



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

Not an object or a thing. But like another family member, our family farm in Tennessee has played a huge role in my life. It's the place I feel most at home, where I feel closest to my parents and grandparents, and where my longing for them is heaviest. A couple of weeks ago, I made my way around the farm, making a mental map to carry with me and remembering:

- This is the spot where I first learned how to ride a horse.
- On that hillside, I flipped my 3-wheeler, which led dad to replace it with a 4-wheeler.
- That's the pond where my sister and I tried ice skating and fell through. Luckily, it was only knee-deep.
- This is the hill where the truck started rolling with my little sister inside after I forgot to put it in park while opening the gate.
- We used to sled down that hill. I still wince remembering when Gran went down on that red round sled, hit the jump, and tumbled head over heels.
- That cluster of trees once held the perfect grapevine for swinging.
- Here, I saw a mother skunk with three babies trailing behind her in a line.
- Along this fence row, we picked so many blackberries.
- That pond had ducks and adorable ducklings.
- We picnicked under that tree; Mom brought our little blue plastic table with the red chairs.
- Right there, we gathered enough walnuts to sell and buy a Cabbage Patch Kid!
- There used to be a muscadine vine growing along that tree line.
- Here, I was thrown from my horse.
- In those woods, Pa and I found a newborn calf.
- See those bones? I called that spot the cow graveyard.
- Every spring, this hill fills with wild daffodils. As a kid, I called them buttercups; I didn't know they had another name until I was an adult.
- That's the largest tree on the farm. It takes eight people to wrap around it, and during World War II, German prisoners of war sat under it.
- In that valley, there's a sinkhole where the tractor got stuck.
- Down there is a spring. When I was little, there was always a cup hanging on a branch so you could stop and take a drink.
- Up that hill, there's a cave so deep that when you drop a rock, it takes forever to hear it hit the bottom.
- We stood, right there, gazing at the Bethlehem Star the night my dad died.
- I can still picture the barn that used to stand over there.
- We got into a lot of trouble for riding our 4-wheelers in that field: a hay field.
- Here is where we worked cows, which my sister loved and

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Wednesdays@First activities for this semester have concluded but will resume on August 19.

WORSHIP

May 31

10:30am

Trinity Sunday (Sanctuary)

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon: From Persecutor to Preacher

Scripture: Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-14

Anthem: "Sing a New Song"—Trotta

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Mareon Stall by her family in celebration of her life and faithful service.

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for a future worship service, contact Kimberly Coates (kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or 864-233-2527 ext. 128). The next open dates are June 21 and 28.

honestly made me want to be a vegetarian.

- A couple of hundred years ago, there was a house on that hill. The well is still there.
- Hearing a pack of coyotes howl, right here, sent a chill up my spine.

Anyone who has loved a place understands that land, trees, hills, rocks, and flowers are more than objects; they leave their mark on you. Nature is not just a thing, but part of God's good and beautiful creation, given to bless us. Do you have a place that has changed you?

Happy Birthday!

Remember these members celebrating birthdays in June who may not always be able to be with us in worship:

Sharon Benston	Beth Jefford	Barb Jones	Sue Skarupa	Coco Williams
Joe Greer	Judy Jett	Teresa Mahon	Virgil Story	

You Are Cordially Invited

...to help us give thanks and celebrate the AYMC's Fitness Center Refresh at an Open House on Sunday, May 31, 2026, immediately following worship. Knowing our original equipment had aged to a point that would make maintenance challenging and very expensive, we took several months to thoughtfully and carefully research options. After much prayer and deliberation, we were able to purchase new fitness equipment to give our facility a complete refresh! The existing equipment will all be repurposed, affirming the AYMC's core intention to be mindful of sustainability and energy-efficient practices.

Our Open House will feature staff-led tours highlighting the new equipment and layout, and the personal training/fitness instruction staff will be there to meet, greet, and share about what they can offer to improve your health and wellness. Yard-style games (think beachball volleyball and cornhole) will be set up in the gym for kids of all ages to enjoy. There will be t-shirts, a photobooth and food stations featuring light appetizers, desserts and coffee provided by one of our beloved community partners, Jasmine Kitchen. AYMC Committee members will be available to provide information about membership and summer programs for all ages and to answer your questions. We will also be doing some great giveaways of summer memberships, personal training sessions, and t-shirts!

We hope you will join us for this special time of fellowship to celebrate and bless the unique ministries of the AYMC. You are encouraged to bring both church and community friends to discover all that the AYMC has to offer! We hope to see you there.

—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Director



Furman Singers Alumni Choir—July 26

Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26. That weekend, alumni from the Furman University Singers will gather from across the country to share a weekend of music and fellowship that will culminate in morning worship here at First Baptist Greenville. Of the many connections between First Baptist Greenville and the Furman Singers, perhaps the most current is that our own Minister of Music Laura Ritter serves as the president of the Furman Singers Alumni Association.

The Furman Singers, the oldest of Furman University's choral ensembles, was founded in 1946 by the late DuPre Rhame while he also served as the Minister of Music at First Baptist Greenville. In 1979, DuPre Rhame (retired in 1970) and the conductor of

the Furman Singers since 1970, Dr. Bingham Vick Jr., gathered alumni from 1946 until the present time for a weekend of fellowship and music. Rhame died in 1981, but Vick continued the biennial "Furman Singers Reunion" throughout his tenure. Vick retired in 2010, and the Singers' next conductor, Dr. Hugh Floyd, continued this tradition. After Floyd's retirement, Dr. Stephen Gusukuma, Director of Choral Activities, took the helm of the Furman Singers. This year marks the 25th biennial reunion, and all three living conductors will be leading the gathered singers. It will be a morning of beautiful music raised in the worship of God. We hope you will join us for this extraordinary morning of worship.

—Kimberly Coates, Music & Worship Ministry Assistant

Summer with Our Youth Family & Youth Mentoring Team!

There is something special about summertime in the life of our Youth Family! Our pace changes and schedules open up just enough for us to spend meaningful time together, serving, learning and

playing. In all of these moments, we are afforded the opportunity to build relationships, connect with new folks and grow deeper in our friendships and in our relationship with God. Summer gives us the gift of time together, and that is something that truly matters in a world that often feels busy and rushed.

Throughout the summer, we offer a variety of opportunities and experiences to create space for laughter, fun, service in our community, and discipleship. Our weekly gatherings for MidWeek Missions & More provide a consistent opportunity for our youth to connect with each other and the community while growing in our faith. Whether we are partnering with local mission organizations, traveling together on retreats and trips, gathering for meals, or simply enjoying time together, these moments help our students feel known, welcomed and connected.

Join us on Wednesdays for MidWeek Missions & More from 9:00am to 2:00pm when our Youth Family is in town. All youth are welcome to participate in a mission project, enjoy lunch together, and attend a youth bible study. Watch for our Summer Calendar to be published in the next couple of weeks so you can join us for all the fun!

Be sure to join us for our upcoming Retreats!

Unidiversity Youth Camp for all Youth, grades 6-12, and College at Maryville College in Maryville, TN! July 6-10. Contact our Youth Staff to sign up!

Fall Retreat @ Camp Kanuga (Labor Day weekend) September 5-7. For all youth in grades 6-12 in the 2026-2027 school year. Registration OPEN! Sign up on Realm: <https://tinyurl.com/bddv5nm6>

FBG YOUTH Family

JUNE

6/1-6/5 Senior Trip, Isle of Palms, SC
6/2 Frankie's Fun Park, 6:00pm-8:00pm (Drop off/pick up at Frankie's)

6/3 MidWeek Missions & More, 9:00am-2:00pm

6/7 Mission Trip Commissioning, 10:30am Worship

6/8 College Bible Study, 6:00pm

6/10 Costa Rica Work Day 1:00pm-5:00pm at AYMC

SkyZone for All Youth, 5:30-7:30pm (\$25/person drop off/pick up at Skyzone)

6/13-6/19 High School Mission Trip: Costa Rica

6/24 MidWeek Missions & More, 9:00am-2:00pm

6/25 College Bible Study, 6:00pm

JULY

7/1 Theme Park Day—details to be announced

7/3 FBG Offices Closed

7/6-10 Unidiversity Youth Camp, Maryville, TN

7/13 College Bible Study, 6:00pm

7/15 MidWeek Missions & More, 9:00am-2:00pm

7/20 Lunch @ Rocky's Hot Chicken Shack, Noon-1:30pm

7/20 College Bible Study, 6:00pm

7/22 MidWeek Missions & More, 9:00am-2:00pm

7/27 College Bible Study, 6:00pm

AUGUST

8/2 End of Summer Pool Party, 4:00-7:00pm

8/3 College Bible Study, 6:00pm

8/9 Blessing Sunday: Breakfast, 9:00am & Worship, 10:30am

8/16 Youth Family Block Party 5:00-7:00pm AYMC

8/23 Merge Retreat & First Sunday Night Live at AYMC

8/26 First Fall Youth@First

SEPTEMBER

9/5-9/7 All Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Kanuga

Graduate Recognition Sunday

This past Sunday, our church had the joy of celebrating and honoring the Class of 2026, which includes high school, college,

and graduate school graduates. As a church family, we celebrate these graduates not just because they have earned their degrees, but because we have had the privilege of watching many of them grow up among us. We have played a role in raising and shaping them over the years by teaching them important lessons about faith, community, compassion, courage and resilience. As a congregation, we have supported

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5/31 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) | 6/12 Habitat for Humanity Duplex Build |
| 11:30am-1:30pm AYMC Open House | 6/14 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) |
| 6/7 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) | 6/18 Church Offices and AYMC Closed in Observance of Juneteenth |
| 6/10 10:00am Holy Rollers Trip to Roper Mountain Science Center | 6/21 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) |

Exciting Changes Coming for *The Branch*!

Beginning June 1, *The Branch* will be a monthly publication. You will receive weekly updates in our Monday "This Week at First" email, along with ministry-specific messages, social media, Realm and our website.

Graduate Recognition Sunday, continued from p. 3

them through challenges and celebrated their accomplishments and milestones throughout the years.

Our graduates represent years of dedication, perseverance, learning and growth. Among them are students who have led in our worship services, mentored younger youth, and helped shape the spirit of what our Youth Family is today. Their kindness, leadership and presence were impactful on our Youth Family. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and even more excited for the people they are becoming.

We were grateful to spend the morning celebrating together. We began with a breakfast shared with our Youth Family, recognized graduates during 10:30am worship and concluded with a special luncheon honoring our high school graduates through storytelling, laughter, memories, encouragement and a blessing for the journey ahead.

Thank you FBG for helping us teach all these graduates that they are deeply loved by God and by this church family.



Sympathy

...to Kathy Stewart in the death of her mother, and to Meg Stewart and Kate Fogleman in the death of their grandmother.

Congratulations

...to Jalyn Rutledge and Coleman Bazen on the birth of their daughter, Opal Josephine Bazen, born on May 17, 2026.



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THE BRANCH

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Revenue Report

Current YTD Actual thru 05/19/26
\$1,026,333

Compare to 5/31 YTD

Prior Year Actual (2025) \$1,100,208

Current Year Budget (2026)
\$1,282,917



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.

Introducing



...Trisha Stanford, who joined our church on Sunday, May 17. Please take a moment to say hello and make her feel right at home.