



CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

May 2023

Volume LXXV, No. 05

First Baptist Youth Choir and Area Youth
Proudly Presents:

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

An abridged musical by
Andrew Lloyd Webber
and Tim Rice

Wednesday
May 24, 2023
6:30pm

One
Performance
Only



First Baptist Church
GREENWOOD

FBC Fellowship Hall Stage
722 Grace Street, Greenwood, SC 29649
(864) 229-5557



THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION AND THE “LITTLE THINGS”

I was passing by a television in a hotel lobby when a headline caught my eye. It read, “SPACEX LAUNCH OF MOST POWERFUL ROCKET EVER BUILT CANCELLED.” I wanted to know more, so I looked up articles about the cancelled launch. It turns out that, minutes before launch, it was discovered that a small valve in the rocket had frozen. The launch was cancelled and it was noted that it would take at least two days to drain the fuel from the rocket so that the valve could be repaired. The delay was frustrating, but much better than the disaster that could have occurred had they continued.

There's are two important lessons here. First, the most powerful rocket in the world doesn't do you much good if you can't get it off the ground. Second, delays are far better than disasters.

These lessons have application to the transition process for the church. I occasionally hear someone wondering if all we are doing in the transition process is necessary. I also hear people who are anxious to get on with things.

First Baptist Greenwood is a church filled with potential and gifted staff and church members. The potential is there but, without the right leadership, the potential will go unfulfilled; the rocket won't get off the ground. No process is perfect, but taking the time to honestly assess our strengths and weaknesses and our opportunities and challenges makes it highly more likely we can call a person who is best suited to lead the church in the years ahead.

Some folks are ready to begin that new journey right now. They are ready to launch. The danger is that, in rushing things, we might not take the time and the care to be honest about who we are and the mission we are called to fulfill. Attention to detail may cause some delay, but that is far better than the disaster of calling someone who is not a good fit for the church.

I encourage you, as I have before, to trust the process and to participate in the process. Every voice needs to be heard. The more information that is provided, the sharper the image of who we are and what God is calling us to do will be. And, again, thank you for letting me be a part of this process with you.

Carlton Allen

Family Night Meals Continue **Reservation Deadline Extended to Noon on Monday**

The “Catering Crew” (Robby Stevenson, Jeff Rush, Dennis Moore, and Jim Firmin) will prepare Wednesday night meals until the end of May. The cost of the Wednesday night meal is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and no family pays more than \$30.00. To be placed on the permanent reservation list or to make a week by week reservation, please call the church office (229-5557) or make an online reservation from the Engage page of the church's website (fbcgwd.org/engage) by noon the Monday before the Wednesday you plan to eat. **(Reservations for May 3 are needed by noon May 1.)** All meals will include an entrée, sides, a full salad bar, roll/bread, dessert, and beverage.



Worship in May

Worship—May 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 17:54-60
(OT: Psalm 66:8-20)

Sermon: "After the Resurrection: Good News About Judgement"
Carlton Allen

Anthem: "In Joseph's Lovely Garden"
Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. Y. Thomason by Bill and Nancy Thomason.

Worship—May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter Mother' Day

Scripture: John 10:1-10
(OT: Psalm 27:1-5, 13-14)

Sermon: "The Attentive Shepherd"
Carlton Allen

Anthem: "My Jesus is My Lasting Joy" -
Keith Jameson, soloist
Beverly Psomas, guest organist;
Leah Burdette, flute

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Nick and Virginia Anagnost by their family.

Worship—May 21

Ascension Sunday

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-8
(NT: Galatians 6:7-10)

Sermon: "The Danger of Dreaming"
Carlton Allen

Anthems: Music Makers and Young Musicians; Andy Westbrook, euphonium, and Stephanie Turner, piano

Worship—May 28

Pentecost

Scripture: Numbers 11:24-30
(NT: Acts 2:1-21)

Sermon: "What We haven't Told You About the Holy Spirit"
Carlton Allen

Anthems: :
"Spirit of the Living God"
"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"
Chancel Choir



Music Notes

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat May 24

Way, way back many centuries ago, not long after the Bible began...

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, by Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice, returns to the First Baptist Church fellowship hall on Wednesday, May 24. Way, way back in 1983-84, then Music Director Dr. Jane Bolen led the youth choir in this shortened adaptation of the popular musical. Keith Jameson was Joseph and Wyndi Wyndham was Pharaoh (Jane Bolen made Joseph's coat for that production, which will be displayed in the narthex of the fellowship hall, along with some photos of that performance). For this 2023 fully-staged production, Sam Smith stars as Joseph, with Freddie McClendon as Pharaoh, Terry Gilchrist as Jacob, Lily Martin, Jonah Maze, Claire Hudson, and Laura Margaret Fennell as Narrators, and the many youth portraying various brothers, Ishmaelites, and Egyptian palace attendants. Ryan Hewitt will be directing, with Beverly Psomas on piano, Lydia Turner on violin, Jonah Maze on guitar, and Sylvia Martin helping with the set construction. The music is lively, catchy, and lots of fun. There will be a "Mediterranean Meal" served at 5:30 pm, with the performance at 6:30 pm. (Be sure to make meal reservations by noon on Monday, May 22.) Make plans now to attend this wonderful night of theater in the fellowship hall and support these amazing youth as they bring the story of Joseph and his brothers (and Pharaoh) to life. "It was red and yellow and green and brown and scarlet and black and ochre and peach..." You will be sure to sing along as we name every color under the sun.



Doxologies for Different Seasons

During the Eastertide season, the church brings back the “Alleluias” in the singing of the alternate hymn tune, LASST UNS ERFREUEN, during the Doxology. (During Lent “alleluias” are buried and the regular Doxology is sung to the familiar hymn tune OLD 100TH). The “Alleluia” Doxology also features a change in wording: “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost” as the ‘*Creator*’ of all, a reference to Genesis and the creation of all men and women; the ‘*Christ*’, a reference not only to the Son of God but also the Resurrected Christ; and the ‘*Holy Ghost*’, a reference to the Spirit that surrounds all, and the coming Sunday of Pentecost. After Eastertide, which ends with Pentecost (the celebration of the Holy Spirit) on May 28, the church once again sings the OLD 100TH on Sunday, June 4, Trinity Sunday. Therefore, it is appropriate to once again sing the familiar “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.” (the Holy Trinity). The OLD 100TH hymn tune will be used in worship throughout the summer and Ordinary Time.



Wednesday Nights for Adults in May

May 3: Adults are invited to hear Bette and Mark Lovatt talk about their mission work with Kid’s International Ministries in the Philippines.

May 10: M(usic) & M(issions) Night led by the children’s choirs and mission groups.

May 17: Carlton Allen will talk about what it means to be Baptist.

May 24: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Coat* led by the Voices of Grace Youth Choir.

May 31: Elizabeth Nance-Coker will talk about what it means to be CBF and a CBF church.

The Chancel Choir will continue with their usual rehearsal schedule.

Wednesday night activities will pause during June and July. Watch the various church publications for exciting “Building Block” offerings beginning in August.

5th Sunday First Baptist Church Mission and Vision



The Transition Team is hosting a congregational event at 10:00 am, on Sunday, April 30 in the fellowship hall. The event will focus on the Values, Mission Statement, and Vision of First Baptist. What values does First Baptist hold dear? How is First Baptist living out its mission statement? What is the vision of the church in light of the mission statement? These and other questions will be discussed during the event. Make plans now to be a part of this special event. **A make-up session will be held in the Chapel on Sunday morning, May 7, during the 10:00 am Sunday School hour for those who are unable to make the previous meeting.** Please note, although April 30 is a fifth Sunday, there will be no breakfast served for this event or on May 7.



Visit the Heritage Timeline

Please visit the Heritage Timeline located just inside the doors of the Fellowship Hall. Use the pads on the table to add special events and dates to the timeline that relate to you and/or your family.



Nat Chandler Sings for NGO

Nat Chandler will perform on Tuesday, May 2, for the NGO Fellowship. Nat, who has sung on Broadway and National Tour Productions, will entertain the group with a delightful concert of uplifting music. The meeting will begin at 11:45 am, followed by lunch. The program will begin at 12:30 pm. The meal, catered by Lee Brothers Barbecue, will be chicken strips, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and strawberry shortcake. The cost of the meal is \$10.00. Visitors are welcome. **Please be sure to call the church office no later than Thursday, April 27, to make your meal reservation.**

2023 Ministry Plan First Quarter Update



Church Family News

Although First Baptist ended the first quarter with a deficit in revenue to expenses of \$49,879.27, this shortfall in revenue of approximately two and a half weeks. During the first quarter, gifts to the church were \$179,897.14 and expenses totaled \$229,776.41.

It is also important to note that the First Quarter financials reflect the payment of quarterly missions "on time and in full." the quarterly mission payment to ministry partners is \$20,350.00.

While the Stewardship Committee voted to pay First Quarter Missions, several committee members were concerned about paying missions "in full and on time." The future payment to mission partners will be dependent on gifts to the annual Ministry Plan. Therefore, it is important to give.

Gifts to First Baptist may be made online through the church website, given each Sunday in the offering plate or basket in the Narthex, mailed to the church, or given online through your bank bill pay. For questions about ways to give to the church, please contact David Jennings by email (jenningsdaj@gmail.com) or by phone (229-5557).

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Dwain Waldron, Andrew Waldron's grandfather
- Orville Neufeld, Chuck Neufeld's father
- Ellen Fagan, Margaret May
- Debbie Cox Gardner, Ruth Martin's niece
- Matthew Galusha, Carole Russell's nephew

Home: Vivian Andrews, Arlene Strauss

Flower Vases Needed

In order for the weekly sanctuary flowers to be enjoyed for more than an hour, Jo Stevenson, Ann Scott Snead, and other volunteer arrangers use the flowers each Sunday to make smaller arrangements that helpinghands volunteers carry to church and community members. Vases are needed for this ministry. The ideal vase would be clear, five to seven inches tall, and have a wide mouth. No bud vases or large, tall vases are needed at this time. If you have vases to donate, please bring them to the church office.

Change in Online Giving Fee Selection

As a reminder, there has been a change to the FBC online giving fee selection. Individuals must now "check a box" if they would like the church to pay the processing fee for their contribution. Otherwise, those contributing to the church through the online giving portal (Tithe.ly) will pay the fee. For questions about online giving, please contact David Jennings by phone (864) 229-5557 or by email (jenningsdaj@gmail.com).



How Does Our Ministry Plan Work?

The First Baptist "budget," commonly referred to as the "Ministry Plan," outlines the way the contributions to the church are to be spent. The Ministry Plan is "unified" in that contributions are used as needed among the ten different areas of the ministry plan. A unified ministry plan also does not allow members to "pick and choose" parts of the ministry plan to support over other areas of the plan. Contributing to the annual Ministry Plan means contributing to every aspect of the plan. Giving to the Ministry Plan means contributors are giving equally to missions, compensation, music, children's ministry, student ministry, as well as property and grounds. Thank you for your contribution to the unified Ministry Plan!

2023 Ministry Plan

March Income	72,586.05
March Expenses	81,510.57
March Deficit	8,924.52

April 2 - 23, 2023

Monthly Need	89,984.96
Monthly Gifts	63,282.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	323,262.82
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	243,179.45
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(80,083.37)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	157
Worship Attendance (Avg)	235



Spring Dates

- May 3:** Last children's choirs practice
- May 5:** Playground Night, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- May 7:** Two older children's choirs sing in worship
- May 10:** M&M Night, 6:30 (all 3 children's choirs and CIAs)
- May 17:** CIA Fun Night, 6:30 pm
- May 24:** Youth's *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat*
- May 31:** Splash Pad, 6:00 pm



Playground Night

The next Playground Night is Friday, May 5, 5:30 – pm-8:00 pm for 1K-5th grade. **Please RSVP by Thursday, May 4.** Supper will be provided.



Vacation Bible School 2023 June 20-22

3K-5th Grade
(Those that were in 3K during the '22-'23 school year)

Supper - 5:30 pm

Vacation Bible School - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Invite friends!

Registration for kids and volunteers will begin in May.

VBS is going back to a kid event this year. The intergenerational VBS will be every two to three years!

*We will decorate for VBS on Sunday, June 18 at 3:00 pm.



Camp P.R.I.S.M.

July 11-14

"Do. Love. Walk."

Completed 3rd-5th Graders

\$50.00 deposit due May 26

Total due by camp week- \$175.00

Meeting for parents and campers: Sunday, July 9.

5th Sunday Library Activity



The next Fifth Sunday Library Activity is next Sunday, April 30. Following *Scripture Thoughts*, children are invited to meet volunteers in the narthex to be escorted to a special program in the church library For Fifth Sunday Library Activity, children may wear play clothes as some of the activities may be a craft, nature walk, or being active. After worship, parents are asked to pick up their children in the fellowship hall. Children from toddlers to 5th grade are invited. Extended Session will continue to be offered for nursery and toddlers on fifth Sundays. Toddler parents have the option to send their children to the toddler room or to the 5th Sunday activity. Children's Church will participate in the 5th Sunday activity in lieu of being in the Backyard. Contact Kelly Rhodes (kelly_rhodes@hotmail.com) or Shelby Reed (cofccougar_1999@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

P/ALS Event

(Parents/Adults who Like to Socialize)
April 30, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm,

The Growing Young team has created a quarterly event called **P/ALS**. These events afford fellowship among adults, with childcare being provided for parents. The next P/ALS event is Sunday, April 30, 5:30 pm -7:30 pm.

Young at Heart

The Young at Heart group will meet at noon on Tuesday, May 9, at the Country Club.



Youth News



May Sunday Night Live

May Sunday Night Live will feature taco trucks, music, and games! First Baptist youth will meet up with other area youth groups at First Presbyterian Church and have a blast. This is a great chance try something a little bit different and stretch outside our comfort zone. Please note the time of the event is different from the usual Sunday Night Live activities and will run from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.



Car Wash Fundraiser

Come out and support the youth on Sunday, May 21! The youth will have their now annual Car Wash fundraiser. It will be held a little bit later this year and will run from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. This will allow people to go to *Munchin' for Missions*, go home and change, and come back. This is a great chance to help defray the costs of youth trips and get a clean car in the process. The youth have saved many marriages this way - why not make yours one of them?

Youth Progressive Dinner



On Sunday, May 21, following *Voices of Grace* choir rehearsal, the youth will have a progressive dinner! This is a great chance to visit some houses and have a little fun together. While the Progressive Dinner will be held after choir, one does NOT need to attend choir rehearsal to come (though we hope you do!). One might notice this is the same day as the youth car wash, so buckle up for a fun filled day of hanging out with friends at church!

Calling All Graduates



The church family wants to honor any student (high school, technical school, college, or graduate school) associated with FBC who graduated in the Fall of 2022 or who will graduate in the Spring or Summer of 2023. These students will be recognized during worship on June 4. The church office needs the graduate's name, school, graduation date, degree (if applicable), future plans, and a recent photo. This information may submitted online at www.fbcgwd.org/engage or brought to the church office. **The information and photo is needed no later than May 28.**



Passport signups have closed and there is a great group of youth attending this year. The youth are really looking forward to the chance to go on a bigger week. Payment will be accepted at any time, but **the deadline for payment is the Parent Information Meeting, held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday May 31.** It is important for parents to attend the meeting to receive information about the week and to receive a packing list.



Munchin' for Missions

First Baptist traditionally celebrates CBF State Mission endeavors during May and collects funds during the month to support the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions. First Baptist also loves fellowship and sharing meals together. *Munchin' for Missions* is a way to enjoy good food, food fellowship, and raise money for state missions. Immediately following worship on Sunday, May 21, everyone will gather in fellowship hall for a meal. The cost of the meal is a donation to the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions. A basket will be at the entrance to fellowship hall to receive donations. Come eat heartily and give generously!



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Website: fbcgwd.org

Cheerful Cherubs

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Ministers and Staff

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Helping Hands Ministry Information Line(864) 229-8051

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED
