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May

First Baptist Church
Greenville, SC



Engaged Aging Ministry



NEWSLETTER

A Message from Michael -

I had a series of entertaining encounters the other day at a doctor's visit. As I was sitting in the waiting room, I overheard two ladies talking about their plans for the week. They both had a very vibrant schedule to the casual eavesdropper, I mean observer. In the conversation, one of the ladies mentioned an upcoming big birthday and the fact that she could not believe she was already at that age.

After some commiserating, I heard one of them say, "I may be getting older, but I will never be old." I loved the spirit of that comment and felt, in many ways, that it captures the heart of Engaged Aging.



Engaged Aging strives to be mindful of the reality that we all age and have to make adjustments to how we live and move in the world, but we need to make those adjustments so we can continue to live this amazing life we have been given. Engaged Aging does not ignore the challenges of aging, instead, it recognizes those challenges, seeks wisdom and support from our EA community and others, makes space and accommodations to meet people where they are, and pushes in to see how we can all engage with what is next. I think that fits nicely with the mantra of growing older but never getting old.

The ladies were called back for their appointment and eventually so was I. As I continued to reflect on the conversation I had heard and the beautiful attitude toward aging it reflected. I thought to myself, "I hope I have that same attitude when I get older." Then, one of the two medical folks helping me began a side conversation about Coca-Cola with an assistant. The part of their dialogue that caught my ear was when he said, "Yeah, apparently Coke had this product called "New Coke" that they tried and people didn't like it."

Didn't like it? DIDN'T LIKE IT! When New Coke came out, I thought this country was headed for its next revolt. I was looking at him as he said this, and he had no emotional connection to the words he was saying. It didn't make sense because surely this guy wasn't that much younger than I, right? But in my experience, anyone who was around for the New Coke debacle still has some pretty strong opinions about it. My brain stopped working as I could not resolve his lack of understanding of this apparent issue and how much older that meant I must be than he was. It was one of those cruel moments when reality comes crashing in uninvited and reminded me that I too have had some pretty big birthdays. So rude!

The whiplash of the two experiences left me musing about how strange life and time can be. What is history to one, feels like yesterday to another. I think most of those reading this can understand that dilemma. Yet here we are. So, what are you going to do about it? For me, my plan is to trust Evelyn Scaringi. If you are going to trust anyone, I think she is a pretty good choice. At the close of our Engaged Aging Sunday service, Evelyn shared these words...

Thank you for worshipping with us today. My name is Evelyn Scaringi, and at 97 years old, I am the oldest team member of our Engaged Aging Committee. I want to close our time of worship with a personal word of encouragement. Don't be afraid of growing older. You may not believe it now, but this can be a wonderful time of life. I love it. My children are grown and out of the house and I am proud of the lives they are living. I am free to spend my time how I want, traveling, reading, making new friends, and I love that I can find more time to spend with God. Being a part of this church has enriched my life and taught me that no matter what age you are, there is a place of service and belonging for you here. If that resonates with you, I encourage you to come be a part of the engaging work of First Baptist. Thank you.

Amen and amen! May it be so with you as well. Grace and Peace,

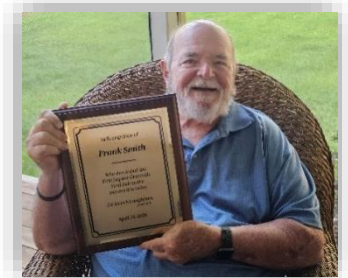
Michael McIntyre



Thanks for an Engaging Sunday



We celebrated Engaged Aging Sunday in worship on April 19. Thank you to all who helped make our Engaged Aging service meaningful- for those who led in worship, those who taught our Youth in Sunday School, those who turned in "Fun Facts," and those who worked behind the scenes to bring everything together, our service would not have been the same without you. Special thanks to Mary Louise Green, who we did not get to recognize on Sunday morning, but whose work with our monthly Engaged Aging Newsletter is enjoyed by so many. The Engaged Aging ministry was proud as well to honor Frank Smith during this service specifically for his work with creating and growing the Yard Sale fundraiser to support our Neighborhood Partnership ministries, but also for his lasting impact on so many in our church family and beyond.



Speaking of the Yard Sale...

Thanks to all who gave of their time and energy to make this year's yard sale such a success. The yard sale brought in over \$24,000! When you add that to the proceeds from the Holiday Sale the team piloted last fall, the total jumps to over \$26,000!! I appreciate the work Pastor Matt Rollins did to help prepare me in this interim time to help the yard sale thrive.



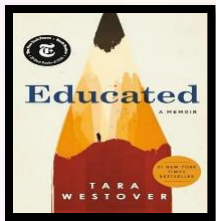
As I mentioned on Engaged Aging Sunday, the yard sale is an amazing entity from a ministry standpoint. The number of volunteers, the hours committed, the scope of the work and the execution of the event are impressive. I want to personally thank the Yard Sale Steering Committee for shepherding this undertaking throughout the year, The Committee consists of: Co-Chairs-Marie Hall and Kay Hardage, members- Bruce Brown, Ardis Entzminger, Jeff Gilbert, Kay Gilbert, Patsy Gray, Nancy Kirby, Tom Kirby, with Beth Olson serving as a Ministry Assistant to the team. Beyond this team, there were over 30 additional volunteers that made up the larger Yard Sale Team. Together, they gave countless hours of their time throughout the year to help sort, prep, and price every item. Thanks to their care and attention, our Neighborhood Partnership is ready for another year of ministry!

May 1- Lunch & More- Rick Huffman. “It’s a Bug’s World”

For our last Lunch & More of this Spring, Rick Huffman, founder of Earth Design will present, *It’s a Bug’s World: Embracing Native Plants for Thriving Landscapes*. Rick will discuss the botanical history, geology, and plants of the Upstate that reveal the wonders of where we live.



We are excited to bring him in for our Lunch & More crowd to help us better understand the importance of pollinators in our native plant ecosystems and to share tips on how we can cultivate habitats to attract these crucial creatures into our outdoor spaces.



Games & More and the book review of [Educated, A Memoir](#) by Tara Westover will begin at 10:30 a.m. This award-winning bestseller details the life of a young girl who grew up in a dysfunctional home while eventually learning the value of an education - and of standing up for herself. (Carroll Luck will lead the discussion of this fascinating book). All will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. for our program. Lunch will follow. To register, you can sign up [here](#) on Realm Connect, by visiting the church website or by calling the church office (864-233-2527).

May 6- Line Dancing Sponsored by Engaged Aging!



Yes, you read that correctly! We had a request from some of our EA members to have a Line Dancing night, and I am happy to report, our very own Kyle Juresich has agreed to lead us in a fun evening, focused on learning to “Boot, Scootin’ Boogie,” Engaged Aging style. This evening will be open to the whole congregation with dinner from 5:00-6:00 p.m. for the regular \$10 price. Fun will follow with lessons for all who wish to join (no childcare or other programming for the event, so plan accordingly). So whether you want to do a “heel toe, Dosey doe” or “tush in the chair, watch from over there,” make plans to join us for a night to remember. Be sure to sign up [here](#) on Realm.

May 12- Holy Rollers Next Outing- Our Return Trip to Strawberry Hill

We look forward to bringing back one of this group's favorite trips- to Strawberry Hill. The bus will leave First Baptist from the breezeway by the Fellowship Hall entrance at 10:00 a.m. and plan to return by 2:30 p.m. We will eat lunch at the Café and shop at the produce shed afterward for the first fruits of the season. Sign up [here](#) on Realm, visit the EA website, or give us a call.



May 14- EA Hike the Bell Park Nature Trail And/Or Lunch at the Saluda Inn



Our hikers are in for a treat as we hike in the morning and enjoy lunch and a tour at the historic Saluda Inn

(if you wish to only join us for lunch and the tour, you can choose that option

when you sign up [here](#) in [Realm](#)). Bell Park Nature Trail is a new Henderson County park in Saluda, offering 1.8 miles of walking trails and an observation deck next to a rushing waterfall. Bell Park is located in the town of Saluda on Spartanburg Highway (176) just south of the bridge over the Green River Gorge. There is a small parking area on the north side of the road.



After the hike, we will travel to the historic Saluda Inn run by Jay Burriss and Joel Kirby, son of Tom and Nancy Kirby. Joel and Jay purchased the Inn in 2020 and took on one of the largest renovation projects of their careers to create a stunning get away at one of Saluda's most historic properties! Our group will tour the Inn and enjoy lunch together (\$15 and FBG will cover the rest). Again, if you wish to drive and meet us for lunch at the Inn, you are welcome to join us.

- Those riding the bus will meet in the breezeway between the Fellowship Hall and the Rotunda, and depart FBG at 9:30 A.M..
- If you are driving separately, please plan to meet at the trail at 10:30 A.M. (4360 Spartanburg Hwy. Saluda, NC 28773). A small parking area is located at the trailhead.
- Lunch at the Saluda Inn and, if time permits, a quick stop at the Poinsett Bridge on the way home.
- We plan to arrive back at FBG by 3:30 P.M.

May 21- Roadrunners Special Event- Sold Out- Boat Tour of Lake Jocassee



I am considering renaming the Roadrunners the Waverunners after the response we had for the cruise of Lake Jocassee! We now have three boats for our tour. Each vessel will be guided by an area naturalist who will help us take in the beauty and wonder of a place that National Geographic listed as one of the World's 50 Last Great Places!

To be sure we arrive for our tour on time, those riding the bus need to be at First Baptist ready to go no later than 8:30 a.m. on Thursday morning. Our tour will disembark at 10:00 a.m. and return at noon. We plan to visit a local restaurant to help us get our land legs back after the trip, so be sure to bring money for lunch. If you plan to meet us at the dock, please be sure to leave time to park and walk to the dock by 10:45 a.m. If you have not paid the \$45 fee for the tour, you can do so on Realm or bring check or cash the morning of (unfortunately reservations are not refundable). Don't forget your sunscreen!

June 10- Holy Rollers/Roadrunners BONUS Trip- Survival of the Slowest



Let's go see a sloth! A new traveling exhibit called "Survival of the Slowest" is coming to the Roper Mountain Science Center this summer and bringing a variety of animals that challenge the idea that bigger (and faster) is better! As a bonus trip, FBG is offering a combined Holy

Rollers and Roadrunners excursion on Wednesday, June 10 to visit the exhibit. Tickets through FBG will be \$10. If you plan to ride the bus, please meet at the church in the breezeway by the Fellowship Hall entrance at 10:00 a.m.. If driving separately, you can meet us at the Roper Mountain Science Center at 10:15 AM. After our adventures we will head to lunch at a yet to be determined eatery. You can sign up [here](#) on Realm or by calling the church office.

The Time Has Come!

Many of you know Jalyn Rutledge, our Ministry Assistant who takes your calls, helps with registrations and check ins, diligently works behind the scenes, and genuinely brightens everyone's day.

You won't be seeing Jalyn for the next month or so as she will, very soon, be welcoming a new member into her family. We wish Jalyn the best as she takes this time off and we hope to be able to introduce her new little one to our Engaged Aging crowd soon. Blessings!





Opportunities to Serve



A Request From our Student Ministry for Prayer

To all our Engaged Aging community, I am hoping you will read the request below from Mary Carol and sign up to support our youth and leaders this summer. She is asking for folks who are willing to be partnered with a student or leader and commit to praying for them while they are on their trip, as well as writing seven letters of encouragement in total, one to be opened each day, as a way for our youth to know their church family cares for them and supports what they are doing. I know our EA community can rise to this occasion. Please see the article below for details.



As our high school and college students prepare for their Mission Immersion to Costa Rica this June, we are reminded that meaningful mission work is never done alone. While a team may be the ones who travel, serve, and build relationships on the ground, they are supported by an entire community that walks alongside them in prayer, encouragement, and love.

One of the most impactful ways our congregation has offered support in years past is through our Prayer Partner ministry. Each member of the mission team is paired with a Prayer Partner from our church family. Prayer Partners commit to praying for their participant each day of the trip, writing a short note for each day in advance and giving a small care package. These daily letters are given to participants to read throughout the week while in Costa Rica.

Time and again, students and leaders share how powerful it is to open those notes at the end of a long day, to be reminded that someone back home is praying for them by name and walking with them in spirit. Likewise, many Prayer Partners have found that this commitment deepens their connection not only to the participant, but to the mission itself.

I invite you to prayerfully consider volunteering to serve as a Prayer Partner for one of our team members. Together, we can be the hands and feet of Christ in Costa Rica, not only through those who go, but through those who pray. To sign up, you can use the link tinyurl.com/CostaRicaPrayerPartner, go through Realm, or call Sarah Dunn, Youth Ministry Assistant, at the church.



—Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth & College

Guess Whose Turning 200???

Volunteers Needed!

For nearly 200 years, our church's rich history has been captured in sermons, newsletters, Orders of Worship, directories, photos and documents. These items reflect our faith community's life across generations. Recently, a group of volunteers have begun the tremendous task of sorting through our church archives to begin the process of digitizing as much of our history as we can to make it searchable in preparation for our 200th celebration.

As such, the Archives Committee is looking for volunteers to help scan and organize these materials so they can be preserved and shared for years to come. This work helps ensure that future generations can understand our history and see how God has worked through First Baptist Greenville.

If you are looking for a way to make a meaningful, lasting impact behind the scenes, please email Michael McEntyre or contact Cherron Saad, Archives Committee Chair, at 864-630-7199.

Contact Us!

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 Jalyn Rutledge, the Ministry Assistant for Engaged Aging.
- Check out the Engaged Aging website for the current calendar of events and information at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/engaged-aging/>
- Check in with the Realm Connect app for up-to-date news, signups, giving, and more.

To find out about all of these great opportunities and more, visit our Engaged Aging website at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/engaged-aging/>.

You can also sign up for our Newsletter to be emailed to you each month!

