



### Senior Pastor Search Committee

By an overwhelming majority, the congregation of First Baptist Church, Greenwood, voted on August 13 to approve the following slate of individuals to serve on the Senior Pastor Search Committee. Please be in prayer for the Senior Pastor Search Committee as they begin their work during a retreat on Sunday, September 17, from 12:30 pm to 7:30 pm.



#### First Baptist Senior Pastor Search Committee

- Erin Nodine - Diaconate Chair
- Robert Riley - Diaconate Vice Chair
- Beth Hardage - Diaconate Secretary
- Dianna Glymph -Stewardship Committee Representative
- Kathleen Snead - Worship Committee Representative
- Caroline Nave - Personnel Committee Representative
- Tom Gordon - At Large Member
- Tommy Stoddard - At Large Member
- Jim Firmin - At Large Member
- Nan Smith - At Large Member
- Russell Martin - At Large Member
- Henderson Rowe - At Large Member

**Rev. Dr. Layne Smith  
to Serve  
as Interim Senior Pastor**



The First Baptist Church Diaconate, on a recommendation from the Transition Team, voted unanimously to extend an invitation to Rev. Dr. Layne Smith to serve as Interim Senior Pastor. Layne will begin his new role on Tuesday, September 5. His first "official" sermon as Interim Senior Pastor will be Sunday, September 10. Layne will also continue to serve as facilitator for the Transition Team and Senior Pastor Search Committee until after their retreat on September 17. Please pray for Layne as he moves into his new role as Interim Senior Pastor.



Dear Friends,

I appreciate this opportunity to express to you how profoundly thankful Carlton and I were to have had the honor of spending the last 6 months with you. We knew from the first call that this was a gift from God. We cherished every minute of reconnecting with long time friends. Carlton repeatedly described the interim as "so fun".

Although our time with you was cut short we can all rest in the knowledge that God has a plan. Carlton's sudden and unexpected death has been very hard for our family to process. We covet your prayers as we continue through this season. The support that we have already been given from FBC Greenwood has been overwhelming - texts, telephone calls, cards, assurance of your prayers and the gift of presence through your visits to Commerce. We can never express to you how much gratitude we feel and how much we love you.

In recent months Carlton had been focused on the word "through" in Psalm 23:4. He referenced this in his last sermon in February at FBC Claxton and in a recent sermon in Greenwood. The reference reminds us that God goes with us through life and through our ups and downs. I believe now that this was God reminding us of His presence now.

Thank you for your huge smiles, your welcoming arms, your encouraging words and your abundant acceptance of us back into the church family. This was not surprising though because that is who you are as a congregation.

In closing, please know that my heart and prayers will continue to be with you. Thank you. Being with you was a complete joy.

Blessings,  
Donna Allen & family

Phil 1:3 - 4 - I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy.."

## Worship in September

### Sunday—September 3 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture:  
Exodus 3:1-15  
Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon:  
“Kicking Off Your Shoes”

Special Music  
“Salt and Light”  
Laura Davis Atkins, soloist  
“I Follow the Thing That Good Is”  
Chancel Choir

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

### Sunday—September 10 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture:  
Joshua 4:1-9  
Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon:  
“Worship: Connecting with Each Other”

Special Music  
“Give Me A Song” - Chancel Choir;  
Judi Neufeld, guest organist

**In lieu of a fresh flower arrangement,** a donation has been made to the glory of God and in loving memory of the September birthdays of Marvin and Ellen Watson by their family.

### Sunday—September 17 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Music Emphasis Sunday

Special Music  
“Come to the Music” and  
“Prayer for Guidance” Chancel Choir  
“Sing for Joy, Alleluia!”  
Voices of Grace Youth Choir  
“In This Very Room”  
Sounds of Grace Senior Adult Choir  
“Jesus Loves Me” Music Makers  
“Joyful Journey”;  
Young Musicians

**The Sanctuary flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bill Hancock Jr. by his sister, Anne Hancock.

## Worship—September 24 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture:  
Matthew 20:1-16  
Psalm 145:1-9

Sermon:  
“Is God Fair?”

Special Music  
“Just A Closer Walk With Thee”  
Chancel Choir

**The Sanctuary flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill and Estelle Mauldin by their children, Sarah Blackmon, Furman Mauldin, and Kellah Edens, and their families.



## World Communion Sunday

October 1



## Josh Harrington's Last Sunday

It is with much sadness that I announce that Josh Harrington will be leaving FBC Greenwood, and his last Sunday with us will be September 24. Josh began as our organist in May 2019, and before that he was a Young-Beaudrot Scholar, singing in the choir, playing handbells, organ and piano. In addition to playing organ and piano for services, he has conducted the Handbell Choir, the Youth Choir and taken the Youth Choir to *YouthCue* in Washington, DC last year. He has played for weddings, funerals, special services, and been a valued member of this church family. His gifts and talents are immeasurable, and Josh will be greatly missed by everyone here. Please take a moment to express to Josh your deep appreciation for his extraordinary talents and presence here at FBC Greenwood. Details about his last Sunday will be forthcoming. -Keith



## “A Closer Walk”

This month the Chancel Choir will sing a new arrangement of the popular song “Just a Closer Walk with Thee.” The song, thought to originate in the African American churches prior to the Civil War, was first written down and published in 1940 by Kenneth Morris. On a train ride from Kansas City to Chicago, Morris stopped to get some fresh air and heard a station porter singing a song. He boarded the train again but kept thinking of the melody and words. At the next stop, he exited the train to take another train back to the station. He asked the porter to sing the song again, this time writing down the melody and lyrics. With some added lyrics, Morris published the song “Just a Closer Walk with Thee.” It has since become a gospel song and jazz standard, and has been recorded by countless artists. “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” has become the most frequently played song during the hymn and dirge sections at traditional New Orleans Jazz Funerals. This new arrangement blends the gospel roots with jazz harmonies to create a deeply moving, expressive anthem.



## Corporate Prayer Time Opportunities

Praying together, even if that prayer is self-directed is powerful and a reminder that we are not alone in our petitions to God. For the next several weeks, you are invited to the chapel for a time of prayer. on Wednesday nights (5:45 pm –6:15 pm) and Sunday mornings (9:15 am-9:45 am). A simple prayer guide will be available, but no one will formally lead these sessions. You may want to pray silently alone or quietly aloud with a small group of friends. Of course, anyone can pray in the chapel anytime the church is opened. The times suggested are intended to provide an opportunity to have a designated time to gather with others. before Building Blocks on Wednesday and Sunday School on Sunday.

## Libby's Corner September 2023



“The light that was Carlton Allen will continue to burn brightly in the hearts and memories of us all.”

Saddened as we are by the loss of Dr. Carlton Allen, we are grateful to have at least two publications in our church library to remind us of Carlton's faith and friendship.

*Walk With Me* is a collection of memories, reflections and essays celebrating the life of Dr. James M. Pitts, former chaplain at Furman University, who died in 2021. In his contributing chapter, Carlton relates how influential Dr. Pitts was in his (Carlton's) becoming a youth minister at Greenwood First Baptist Church in his first place of service following graduation from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Carlton also shares how Jim was the guidance and inspiration for his book:

The second publication by Carlton in our library is *Falling Towards Grace*. Unfortunately, two copies of *Falling Toward Grace* are missing from the shelves, but one remains; if anyone has borrowed either of the missing copies without checking them out, we kindly ask that you return to the library circulation desk.

Other new items recently added to the library collection include:

Daniels, Velma Seawell  
*Duncan – The Yo-Yo King*

This book is the biography of David F. Duncan, the amazing entrepreneur and inventor whose brilliant marketing strategy earned him great success with the Duncan Toy Co. and the Duncan-Malleo Parking Meter Co.

Lindahl, Cindy  
*The Windows of First Baptist Church, Greenwood, SC*

This book has exquisite photography to aid in examining the symbolism in the stained-glass windows.

*My Neighbor's Voice* (Listening Cards). A game for two or more (up to ten) to share dialogue with a purpose.

Lovingly, Libby.



## August Diaconate Update

The August Diaconate meeting was held at 7:00 pm on Sunday, August 20. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, the Diaconate approved a proposal by the Property Committee to upgrade the church kitchen with an additional new convection oven, new dishwasher/sanitizer, and a new fast recovery hot water heater. The upgrade to the church kitchen will be paid for by an anonymous donor.

The Diaconate was also given a preview of the Draft 2024 Ministry Plan that was presented to the congregation on Sunday, August 27. During the meeting, the Diaconate voted to reduce gifts to CBF Global and CBFSC by fifteen percent.

The Diaconate also approved a recommendation by the First Baptist Transition Team to ask Rev. Dr. Layne Smith to serve as Interim Senior Pastor. Layne will begin his new duties as Interim Senior Pastor on Tuesday, September 5.

### Support the Ministry of First Baptist



Gifts to First Baptist 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

# Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Carlton Allen.
- Lee Bullard, Barbara Dorn's uncle

**National Health Care:** Wilma and Norm Burgin, Joann Gray

**Ashley House:** Charlie Bobo

**Home:** Barbara Chandler, Diana Cox, Sandra Roberts, Sandra Davenport, Barbara Heard, Ruth Martin, Brenda Rickborn

### Birth

Bowen Edward "Beau" Powers, great-grandson of Lee and Ted Wyndham.



## Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee

The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee will soon begin working on seeking individuals to serve on committees at First Baptist. Therefore, individuals interested in serving on a committee are asked to fill out a form on the church Engage page (fbcgwd.org/engage/). **The deadline to sign up for a committee is Sunday, September 17.**

### 2023 Ministry Plan

July Income	78,196.45
July Expenses	78,417.47
Deficit	221.02

### July 30 - August 27, 2023

Monthly Need	95,077.30
Monthly Gifts	66,483.58
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	665,541.12
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	539,781.10
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(125,760.02)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	146
Worship Attendance (Avg)	188



## UpComing Dates

- **September 8-** Playground Night 5:30 pm-8:00 pm
- **September 13** Empty Bowls Family Event, Arts Center, 6:00
- **October 4** Intercession Night: Fall Craft Fun
- **October 11** Intercession Night: Picnic and Playground
- **October 18** Children's Sabbath practice during CIAs Children's Sabbath
- **October 22** Canned
- **October 22** November 19 Food Drive
- **October 25** Trunk-or-Treat
- **November 19** Theme Night: Can-struction
- **December 3** Hanging of Green
- **December 6** Ornament Party
- **December 13** Intergenerational Event: Gingerbread Houses



## Vacation Bible School 2024

In order to help your scheduling for next summer, the Children's Committee has chosen dates for VBS in 2024. Mark your calendars for June 23-26, 2024! No other decisions have been made at this time.



## Children's Playground Night

The next Children's Playground Night is Friday, September 8, from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm. This a parent drop-off event and supper will be served. This is for 1K-5th grade. Please RSVP Anna Burch by Thursday, September 7.



## Children Families' Empty Bowls Event

The Children's Ministry will have a family event to create Empty Bowls for the Soup Kitchen fundraiser at the Arts Center on Wednesday, September 13. The event will start at 6:00 pm, so plan to arrive a few minutes before. There will be no children's choirs that night. If you have a standing reservation for the church meal, you can eat beginning at 5:00 pm and then come to the Arts Center. Childcare will be provided at church. **Please RSVP by Thursday, September 7, if your family will be there and if you will use childcare.**



## Never Grow Old (NGO)

"Never Grow Old" Fellowship begins anew on October 3 at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The program will feature Ben Bagwell, son of Monique and Joey Bagwell, with vocal and guitar entertainment. Ben was previously employed as a musical entertainer at Dollywood and currently is enrolled at Lander University. The menu will be barbecue sandwiches, baked beans, slaw, and banana pudding. It will be catered by Lee's Barbecue and will cost \$10.00. If you are not already a member, please call the church office to make your **reservation no later than Thursday, September 28.** Please come and support our lively senior adult fellowship. November 7 will be celebrate the "Red, White, and Blue" with music and comedic election duties. December 13 will feature our own *Sounds of Grace* singing beautiful Christmas music.



# Youth News



## Sunday Night Live

Sunday Night Live will be a week later this month due to the Labor Day weekend. Therefore, Sunday Night Live is Sunday September 10 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. I cannot wait to have you come to the Sims house in Cherokee Hills for a night of good food, dog pets, and maybe a few flips on the trampoline.



## Carowinds

The youth are headed back to Carowinds on Saturday, September 30. Everyone is asked to meet in the church parking lot at 7:30 am to get to Carowinds when it opens. The cost to attend is \$15.00. Feel free to bring a friend! **Sign up with Joey by Sunday, September 22.**

## Youth Fall Retreat



The Fall Retreat will be held at Awanita this year. The retreat begins on Friday, October 27 and concludes on Sunday, October 29. This is a great chance for youth to grow and learn about God. It brings the group together. Sign ups have ended, but if you are feeling left out, talk to Joey.

## 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 (August Study Continues)

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.

## New for September: 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 (August Study Continues)

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.



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## Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

### Ministers and Staff

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED