



January 2024

Volume LXXVI, No. 01



Committee Orientation January 7 2:00 pm

Anyone needing childcare
for this event is asked to
contact Anna no later than January 4.



We are turning the page, saying “goodbye” to 2023 and “hello” to 2024. With the new year comes new opportunities. I want to highlight three:

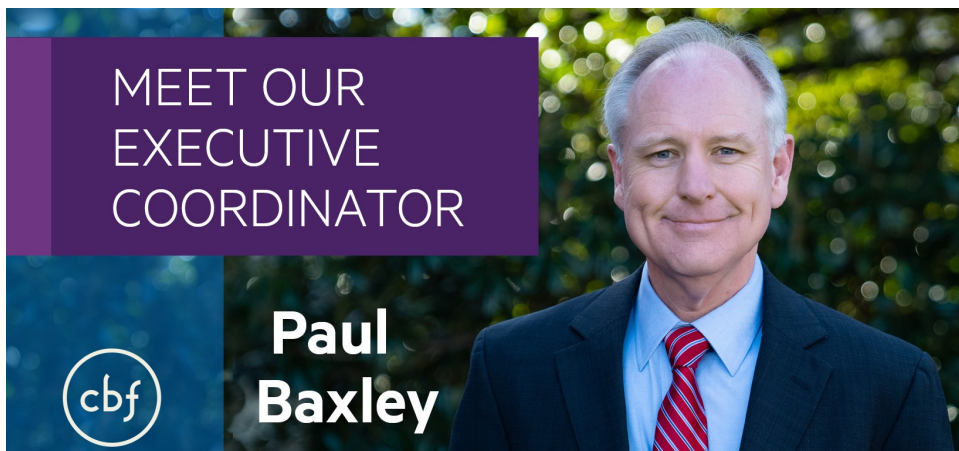
Lauren Coker – We welcome Lauren Coker as she begins serving as our part-time Interim Youth Leader. Lauren has experience as a youth leader in the congregation where she grew up. She has lived in Greenwood all of her life. Lauren is a graduate of Emerald High School and Piedmont Technical College. She currently is employed by Greenwood Eye Clinic. Some of you know Lauren already. Her primary responsibilities will be working with the youth on Sundays and Wednesdays (plus special events). I hope you will welcome her to the FBC family.

Senior Pastor Search Committee – The search committee is reading and evaluating the resumes of potential Senior Pastor candidates. If you know of someone that you believe would be a great “fit” to lead FBC into the future that God has for you, **PLEASE get that resume to the Pastor Search Committee by January 15.** Also, continue to pray for the search committee and the one who will come to be your next pastor. The email address to send resumes and communicate with the Pastor Search Ccommittee is - gwdfbc.spsearch@gmail.com

Paul Baxley – Paul is the Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He will be our guest on Sunday, January 28. I have known Paul since he served as University Chaplain at Wingate University (where our younger daughter graduated). He is a gifted Christian thinker, leader, and preacher. I firmly believe that it is imperative for FBC to partner with others to live out our mission, *Seeking His Heart . . . Being His Hands Living, Loving, and Serving in the Name of Christ.* FBC has partnered with and been an integral part of CBF since the mid 1990’s. CBF is a diverse group of Christians and Baptist congregations that seek to live out the Great Commission! **Paul will meet with adults during the Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall and preach during the 11:00 am service.** You will be glad that you were a part of this great Sunday!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Lord alongside you.

Layne



CBF Global Executive Coordinator, Paul Baxley, will be our guest on Sunday, January 28, 2024

(Details in Interim Pastor Column)



What Goes Up Must Come Down



The Worship Committee, and anyone else willing to help, will take down the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 7, following Committee Orientation. Since this is the major emphasis for the Worship Committee on January 7, the work of removing and storing decorations is expected to begin around 2:30 pm in the sanctuary. Church members who are not on a committee are welcome to help remove and store the decorations so they will be ready for next year’s Advent season. The more the merrier!



Worship in January

Sunday—January 7 Epiphany Sunday Holy Communion

Scripture: Luke 2:36-38; Hebrews 10:23-25

Sermon

“Mothers Around the Manger: Anna”
Layne Smith

Special Music

“The Work of Christmas” - Chancel Choir
“The Three Kings” - Keith Jameson, soloist

Sunday—January 14 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: John 2:1-11, Isaiah 62:1-5

Sermon: “Running on Empty”
Layne Smith

Special Music

NEW Hymn: “Come Join in Cana’s Feast”,
“Beautiful Saviour” - Chancel Choir

Sunday—January 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20, Colossians 1:1-6

Sermon: “You Say You Want a Revolution”
Layne Smith

Special Music

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”
Chancel Choir

Worship—January 28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Senior Adult Sunday

Sermon by Paul Baxley
Executive Coordinator of the
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Special Music

Sounds of Grace Senior Adult Choir
David Corbitt, director
Stephanie Turner, piano



Music Notes

“After” We’ve Had an Epiphany

“I have had an epiphany!” We exclaim this word “epiphany” when we come to the realization of something, or an illumination or disclosure of something. “Epiphany” also refers to the celebration of the coming of the Magi to see Jesus - the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. These wise men or philosophers realized something extraordinary had happened in their midst - the birth of a Savior for all humankind. Once they had seen Jesus, they were warned not to return to Herod, and to take another route back to their homes.

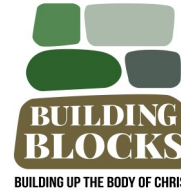
We have now experienced the birth and the manifestation of Christ in human form once again this Christmas season. We have brought our gifts of tithes and offerings, voices, and hearts. We have bowed down and worshipped Him. Now what? Do we just go back to the same everyday life? Why don’t we follow the Magi by another route... one that keeps Christ in our hearts all year long?

Let us take the meaning of Christmas and let it transform our lives in concrete ways, by giving more of ourselves to church, by making a deeper commitment to Bible study, by singing and praising God daily instead of just Sundays. Let us open our hearts and minds to the joy and wonder and hope and peace that Christ brings into this dark world with His light and grace. The Chancel Choir sings a beautiful anthem called “The Work of Christmas” on Epiphany, January 7, with music by Dan Forrest and text by Howard Thurman. The last line reads:

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins.

Has Christmas changed you this season? Have you had your epiphany this year?

Keith



January Building Blocks

In the beginning ...Some BIG Events Taught by Carole Russell

Though everyone is very familiar with the Book of Genesis, this study will revisit four “Big Events.” Participants will spend time recalling and learning again the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel. If time permits, in a different study, the group will take another look at the uniqueness of The Twelve Apostles.

The Creative Encounter Taught by Andy Westbrook

This block session will be a time to review the four main sections of Howard Thurman’s book, *The Creative Encounter*. Participants will discuss, as Thurman says, the meaning of the religious experience as it involves the individual totally, which means inclusive of feelings and emotions. What effect does our religious experience have on our lives, both as a private person and as a member of society?

Growing on Grace

This block will continue as the group decides a new study for 2024.

Adult Choir

If interested in joining the Adult Choir, the January block is a great time to try it out!

February Blocks

Be watching the weekly Sunday bulletin and electronic communication from the church about the upcoming February Block offerings.



Wednesday Night Meals

The FBC Catering Crew of Robby Stevenson, Dennis Moore, Jeff Rush, and Jim Firmin will resume preparing Wednesday meals on January 10. The following is a list of tentative menus for January.

January 10: chicken pot pie, rice pilaf, rolls, tossed salad, apple salad, peach cobbler/cake, ice cream

January 17: baked spaghetti, corn on the cob, steamed broccoli, garlic bread, tossed salad, marinated slaw, cookies, ice cream

January 24: meat loaf, creamed potatoes and gravy, steamed vegetables, yeast rolls, tossed salad, ham and pea pasta salad, apple cobbler, ice cream

January 31: turkey and dressing, green beans, candied yams, cranberry sauce, tossed salad, broccoli salad, assorted fresh baked pies, ice cream

All meals include a full salad bar, roll/bread, dessert, and beverage. Menus are subject to change due to food availability. The cost of the Wednesday Night meal will remain the same: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and no family pays more than \$30.00.

Persons on the permanent reservation list will receive an email from the church. If you think you are on the permanent list and do not receive an email or if you receive an email and do not want to be on the permanent list, please contact the church office (gfcsc@gmail.com or 229-5557 or complete the form on the FBC Engage Page (fbcgwd.org/engage). Please remember if you are on the permanent list, cannot attend, and do not cancel your reservations, you are expected to pay for your meal.



**First Baptist Goal for
CBF Global Missions
Offering
\$5,000.00**

**Received to Date:
\$3,600.00**



Committee Orientation January 7 at 2:00 pm

Much of the ministry of First Baptist Church is done through committees. In fact, First Baptist Church has thirteen Standing Committees designed to work with mission partners, welcome visitors and new members, visit and write cards to those who can no longer attend worship, prepare meals for church functions, as well as work with children and youth ministry, oversee personnel, finances, and property.

Each January, time is set aside for Committee Orientation. This year Committee Orientation is **Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Everyone serving on a committee in 2024 is asked to gather for a brief orientation before meeting with members of your respective committees. Following a brief orientation in the Fellowship Hall, committee members are asked to hold their the first meeting of the year. Regular meeting dates and times will be set during this meeting. **Anyone needing childcare for this event is asked to contact Anna no later than January 4.**

Members from all committees, not just the Worship Committee, are asked to stay after their meetings to assist the Worship Committee in removing the Christmas decorations from the sanctuary. The more the merrier!



2024 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the narthex. Anyone who is unable to pick up their envelopes is asked to contact the church office so your envelopes can be mailed to you. If for some reason you cannot locate your envelopes, please contact David Jennings (229-5557 or jenningsdaj@gmail.com)

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Majorie Hardie, Diana Glymph's mother,
- Bill Pittman Ayla Snead's grandfather,
- Joe Timmons, Jess Timmons' cousin
- Norm Burgin
- Charlie Bobo
- Natalia Faltermeier, Chareen Stevenson's mother

Ashley Square: Joann Gray

Greenwood Rehab: Gay Byars

Wesley Commons Rehab: Ruth Martin

Home: June Shaw, Nina Swillie, Tara Stoddard, Harry Stephens, Jerry Timmons, Nancy Young, April Mauldin, Blake Kendrick, Pat Dorrity



Weekly Need of the 2024 Ministry Plan

In order to pay bills, salaries and commitments to ministry partners as well as purchase literature and provide various activities for all ages, FBC needs to receive an average of \$19,007.87 each week. Please share your blessings and give as you are able to help FBC be the heart and hands of Jesus

2023 Ministry Plan

November Income	\$ 63,082.31
November Expenses	66,035.80
Deficit	(2,953.49)

December 3-December 24

Monthly Need	83,984.96
Monthly Gifts	133,896.67
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	988,803.95
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	851,060.70
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	137,743.25
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	174
Worship Attendance (Avg)	220



Upcoming Dates

- January 4-** RSVP due for childcare for Committee Orientation
- January 7-** Committee Orientation
- January 10-** Wednesday Night Activities return

The children's committee is meeting January 7 to plan the spring semester. If you have suggestions, contact a member: Velma English, Alice Gilchrist, Amanda Moon, Catherine White, Chelsea Lloyd, and Ayla Snead.



Canned Food Drive Tally

The CIAs collected 553 cans, which is 630 pounds of food, for the Food Bank with their canned food drive! Thank you to those who contributed and helped our children help a local missions partner!

Help Our CIAs Help Others



For the CIAs' January 10th and 17th meeting times, they will be assembling hygiene kits for GGUM. Please bring travel size of the following for the kits. There are drop-off bins in the carpeted part of the children's area or church office.

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Floss
- Mouthwash
- Comb/brush
- Soap/Body Wash

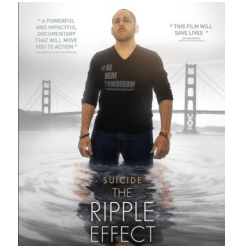


Volunteer Openings

- Nursery Extended Session (2nd Sundays in February, April, June, August, October, December)

Please let Anna know if you are interested in helping to fill one of these openings!

Youth News



**January 7, 2024
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Youth to Movie
"Suicide: The Ripple Effect"
St. Mark United Methodist
1633 Rivers St.**

When Kevin Hines was 19, he jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge in an attempt to take his life. "Suicide: The Ripple Effect" documents Kevin's personal story, the effect Kevin's suicide attempt and the effect it had on others. Kevin has become a mental health advocate, motivational speaker, and an author seeking to help others find hope, recovery, and wellness.



Pray for Fun and Safety

Please pray that our children, youth, and their families will have fun and stay safe as they go snow tubing on, Saturday, January 13.



**Sunday Night Live
January 14, 2024
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**At the home of
Bruce and Kay Culbertson**

**Save the Date
February 11
"Souper"
Bowl Sunday**



The Youth "Souper" Bowl event to raise funds for youth missions projects is Sunday, February 11. Plan to remain after worship for lunch. No reservation is needed. *To Go* orders will be available. The cost of the meal will be whatever a person cares to donate.



Young at Heart
(A group for widows and widowers)

The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Greenwood Country Club. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 9. The group will host a guest speaker at this meeting. 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: January 11

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



**Just a Reminder:
NGO Does Not
Meet in January**

Because January holds the possibility of very cold and/or inclement weather, the Never Grow Old Club (NGO) does not meet in January. The next NGO meeting is Tuesday, February 13.

The February program will feature loves songs from the 1960s and one from the 1970s sung by the Bell Tower Trio (David Corbitt, Keith Jameson, and Lewis Walker). Be watching the bulletin and electronic communication for further details.



**Flower Calendar
Openings**

The flowers on the Communion Table each Sunday add to the beauty of the Chancel. The following dates are available for someone to provide flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Please contact Mary Frances Thompson (229-5557) to reserve one of these dates. Please remember, the persons who contribute flowers are responsible for making arrangements with the florist of their choice to prepare and deliver the arrangements to the church. You may also choose one of these dates

Feb. 11	Mar. 17	June 9	Sept. 22
Feb. 18	April 28	June 23	Sept. 29
Mar. 3	May 19	June 30	Nov. 17
Mar. 10	May 26	July 21	Nov. 24

to make a donation to the Ministry Plan, one of the missions offerings, or one of FBC's ministry partners. Your donation will be noted in the bulletin in the same way flowers are noted. One of the church's permanent floral arrangements will be placed in the sanctuary for that day's service.



Newsletter Schedule

The First Baptist Church newsletter, *Connections*, is printed once a month. Office staff have the goal of families receiving the newsletter approximately a week before the end of the previous month. Holidays, weekends, and the number of days in a month affect when the newsletter is mailed. To help everyone remember when articles are needed for the newsletter, the deadline for articles the fifteenth of each month. Thank you for helping First Baptist include relevant information in the newsletter.

**First Baptist Church
GREENWOOD**

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Cheerful Cherubs
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Ministers and Staff

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Anna Burch
David Jennings
Keith Jameson
Lauren Coker
Robert Wilson
Claudia Burch
Mary Frances Thompson
Linda Miller

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Minister to Children
Minister of Administration
Church Music Director
Part-Time Interim Youth Leader
Interim Organist
Director of Cheerful Cherubs
Ministry Assistant
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Helping Hands Ministry Information Line(864) 229-8051

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED