



May 2024

Volume LXXVI, No. 05



First Baptist Greenwood Calls Rev. John Uldrick as Next Senior Pastor

During a called business meeting after worship on Sunday, April 7, First Baptist Greenwood voted to call Rev. John Uldrick to be the church's next Senior Pastor. John and his wife, Jennifer, are natives of Clinton, South Carolina. John has served as Associate Pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Church in Atlanta since 2022. During his twenty-six years of ministry, John has served churches in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. John received a BS degree in sociology from Clemson University, a Master of Divinity degree from Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, and is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree from McAfee. The Second Ponce website notes that John is highly adaptable, connects with others, communicates clearly, thinks systematically, and leads with a positive attitude.

In 1997, John married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, who is an experienced educator, most recently serving as principal of an elementary school in Rome, Georgia. John and Jennifer have two grown children, Charles (2000) and Annalise (2002). John's hobbies include watching college football, playing golf, being a movie/television show critic, and hiking.



May 19, 2024 Youth Sunday and Graduate Recognition Sunday



The Youth of First Baptist Greenwood will lead worship on Sunday, May 19. The youth will share several musical selections from *Festival by the Sea*. These selections include musical settings of a Jewish poem and of Song of Solomon 2:3 and an energetic Zambian song of worship. Youth will share reflections about their faith and the influence of First Baptist on their lives. Tokens of congratulations and love will be presented to all First Baptist graduates. Please be present on May 19 to support and encourage the First Baptist youth and graduates.



From your Interim Senior Pastor CONGRATULATIONS!

You have done it! You have called the next Senior Pastor of Greenwood First Baptist Church. I'm excited for your future. What can you do to welcome and encourage your new Senior Pastor? Allow me to make some modest suggestions.

1. Pray for John, Jennifer, Charles, and Annalise. This is a time of grief as they say "goodbye" to those in their current community and ministry context. However, it is a time of great anticipation as they look forward to sharing life and ministry with you. They have a lot to do to make the move to Greenwood. Your prayer for them as they make this transition is important.
2. Send a welcome note or email to John and Jennifer.
44 Berryhill Place
Cartersville, GA 30121
johnuldrickfbcg@gmail.com
3. Be certain to mention your name to them the first several times you encounter them. There are a lot of names and faces to remember at First Baptist.
4. Allow John to be John. He is unique. He will lead and relate differently than all your previous pastoral leaders.
5. The very best pastors do not succeed all the time. Practice grace and forgiveness. Remember! None of us are perfect.
6. Be prepared to give John the benefit of the doubt when he proposes/does things differently than you've done in the past. More times than I like to admit I've heard something like this in churches I've had the privilege of serving: *We don't do it that way or We've never done it that way.* I have always wanted to say in response, *Do you think it might be high time to try something different? As you know, the definition of "crazy" is to keep doing the same thing and expect different results.*

So, what if all doesn't go well? Refer to #5 above.

This is just a start. Use your imagination and your gifts to welcome John, Jennifer, Charles, and Annalise to this wonderful community of faith!



Building Blocks

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

Mary Frances has decided to change topics and will lead a study of *In the Footsteps of the Savior*. Each session has an approximately twenty-minute video of various locations in the Holy Land with Max Lucado teaching about a particular scripture. Following the video, Mary Frances will use the series' study guide to lead participants in a group study and discussion.

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, Lee Wyndham will give a personal testimony as expressed in her book, *My Oh My—A Journey of Faith through Marriage, Parenting, and Miracles*.



A Note from our new Senior Pastor

Some of the most epic journeys begin even without being fully prepared. In 2018, our son Charles went to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico with Troop 113. Almost twenty scouts and leaders trekked 120 miles over ten days. As the trip approached, we did everything we could to prepare Charles for the hike. We gathered all the supplies from the packing list, ordered new hiking boots, and even broke them in, putting some miles in on trails close to our house. Charles was as prepared as he could be. The trip was transformational for Charles and pushed him to his limits. Charles could not prepare for some encounters, yet he thrived and finished well.

Another epic journey begins as the First Baptist family welcomes us to Greenwood. We are so eager to be with you in June! God has prepared First Baptist and the Uldrick family for the future. As we begin the journey together, it is good to remember that we might not have everything figured out as we start. But we must prepare well and be ready to adapt to what we do not expect!

Here is a list of ways (things) I plan to prepare:

- Grow a commitment to follow Christ above all else.
- Practice a posture of prayer, asking God, “Who do You want me to be? What do you want me to do?”
- Deepen a seriousness about a knowledge of scripture and growth of discipleship in community.
- Develop an openness to new relationships, seek and share forgiveness, and be eager to invite friends to join us in all that is ahead.
- Grow a service-first mindset, serving members of FBC, the Greenwood community, and our world.
- Practice seriousness about sharing the name of Christ in word and deed.
- Deepen a steady and trusting countenance, trusting God in all things, even amid change.
- Develop a willingness to try a few new things while holding onto things we value from history.

What might be on your list? What might you add? This list might only prepare us for some things, but is a good starting place. Faithfully, God is in our midst! With God, we can grow through anything the future might hold for our church. Jennifer and I are over the moon excited about starting our journey with you on June 1. Thanks be to God for the great things ahead of us all. And thanks be to God for the strength to weather every storm ahead. To borrow a phrase from one of my favorite leaders, “The best is yet to come!”

I’m going to love being your Pastor,

John



Music Notes

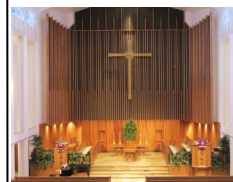
Youth Sunday Features Music from *Festival by the Sea*

May 19 is Youth Sunday and features several anthems from the recent *Festival by the Sea* in Myrtle Beach. The *Voices of Grace* Youth Choir, along with Diana Cox and myself, traveled March 1-3 to *Festival by the Sea* and had a fantastic weekend of music, fellowship, and fun. The youth choir will be singing three of the anthems from the weekend: “I Believe” is a beautiful anthem based on an anonymous Jewish poem. Lily Martin sang the solo at *Festival by the Sea*, and repeats her lovely solo on Youth Sunday. “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree” is based on Song of Solomon 2:3, and is usually heard as a Christmas carol. This is a new setting by Mark Patterson that is absolutely gorgeous, and features MaryLila Sims as soloist. The text tells of all the wonderful things found in Christ, as it relates to the image of the apple tree. Fruit, shade, beauty, happiness. One of the more beautiful lines is: *The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.* (Things found in the world can’t compare to the love and goodness in Christ.) It’s a beautiful setting of a beautiful text.

Finally the choir will sing “Bonse Aba,” an energetic Zambian song featuring Sam Smith as soloist. It’s fun to sing and gets everyone smiling. The text is based on John 1:12 — *All that sing have a right to be called children of God.* Some rhythmic African drumming will add to the excitement of this enjoyable anthem.

In addition to the choir selections, Lydia Turner plays violin for the prelude with her mom Stephanie Turner on piano. Beverly Psomas will play piano throughout the service. I hope all will join us for this special service led by the youth and also honoring our graduates.

Festival by the Sea



Worship in May

Sunday—May 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Galatians 2:15-21; Psalm 98
Sermon: “Identity Gift”
Johnny McKinney

Special Music:
“Amazing Grace” — Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. Y. Thomason by Bill and Nancy Thomason.

Sunday—May 12 Ascension Sunday Mother’s Day

Scripture: Matthew 12:46-50, Psalm 1
Sermon: “A Part of Your Own”
Tim Willis

Special Music
“Certainly, Lord” — Men’s Ensemble

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Nick and Virginia Anagnost by their family.

Sunday—May 19 Pentecost Youth Sunday Graduate Recognition Sunday

Youth Speakers

Special Music
“Confession” (Forgive Us, Lord)
Evie Craig, soloist

“I Believe” — Lily Martin, soloist
“Bonse Aba” — Sam Smith, soloist

“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”
MaryLila Sims, soloist

Voices of Grace Youth Choir

Beverly Psomas, piano; Lydia Turner, violin; Stephanie Turner, piano.

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Linda Harris by Bill and Cathy Harris

Sunday—May 26
Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50, Isaiah 6:1-8
Sermon: "My Plastic Jesus"
Tim Willis

Special Music
"Holy, Holy, Holy,"
"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"
"Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me"
Chancel Choir; Lewis Walker, trumpet;
and Betty Walker, piano

The **Sanctuary flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Lee and Ted Wyndham's sixtieth wedding anniversary by their children.



March Diaconate Update

The April Diaconate meeting was held on April 21 at 6:00 pm. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, the Diaconate approved the following:

- a recommendation from the Stewardship Committee to use undesignated Memorial Funds to purchase 200 chairs and 22 tables for the Fellowship Hall.



May is State Missions Emphasis Month at FBC

The Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions helps CBFSC partner with life-giving ministries across the state of South Carolina. The offering supports CBFSC's support for the following covenant mission partners:

- Metanoia
- Palmetto Works
- Koinonia of Columbia
- Together for Hope Black Belt
- The Off Ramp
- Carolina Immigrant Alliance

The Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions also supports CBFSC Partnership and Church Project Grants.

Thank you for supporting the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of:

- Jimmy Burns
- Philip Hayden Payne, brother of Nancy Weaver
- Robert May, uncle of Jimmy May

Greenwood Rehabilitation:
Barbara Carson

Home: Billy Hudgens, Kay Culbertson, Anne Devore, Rachel Stephens



2025 Ministry Plan Development Meeting

Stewardship Committee Chair, Dianna Glymph, would like to meet with all committee chairs and individuals with line items in the annual Ministry Plan at 9:30 am on Sunday morning, May 5. The meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to everyone regarding the development of the 2025 Ministry Plan. Please contact Dianna Glymph if you have any questions.

First Quarter MISSIONS

The Stewardship Committee voted during their April meeting to pay First Quarter Missions. In addition to funding CBF Global and CBFSC, the payment of First Quarter Missions (\$12,830.00) also supports six local mission partners. Thank you for your gifts to the annual Ministry Plan that supports our mission partners.

March 31– April 21, 2024

Monthly Need	\$ 82,367.45
Monthly Gifts	64,162.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	304,125.92
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	242,606.02
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(61,519.90)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	188
Worship Attendance (Avg)	250



Spring Semester Dates

- 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 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 May 15, 22, or 29.
- All **three choirs** will participate in **M&M Night** on May 15.



M&M Night (Music and Missions)



Wednesday May 15
6:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Join us for M&M Night where our children's music activity group and choirs and CIAs will share what they have learned about this year. Your presence lets our children know you care about their spiritual growth.



CIA Fun Night
Wednesday, May 22
6:30 pm

Children, dress for messy games, weather permitting! Parents, prepare for the trip home.

Children's Family Bowling Night



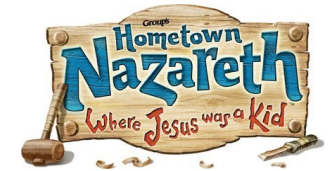
Wednesday, May 29
6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Reservations are needed by Thursday, May 23.



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.



VBS 2024

June 23-26

Supper — 5:30 pm
VBS — 6:00 pm -- 8:15 pm

3K-5th Grade
(Those who were 3K in the 2023-2024 school year)

Invite friends!

RSVPs due Tuesday, June 18!

*VBS Decoration Party is Sunday, June 20 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Help Needed on Sunday

Help is needed on Sunday with the sound and camera crew. To learn more about the position or for questions, please contact Keith Jameson at 229-5557 or keithjameson@hotmail.com.

Youth News



Sunday Night Live
May 5, 2024
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
At the home of
Donna and Jim Firmin
 (408 Lakeport Drive)



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



The Connections Intergenerational Sunday School class will not be held this year. Youth and adults who usually participate in this class will attend their regular classes.



Sounds of Grace Spring Concert at Never Grow Old

The *Sounds of Grace* will present a spring concert of sacred music at the *Never Grow Old* Fellowship on Tuesday, May 7. The senior choir is directed by David Corbitt and accompanied by Stephanie Turner. The program will begin at 11:45 am followed by the catered meal. Please come and bring a guest to support our dedicated senior choir members.

The menu for the meal is chicken strips, macaroni pie, green beans, and strawberry shortcake. The cost of the meal is \$10.00. **If you are not a member, please call the church office by Thursday, May 2, to make your reservation for the meal.** The group will not meet again until October.

Serious Illness in Christian Research Study



A local nurse-researcher is conducting a research study about the personal experiences of Christians who regularly attend church and are living with a serious illness that was diagnosed at least one year ago. Participants must speak English and be between 18 and 88 years old. More information is available on the bulletin board near the church office or by calling Judy Lentz, RN, MSN at 864-323-2769.



Chokmah Men's Group

Several activities are being planned for the Chokmah Men's Group. These plans include breakfast at Cracker Barrel on Wednesday, May 8, and Church Outdoor Workday on May 18. For additional information, please contact Jason Reed (864) 941-7141.



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

Anna Burch	Minister to Children	aeburchfbc@gmail.com
David Jennings	Minister of Administration	jenningsdaj@gmail.com
Keith Jameson	Church Music Director	keithjameson@hotmail.com
Lauren Coker	Part-Time Interim Youth Leader	laurenccoker@gmail.com
Robert Wilson	Interim Organist	rwilson626@gmail.com
Claudia Burch	Director of Cheerful Cherubs	claudiaburch5@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