



August 2023

Volume LXXV, No. 08



Rescheduled Called Business Meeting August 13

The Called Business Meeting scheduled for August 6 has been rescheduled for August 13 in order to follow proper procedures which require the congregation be notified by newsletter or special mailing of a Called Business Meeting.

The purpose of the Called Business Meeting, scheduled for August 13, at 10:50 am in the Sanctuary is to vote on the following Transition Team recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: The First Baptist Transition Team recommends the following individuals to serve on the First Baptist Senior Pastor Search Committee.

1. Erin Nodine - Diaconate Chair
2. Robert Riley - Diaconate Vice Chair
3. Beth Hardage - Diaconate Secretary
4. Dianna Glymph - Representative of the Stewardship Committee
5. Kathleen Snead - Representative of the Worship Committee
6. Caroline Nave - Representative of the Personnel Committee
7. Tom Gordon - At Large Member
8. Tommy Stoddard - At Large Member
9. Jim Firmin - At Large Member
10. Nan Smith - At Large Member
11. Russell Martin - At Large Member
12. Henderson Rowe - At Large Member

Absentee voting on the Transition Team recommendation may be done online through the First Baptist Church Engage page or in the church office. Absentee ballots will be available for submission between July 28 and August 11. All absentee ballots must be submitted by 5:00 pm on Friday, August 11.

Second Called Business Meeting August 20

In order to assure proper procedure and for the unity of the church, a Called Business Meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on August 20 for the purpose of reviewing the tabled motion on the Proposed Diaconate Selection Process from July 20, 2022. The tabled motion was to send the original, Proposed Diaconate Selection Process back to the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee for revision. The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee has revised the document and shared the Amended Diaconate Selection Process with the congregation during the Sunday School hour on June 18, 2023. Copies of the Amended Diaconate Selection Process, with Diaconate revision, are available in the Narthex. A date to vote on the Amended Diaconate Search Process will be announced following the Called Business meeting on August 20.



GETTING BACK TO OUR ROOTS

I don't read a lot of political articles, but one caught my eye a few weeks ago. Texas State Representative, James Talarico, made the statement, "The term 'religion' literally means to *re-ligament*, to *re-limb*, to *reconnect us*." I did a little research on the word and you can indeed make the case for this meaning. Unfortunately, the quote appeared in an article entitled, "The Ironic Hypocrisy of Religion" the point of which was, obviously, to show how religion often does exactly the opposite of what it is supposed to do.

Over the centuries, religion has been far more likely to be a point of division rather than of reconciliation. Secular wars have often sprung from religious disputes. In the past few decades, we've seen numerous splits among American denominations. To be honest, it seems to me that more work is devoted to those splits than is ever devoted to maintaining a sense of unity.

Those of us who claim to follow Jesus cannot deny that unity is part of our Heavenly Father's will for us. When the disciples approached Jesus in Mark, chapter 9, about a man who was doing miracles but did not follow them, Jesus responded "He who is not against us is for us." In other words, leave him alone. He may not be doing what you think he should do, but that doesn't mean you have a right to oppose him.

In John, chapter 17, when Jesus is praying for his disciples before his arrest, he asks God to sanctify them, not just on behalf of the disciples, but also on behalf of those who will come to believe because of their words (that would be folks like you and me). Jesus also says that he asks this so that "they all may be one." Unity is a key component of a church that follows Jesus and honors God.

I think these are important verses for us to keep in mind in the weeks ahead. We've done the preliminary work and we are ready to elect and bless the Pastor Search Committee as they begin their work. We also have important decision in the life of the church that will be made in the meantime. I'm not naïve enough to think we will all think the same way about any of this. I do think it is vital that we be very intentional about some things in this time.

First, we need to **pray** – each and every one of us. Pray for the Search Committee. Pray for the church. Pray for the staff. Pray for one another.

Second, we need to **listen to one another**. Please voice your opinion, but make as much effort to understand others as you do to make your own points.

Participate. Be as active in the life of the church as you can be. Participate in discussions, but also participate in worship and bible study, in service and in fellowship, in giving.

Be prepared to support the decisions of the church. Decisions rarely please everybody, but if we pull together in seeking God's will I am confident we will conduct ourselves in a manner that is pleasing to Him. And that should be the ultimate goal of all of us.

Thank you for letting me walk through this process with you!

Carlton



Worship in August

Sunday—August 6

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21
(OT: Psalm 85:8-13)

Sermon: "Doing What We Can"
Carlton Allen

David Corbitt, Offertory Meditation

Anthem: "Here Am I, Lord"
Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bill and Beeka Coleman by their family.

Sunday—August 13

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: I Kings 19:1-8
(NT: II Corinthians 12:6-10)

Sermon:
"The Prophet Battles Depression"
Carlton Allen

Josh Harrington, Offertory Meditation

Anthem:
"Have You Seen a Lamb of Mine?"
Lily Martin and Sam Smith, duet

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Johnson, Alice, and Johnson Barry Craig by Johnson Wooten and Anne Craig.

Sunday—August 20

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 15:10-28
(OT: Psalm 67)

Sermon: "What's in Your Heart?"
Carlton Allen

Lydia Turner, violin, Stephanie Turner,
piano—Offertory Meditation

Anthem:
"Sing to the Lord a Marvelous Song"
Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mike and Joyce Andrew Rakes by Lloyd and Frances Andrew.

Worship—August 27

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20
(OT: Isaiah 51:1-6)

Sermon: "On Being Given the Keys"
Carlton Allen

Anthems:
Noah Skinner, Offertory Meditation

Anthem: "Go Ye Therefore"
Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory Barbara Stewart by her family.



"Hamburgers 'n' Hymns": A Sequel to "Hotdogs 'n' Hymns"

It's once again time for the Fall Kick-Off Event with a great meal and hymn-sing on Wednesday, August 2, and this year it's "HAMBURGERS 'N' HYMNS", a sequel to our popular event last year "HOTDOGS 'N' HYMNS." In addition to delicious hamburgers provided by the returning Wednesday night meal crew of Robby Stevenson and Dennis Moore, there will be a variety of hymns accompanied by Josh Harrington and a wonderful array of instrumentalists and soloists, the Grace Street Quartet, and the Chancel Choir. Everyone will get an opportunity to sing along, tap your feet and listen to some familiar and some not-so-familiar hymns. You will join in singing "Victory in Jesus," "Rock of Ages," "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "Amazing Grace," "Up from the Grave," "Praise Him! Praise Him!," and "He Keeps Me Singing/There's Within My Heart a Melody" among many others. We will touch on hymns for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, the Trinity, and Revival and Testimony. Come enjoy food, fellowship, fun, and an evening of congregational singing.

Chancel Choir rehearsals begin again on Wednesday, August 16, a perfect time to join our wonderful group. A lot is planned for this upcoming year including Lessons and Carols on December 17 and an Easter cantata **From Silence to Song on April 7, 2024. Youth Choir begins on Sunday, August 20. The youth will once again participate in Festival by the Sea in early March, 2024. Details to come...**

Fellowship Event for All Ages

The SEQUEL to
**HOTDOGS
'N' HYMNS:**



HAMBURGERS 'N' HYMNS

Wednesday Night
August 2, 2023 at 5:30pm
\$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children,
no family pays more than \$30.00
Reservations due by July 31 at noon

"Hamburgers 'n' Hymns": A Sequel to "Hotdogs 'n' Hymns"

The Logistics

The fall kick off event for Wednesday night activities is "Hamburgers 'n' Hymns!" The event is in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, August 2, 5:30 pm. The cost is \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children, no family pays more than \$30.00. Since First Baptist has not had Wednesday night meals for almost two months, a new reservation list is being created. **Even if you were on the permanent list this spring, please call to be put on the fall list. Reservations, whether permanent or one time only, need to be made by noon on Monday, July 31.** Reservations may be made online (fbcgwd.com) or by calling the church office (229-5557). Make plans now to attend. After the meal, participants will enjoy a time of fellowship and singing. Regular Wednesday night activities resume on August 9.

Libby's Corner



Hello! My name is Libby, and for those of you not old enough to remember, I was created in the late 1970s as a spokesperson for The Graham Shaw Library. Through bulletin boards, book reviews, reading clubs and even a "slide show" presentation at Southern Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee, I became the personification of promotion for church librarianship at Greenwood First Baptist Church. Through the years as automation and other technology replaced my effectiveness, I was delegated to a "closet" location. Recently I am discovering that old is not necessarily obsolete, and that there are many truths hidden in the uncirculated "old" books in our church library. I am offering several illustrations, particularly pertaining to Love – the Love Jesus described in response to the lawyer in Luke 10:25-37.

Coffin, William Sloane – *The Courage to Love*. "The integrity of love trumps the purity of doctrine (dogma).

Buechner, Frederick- *Wishful Thinking – a Seeker's ABC*. "Your neighbor is to be construed as meaning anybody who needs you."

Finally, for children of all ages, I highly recommend the 2016 Caldecott Award winner by Lindsay Mattick:

Finding Winnie. The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear.

Please come visit me in the church library.

Lovingly, Libby



Wednesday Night Clean Up Crew Still Needs Members

Thank you to those who have volunteered to put away food after the Wednesday night meals. Volunteers are still needed. 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 or Diana Edwards.



Young at Heart

(A group for widows)

Second Tuesday of each month

11:00 am

Greenwood Country Club.

Next meeting: August 8

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: August 10

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



Parham Scholarship Sunday, August 6

The Craig Holbrook Parham Scholarship Fund was established in 1986 to celebrate the life of Craig Holbrook Parham. The scholarship, provides assistance to students pursuing degrees from an accredited college, university, or theological seminary for full-time Christian service. Scholarship recipients will be announce on August 6.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Eula Roberts, Caroline Nave's grandmother.

National Health Care: Wilma and Norm Burgin

Home: Michael Hammett, Kenny Poston, Bill Reynolds, Barbara Wells, Shirley Dominick



Support the Ministry of First Baptist

With the start of school and fall church activities beginning this month, it is also a good time to remember to support the church financially. Gifts to First Baptist reflect a commitment to seek His heart and be His hands through the annual Ministry Plan. Gifts to the annual 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 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

June Income	67,094.31
June Expenses	84,874.55
Deficit	17,780.24

July 2-23, 2023

Monthly Need	83,984.96
Monthly Gifts	66,381.45
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	587,463.81
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	473,297.52
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(97,166.29)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	131
Worship Attendance (Avg)	172



Back to School Dates

- **August 2:** Churchwide Kick-Off
- **August 6:** Family Potluck Breakfast, 9:15 am
- **August 6:** Promotion Sunday, Blessing of Backpacks, First Grader Bibles
- **August 9:** CIAs and Choirs start back

**Rising 6th graders will move 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)

- 3 Sunday School 1st-5th helpers [once a month; an extra set of hands]- 3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday
- 1 CIA leaders- 3K/4K group
- Nursery Extended Session- 2nd Sunday in January, March, May, July, September, November
- 1 Music Makers children's choir adult helper



Potluck Breakfast for Children and Their Families

To kick off a full day with Promotion Sunday and the Blessing of the Backpacks, the Children's Ministry will have a **family potluck breakfast** on Sunday, August 6 at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. To sign up use the link in Anna's newsletters.

Back to School

Sunday School groupings begin August 6!

Sunday School Groupings and Room Numbers

10:00 am-10:45 am

Nursery – Rm 126

Toddlers (steady walkers to 2K) – Rm 127

Preschool (3 and 4K)/5K – Rm 128

1st-5th Grades – Rm 116

Extended Session Groupings

Worship Hour

Nursery – Rm 126

Toddlers (steady walkers to 2K) – Rm 127

Children's Church (3K-5K) – Rm 130

God's Backyard

*A reminder that the children's church kids can either spend the entire time in God's Backyard or they can go upstairs to worship and be walked down by a volunteer (usually youth) after the children's sermon. Those who remain downstairs will have a snack during that time. Those who go upstairs will miss the snack.

Choir and CIA groups begin August 9

Choir Groupings

5:30 pm-6:00 pm

Bright Beginnings Music Activity (2K/3K)

– Rm 130, God's Backyard

Music Makers (4K-1st) – Rm 118

Young Musicians (2nd-5th) – Rm 116

CIA Groupings

6:30 pm-7:30 pm

3K, 4K – Rm 128

K5/1st – Rm 118

2nd-3rd – Rm 119

4th-5th – Rm 116

Childcare (babies to 2K) – Rm 127



Acolyte Training

Acolyte training will take place on Wednesday, August 16, at 7:35 pm in the sanctuary for any second - fifth grader interested in joining the acolyte rotation. Please let Anna know if your 2nd - 5th grader is interested in participating.

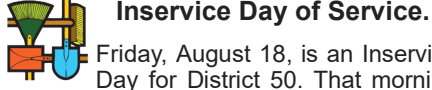
Youth News



Sunday Night Live

It's almost time for the first Sunday Night Live of the new school year...which means our upcoming 6th graders are invited! I hope you come out to the Smiths house for fun at the pool, a back to school devotion and the return of an asked for tradition. See you all on August 6 from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm!

Holy Ground
Wednesdays
6:30 pm
Youth Lounge
Beginning August 9



Inservice Day of Service.

Friday, August 18, is an Inservice Day for District 50. That morning youth are go to do some yard work! After a bit of work, we will go out for lunch together (you will need to bring money for lunch). Meet at the church at .8:00 am.

August and September Building Blocks



Building Blocks meet each Wednesday evening from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. A Building Block is six to eight weeks long, with some blocks addressing one topic for three to four weeks and another topic for the next three to four weeks. Building Blocks are designed to build your faith and help you grow as a disciple of Christ. FBC staff welcomes suggestions about offerings for future blocks.

The Purpose Driven Life

Would you like to take a spiritual journey as with a group? In this book study, Bennie Roberts will lead attendees through the five purposes of Rick Warren's best-selling book *The Purpose Driven Life*. This eight week study will take place in Rm 208.

August Only: Stewardship and Faith

Stewardship is one of those topics that tends to scare us. This four week series, led by Stewardship Committee chair Gene Russell, encourages us to expand our view of stewardship to be about more than just tithing, and how it can affect our daily lives. This option will take place in Rm 210.

September Only: Equally Called

Equally Called is a four week video and curriculum resource developed jointly by Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) and CBF. This curriculum will help participants review the biblical support for women to minister and lead freely in the church, to identify obstacles women in ministry and church leadership face, and to consider ways to help women and girls thrive as they hear and fulfill God's call. This option will take place in Rm 210.

Growing on Grace: Effective Parenting in a Defective World

Raising children is a challenge in today's world. Peers and pop culture exert never-ending pressure on kids. Every day they are bombarded with the pressures and influences of drugs, sex, and violence. Often, parents feel helpless when the corrupt principles of this defective world seem to contradict every godly principle they try to instill in their children, but the good news is that God has a plan for effectively raising children and you can learn it! In this DVD and book study you will learn universally applicable principles, apply practical lessons about discipline, and understand and implement simple biblical truths. This option will take place in Rm 211.

Chancel Choir

Were you inspired after seeing the 5th Sunday Presentation in July? Consider joining the chancel choir in a four or eight week trial run. Rehearsal is held in the choir room below the sanctuary. Rm 100.



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

Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

Ministers and Staff

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Anna Burch	Minister to Children	aeburchfbc@gmail.com
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Helping Hands Ministry Information Line(864) 229-8051

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED