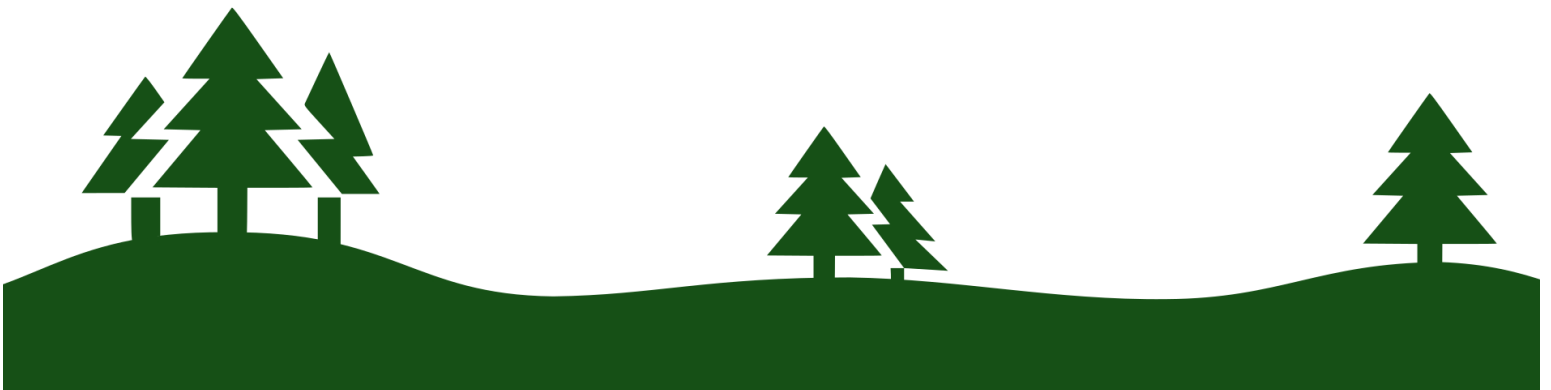




# **Greenwood Forest**

Baptist Church





ADVENT

an inclusive  
community  
of faith

Connect with us

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[greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)



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Welcome to Greenwood Forest!

We are so glad you've chosen to join us this week. Greenwood Forest Baptist Church is an inclusive community of faith, which means we welcome, affirm, and include all God's people in their diversity of genders, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We are each beloved by God and we are happy to welcome you to our church this morning exactly as you are.

See our schedule of holiday events on pg. 11! 🎄



# Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent

**Prelude** O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide arr. Haffner

**Lighting of the Hope Candle**

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Gathering Hymn (vv. 1 and 4)** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending  
(see page 3)

**Welcome to Worship** Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Passing of the Peace** Rev. Efirid

**Call to Worship (Isaiah 64:1-5a)** Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

**People: So that the mountains would quake at your presence—**

Leader: As when fire kindles brushwood

**People: and the fire causes water to boil.**

Leader: Make your name known to your adversaries,

**People: So that the nations might tremble at your presence!**

Leader: When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

**People: You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.**

Leader: From ages past no one has heard,

**People: No ear has perceived,**

Leader: No eye has seen any God besides you,

**People: Who works for those who wait for you.**

Leader: You meet those who gladly do right,

**People: Those who remember your ways.**

**Invocation** Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

**Hymn (vv. 1 and 3)** My Lord, What a Morning

(see page 4)

## Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

1. Lo, He comes with clouds de - scend - ing, once for fa - vored  
 2. Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold Him, robed in splen - dor's  
 3. Now the Sav - ior, long ex - spect - ed, see, in sol - emn  
 4. Now, a - men, we sing Your vic - tory, high on Your e -

sin - ners slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 maj - es - ty; those who set at naught and sold Him,  
 pomp ap - pear; all who have not Him re - ject - ed  
 ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the power and glo - ry,

swell the tri - umph of His train: Al - le - lu - ia,  
 pierced and nailed Him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 now shall meet Him in the air: Al - le - lu - ia,  
 claim the king - dom for Your own: O, come quick - ly,

al - le - lu - ia! God ap - pears on earth to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 al - le - lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear.  
 O, come quick - ly! Ev - er - last - ing God, come down.



# Lord, What a Morning

## Refrain

My Lord! what a morn-ing, My Lord! what a  
morn-ing, Oh, my Lord! what a morn - ing, When the  
stars be-gin to fall. When the stars be-gin to fall.

## Verses

1. You will hear the trum-pet sound  
2. You will hear the sin-ner cry To wake the  
3. You will hear the Chris-tian shout  
na-tions un-der-ground, Look-ing to my God's right  
hand When the stars be-gin to fall. D.C.

**Offertory Prayer**

Jennifer Whaley

**Presentation of the Offering**

CRANHAM

*As our offering is presented back to God, we will sing the following doxology:*

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do me part;  
Yet what can I give him; give him my heart.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

*We affirm each prayer with the following response:*

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*We conclude the Prayers of the People with the Lord's Prayer.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Spears-Newsome

**Anthem**

The Invitation

The Followers

Oh that you'd come tear open the sky,  
That you'd come down  
Oh that the mountains would tremble inside  
That you'd come down  
As fire burns away all the lies  
Won't you come down  
Your fire brings our souls to life

Jesus come down  
We have come to meet with you  
To follow and love to take hold of you  
We have come here to worship you  
To honor and know to bow before you  
Jesus come down

You are our father, we are the clay  
Won't you come down  
You are the Potter so mold us today  
Won't you come down

**Sermon** Keep Alert Rev. Efrd

**Hymn** O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
(see page 7)

**Benediction** Rev. Efrd

**Postlude** Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland arr. Helmut Walcha

\*\*\*

*Today's hymns come from Celebrating Grace (Celebrating Grace, Inc.) and the African American Heritage Hymnal (GIA Publications, Inc.). Copyrighted music use is covered by CCLI License #1243530 and OneLicense #A-721397.*

# O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive  
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir-its by Thine  
3. O come, Thou Wis-dom from on high, and or-der all things,  
4. O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind all peo-ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; fill

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
cause us in her ways to go.  
all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!



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## Prayer List\*

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Jim Allen

Nell Allen

Peter Barboriak  
*(Valerie Brooks' friend)*

Gilles Bikindou

Kitty Blanton

Marjorie Floyd

James Mark Frazier  
*(Sue Hughes' brother)*

Joe Malone  
*(Virgil and Gail Jones' friend)*

Jon McGee  
*(Valerie Brooks' friend)*

Randy Medford

Janet Merriman  
*(Roz Slawson's friend)*

Sylvia Morgan

Frances Parker  
*(Felice Parent's mother)*

Sara McMillan Perkinson  
*(Leon and Sue Perkinson's daughter-in-law)*

Miriam Rodriguez  
*(Roz Slawson's sister)*

Gladys Wells

Alison Zieglmeier

Our partner church, Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

## Prayer for this Week

We encourage you to take some time to pray over these words this week.

*"However late, then, it may seem, let us rouse ourselves from lethargy... The time has come for us to rouse ourselves from sleep. Let us open our eyes to the light that can change us to the likeness of God. Let our ears be alert to the stirring call of God's voice crying to us every day. Today, if you should hear God's voice, do not harden your hearts."*

Benedict of Nursia, quoted in  
**Common Prayer: Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals**

*\*To add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names rotate off and can be re-added upon request.*



# Connect



## Children's Ministry Birthday Party for Jesus

The Children's Ministry is hosting a special Christmas celebration during their Faith Formation time on December 13. Kids and their families can sign on for virtual Faith Formation at 10am for a Birthday Party for Jesus!

## Youth Ministry Advent Party

The Youth Ministry will be hosting their annual Advent Party on December 6. We'll play White Elephant and watch a Christmas movie over Zoom. Families should see the Youth Ministry Newsletter for details on how to participate.

## Greenwood Forest Christmas Celebration



We'll have an opportunity for pictures with the Greenwood Forest Christmas Tree and a Christmas Lights Caravan on December 13 at 4pm! Watch your email inbox and our social media in the days to come for the most up-to-date information.

## Virtual Christmas Breakfast

We'll be sharing a virtual Christmas Breakfast this year at 10am on December 20! At [gfbccary.org/cookbook](http://gfbccary.org/cookbook), you can submit recipes for a special Greenwood Forest Christmas Breakfast Cookbook so we can make each other's dishes. Limited physical copies of the cookbook will be available at the Christmas Celebration on December 13 and a digital copy will be available to everyone.



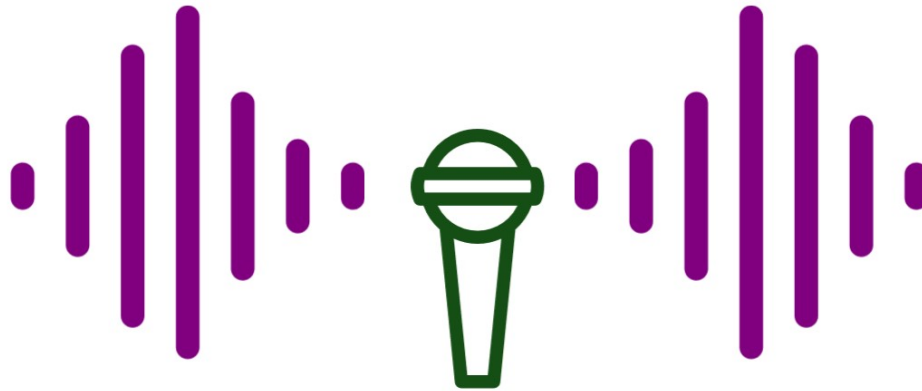
## Faith Formation Series on Birth Narratives



The 2020-2021 Teaching Series begins on November 29 with Ministerial Intern Luke Perrin teaching a series on the birth narratives from Matthew and Luke's Gospels. Come join us via Zoom at 9:30am on Sundays, November 29 through December 13. Zoom links will be sent out via email.

**Deadline for recipes:**

**> Dec. 6**



## Property Repurposing:

### Invitation to Small Group Conversations

The discernment process is underway to imagine how the church property might be used for greater social impact.\* The Discernment Committee will host two Zoom conversations in December for those who have not participated in the process yet: December 1 from 5-6pm and December 8 from 5-6pm. Please RSVP with Chris Beal at [cdbeal@gmail.com](mailto:cdbeal@gmail.com), and a Zoom link will be sent to you.

*\* In October, we began a series of conversations about repurposing the church property to greater effect. You can view the opening conversation and important resources at [gfbccary.org/repurposing](http://gfbccary.org/repurposing).*



# *Celebrate the holidays*

*with Greenwood Forest Baptist Church*

*December 6 Youth Advent Party*

*December 13 Children's Birthday Party for Jesus (10am)*

*December 13 Christmas Celebration (4pm)\**

*December 16 Service of Lament (7pm)*

*December 20 Christmas Breakfast (10am)*

*December 20 Service of Lessons and Carols (11am)*

*December 24 Children's Christmas Eve Service (11am)*

*December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve (8pm)*

*\*socially-distant, in-person event*



# *Poinsettia Dedications*

*[gfbccary.org/poinsettias](http://gfbccary.org/poinsettias)*

*\$15 per poinsettia & bulletin dedication  
profits benefit the Organ Fund*

After a very successful public launch that gained recognition and promises from local political and business leaders, ONE Wake has continued to engage with the development at Downtown South. Realtor John Kane, who is in charge of the project, has since reneged on his commitments made at the ONE Wake public launch.

At the Nov. 24 internal assembly, ONE Wake membership committed to actions to pressure John Kane, elected officials, and others to equal the public investment in Downtown South with public benefits (e.g., housing, jobs, and environmental safeguards). Stay tuned for information on how to participate in advancing community concerns with regard to Downtown South.

### Christmas Gifts for our Neighbors

Every year, we join with our friends at the Kirk of Kildaire in sharing Christmas gifts with our neighbors, especially the children we work with during the Neighborhood Summer Program. This year, we have several opportunities for you to give this year depending on your comfort-level and ability to shop for and provide gifts. Additionally, instead of providing a physical sign-up at church, there is a virtual sign-up available at [gfbccary.org/gifts](http://gfbccary.org/gifts). Here's how it works:

1. Select your recipients at the online sign-up portal ([gfbccary.org/gifts](http://gfbccary.org/gifts)).
2. Purchase your gifts by whatever means you are most safe and comfortable.
3. Wrap and label your gift with the numerical code, name, and description of the gift you selected at the sign-up portal (e.g., KNM304 Bryan, Play Kitchen).
4. Drop off your gift at the Kirk of Kildaire during a drop off time or to the Kirk of Kildaire church office by Dec. 6. Drive-thru drop off times include Nov. 22 (1-2pm), Dec. 1 (1-3pm), and Dec. 5 (1-3pm).

If you would like to help without leaving your home, you can order online and have it shipped to the Kirk of Kildaire (200 High Meadow Drive Cary, NC 27511) with the label information from Step 3 as the recipient name.

If you have any questions, please email Rev. Spears-Newsome at [wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org).



Year-End Stock Donations



If you plan to make a stock donation to the church this year, please do so as soon as possible as it takes several weeks for transfers to be processed. The donated stock must be in the church's account by December 31 for you to receive credit for your 2020 taxes. Contact the church office at [info@gfbccary.org](mailto:info@gfbccary.org) if you need specifics on how to process a stock transaction.

October Finance Update

	October 2020	Year-to-Date
Congregational Giving	\$49,387	\$97,420
Congregational Giving Target	\$53,624	\$107,248
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$4,237)	(\$9,828)
Other Receipts	\$1,218	\$1,332
Total Giving and Receipts	\$50,605	\$98,752
Total Disbursements	\$68,968	\$129,102
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$18,363)	(\$30,350)
Together We Build Giving	\$2,566	\$15,366

Staff Love Offering



We have an Advent tradition of collecting a love offering for our staff. The offering is distributed to the staff as an expression of our gratitude for their hard work, dedication, leadership, and faithful service to our church throughout the year. **If you would like to contribute to this offering, please mail your gifts to the church and make out checks payable to Rick Chappell. Alternatively, you can Venmo gifts to Leta Huntsinger at @leta-huntsinger, as well.** Donations will be collected now through December 15. If you have questions please contact either Rick Chappell or Leta Huntsinger.



# How to Support Greenwood Forest during the Pandemic

*In the midst of the pandemic, there is something simple that we can all do for the church that will make a huge difference: set up online giving. Every Sunday that we are not at church, we experience a decline in giving. Even though we are not physically together, the church still has to pay its bills, our wonderful staff, and make sure that our church is prepared to help the most vulnerable—especially during this pandemic.*

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## Ways to Tithe

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1. Set up an automatic payment through your bank using the “Bill Pay” function. This will result in your bank mailing a check to the church on a weekly or monthly basis.
2. Give online through the church website. Simply go to [gfbccary.org/give](http://gfbccary.org/give) to access the online giving module.
3. Set up an automated bank draft by filling out the form on the next page of this bulletin, attaching a voided check, and mailing it to the church office at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, 110 SE Maynard Road, Cary, NC 27511.







Greenwood Forest Baptist Church  
 110 SE Maynard Road  
 Cary, NC 27511  
 (919) 467-0481  
 info@gfbccary.org

- New Draft
- Replace Existing Draft
- Cancel Draft

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Authorization Agreement for Automated Bank Draft

### Automated Payment Authorization

I (we) hereby authorize Greenwood Forest Baptist Church to initiate debit entries to my (our) account designated below at the depository financial institution named below and to debit same account. I authorize credit entries, if necessary, for any debit entries that are determined to be in error. I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until Greenwood Forest Baptist Church has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination that is to be received at least five (5) business days prior to the proposed effective date of the termination of the authorization.

### Financial Institution Information

Financial Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (9 digits on bottom left corner of check)

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Type:  Checking  Savings

### Account Information

Account Holder Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Full Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Debit Account Every:  Month  Twice a Month  Week

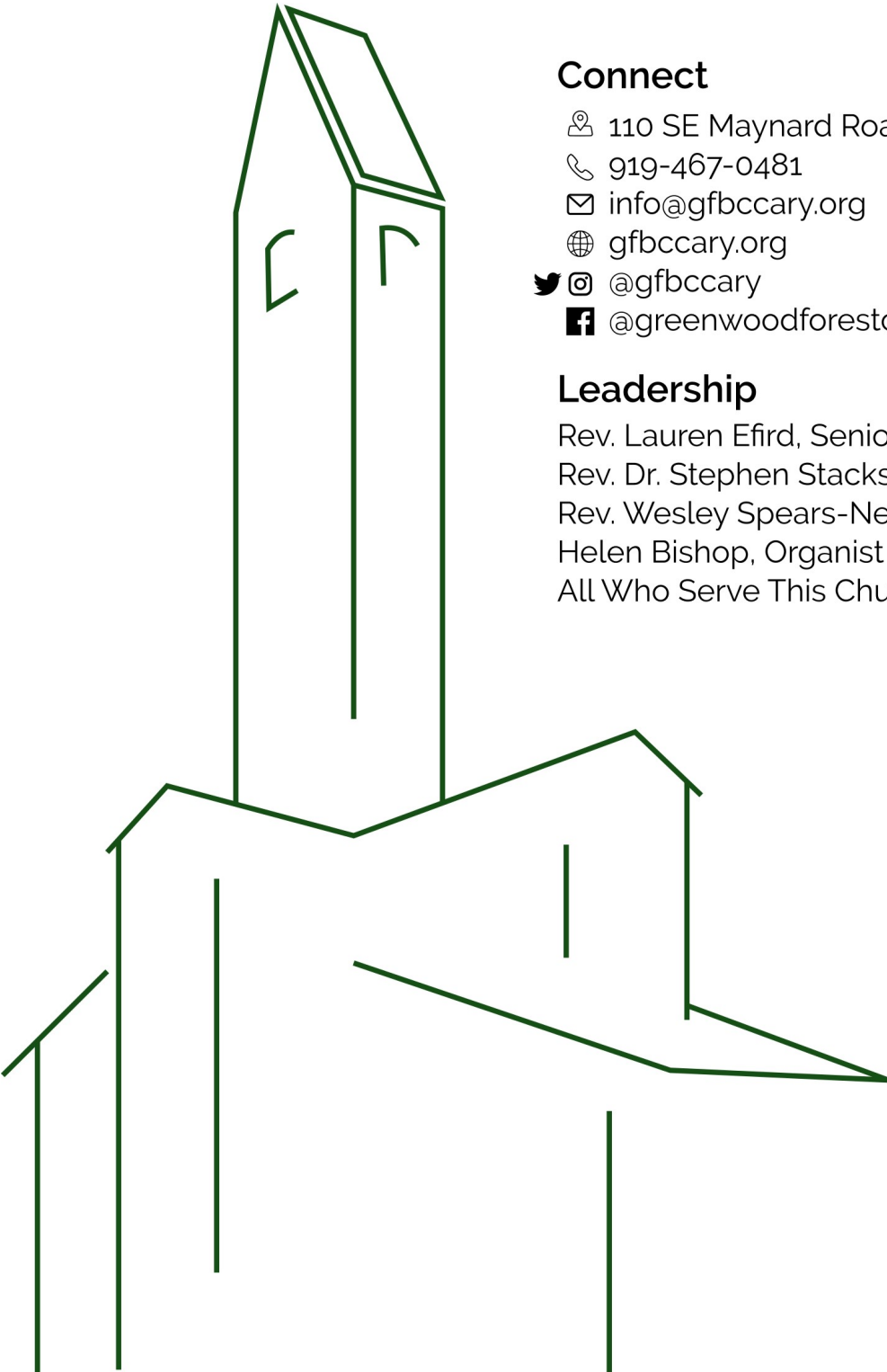
- If weekly, what day of the week: \_\_\_\_\_ (If on a holiday, debit occurs day before)
- If non-weekly, what date(s) of the month: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Each Debit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Stewardship Giving Portion: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Designated Giving to: \_\_\_\_\_ Portion: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Designated Giving to: \_\_\_\_\_ Portion: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Designated Giving to: \_\_\_\_\_ Portion: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a voided check to this document.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Connect

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efrid, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

Helen Bishop, Organist

All Who Serve This Church

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