



March 2025

Volume LXXVII, No. 03

## Noye's Fludde

a community church opera  
by Benjamin Britten

Featuring children and youth from the Greenwood community as the animals and birds in the ark, local youth and Lander University students as Noye's family, Metropolitan Opera singers Kyle Pfortmiller as Noye and Kirstin Chavez as Noye's Wife; Broadway star Stacey Robinson as the Voice of God

Ellen D. Schlaefer, director  
Keith Jameson, conductor

Thursday, March 13  
Friday, March 14  
6:00pm

First Baptist Church Greenwood  
Sanctuary  
722 Grace Street, Greenwood 29649

**FREE ADMISSION**

For information, call (864) 229-5557 or visit [www.fbcgwd.org](http://www.fbcgwd.org)



### 2025 Lenten Theme

FBC's 2025 Lenten theme, *Full to the Brim*, "is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed."

From *Full to the Brim* Resources Bundle at [SANCTIFIEDART.ORG](http://SANCTIFIEDART.ORG)



## A Note from the Pastor

March 5, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of our Lenten journey. We will host the first community Lenten Luncheon that Wednesday, offering a time of fellowship and worship. That evening, we will also hold an Ash Wednesday Service, inviting us to begin this sacred season with reflection and renewal.

Throughout Lent, our worship theme is "Full to the Brim"—a reminder that God's grace is overflowing, abundant, and ever-present. Rather than seeing Lent as a time of scarcity or self-denial, we embrace it as a season of spiritual renewal, where we open our hearts to the fullness of God's love.

We experience a Full to the Brim life when we journey through the desert, when we trust in God as our refuge, when we see God as our gardener, when we receive God's prodigal grace, when we offer extravagant gifts, and when we are not silent about the need for justice. Lent is an opportunity to recognize that we are already loved beyond measure—and this theme encourages us to live fully, stepping into God's promise with confidence and trust.

Palm Sunday, a joyful, yet fleeting, celebration before the sorrow of Holy Week, calls us to embrace the whole story of Christ's journey—from triumph to sacrifice, from suffering to resurrection. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was more than a procession; it was a declaration of a different kind of kingdom—one of humility, justice, and enduring love.

FBC's Flower Ministry is a powerful reflection of this message and plays a vital role in our worship life. Flowers remind us of God's beauty, renewal, and abundance—a visual representation of what it means to be full to the brim with God's love. The flower ministry brings joy to our sanctuary, brightens worship experiences, and extends care to those in need through floral gifts. Did you know a team works to rearrange flowers from worship and shares those smaller arrangements with church home-bound members and those who've been hospitalized or sick? Just as Jesus was greeted with palms, we continue to use flowers as a symbol of life, hope, and transformation. Consider scheduling a Sunday to place flowers in worship this year.

As we move through this season, may we remember that God's love is not measured out in small portions—it is full to the brim. May we embrace the abundant grace offered to us, walk boldly into Holy Week with open hearts, and celebrate the promise of new life with great joy.

Come, be part of the journey. Be filled. Be transformed. Prepare yourself to receive the fullness of Easter morning.

Your Pastor,

John



## Worship in March

### Sunday—March 3

Scripture: Genesis 9:1, 8-11, 18-29

Sermon: "Noah—Even with God's Blessing, We Falter"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"Psalm 121"—Chancel Choir  
Melanie Zwan, violin  
Richard Thomas, cello

### Wednesday—March 5 Ash Wednesday

Special Music  
"Touch Me with Ashes"—Chancel Choir,  
Kelly McWhorter, soloist

### Sunday—March 9 First Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13,  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Sermon:  
"Full to the Brim—Even in the Desert"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"Peace" - Chancel Choir

### Thursday—March 13 Friday—March 14

**NOYE'S FLUDDE**  
(Community Church Opera, featuring  
soloists, speaker, youth, children,  
orchestra, sets, costumes)  
**FREE Admission**

### Sunday—March 16 Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35, Psalm 27

Sermon:  
"Full to the Brim—Under God's Wing"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"I Shall See" (Psalm 27)—Chancel Choir

### Sunday—March 23 Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9, Isaiah 55:1-9

Sermon:  
"Full to the Brim—You Are Worthy"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"Seek First the Kingdom"—Chancel Choir

### Sunday—March 30

Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32,  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon:  
"Full to the Brim—Prodigal Grace"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"Amazing Grace"—Chancel Choir  
Byron Hilley, flute



## Community Lenten Pilgrimage

**March 5**—First Baptist Church Greenwood

**March 12**—Immanuel Lutheran Church

**March 19**—Greenwood ARP

**March 26**—South Main Baptist Church

**April 2**—Main Street UMC

**April 9**—First Presbyterian Church

**April 16**—Morris Chapel

### Some reminders:

First Lunch at noon

Service at 12:30 pm

Second lunch at 1:00 pm

The cost for lunch is \$2.00.

Offering will be taken and given to  
Greater Greenwood United Ministry.



## Music Notes

### A Flood is Coming... Noye's Fludde, Church Opera March 13 and 14

Our community church opera will be performed in the First Baptist Church sanctuary on Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14 at 6:00 pm each night. The opera lasts only about an hour, and features children from FBC, other churches, and the Greenwood community, two professional opera singers (Kyle Pfortmiller and Kirstin Chavez) from the Metropolitan Opera, Stacey Robinson (Broadway performer and Greenwood native) as the Voice of God, Ellen Douglas Schlaefer, director (Opera at USC, Columbia, SC), and Keith Jameson as conductor, Lander University students, local musicians in the orchestra, and various people helping with sets, costumes, and other aspects of this huge undertaking. There is FREE ADMISSION for everyone—this is a gift to the community! The English composer Benjamin Britten incorporates three hymn tunes into the opera, which the congregation (audience) sings along with the cast: "Lord, Jesus, Think on Me", the familiar "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" (the Navy Hymn), and "The Spacious Firmament on High" (Tallis Canon), in which the last verse is sung as a seven part round (like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")! We have an enormous cast: 30+kids as animals, 6 youth and Lander students as Noye's family, 4 women as Noye's wife's "gossips" and our Met singers and Broadway star as well. This is in addition to the large orchestra of strings, trumpets, recorders, percussion, handbells, organ and piano. I am delighted to finally bring this work to Greenwood and to our beautiful sanctuary. Make plans now to attend one or both of our two performances. There will be an opening night reception in the fellowship hall too. Glorious music awaits as the flood approaches...



## Spring Semester Building Blocks

### March—April Building Blocks (March 5—April 23)

**March 5**—Ash Wednesday Service

**March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 23)**  
Building Blocks

**March 19 (NO MEAL)**—Building Blocks

**March 26 (NO MEAL)**—Building Blocks

**Holy Week April 16** NO Activities  
**April 17** Maundy Thursday  
**April 18** Good Friday  
**April 20** Easter

**April 23** —End of Spring Building Blocks

**April 30**—Music & Missions Night  
(Last Wednesday Night Meal  
until fall/new school year  
schedule begins)



### Rehearsal Schedule for Noye's Fludde

**ENTIRE CAST Staging**  
Saturday, March 8—10:00 am - noon

**ENTIRE CAST Run-Through**  
Sunday, March 9—3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**PIANO Dress Rehearsal**  
Monday, March 10—6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**ORCHESTRA Dress Rehearsal**  
Tuesday, March 11—6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**ORCHESTRA Dress Rehearsal**  
Wednesday, March 12—6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**PERFORMANCE #1, Opening Reception**  
Thursday, March 13—6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**PERFORMANCE #2**  
Friday, March 14—6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



## Diaconate Update

The first two months of 2025 have been busy for the Diaconate. While the Diaconate continues to meet on the third Sunday of the month, the time of the meeting has been changed to 8:30 am. In addition to their monthly meetings, members of the Diaconate attended an "orientation" meeting on February 2.

During the recent meetings, the Diaconate approved the following:

- Recommendation for a First Baptist Church Foundation request for fund for Special Projects as discerned by the congregation through the Congregational Conversation meetings.
- Recommendation from the First Baptist Church Foundation Board to appoint Jim Firmin to the First Baptist Foundation Board.
- Recommendation from the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee to reduce the number of Standing Committees and the number of people to serve on committees.



We will reflect on the strengths and challenges identified in our last meeting and begin to dream together about what God has in store for our future.

Your voice matters—we hope to see you there!

## Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of

- Diane Carole, sister of Jane Byers
- Terry Gilchrist
- Charlotte Koone, mother-in-law of Linda Koone
- Dave Free

**Self:** Jackie Dewberry

**Home:** Carol Byrd, June Shaw, Kay Culbertson, Diana Cox, Jo Stevenson, Nancy Rooney, Keith Snead, Helen Bryan, Kenny Poston, Gamble Roquemore, Deanna Burgess, Susan Sims, Rose Whaley

### Birth

- June Johnson, granddaughter of Wayne and Liz White.
- Weston Boggs, grandson of Bill and Rose Whaley
- Camille Howard, granddaughter of Cille and Don Bishop, great-granddaughter of Barbara Chandler

## FBC Foundation 2025 Officers

Chair: Tom Gordon  
Chair Elect: Ray Wilson  
Secretary: Brenda Rickborn  
Treasurer: Scott White

## Financials

### December 2024

December Receipts:	\$203,016.76
December Expenses:	\$ 93,874.46
December Surplus:	\$109,142.30

### End of 2024

2024 Receipts:	\$932,204.50
2024 Expenses:	\$903,385.19
2024 Surplus:	\$ 28,819.31

### January 2025

January Receipts:	\$ 35,271.31
January Expenses:	\$ 73,316.45
January Deficit:	\$ 38,045.14

### January 26 - February 16, 2025

Period Need	\$ 82,958.82
Period Gifts	\$ 60,188.78
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	\$ 134,010.38
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	\$ 86,693.12
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(\$ 47,317.26)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	152
Worship Attendance (Avg)	185



## Upcoming Dates

### March 12:

*Noye's Fludde* Dress Rehearsal;  
Those not participating in *Noye's Fludde* meet in Backyard for CIAs

### March 13 and 14:

*Noye's Fludde* Opera, 6:00 pm

### March 19:

STEM Night  
No Choirs or Supper Upstairs

### March 26:

Playground and Picnic;  
No Choirs or Supper Upstairs

### March 30:

Second Congregational Conversation

### April 13:

Palm Sunday- palms in worship

### April 16:

No Wednesday Activities

### April 17:

Maundy Thursday worship

### April 19:

Egg Hunt, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

### April 20:

Easter- ring alleluia bells  
Trinity Photography at Living Cross

### April 30:

M(usic) & M(issions) Night

### May 3:

Strawberry Picking

### May 7, 14, 21, 28:

VBS- Supper 5:30 pm  
VBS 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

### July 15-18:

Camp Prism  
(children who have completed 3rd-5th grade)

## '24-'25 Volunteer Openings

- **Children's Church Adult-** First Sundays in February, April, June, August, October, December
- **2 Toddler Extended Session-** Fourth Sunday in February, April, June, August, October, December
- **1 Toddler Extended Session-** First Sunday in January, March, May, July, September, November

## Spring Intercession Weeks



During District 50's intercession weeks, CIAs will pause meeting and there will be family activities. Children's choirs will also not meet and there will be no Wednesday Night meals upstairs. (Adult Building Blocks will meet, starting at 6:30 pm.)



The first intercession week, March 19, will be a STEM Night. Starting at 6:30 pm, there will be several activities. This will be set up like the ornament party using the same rooms. Cherry and Brosia will be in the room beside the nursery for childcare.



The second intercession week, March 26, will be picnic and playground beginning at 6:00 pm. **There will be no childcare for this night.**

# Youth News



**March Sunday Night Live**  
**Sunday, March 16**  
**5:00 pm-7:00 pm**  
**Location TBA**

SNL hosts are needed for March 16, April 6, and May 4. Please contact Lauren Coker if you can help.



**Youth Night Out**  
**March 19, 2025**  
**6:00 pm-8:00 pm**

On Wednesday, March 19, the youth will meet Lauren at Santa Fe for dinner, and then will walk down to Dairy Queen for dessert. Drop off is at 6:00 pm and pick up is at 8:00 pm.



**Thanks for Your Help**

The Youth Souper Bowl fundraiser on February 9 took in \$5,665.00 from the sale of soup, pimento cheese, and the baked goods auction. Expenses total \$939.96, meaning the youth raised \$4,725.04 for Passport expenses this summer. The youth would like to thank everyone who contributed to this event. YOU are who made it a success.



## Cheerful Cherub Registration



Registration is now open for children ages 1-4 and for 5 year old kindergarten students for the 2025-2026 school year. Forms are available in the church office or from Claudia Burch. If you have any questions, please call Claudia at 229-2787.



## Bell Tower Trio to Perform at March NGO

Our NGO Fellowship will celebrate St. Patrick's Day early on Tuesday, March 4, in the fellowship hall. Performing as the Bell Tower Trio will be Keith Jameson, David Corbitt, and Lewis Walker, accompanied by Betty Walker. This talented group will sing Irish-themed music, including such favorites as "Danny Boy," "My Wild Irish Rose," and "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." The catered meal will be chicken strips, potato salad, green beans, and banana pudding. The cost is \$10.00. **If you are not a member and would like to come, please call the church office no later than Wednesday, February 26, to make your reservation.** Dues of \$5.00 are due for the year. Everyone is welcome. Don't miss this outstanding entertainment, food, and fellowship!



## Office Hours Coverage & Staff Lunch Breaks

We appreciate your patience and understanding as the staff manages lunch breaks while ensuring continued office coverage. Our team is dedicated to being available for members who call the office or buzz the door, and we are doing our best to be accessible during office hours. Please note that the office may be closed between 1:00 pm-2:00 pm each weekday if coverage is unavailable. If you visit while staff members are away, please know that we will assist you as soon as possible.

Any volunteer willing to help us cover daily lunch hours to mitigate this issue can contact the office and share your willingness. Thank you for your kindness and cooperation!

## FBC Prayers for 2025

**"God, who do You want us to be?"**

**"God, what do You want us to do?"**



## First Baptist Church GREENWOOD

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

John Uldrick  
 Anna Burch  
 David Jennings  
 Keith Jameson  
 Lauren Coker  
 Will Thomas Cleveland  
 Claudia Burch  
 Mary Frances Thompson  
 Linda Miller

Senior Pastor  
 Minister to Children  
 Minister of Administration  
 Church Music Director  
 Part-Time Youth Leader  
 Organist  
 Director of Cheerful Cherubs  
 Ministry Assistant  
 Financial Assistant

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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**