



CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Volume LXXV, No. 06



VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL
June 20-22, 2023

Supper 5:30 pm
VBS 6:00 pm

3K-5th Grade
(3K in the 2022-2023 school year)

Invite Friends!

Please register by Sunday, June 18.

First Baptist Church will travel back to ancient Babylon to see how Daniel and his friends had the courage to stand firm and believe in the one true God. We will experience God's presence with us always and explore how we too can faithfully follow God—no matter what.

Volunteers are needed!
Let Anna know you want to help!

Decorating for VBS on Sunday, June 18 at 3:00 pm



The Surgeon General Advises Us to Go to Church

The headline caught my eye a few days ago. "The surgeon general is worried about a decline in church attendance." The reason is because a decline in church attendance contributes to loneliness which the surgeon general believes is a profound threat to public health.

Religious or faith-based groups can be a source for regular social contact, serve as a community of support, provide meaning and purpose, create a sense of belonging around shared values and beliefs, and are associated with reduced risk-taking behaviors. Those of us who have a history of regular church attendance should not be surprised by any of this. However, the article went on to state that loneliness is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, depression, anxiety, and premature death. Church involvement is not only good, it's good for you!

Several things have contributed to a decline in church attendance. Many people just never came back after COVID. Unfortunately, the church has given itself an image problem as well. Entanglement with politics, leaders caught in scandals, judgmental attitudes, and the lavish lifestyles of TV clergy leave a bad taste in many people's mouths and, to be honest, we can't blame them. Social media has made connections that are a mile wide, but only inches deep. They are very superficial. Many of us spend far more time looking at our devices than looking one another in the face. Actual conversations have been reduced to emoji exchanges.

We no longer live in a time when we can expect people to be drawn to church. Instead, we need to do a better job of reaching out to them. We need to let them know that not all churches are like the ones they see on TV or read about in the papers.

I want to encourage you to reach out to those you know who have dropped out of church. Sometimes a little encouragement is all they need. I want to encourage our Sunday School classes to be more intentional about fellowship opportunities. I know one of our classes tried to get a group together for Sunday lunch a while back and not enough responded, but I want to encourage you to keep making that effort. Habits don't change overnight. Invite folks who are not involved in a church to come to church with you or meet you here. I have challenged our staff to make outreach a more intentional part of what they do.

I think the surgeon general is right and I think, as time goes on, people are going to look for ways to combat loneliness. One of the best resources for that is the church, but we've got to spread the word. Even the surgeon general wants us in church!

Carlton

Sunday Services Now Live Streamed

Sunday morning services are now streamed live on Facebook and YouTube (<http://youtube.com/channel/UCfqoKtyauoSwa0aqhwi-ntw/live>). Each services is archived on YouTube as well (<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstBaptistChurchGWDLive>).



The 2023 Connection Sunday School Class will begin June 4 and continue through July 30.. The class meets at 10:00 am in the Youth lounge (Room 102 under the Sanctuary) .



Worship in June

Worship—June 4 Trinity Sunday

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:1-13
(OT: Psalm 8)

Sermon:

“The Trinity: Explaining the Inexplicable”
Carlton Allen

Anthems:

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Dennis Moore, soloist

“This Is My Son (Hic est Filius meus)”

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song” -
Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary Flowers will be given by the Bowers Sunday School Class to the glory of God and memory of class members and teachers who have passed away.

Worship—June 11

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21
(NT: Matthew 6:25-34)

Sermon: “A Presence in the Wilderness”
Carlton Allen

Anthems:

“Seek First the Kingdom” - Chancel Choir;
“Turn! Turn! Turn!

(To Everything There is a Season),”

Tracie Rush and Byron Hillely, soloists;
Beverly Psomas, guest organist

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of a beloved church member by her family.

Worship—June 18

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Father’s Day

Scripture: Isaiah 5:1-7
(NT: John 15:1-11)

Sermon: “The Loving Gardener”
Carlton Allen

Anthems:

“Creation Sings (the Father’s Song)”

“When I Survey the Wonderful Cross”
Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Angela Wyndham Powers by her family.

Worship—June 25

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 10:24-39

Sermon: “Sparrows and Disciples”
Joey Fuson

Anthems::

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

Alice Gilchrist, soloist

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me” - Chancel Choir



Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

The Chancel Choir will be singing a brand new anthem on June 25, a new composition on the wonderful words of the hymn “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me.” The words were written by Edward Hopper (1816-1888); the text compares our life’s troubles with the storms that sailors faced on their voyages at sea. Hopper was born into a family descended from the Huguenots, French protestants. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary and pastored at Greenville Presbyterian Church, Sag Harbor Presbyterian Church on Long Island, and in 1870, he began a ministry as pastor at the “Church of Sea and Land” in New York harbor, a church for sailors. He remained there until his death. He wrote the words to this hymn anonymously, and it soon became the sailors favorite hymn. In 1880, the Seaman’s Friend Society asked Hopper to write a new hymn verse and speak at their anniversary celebration that year. He spoke these words instead of writing a new hymn, and it was revealed that he had written these stirring words. The first verse reads.

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life’s
tempestuous sea*

*Unknown waves before me roll, hiding
rock and treacherous shoal;*

*Chart and compass come from thee;
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*

The Chancel Choir’s new anthem is by the composer Jonathan Kohrs, and features a slow gospel feel. The close dissonances and fresh, changing harmonies on each successive verse lead to a beautiful a cappella moment on verse four; The final verse swells with even newer harmonies, like a restless wave, building to a rich, stunning conclusion.



May Diaconate Update

The May Diaconate meeting was held at 7:00 pm on Sunday, May 21. In addition to receiving reports from the ministry staff, the Diaconate also received an update concerning the work of the First Baptist Church Pastor Transition Team.

The Diaconate approved the following recommendations from the Transition Team.

- 1) The Transition Team recommended the adoption of the suggested additions to the First Baptist Church Values and Vision based on recent congregational meetings.
- 2) The Transition Team recommended the creation of three Diaconate Ad-hoc Committees to research, review, the following topics.

First Ad-hoc Committee

- Remove Foundation Bylaws and Foundation Documents from the general church documents (Policy and Procedures Manual).
- Remove Edgewood Cemetery and Mausoleum Documents from the general church documents.
- Begin discussion of the Edgewood Cemetery and Mausoleum becoming its own entity (similar to the Foundation.)
- Evaluate the relationship of all First Baptist Church Scholarships and the church.

Second Ad-hoc Committee

- Request the Diaconate edit the Policy and Procedures Manual and Church Bylaws.

Third Ad-hoc Committee

- Ask all Standing Committees review and edit their committee information that are part of the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Personnel Committee

- The Diaconate will asked the Personnel Committee about removing the Personnel Manual and all personnel documents from the general church documents and make it a completely separate document. This will also include a review of Cheerful Cherubs.



Wednesday Night Clean Up Crew Needed

Have you attended Family Night Meals this spring? Did you enjoy them? Do you want Family Night meals to continue after the summer break? **In order for meals to continue, the Wednesday Night Catering Crew needs a couple of people each week to make sure the food is put into the refrigerator following the meal.** If enough people volunteer, each volunteer will give an hour or less once every two or three months. Volunteers do not have to wash the plates, cups, or silverware. All that is needed is to secure the food. If interested, please contact the church office.



2024 Ministry Plan Requests

Work has begun on the 2024 Ministry Plan. Committee chairs and others have been contacted regarding the **July 7** deadline to submit requests for 2024. Committees are encourage to begin discussing requests for the new annual Ministry Plan. Please be in prayer for committees and others as they consider Ministry Plan requests for next year.



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.

Church Family News



June and July Wednesday Night Schedule Changes

June and July—No Regular Wednesday Night Activities

June only—Chancel Choir will rehearse

August 2—Late Summer Schedule Kick-off—Churchwide Hotdogs and Hymns Fellowship

August 9—Regular Wednesday night activities resume

Sounds of Grace Choir schedule TBA.



Munchin' for Missions Report

Munchin' for Missions is an annual fundraiser for the CBF of SC's Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions. There is no cost for the meal beyond what each person wishes to donate to the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions. Through this year's fundraiser, more than \$1,881.00 was given to support the Beverly Greer Offering! Thank you to everyone who made this event possible.

Even though May is the month FBC typically emphasizes state missions, money may be given to the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions any time during the year. To learn more about the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions, please contact CBFSC Coordinator, Elizabeth Nance-Coker or SBFSC Associate Coordinator, Lane Riley.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Anna Griggs
- Henry "Slick" Lee, Vaughan Free's uncle

Home: Cindy Lindahl, Bob Ledet, Nathan Smith

Births

Edward Keith Snead V, son of Ayla and Ed Snead, grandson of Shawn and Keith Snead

Everly Bridges, daughter of Angela and Nathan Bridges



Financial Needs Do Not Take A Vacation

Gifts to First Baptist reflect a commitment to *seek His heart and be His hands* through the annual Ministry Plan. Gifts to the Ministry Plan support the ministry of the church as well as local, state, and worldwide missions. Gifts to the Ministry Plan may be made in the following ways:

- **In-Person:** Drop an envelope in the basket in the narthex or in the offering plate on Sunday, or, bring your offering to the church office during the week.
- **Mail:** Send offering to 722 Grace Street, Greenwood, SC 29649
- **Online:** Use the convenient and secure "Giving" button on the church website (fbcgwd.org)

Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church

2023 Ministry Plan

April Income	75,262.31
April Expenses	70,177.45
April Surplus	5,084.86

April 30 - May 21, 2023

Monthly Need	83,984.96
Monthly Gifts	84,622.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	399,324.67
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	327,801.76
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(71,522.91)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	164
Worship Attendance (Avg)	184



Summer Dates

May 31: Splash Pad: Family Summer Kick
-Off, 6:00 p -7:00 pm, Uptown

June 18: Decorate for VBS, 3:00 pm

June 18: RSVP for VBS deadline

June 20-22: VBS, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

July 9: Meeting for Camp P.R.I.S.M.
campers and parents

July 11-14: Camp Prism

July 23: Picnic & Bikes, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

August 6: Potluck Breakfast, 9:15 am

August 6: Promotion Sunday, Blessing of
Backpacks, First Grader Bibles

**Rising 6th graders will move up to Youth
July 30. All others will begin in their new
classes on August 6 on Promotion
Sunday.



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.



Volunteer Openings in Children's Ministry 2023-2024 (beginning August 6)

- Music Maker Choir Leader (4K-1st)
- Sunday School Preschool/K5
[once a month] - 2 spots
- Sunday School 1st-5th helper
[once a month] - 3 spots
- Extended Session Nursery
- CIA leaders
(moving from 3 groups to 4 groups)

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never
tell where his influence stops."

~ Henry Adams



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 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.

Youth News



Car Wash Fundraiser Moved to June 4

Because of the possibility of inclement weather, the youth car wash fundraiser was moved from May 21 to June 4. Therefore, there is still time to support the youth as they prepare for summer activities. The annual Youth Car Wash fundraiser is June 4 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Come out and get a clean car! The youth have saved many marriages this way - why not make yours one of them?

From the FBC Youth

Thank You!

Congratulations to the youth for pulling off their performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*! It is no small feat to produce a number like this and the youth did it wonderfully. Especially big thank you to Keith Jameson, Beverly Psomas, Ryan Hewitt, Sylvia Martin, and Terry Gilchrist for their roles in making sure that this production was able to go off without a hitch! It takes youth and volunteers to make this work and they did an amazing job. Thanks again to them, and for the church family coming out to support them!



Parent Information Meeting for Passport

Wednesday, May 31
6:00 pm



Youth Pool Party

Sunday, June 4
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
At the Smith's



Help the Ministerial Staff

No time is a good time to be hospitalized or to have to deal with serious health issues or other family issues. Still, summer seems to be an especially difficult time for these types of life disruptions. Illness and other family emergencies can interrupt vacation plans. Tempers seem to grow shorter as the temperature increases.

Even as various members of the ministerial staff take vacation time or are away chaperoning children and youth events, the ministerial staff wants to provide support and encouragement to the congregation and the community. The staff wants to join you as you pray for specific needs. In order to do so, the staff must be informed. If you go to the hospital or are experiencing serious health issues, please call the church office or to have a friend or family member call. HIPPA rules restrict the information a hospital can share with ministers. If you lose a loved one, the ministerial staff would like to know. If you would like the staff to join you in prayer about a specific issue, let us know. If you want your concerns only shared with the staff, we will honor your wishes.

If you become aware of a need in the church or community, please let the ministerial staff know. Contact information is on the back of this newsletter and in every Sunday bulletin. The FBC website (fbcgwd.org) has a form that makes an email contact easy. (This form gives you the option for information to be shared only with staff or with the church family.) Please don't assume that someone else has notified staff. We would rather be told something twenty times than not at all.



First Baptist Church
GREENWOOD

