

Lunch and More is back for a new season! We kick off the year on Friday, February 6 with a look at the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, led by Linda Russ. Our book discussion will be on the book *First Ladies* by Victoria Murray and Marie Benedict. Rob Pyett will lead the discussion. The book discussion and Games & More will begin at 10:30 a.m. with our main session to follow at 11:00 a.m., then lunch. If you are tired of being stuck in the house and are looking for a warm place to meet up for good food, great conversation, and an engaging topic, register today to reserve your spot. 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 through Realm, online at firstbaptistgreenville.com/engagedagingevents/, or by calling Jalyn Rutledge at the church office (864-233-2527). Weather permitting, we hope to see you all on Friday, February 6.



Foundation Sunday February 8

On Sunday, February 8, our congregation will celebrate The First Baptist Foundation during a special worship service. Prior to the service, there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School Hour (9:00-10:15am) for donors, recipients, committee members and anyone interested in learning more. Please stop by and say hello before going to Sunday School!

For those who may not be familiar with the work of the Foundation, the FBG Foundation was first established in 1992 as the Faith Fund, an effort to support the missions programs of First Baptist in perpetuity. The Foundation expanded in 2004 and now manages five distinct funds:

Foundation Sunday February 8 cont.



The Faith Fund for local, state, national and international missions

The General Fund for ministries and special projects

The Leadership Development Fund for the education, training or skills development of the laity and clergy

The Property Fund for major maintenance or capital needs of the church property and facilities

The Tithe Fund for support of the operating budget of the Church now and in the future

Designed to receive gifts over and above a donor's annual giving, the Foundation allows donors to make current or planned gifts that can support the church's local, national and global missions as well as the ministries budget for years to come. It has disbursed more than \$3 million since its beginning.

Legacy giving helps our congregation ensure a ministry presence in our city for generations to come and provides a lasting impact through your generosity. If you would like to learn how you can make a planned gift through your will, a trust, or an IRA bequest, please contact the church office.

—Partnerships and Affiliations Committee

No Holy Rollers Trip in February

Our Holy Rollers trips are organized through a collaborative effort by our Holy Rollers team, made up of members of FBG and the community, under the leadership of our Neighborhood Partnership team. This work has been coordinated by our Minister of Community Engagement, Matt Rollins, for the past two years. In January, Matt accepted a new position with one of our local ministry partners, Village Engage. Matt has served at First Baptist for 22 years. His presence and gifts will be missed, yet we are excited for his new beginning and the talents he brings to an important ministry partner. First Baptist plans to honor Matt on February 8 during the worship service and encourages our members and friends to be there to share their appreciation.

In the meantime, our Neighborhood Partnership team will coordinate with our Pastor in the weeks ahead to create an interim leadership plan for the Holy Rollers. We anticipate this group will be traveling again soon but ask for your grace and understanding as we work to find adequate guidance to pick up where Matt has left off. Thank you.

EA Hikers Planning a Challenging Hike for February 12 *Let's take a hike*

After easing into the New Year with our January hike, our EA hikers are pushing the limits with a hike on the new trail to Stool Mountain at Table Rock. This trail is known for its rugged terrain, which gains a significant amount of elevation (1,400 ft) as it traverses stream valleys and rocky fields to the summit. We will begin at White Oak picnic area in Table Rock State Park.

Our plan is to bring our own lunches and enjoy a spectacular picnic overlooking Table Rock Reservoir and the exposed face of Table Rock. This will be our most challenging hike of the year, and we recognize it may not be for everyone. The hike is an out and back, meaning if at any point you become uncomfortable with the trail, you can stop and return with a partner back to the parking lot. For those who are comfortable with a more strenuous hike, it is recommended to wear sturdy footwear due to the terrain and rocks. Poles are recommended.

ALL those planning to hike, RSVP by signing up online or through Realm so that we know who is coming and no one is left behind. If the weather necessitates a change of plans, an update will be emailed to all who have registered through Realm. Update plans will also be reflected on the EA calendar on the EA website <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/engaged-aging/>.

- Meet at 9:30 am at FBG for those who want to ride the church bus. The park is approximately one hour from FBG
- **OR** Meet at 11:15 am at the Nature Center at the park if you are planning on driving separately.
- Pack your own lunch, water, and snacks for this adventure.
- We plan to be back by 3:30 pm.

Special Thanks from our EA Team & New Opportunities for Mahjong and Bridge

I'd like to thank a few folks for their help recently. Our EA Games & More day was a wonderful success thanks to the prep work of our two leaders, Kathy Barksdale (Bridge) and Deb Willingham (Mahjong). Our plan is to set up a trial period February 11, 18, and 25 from 10-12:00 p.m. for folks to come and play at the AYMC. We will evaluate future opportunities based on the response.

I also want to thank Will Dodson, Jenna Manning, Callie Phillips, and Joseph Saleh for their help with our MidWeek Tech Night's in January. They were excellent in assisting all those who showed up with questions and we hope to build on this success in the future. Thank you all!



February 17- EA Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party



This year, Shrove Tuesday falls on February 17. To celebrate, our Engaged Aging team has been working with the Children's Ministry to plan a Pancake Party in the Fellowship Hall. The idea is that volunteers from the EA ministry will host the event, take orders, cook pancakes, and serve the kids. Pastor Bridget and I will share a bit with the kids about why we are doing this, and the meaning of the season of Lent we are about to begin.

Volunteering to serve or cook at this event is a fantastic way to help lay the foundations of faith for our kids. Workers will need to show up between 4:30-5:00 p.m. and dinner will be from 5:30- 6:30 p.m. You can sign up to volunteer now on Realm, online at firstbaptistgreenville.com/engagedagingevents/, by emailing Jalyn Rutledge (jalyn.rutledge@firstbaptistgreenville.com), or calling the church office (864-233-2527).



Ash Wednesday Service- February 18 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time set apart to draw near to God, to walk with Jesus step by step to the cross. As part of worship, we will receive ashes on our foreheads—a symbol of our mortality and our deep dependence on God's grace. We hope you will make plans to join us as we mark our journey towards Easter together. More details will be provided in the Branch and on our website.

Roadrunners Return with Lunch at Just Shon's and a Tour of the Phillis Wheatley Center- February 19

Greenville and the Upstate have a wealth of interesting destinations just waiting to be explored. Each month, our Roadrunners have a blast together as we take advantage of the treasures around us and learn a bit more about the place we call home. If you enjoy new experiences, getting to know others, and, very often, some great cuisine, sign up for any of our Roadrunner trips.

If you haven't experienced Just Shon's yet, it is a treat. The restaurant is in the Phillis Wheatley Center and offers dine in or catering options. While we are there, we will take a brief tour of the Center to see the many opportunities happening in our neighborhood. You can meet at the church at 11:15 a.m. or meet at the Center at 11:25 a.m. You can sign up on Realm, the Engaged Aging website, or by emailing Jalyn Rutledge (jalyn.rutledge@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or calling the church office (864-233-2527).

New Date for the EA Tea Party- February 24

The weather tried to serve us iced tea instead of hot tea, so we have rescheduled our Engaged Aging Tea Party for Tuesday, February 24 at 2:00 p.m.! This sophisticated affair will take place in the Parlor (but of course) and will include dainty finger foods, vintage china, elegant décor, charming conversation, and delightful activities. Guests are asked to register by Sunday, February 22 to allow time for party planning, seating charts, menus, and other official sundries. We are asking those who are able to make a donation to help cover the expenses. You can register on Realm, on the EA website, or by emailing or calling Jalyn Rutledge (jalyn.rutledge@firstbaptistgreenville.com) at the church office (864-233-2527).

Looking Ahead:

Lunch & More March 6- LET'S GET MOVING IN MARCH!

For our March Lunch & More, we have something special in mind. The fitness professionals from the AYMC (Activities & Youth Ministry Center) will be joining us on Friday, March 6th to share their unique perspectives on health, overall wellness, and why regular movement is essential for supporting strength, balance, energy, mobility, and mental well-being at any age and stage of life. Together, we'll explore how movement can reduce stress, improve mood, protect independence, and help our bodies do the things we love for longer.

We will be joined by Thomas Stroud and Joy Hill, Certified Personal Trainers currently working with members of the AYMC; Chris Jamison, a Certified Health Coach many of you already know from his years of experience supporting clients at the AYMC; and Paula Soto and Doug Kawakami, Certified Yoga Instructors with extensive backgrounds and expertise in their fields.

BONUS: To help members and friends turn inspiration into action, the AYMC and our Engaged Aging Ministry will be offering a free **4-week Get Moving in March** series, with each week highlighting a different form of movement—from chair yoga and mobility work to strength training and muscle building, always with a splash of cardio. Each class is designed with beginners in mind and focuses on building confidence, improving balance and flexibility, supporting joint health, and increasing overall stamina. Exercises can always be modified to be more gentle or more challenging.



This series will begin on Tuesday, March 10th from 10am - 11am and will run for the remaining Tuesdays in March. It offers an opportunity to experience what a group fitness or yoga class at the AYMC is like, discover what feels good in your body, and begin building habits that support feeling better day to day. Our hope is that *Get Moving in March* becomes more than a four-week experience—that it serves as a starting point for moving with greater ease, strength, and joy well beyond the month of March. Wear your comfy workout clothes and sneakers, bring a bottle of water, and join us at the AYMC!

Newcomer Class This Spring: First Baptist 101

Do you want to learn more about the history of First Baptist Greenville or how to get involved in church life? First Baptist 101 is a class for you! This three-part series is designed for visitors, new church members or anyone considering church membership seeking a broad overview of the life of the church. First Baptist 101 is also a way to get answers to specific church questions and to meet other newcomers! The sessions are conversational and informal.



First Baptist 101 will meet after worship in the Adkins-Bouton Classroom (Room C403) for refreshments and our sessions. These will include:

- Sunday, February 22, 11:30am–1:00pm What does FBG teach about God?
- Sunday, March 1, 11:30am–1:00pm What does “Baptist” mean at FBG?
- Sunday, March 8, 11:30am–1:00pm Joining God’s work at FBG

Attendance for all three sessions is recommended. Register on Realm Connect (<https://tinyurl.com/fb101spring>) or by contacting Camille through the church office. Registration is \$15 if meals are included, or free if you prefer not to order lunch. Childcare is complimentary with advanced registration.

—Camille Loomis Rehnborg, Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach



How to Contact our Engaged Aging Team



Thinking about engaging, have questions, or need help signing up for an event? Here are a few ways you can find out more:

- Contact our Minister of Engaged Aging, Michael McEntyre, at michael.mcentyre@firstbaptistgreenville.com
- Call the church office (864-233-2527) and speak with Jayln Rutledge, the Administrative Assistant for Engaged Aging.
- Check out the Engaged Aging website for the current calendar of events and information at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/engaged-aging/>
- Connect with the Realm app for up-to-date news, signups, giving, and more.