



## Diaconate Nominations

The First Baptist Church Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee is beginning the task of selecting and nominating individuals to serve in the sacred call of a deacon. Therefore, the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee is asking members of the church family to recommend individuals they believe would be worthy of the committee's consideration. The committee is seeking names from the congregation between Wednesday, November 1 and Friday, November 17. Names may be submitted through the Engage page of the church website. Paper copies are available in the church office and in the narthex. For additional information, please contact David Jennings by phone (229-5557) or by email at jenningsdaj@gmail.com.

### Deacon Qualifications

- Minimum age of 21
- Active church member
- Care and service of members and others
- Commitment to Christ
- Faithfulness in attendance
- Faithfulness in stewardship
- Personal moral integrity
- Provide example to congregation that points to Christ and Christ's Spirit of love for all persons
- Seek to promote understanding and unity among all persons and groups
- Support the formulation of sound policies by the church
- Support the ministries of First Baptist
- Work to find spiritual solutions to major problems that affect the spiritual health of the church

### Duties of a Deacon

- Minister to the spiritual and religious needs of the church and its members
- Committed to personal spiritual growth through Bible Study, church activities, and the offering of one's gifts
- Attend monthly Diaconate meetings and other meetings as called
- Lead in welcoming visitors and members to worship services
- Assist with observance of Communion
- Assist in other pastoral duties and needed



### Youth Committee – Interim Youth Minister

I want to express my deep appreciation to Russell Martin and the Youth Committee for the ways that they continue to step up in the breach and keep our youth ministry on an even keel. FBC is fortunate to have such gifted and committed members.

In other news, I am making contacts in order to find a potential candidate for a part-time Interim Youth Minister. If a candidate can be identified, they will be interviewed by the Youth Committee. If the Youth Committee agrees on a candidate, they will coordinate next steps with the Personnel Committee. My hope is that we can agree on a position that includes fifteen or so hours per week with the interim present at least on Sundays and Wednesdays.

### Pastoral Care

The Personnel Committee approved engaging David Corbitt and Amy Jennings to provide pastoral care from Tuesday afternoon through Saturday when I am not on site. This has greatly enhanced our ability to care for and minister to those in the hospital, those recovering at home, those in care facilities, and our homebound.

### Encouraging Signs at FBC

The youth ministry is going strong (thanks to the Youth Committee mentioned above). On a recent Sunday, there were thirteen youth in SS, the largest group in a long time. Sign ups for fall and summer events have been strong.

**AND** this from a recent guest worshiper – *The service was beautiful. Being there for world communion day, the message spoke to my heart. A beautiful woman guided us to the sanctuary. She was sweet. I appreciated her sitting with us during the service. Her fellowship blessed me further. When we return to Greenwood, we will definitely visit again. I will be praying for your pastor search. May the Lord guide you.* I don't know who the "beautiful woman" is who practiced warm hospitality. However, may her tribe increase!!!!

### Transition Team

The Transition Team led the congregation to do excellent work. They led the congregation in addressing the following:

**Heritage** – Congregational gathering to discuss FBC's rich heritage as well as creating a timeline of events in Fellowship Hall

**Mission and Vision** – Led the church to "tweak" the current Vision statement. The Mission was unchanged. At two congregational meetings, the church discussed, "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?"

**Leadership** – The Diaconate gave three ad-hoc committees the task of updating church governing documents. They also charged the Personnel Committee to consider removing the Personnel Manual from other church documents and setting it up as a stand-alone document.

**Connections** – Elizabeth Nance-Coker and Carlton Allen spoke and shared about what it means to be "Baptist." Layne Smith also preached a sermon on the "Five Fragile Freedoms" that we Baptists hold dear.

**Future** – The Transition Team put together the church profile. The Pastor Search Committee, with input from the congregation, created the Senior Pastor Profile.

**PRAY, PRAY, PRAY FOR THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE!**



## Worship in November

### Sunday—November 5 All Saints Sunday Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6a  
John 11:32-44

Sermon: "Its Enough to Make Jesus Cry"  
Layne Smith

Special Music  
"To Canaan's Land I'm on My Way"  
"Treasures"  
Chancel Choir  
Stephanie Turner, Betty Walker, pianists

**The Sanctuary flowers** today are given by Bill Moore to the glory of God and in loving memory of his mother, Ruth Knox Moore, and his wife, Linda.

### Sunday—November 12 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Dedication of Kit Snead

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12, 16-21  
Mark:12:28-34

Sermon: "Love: It's Complicated"  
Layne Smith

Special Music  
"Simple Gifts from God"  
Voices of Grace Youth Choir  
Matthew Whitehouse, guest organist

**The Sanctuary flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Matthew James Newton Tivy by Keith Jameson and Ken and Carol Richard.

### Sunday—November 19 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Global Missions Emphasis

Sermon: Lane Riley

Special Music

"Psalm 136: Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is Good" with Organ, Brass, Handbells, and Percussion; Will Thomas Cleveland, guest organist.

## Worship—November 26 Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Christ the King Sunday

Sermon: Tim Willis

Special Music  
"Psalm 47" with Percussion  
Chancel Choir  
Robert Wilson, guest organist



## Music Notes

### "His love endures forever" Psalm 136

The Chancel Choir will present a 'preview' of my new anthem **Psalm 136: Give Thanks to the Lord, For He is Good** on November 19, our Thanksgiving Sunday service. The Choir will be joined by guest organist Will Thomas Cleveland, brass quartet, handbells, and percussion, for an anthem that offers praise, joy, celebration, and thankfulness. The opening is filled with a melody of stately praise. Handbells and soft trumpets with added percussion lead us in the middle section, with the continuing refrain "His love endures forever." Then a dance-like theme brings us to a return of the opening theme and the joyful conclusion with choir and all instruments.

The repeated refrain "His love endures forever" could be our motto for this past year - even in the midst of change, confusion, and challenges throughout this momentous year, we remain thankful for God's enduring love. His love sustains us through our mourning, through our hardships, through our struggles. We enter this Thanksgiving and holiday season with grateful hearts for His enduring love. Let us offer a cornucopia of thanks and praise during this time. The world premier of **Psalm 136** will be at the Community Thanksgiving service at Main Street United Methodist Church on Monday, November 20, at 7:00 pm. Come join us, celebrate, and give thanks. *Keith*

## Cheerful Cherubs Spirit Night



At Chick-fil-a  
November 14



Mention Cheerful  
Cherubs when ordering



## Operation Christmas Child Shoebboxes

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are in the narthexes of the sanctuary and fellowship hall. A brochure with instructions for filling the box, providing the cost of shipping, and the Operation Christmas Child website is in each box. Those who fill multiple boxes may write one check. Donations may be made online, which will allow the donor to track the box(es). Be sure to label the shoebox on the outside as to whether the box is for a boy or girl and what age it is meant for. Labels are attached to the brochure.

**Bring the filled shoeboxes to the Missions Office between Monday, November 13 and Friday, November 17.**

## Greenwood Council of Church Women Day of Prayer for the World

Friday, November 3  
12:15 pm

Wesley Commons' Asbury Hall



2023 Focus:  
"Human Trafficking:  
God's Children Are  
Not for Sale"

## Young at Heart (A group for widows)



The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Greenwood Country Club. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 14. For more information contact Nancy Rooney (229-3641).



## Prayer Shawl Ministry (Knitters and Crocheters)

Second Thursday of the month  
10:00 am-noon in the church parlor

**Next meeting: October 12**

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



## Hanging of the Green

For many people at First Baptist, the Hanging of the Green is one of the most meaningful services of the year. This service is an opportunity for individuals and families to assist in leading the service by bring various Advent symbols into the Sanctuary. Anyone who would like to participate in the 2023 Hanging of the Green service on Sunday, December 3, is asked to **contact Caroline Nave at [crnave@yahoo.com](mailto:crnave@yahoo.com) by November 5.**



## Help Prepare the Sanctuary for Hanging of the Green



Preparation is needed before the Sanctuary is ready for the Hanging of the Green service. Chrismon trees have to be assembled and partially decorated. Garland, wreaths, and other advent symbols have to be unpacked, etc. Everyone is invited to assist the Worship Committee in this preparation **at 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoon, November 26.**



## Gifts "in Honor Of"/ "In Memory Of" at Christmas



On Christmas Eve, FBC will publish a list of donors and those honored or remembered through a special offering during Advent. This year, honor and memorial donations may be designated for the purchase of poinsettias, the Offering for Global Missions, the annual Ministry Plan. After worship on Christmas Eve, poinsettias may be picked up by the donor or recipient. **Poinsettias are \$21.00 each and must be ordered by Wednesday, November 29.** Checks for poinsettias should be made payable to **The Floral Case.** A form is in the church office for donors to indicate where the donation is to go and who is being honored or remembered.



## October Diaconate Meeting Update

The Diaconate met in person on Sunday, October 22, for their monthly meeting. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, the Diaconate approved the following items of business.

- 1) The Diaconate approved the September 2023 Diaconate Minutes
- 2) The Diaconate approved the First Baptist Church Profile and the First Baptist Senior Pastor Profile.
- 3) The Diaconate approved 2024 Ministerial Housing Allowance for ordained ministers.
- 4) The Diaconate approved the 2024 Ministry Plan as recommended from the Stewardship Committee. (The 2024 Ministry Plan goes to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on November 19.)
- 5) The Diaconate approved Alan Ogles to serve as Church Clerk in 2024 and Pat Penn to serve as Assistant Treasurer in 2024. (These two positions will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on November 19.)
- 6) The Diaconate approved the following Diaconate officers for 2024:  
Robert Riley - Chair  
Kenny Poston - Vice Chair  
Anne Craig - Secretary
- 7) The Diaconate approved the following to serve on the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee:  
Stephanie Turner - two year term  
Josh Sims  
Wayne White
- 8) The Diaconate approved meeting at 6:30 pm instead of 7:00 pm for the months of January thru March 2024.
- 9) In a separate email vote on October 24, the Diaconate approved the Church Profile.

## Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Glenda Parris, Michael Hammett's cousin
- Michael Bassett, son of the late Fred and Peg Bassett

**National Health Care:** Joann Gray

**Home:** Nancy Thomason, Jill Riley, Ann Hancock, Keith Jameson, Dave Free, Dan English, Amelia English, Evelyn English, Cliff Cain

### Birth

Rosalie Marianna Edwards,  
granddaughter of  
Diana and Barry Edwards

Robert Bruce Culbertson, III  
grandson of Kay and Bruce Culbertson

### New Members

Nathan and Alisha Bridges  
(Ellison and Everly)



## Never Grow Old (NGO)

Join the Never Grow Old Club for "Red, White, and Blue" on election day, November 7. "Red, White, and Blue" will feature political humor and music by Joyce Nickles, David Corbitt, Charlie Herndon, Rhonda McGinnis, Linda Owens, and Stephanie Turner. For those who wish to eat lunch, the cost is \$10.00. **Lunch reservations are needed by Thursday, November 2.** Non-NGO members can make reservations by calling the church office (229-5557). The menu is turkey and dressing, green beans, salad, cranberry sauce, rolls, and a mystery dessert.

### 2023 Ministry Plan

September Income	\$45,208.31
September Expenses	77,330.16
Deficit	(32,121.85)

### October 1 - October 22, 2023

Monthly Need	83,984.96
Monthly Gifts	59,909.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	817,664.80
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	644,798.72
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(172,866.08)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	150
Worship Attendance (Avg)	183



## UpComing Dates

- **October 22** Canned Food Drive
- **November 19** Theme Night: Can-struction
- **December 3** Hanging of the Green
- **December 6** Children's Ornament Party
- **December 13** Intergenerational Event: Gingerbread Houses

## Canned Food Drive



The CIAs are holding a canned food drive from October 22 to November 19. The canned food will be used in a can-struction project on Theme Night, November 19. The food will then be donated to the Food Bank.



## Theme Night: "Can"-struction Sunday, November 19

Before the Children's Ministry donates the canned food collected by the CIA to the Food Bank, the food will be used during the **Can-struction Theme Night** on Sunday, November 19. The event will be held in the Backyard during the Annual Meeting and is for 3K-5th grade. Supper will be provided by the church. Children will eat upstairs with their parents at 6:00 pm and then come to the Backyard for the "can"-struction. Parents are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. **Please RSVP by Thursday, November 16.**

**Childcare** can be provided for babies and toddlers during the **Annual Meeting**. To request childcare, **please RSVP by Thursday, November 16.**

## INTERGENERATIONAL

## Gingerbread House Building Event



**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

**Meal: 5:30 pm**

**Gingerbread House Building  
6:30 pm**

**RSVP by December 8  
for Pizza Supper**

**Childcare provided  
starting at 6:20 pm**



The Children's Ministry thanks everyone who made Trunk or Treat a success. Whether you donated candy or other prizes, decorated a trunk and gave out treats, helped supervise games, or brought your children or grandchildren, you played an important part in providing FBC children and their friends a safe and enjoyable way to display their costumes, receive treats, and have fun together.



## Advent Devotional Available

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ. The Spiritual Formation Committee invites each family to take an advent devotional booklet from the narthex to use beginning December 3. Booklets for children and their families are by the stairs in the children's area.



# Youth News



**Sunday Night Live  
November 5**

**5:00 pm-7:00 pm**

**Host Home: Sonny & Erin Nodine  
(106 Bridle Court)**



**Snow Tubing  
Payment  
Due by Nov. 15**

If you signed up for the snow tubing trip, payment is now due. You can pay for your tickets at the front office of the church. Tickets are \$35 each.



**Passport Update  
Deposit due by Nov. 15**

This year, Passport will be at **Greensboro College on July 15-19, 2024**. Also, the church needs to pay a deposit on this trip. So, we are asking parents to contribute to this expense. Please pay the church \$50 per child, if you have signed up for Passport. We have not set the overall price for Passport yet because we have some fundraising events planned in the Spring. We will communicate a final price once our fundraising dollars have been collected.

## Community Thanksgiving Service



7:00 pm, Monday, November 20, 2023  
Main Street United Methodist Church

Special Music - "Psalm 136"  
written by Dr. Keith Jameson

"Give Thanks to the Lord,  
for He is Good"



**Annual Meeting  
Sunday, November 19**

**6:00 pm - Meal  
6:30 pm - Meeting**

Everyone is invited to the First Baptist Church Annual Meeting, Sunday evening, November 19. In addition to committee reports, the congregation will vote on the following items.

- 1) Approval of the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting as well as Business Meetings during the year.
- 2) Election of church officers: Assistant Church Treasurer, Pat Penn and Church Clerk, Alan Ogles
- 3) Election of 2024-2026 church committee members
- 4) Proposed 2024 Ministry Plan

Materials related to the Annual Meeting are available in the Narthex and the Church Office.

Please see related articles for activities for children during the Annual Meeting.



**Global Missions Emphasis  
Sunday, November 19**

First Baptist will celebrate the relationship the church has with CBF Global Missions during the worship hour on Sunday, November 19. Associate Coordinator for CBF of South Carolina, Rev. Lane Riley will be preaching. The Global Missions Goal this year is \$5,000.00. As a reminder, the Christmas Eve offering will go to support the Global Missions goal. Special offering envelopes are in the narthex and in the church office. Be watching the weekly bulletin and Friday Connections Update for more information.



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

### Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 [www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com](http://www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com)

#### Ministers and Staff

Layne Smith	Interim Senior Pastor	layne.smith1950@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
Claudia Burch	Director of Cheerful Cherubs	claudiaburchfbc@gmail.com
Mary Frances Thompson	Ministry Assistant	gfbcsc@gmail.com
Linda Miller	Financial Assistant	lindamillerfbc@gmail.com

Helping Hands Ministry Information Line .....(864) 229-8051

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**