



The First Baptist Transitions Team Seeks Submissions for the Senior Pastor Search Committee

The Transition Team continues their work through a five focus-point transition process as outlined by Transition Facilitator, Layne Smith in the inside article. As the Transition Team begins work on the fifth focus point which looks at the “future” for First Baptist, the team is ready to begin the process of forming a slate of twelve individuals for the Pastor Search Committee.

While the First Baptist Church Bylaws indicate a few members who are to serve on the search committee (Diaconate Executive Committee and representatives of the Personnel Committee, Worship Committee, and Stewardship Committee), the Transition Team is seeking input from the congregation in naming a twelve member Senior Pastor Search Committee.

With that in mind, the Transition Team is asking the congregation to prayerfully and carefully consider offering the name of a First Baptist Church member that is believed to be:

- Trusted
- Respected (no “agenda”)
- Prayerful
- Spiritually wise
- A regular attendee/active supporter of the mission and ministry of First Baptist
- Able to speak for groups within the church (not representatives, but representative)
- Willing to listen to all perspectives

The Transition Team is asking members of the congregation to return any suggestions to the team no later than July 10. Suggested names may either be emailed to gwdfbc.spsearch@gmail.com, mailed to the church, or dropped off in the church office.

The Transition Team truly needs participation for this investment in First Baptist's future to be successful!

First Baptist Church Transition Team



The Intentional Interim Process: An update from Layne Smith, Transition Facilitator

Rather than merely mark time, First Baptist chose to invest in the time between installed senior pastors and embark on the Intentional Interim process. The Transition Team, consists of Chair, Kenny Poston, Anne Craig, Mike Craig, Beth Hardage, Trey Jenkins, Erin Nodine, Robert Riley, Gene Russell, Stephanie Compton Turner, and ex-officio member, David Jennings. The Transition Team has been busy and meeting regularly as they continue to lead the church in addressing the five focus points of the interim as articulated by the Center for Congregational Health – **Heritage, Mission and Vision, Leadership, Connections, and Future.**

Heritage – The Transition Team created a timeline and invited the congregation to add additional items. FBC also remembered and celebrated the church's rich and blessed heritage by having a congregational roundtable conversation.

Mission and Vision – Based on two congregational listening sessions, the Transition Team recommended minor “tweaking” to FBC's Mission and Vision statement which the Diaconate approved.

Leadership – The Transition Team initiated or supported the consideration of numerous evaluations and revisions to church governing documents, including the following:

- Tasked the Personnel Committee with evaluating current staff position job descriptions
- Asked all committees to review and suggest changes to their committee job description
- Asked deacons to establish ad-hoc committees to review all church governing documents and recommend revisions/changes

Connections – Elizabeth Nance-Coker, Coordinator of CBFSC shared with the congregation about the ways that CBFSC and FBC partner in mission. On May 17, Interim Pastor Carlton Allen shared “What Does It Mean to Be Baptist.” The deacons have asked the Stewardship and Missions Committees to review local mission involvement. I will be preaching on Sunday, July 2, about “Baptists and Our Fragile Freedoms.”

Future – The Diaconate has initiated the procedure for nominating your Pastor Search Committee. The Transition Team is asking the congregation to offer suggestions for persons to serve on the Pastor Search Committee. (See cover article.) The Transition Team, with the blessing of the Diaconate, will then prepare a slate of nominees which will go to the deacons for consideration/approval. Once the deacons have approved the slate, the whole congregation will have the opportunity to vote.

In the meantime, the Transition Team is putting together a church profile to be shared with potential senior pastor candidates. Once the Pastor Search Committee is in place, they will work with the Transition Team to engage the congregation in creating a pastor profile.

The Transition Team continues to be hard at work. Pray for them. Pray for the yet to be chosen Pastor Search Committee. Most of all, pray for the new senior pastor.



Worship in July

Worship—July 2

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Galatians 4:31; 5:1, 13, 14
(OT: Psalm 119:41-46)

Sermon:

“Baptists and Our Fragile Freedoms”
Layne Smith

Anthems:

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
Lewis Walker, alto horn
Betty Walker, piano

“America!” Chancel Choir

“God of Our Fathers” (National Hymn)

“My Country 'Tis of Thee”

Cody Beard, trumpet, Lewis Walker, alto horn, and Andy Westbrook, euphonium

The Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Taylor Sargent by Eddie and Dot Dalton and Kenny and Nancy Poston.

Worship—July 9

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
(OT: Psalm 145:8-14)

Sermon: “A Disciple Is Purposeful”
Carlton Allen

Anthems:

Solo by Alice Gilchrist

“Come Unto Me” - Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Curtis Shaw by his family.

Worship—July 16

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Psalm 65:1-13
(NT: Romans 8:26-39)

Sermon: “Unexpected Presence”
Carlton Allen

Anthems:

Solo by Mary Kathryn Benjamin

“Be Still and Know that I Am God”
Chancel Choir

Worship—July 23

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
(OT: Psalm 119:129-136)

Sermon: “Subversive Parables”
Carlton Allen

Anthems:

Cody Beard, trumpet

“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”
Chancel Choir.

Worship—July 30

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Romans 8:26-39

Sermon: “A Spirit That Intercedes”
Carlton Allen

Anthems:

Solo by Katie Walenceus

“Like a River in My Soul” - Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Matthew James Newton Tivy by Keith Jameson.



July and August Wednesday Night Schedule

JULY

No Regular Wednesday Night Activities

AUGUST

August 2

Wednesday Night Schedule Kick-off
Churchwide
Hamburgers 'n' Hymns Fellowship

August 9

Regular Wednesday Night Activities
Resume
Wednesday Night Meals
Music Activities for Young Preschoolers
Children's Choirs
CIAs
Holy Ground
Adult Wednesday Night Blocks
No Chancel Choir



Music Notes

UNCLE KEITH WANTS YOU FOR CHANCEL CHOIR!

Happy Fourth of July! Happy Independence Day! Uncle Sam has been recruiting for various armed services for over 100 years (the Original “I Want You for US Army” Poster featuring Uncle Sam appeared in 1917 as a way of boosting morale and recruitment for the Army during World War I.) The Chancel Choir doesn't do combat or Boot Camp (although sometimes we do jokingly argue about what anthems are best, or what hymns we should sing, and we do have a Fall Retreat that features Bingo and prizes.) But, the Chancel Choir wants you.

It's a great time to consider joining our choir - We are taking Wednesday nights off during July and the first two weeks of August... singing some familiar anthems during this time. If you've been thinking about singing more or wanting to contribute your musical talents to the church, it's time to make that leap. We sing, laugh, and have wonderful fellowship together. You'll even see Keith move/dance on occasion, and the best part? You are giving your invaluable time and talents and gifts to the church in immeasurable ways. I promise you'll have a fantastic and fun experience. Join Today.



UNCLE KEITH WANTS YOU FOR CHANCEL CHOIR!!!



UPDATE: The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee Presentation

The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee presented an amended version of the Diaconate Selection Process to the congregation during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, June 18. During the presentation, the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee acknowledged not everyone will agree with the changes presented or the way First Baptist selects individuals for the sacred call of a deacon. The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee asks the congregation to TRUST the committee to make good decisions for the church.

The presentation introduced the seven step Corporate Discernment Process that the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee uses consistently in the selection and nominations of individuals to serve on church standing committees as well as individuals to serve in the sacred call of a deacon.

Based on the discernment of the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee who have used the Corporate Discernment Process in all their meetings, the committee presented ten changes to current documents. These documents are First Baptist Church Bylaws, First Baptist Policy and Procedures Manual, and the Nominations and Lay Leadership Job Description. Three of the changes are associated with the Diaconate Selection Process, and seven changes are to the Qualifications and Duties of a Deacon.

A printed summary of the presentation to the congregation is located in the church office and in the Narthex.

Currently, the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee has selected July 30 as a possible date for the congregation to vote on the suggested changes to the Diaconate Selection Process.



January Diaconate Update

The Diaconate meeting was held on Sunday, June 25. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, the Diaconate approved a proposal by the Spiritual Formation Committee to install a labyrinth on church property. The labyrinth will be paid for by a designated gift from the Bowers Rodgers Foundation.

The Diaconate also appointed individuals to serve on the three ad-hoc committees approved in May. The following is a list of the three ad-hoc committees, their responsibilities, and the members of the Diaconate to serve on the committees.

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.

Ad-hoc Committee Members:
Chuck Moates
Kenny Poston
Vaughan Free

Second Ad-hoc Committee

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

Ad-hoc Committee Members:
Ashley Wilkie
Beth Hardage
Tommy Stoddard

Third Ad-hoc Committee

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

Ad-hoc Committee Members:
Erin Nodine
Mary Lee Willard
Ryan Hewitt

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Kim Burton, Richie Williams' sister
- William "Bill" Ramsey, Pattie Fender's father
- William Turner, Allan Turner's father
- Ken Hopkins, Tony Hopkins father
- Pat Locher, Harry Stephens' sister
- Cory Powers, Nancy Thomason's nephew
- Stephen Hasty, Ann Drummond's brother

National Health Care: Wilma and Norm Burgin

Home: Joann Gray, Robert Riley, Ashlee Atkins, Mike Hammett

Births

Adeline Ann Green, great-granddaughter of Lee and Ted Wyndham.

Please remember your contribution to First Baptist this Summer.

2023 Ministry Plan

May Income	84,662.31
May Expenses	65,024.20
May Surplus	19,638.11

May 28 - June 25, 2023

Monthly Need	95,077.30
Monthly Gifts	78,844.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	494,401.97
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	406,646.07
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(87,755.90)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	134
Worship Attendance (Avg)	184



Summer Dates

- 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 on July 30. All other children will begin in their new classes on Promotion Sunday, August 6.



2023-2024 Volunteer Openings in Children's Ministry (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
- CIA leaders (moving from 3 groups to 4 groups)

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



Please pray our children, their leaders, and their chaperones, as they attend Camp P.R.I.S.M.

Meeting for parents and campers: Sunday, July 9.



Vacation Bible School Update

What a great week the children had visiting Daniel in Babylon! They spent their time together learning how Daniel and his friends had the courage to stand firm and believe in the one true God. They also experienced God's presence with us always—no matter what. Along with visiting Daniel, their time together included songs, games, crafts, missions, supper, "family time," friends, fellowship, and fun and could not have happened without the help of many wonderful leaders. A **HUGE** thank you goes to:

Daniel and Ashphenaz: Terry Gilchrist and Joey Fuson

Celebration Leader (songs): Kayla Beard

Childcare: Alice Gilchrist

Family Leaders: Amy Jennings, Jennifer Hudson, Amanda Moon, Mary Frances Thompson, Catherine White

Marketplace: Claudia Burch, Velma English, Claire Hudson

Palace Playground: Jordan Hewitt, Mary Weaver

Kitchen Crew: Terry Gilchrist, Keith Jameson, David Jennings, Meredith Sims

Set-Up: Anna Griffis Atkins, Lake Atkins, Kayla Beard, Claudia Burch, Linda Coleman, Velma English, Alice Gilchrist, Beth Hardage, Glenda Hermeston, Jeanne Hughston, Trey Jenkins, Amy Jennings, David Jennings, Carole Russell, Ayla Snead, Mary Frances Thompson

Check out the wall of pictures downstairs. What a wonderful week was experienced at FBC in Babylon!

"Hamburgers 'n' Hymns" August 2, 5:30 pm

The Fall kick off event for Wednesday night activities. Cost \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children, no family pays more than \$30.00. Make plans now to attend.

5th Sunday Library Activity



The next Fifth Sunday Library Activity is Sunday, July 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. If you have any questions, contact Kelly Rhodes (kelly_rhodes@hotmail.com) or Shelby Reed ((cofccougar_1999@yahoo.com)).



Young at Heart (A group for widows)

Second Tuesday of each month
11:00 am at Greenwood Country Club.

Next meeting: July 11

For more information contact Nancy Rooney (229-3641).



Prayer Shawl Ministry (Knitters and Crocheters)

Second Thursday of the month
10:00 am-noon (drop-in)
In the church parlor

Next meeting: July 13

For more information, contact June Shaw (538-9101).

Youth News

Thanks for Your Support

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the youth car wash on June 4! The day was long but it was a ton of fun for everyone. The best part is, the youth were able to raise a hefty chunk of change for the youth budget! This will help everyone go on trips, take fun excursions, and keep the supply room stocked. It is so wonderful to see the church family come together and support one another again thank you, thank you, thank you!



Wednesday Night Clean Up Crew Needed

The Wednesday Night Catering Crew and the church staff hope you enjoyed the meals offer this spring. Many positive comments have been shared. **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.** So far, three volunteers have signed up. These three people cannot and should not have to put away the food every week. Leftovers that can be frozen and used in future meals are kept. Other leftovers are given to the Pathway House, one of FBC's missions partners. Food is too expensive to allow usable items to go to waste because no one can help make sure they are stored properly. Volunteers do not have to wash the plates, cups, or silverware. All that is needed is to secure the food. Which Wednesday night can we count on YOUR help? Call the church office (229-5557) or email the church at gfbccsc@gmail.com to sign up.



722 Grace Street
Greenwood, SC 29649
(864) 229-5557
Website: fbcgwd.org

Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

Ministers and Staff

Carlton Allen	Interim Pastor	cellisallen42@gmail.com
Joey Fuson	Associate Pastor and Minister to Youth	joey.fbcgreenwood@gmail.com
Anna Burch	Minister to Children	aeburchfbc@gmail.com
David Jennings	Minister of Administration	jenningsdaj@gmail.com
Keith Jameson	Church Music Director	keithjameson@hotmail.com
Josh Harrington	Organist	jjharrington31@gmail.com
Claudia Burch	Director of Cheerful Cherubs	claudiaburch5@gmail.com
Mary Frances Thompson	Ministry Assistant	gfbccsc@gmail.com
Linda Miller	Financial Assistant	lindamillerfbc@gmail.com

Helping Hands Ministry Information Line(864) 229-8051

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED