



Letter from the Senior Pastor Search Committee

The following letter was mailed to the members of First Baptist Church on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

This letter is to inform the congregation of a Called Business Meeting on April 7 following the morning worship service. The purpose of the Called Business Meeting is to call a new Senior Pastor.

The new senior pastor candidate comes as a unanimous recommendation from the Senior Pastor Search Committee and the Diaconate.

Therefore, the Senior Pastor Search Committee would like to extend an invitation to the First Baptist Church family to a drop-in reception on Saturday, April 6, to meet the Senior Pastor candidate and their family. The drop-in reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

The Senior Pastor candidate will give their testimony in the Sanctuary during the 10:00 am Sunday School hour on Sunday, April 7. Following the Sunday School hour, the candidate will preach during the 11:00 am worship service.

The Called Business Meeting, for the purpose of extending a call to the new Senior Pastor, will take place after the morning worship service on Sunday, April 7. Paper ballots will be used for the business session. Absentee voting will not be available for the calling of a new Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor candidate will be asked to leave the sanctuary during the Called Business Meeting. Assuming a positive vote by the congregation, the candidate will be brought back to the Sanctuary and introduced as the sixteenth pastor of First Baptist Church.

Due to confidentiality between the Senior Pastor Search Committee and the candidate, specific details concerning the candidate will not be made public until the reception on April 6. Confidentiality, such as sharing the name and information about the candidate by email and social media, is a high priority until after the candidate has had an opportunity to notify their current congregation.

The Senior Pastor Search Committee hopes that you will make every effort to be a part of this special weekend (April 6 & 7) to get to know the prospective Senior Pastor.

Sincerely,

Senior Pastor Search Committee



Serving the Lord and First Baptist Church, Greenwood, has been a deeply and richly rewarding time of my life and ministry. While there have been challenges, they have been good ones. Good things in life require that we face challenges.

You have been through so much in the past year and a half. Your long-time Senior Pastor, who led you, befriended you, loved you, served you, married you, counseled you, and helped you say "goodbye" to loved ones resigned in late 2022. For the first time in twenty years, you did not have an installed Senior Pastor. Then, the unspeakable happened. On July 29, 2023, your much-loved former Youth Minister and current Interim Senior Pastor died suddenly. You experienced two deep losses in less than a year. Nevertheless, the Lord was faithful in guiding you through this unfamiliar wilderness. I have told numerous congregations in transition that if the Lord did not forsake the Hebrew children as they wandered through the wilderness for forty years, surely that same Lord would be faithful to them as they wandered through the unfamiliar wilderness of the time in between Senior Pastors!

I have always been encouraged by the words of Dag Hammarskjold, "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes." My prayer for you is that you, as a congregation, have come to affirm and believe these words.

The good news is that First Baptist is on the brink of calling your next Senior Pastor. There are so many signs of life and vitality in your midst. My hope and expectation is that you and your new Senior Pastor will continue and enlarge FBC's rich tradition of worship, Christian formation, and missions.

Praying the



**Thank you to all
Artists and Poets for
Stations of the Cross**

A HUGE thank you to all of those who created the beautiful and moving Stations of the Cross: Bonnie and David Corbitt, Shirley Dominick, the Chancel Choir and *Sounds of Grace* (with David Corbitt, Stephanie Turner, Keith Jameson, and Robert Wilson), Cheerful Cherubs and Claudia Burch and teachers, Children of FBC and Anna Burch, Youth of FBC and Lauren Coker, Summers Hall Reed, Keith Jameson, Andy Westbrook, Denise Waldrep, Bill Updegraff, Anne Craig, Lee Wyndham, Rebekah Timms, Paula and Robbie Boone, and the congregation and visitors who participated in creating the bright and colorful "Sunrise" banner for our Easter Sunday service. Special thanks to Mary Frances Thompson for creating the wonderful programs, map, signs, and banner. Thanks also to Amy Jennings for assisting Mary Frances in writing the prayer prompts. Thank you to the Spiritual Formation Committee and Worship Committee for sponsoring this unique journey and experience. After over seven months of planning, it came together and brought all of us closer to the Cross and journey of Jesus during his final days on earth. We hope that everyone was touched by the artwork, poems, sculptures, music, prayers, scripture, meditation, and silence, and that this experience deepened and renewed your faith. Thank you all for walking these Stations with Jesus.



Worship in April

Sunday—April 7 Second Sunday of Easter

Sermon by
Senior Pastor Candidate

Special Music
“O God of Challenge and of Change”
Chancel Choir

Sunday—April 14 Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: “We’ve All Been to Emmaus”
Layne Smith

Special Music
“I Shall See”
Chancel Choir
with Isamarie Cardona, soprano

Sunday—April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 23, **1 John 3:16-24**

Sermon: “Never Getting Tired”
Layne Smith

Special Music
“The Heavens Are Telling”
from *The Creation* by Josef Haydn
Katie Walenceus, soprano
Keith Jameson, tenor
David Corbitt, baritone

Sunday—April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter Ren Hewitt Dedication

Scripture: Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Sermon:
“How Will First Baptist Measure Success”
Layne Smith

Special Music
“A Jubilant Song”
Chancel Choir



Music Notes

“O God of Challenge and of Change”

Composer Bob Burroughs has fashioned a beautiful and moving anthem on stunning words by Carolyn S. McDowell. Lush, changing, contemporary harmonies throughout the beginning of the anthem (signifying life’s changes), lead to a gentle, lilting, and unison final stanza. The text says that through all our challenges and changes (especially First Baptist Church Greenwood during this transition time) we search everywhere for answers, in “a universe of vast extremes.” In looking at this universe, our “lives seem so small,” yet God has promised us that nothing will separate us from His Word. The anthem ends with these lovely words with the choir singing mainly in unison:

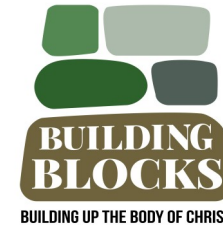
*“That Word is love, that word is peace,
that Word goes with us everywhere; in
every choice, in every change, we are
forever in your care.”*

The Chancel Choir sings this beautiful anthem on April 7. I hope you will join us in celebrating the strength of FBC Greenwood through our challenges and changes, both past, present, and future. We enter the Easter season and the future with openness, humility, and a renewed faith after the triumph of the Resurrection.



Chokhmah Men’s Group

First Baptist is pleased to announce a new men’s group called *Chokhmah Men’s Group*. Chokhmah means *wisdom* in Hebrew and is pronounced hock-ma. The Chokhmah Men’s Group will provide fellowship, Bible study, and service opportunities to any man interested in joining. You do not have to be a member of the church to attend. Contact Jason Reed by email (reedjt14@gmail.com) or by phone (864-941-7141) for more information and a calendar of events.



Wednesday Adult Building Blocks “All about Missions”

The March/April Wednesday Night Adult Building Blocks provides a focused look at a few of the ministry being done in Greenwood by our local mission Partners. Thanks so much to Sylvia Martin and various members of the Missions Committee for the work already accomplished with the March Building Blocks. This will be a wonderful time to get involved with our missions partners and learn how First Baptist can continue to grow in our mission to serve Christ. The following is a list of Mission Partners who presented during the March “Missions” Building Block.

March 6	Meg’s House - Alice Hodges
March 13	Pathway House - Anthony Price
March 20	Greenwood Housing and Community Development and the ministry of Greenwood Community Home Repair - Stephen Baggett
March 28	Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April Building Blocks

The following is a list of Mission Partners who will present during the April “Missions” Building Block.

April 7	CBFSC Missions and Mission Partners - Lane Riley
April 10	Greater Greenwood United Ministry - Rosemary Bell
April 17	Greenwood Food Bank and Soup Kitchen - Andrea White
April 24	Meals on Wheels - Tracey Bedenbaugh

May Building Blocks

In addition to the ongoing Building Block of Chancel Choir and Growing on Grace, Mary Frances Thompson and Bill Harris will each offer an option.

Mary Frances will lead *The Power of Preconceptions, Perspectives, and Perceptions*, which will use some fun activities to address some serious issues and help participants move beyond feeling shamed or blamed for actions and attitudes. The group will explore how feeling regret instead of guilt for the actions of our predecessors can help us move toward healing and healthy interactions.

Bill will lead a group discussion on “faith for the rest of the way.” on May 8, 22, and 29. The discussion will be based on the ideas presented by Richard Rohr in his book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. Participants will share discoveries and changes in faith through the stages of life.

Since Bill is unavailable on May 1, an additional choice for that will be announced.



March Diaconate Update

The March Diaconate meeting was held on March 17 at 6:00 pm. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, the Diaconate approved the following:

- a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to update the Senior Pastor Job Description.
- a recommendation from the Senior Pastor Search Committee on a candidate to serve as the next Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church.
- a recommendation from the Worship Committee concerning a request to the First Baptist Church Foundation Board.

The Diaconate also appointed a Diaconate Ad-hoc Committee to review the development of the annual Ministry Plan. Members of the ad-hoc committee are Dianna Glymph, Anne Craig, Chuck Moates, Lewis Dorrity, and Ashley Wilkie.

First Quarter 2024 Ministry Plan Update

It is hard to believe that the first three months of 2024 are over. Because of generous gifts to the annual Ministry Plan, FBC has done some amazing things this first quarter. The following is just a sample of what has taken place the past three months!

First Quarter Highlights

- Congregational Life Committee prepared a delicious meal for the Greenwood Community Lenten Pilgrimage.
- The Chancel Choir and musicians presented the Palm Sunday service *Lenten Meditations and Music*.
- Youth participated in several activities including snow tubing and *Festival by the Sea*.
- Children participated in various theme nights, movie nights, Easter Egg Hunt and other activities.
- Cheerful Cherubs hosted Doughnuts for Dad.
- Repairs have been made during the past three months.
- Senior Adult Sunday and NGO programs.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of:

- Barbara Pollard, Roberta Reynolds' mother
- Charles "Bub" Bell
- Juanita Ramsey, Pattie Fender's mother
- Teresa Brewington
- Sandy Wilkie, Grant Wilkie's father

Greenwood Rehab: Earl Brewington

Home: Dave Free

Birth

Thomas Michael Mauldin, son of Thomas Mauldin and Beth Villalobas, grandson of Thomas Mauldin, great-grandson of Carole Mauldin

George Edward Psomas, grandson of George and Beverly Psomas, great-grandson of Betty Schoop

New Member

Rochelle "Shellie" DuPlain
125 Edinborough Circle, Apt. 10
Greenwood, SC 29649

Financially Support First Baptist Church



Supporting FBC financially is easy.

- 1) Place gifts in the offering plate during worship on Sunday,
- 2) Mail contributions to the church, or
- 3) Transfer funds electronically through personal online bill pay banking.

Because of gifts to the annual Ministry Plan, First Baptist is able to support the church's mission and ministry. Thank you in advance for your gifts to the annual Ministry Plan.

March 3-24, 2024

Monthly Need	\$ 76,031.48
Monthly Gifts	54,298.00
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	228,094.44
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	178,343.71
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(49,750.73)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	158
Worship Attendance (Avg)	201



Spring Semester Dates

- April 3:** Children's Family Picnic and Playground Night, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm
No children's choirs
Deadline for Family Night reservation
- April 11**
- April 14** Family Night Activity
- April 25:** RSVP due for Children's Playground Night
- April 26:** Children's Playground Night, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm
- May 15:** Music & Missions Night
- May 22:** CIA Fun Night
No children's choirs
- May 23:** RSVP due for Family Bowling Night
- May 29:** Family Bowling Night, 6:30 pm-7:30; pm
No children's choirs



Children's Family Activity Night

On Sunday, April 14, we'll have our rescheduled family activity night in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. We will start with a pizza supper. The activities will be cookie decorating, bracelet making for our older kids and fruit loop necklaces for our younger kids, and a Spring craft to give to our homebound and nursing home members.

Please RSVP by Thursday, April 11, with the number of cheese, pepperoni, and gluten free slices your family will need.



Children's Family Activity on Wednesday, April 3
(During District 50's Second Intercession Week)

The Wednesday of District 50's second intercession week, April 3, will be a playground and picnic night from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Families are welcome to eat upstairs or get a meal to go and eat it as a picnic or bring your own. **There will be no childcare for this night.**

Children's Playground Night



Our next Playground Night will be Friday, April 26, from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. This a parent drop off event, and we will serve supper. This will be for 1K-5th grade. **Please RSVP by Thursday, April 25.**



Looking ahead

- VBS- June 23-26
- Camp Prism- July 16-19 (completed 3rd-5th graders)



Children's Choirs News

- The **two older children's choirs** (Young Musicians and Music Makers) will **sing in worship** on May 5.
- There will be **no choir on** April 3, May 15, 22, or 29.
- All **three choirs** will participate in **M&M Night** on May 15.



Volunteer Openings

A volunteer is needed for Children's Church (3K-5K) on the first Sunday in April, June, August, October, and December. Please contact Anna Burch (aeburchfbc@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Youth News



Sunday Night Live
April 7, 2024

6:00 pm-8:00 pm

At the home of

Tommy and Tara Stoddard
(123 Parkwood Rd.)



Calling All Graduates

The First Baptist Church family wants to honor any student (high school, technical school, college, or graduate school) associated with First Baptist who graduated in the Fall of 2023 or who will graduate in the Spring or Summer of 2024. These students will be recognized during worship on May 19. Graduate information may be submitted online at www.fbc.org/engage or brought to the church office. **The church office needs the information below no later than May 10.**

Graduate Information Needed:

- Graduate's Name
- School
- Date of Graduation (Month/Year)
- Degree, if applicable
- Future Plans
- A Recent Photo

Stokes Memorial Scholarship for High School Seniors



Please be reminded that applications for the Stokes Memorial Scholarship Award are due the first of May. Watch the Sunday bulletin and e-news for additional information regarding the scholarship.



“NGO” Will Jazz and Jam

The NGO Fellowship will jazz and jam with Isa and Sam on Tuesday, April 2, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Isamarie Cardona (vocal) and Sam Walburn (piano) are two popular performers featured in Lander University's Jazz Band. Now our FBC seniors will have the unique opportunity to jazz and jam with them.

You Are Invited to Meet and Greet the Senior Pastor Candidate

Reception

Saturday, April 6
 3:00 pm-5:00 pm
 Fellowship Hall

Time of Testimony

Sunday, April 7
 10:00 am
 Sanctuary

Sermon

Sunday, April 7
 11:00 am
 Sanctuary



New Church Promotional Pieces Available

Have you noticed the new material on the Welcome Table in the Narthex? The Outreach and Membership Committee has been hard at work updating the church brochure and designing a piece about what First Baptist Greenwood offers during the Sunday School hour. Pick up some of these promotional pieces to use to invite friend, neighbors, and co-workers to First Baptist.



722 Grace Street
 Greenwood, SC 29649
 (864) 229-5557 (864) 229-2561 Fax

Website: fbcgwd.org

Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

Ministers and Staff

Layne Smith
 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
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 Director of Cheerful Cherubs
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED