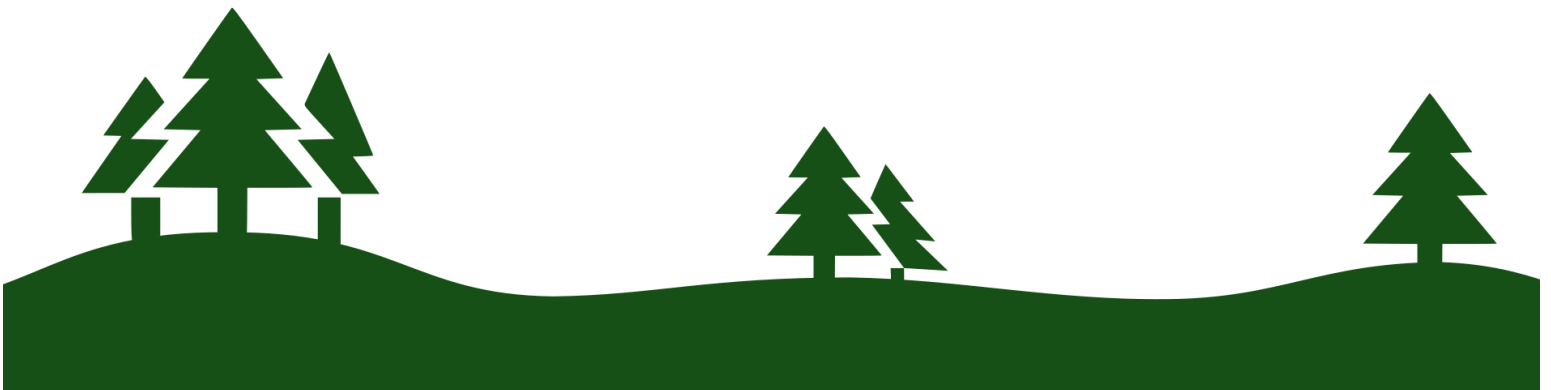




Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





ADVENT

**an inclusive
community
of faith**

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gfbccary.org



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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. 9! 🎄



Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude Veni, Emmanuel arr. Gerhard Krapf

Lighting of the Peace Candle

Chiming of the Hour

Gathering Hymn Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
(see page 4)

Welcome to Worship Rev. Lauren Efirf

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace Rev. Efirf

Call to Worship (Psalm 85) Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: Lord, you were favorable to your land;

People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Leader: You forgave the iniquity of your people;

People: You pardoned all their sin.

Leader: You withdrew all your wrath;

People: You turned from your hot anger.

Leader: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

People: And put away your indignation toward us.

Leader: Will you be angry with us forever?

People: Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Leader: Will you not revive us again,

People: So that your people may rejoice in you?

Leader: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

People: For God will speak peace to those who turn in their hearts.

Leader: Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,

People: That God's glory may dwell in our land.

continued —>

gfbccary.org | 2

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

People: Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Leader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

People: And righteousness will look down from the sky.

Leader: The Lord will give what is good; our land will yield its increase.

People: Righteousness will go before the Lord, and make a path for God's steps.

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Stacks

Hymn (vv. 1-3)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

(see page 5)

Offertory Prayer

Chris Beal

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 my part;
Yet what I can I give him; give him my heart.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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.**

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
bid - ding all to true re - pent - ance since the king - dom now is here.
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits His ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
let the val - leys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that His word is nev - er bro - ken.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4. At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in His hand, Christ our God to earth de -
 in the bod - y and the blood; He will give to all the
 from the realms of end - less day, that the powers of hell may
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav - en - ly food.
 van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Lord Most High!"

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Luke Perrin

Anthem

Trumpet Child

Over the Rhine

The trumpet child will blow his horn
Will blast the sky till it's reborn
With Gabriel's power and Satchmo's grace
He will surprise the human race

The trumpet child will banquet here
Until the lost are truly found
A thousand days, a thousand years
Nobody knows for sure how long

The trumpet he will use to blow
Is being fashioned out of fire
The mouthpiece is a glowing coal
The bell a burst of wild desire

The rich forget about their gold
The meek and mild are strangely bold
The lion lies beside the lamb
And licks a murderer's outstretched hand

The trumpet child will riff on love
Thelonious notes from up above
He'll improvise a kingdom come
Accompanied by a different drum

The trumpet child will lift a glass
His bride now leaning in at last
His final aim to fill with joy
The earth that man all but destroyed

Sermon

Prepare the Way

Rev. Efirid

Hymn (vv. 1, 3-4)

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

(see page 7)

Benediction

Rev. Efirid

Postlude

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

arr. Malcolm Archer

Today's hymns come from Celebrating Grace (Celebrating Grace, Inc.). Copyrighted music use is covered by CCLI License #1243530 and OneLicense #A-721397.



It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un - furled,
3. All ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et bards fore-told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years comes round the age of gold;

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all - gra - cious King.”
A - bove its sad and lone-ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,
look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the heaven-ly an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The musical score consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are printed between the vocal and piano lines of each system.

Prayer List*

Jim Allen
Nell Allen
Peter Barboriak
(Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Kitty Blanton
Marjorie Floyd
James Mark Frazier
(Sue Hughes' brother)
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.

"The apostles took every care not to be drawn from the right path. They kept watch, observing the universal precepts their master had given to his disciples so as to be ready when he came again. Consequently, we must always be on the lookout for Christ's twofold coming, the one when he comes day after day to stir our consciences, and the other when we shall have to give an account of everything we have done. He comes to us now in order that his future coming may find us prepared."

Paschasius Radbertus (d. 865),
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.*



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

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



Connect



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.

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.

Faith Formation Series on Birth Narratives



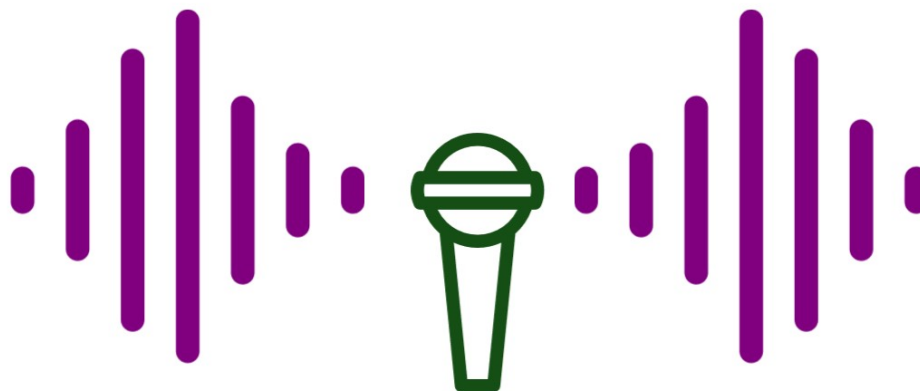
Ministerial Intern Luke Perrin is teaching a series on the birth narratives from Matthew and Luke's Gospels. Come join us via Zoom at 9:30am on Sundays through December 13. Zoom links will be sent out via email.



We'll be sharing a virtual Christmas Breakfast this year at 10am on December 20! At 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.

Deadline for submissions to the cookbook is December 6!

Last call!



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 is hosting one more Zoom conversation on December 8 from 5-6pm. Please RSVP with Chris Beal at 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.*



Christmas Gifts for our Neighbors

Don't forget to drop off your gifts for our neighbors by this Sunday (Dec. 6) at the Kirk of Kildaire! There will be a special drive-by drop-off time on December 5, 1-3pm at the Kirk. Otherwise, you can drop them off at the Kirk of Kildaire church office.

ONE Wake: Downtown South Update



At onewake.org/dsp, demand public benefits from Downtown South, which will receive significant public funds.

In an effort to improve opportunities for jobs and housing in Wake County, ONE Wake invited and engaged realtor John Kane at our Founding Assembly in October. Kane met with ONE Wake after the assembly, but when we thought good

progress was being made, he decided to end negotiations.

Currently, Kane wants an enormous sum of public assistance for the Downtown South development but there is not community benefits agreement attached. If public funds are invested in a project, the public are investors who should receive some community benefits from the funds invested. ONE Wake is demanding the Raleigh City Council to ensure that Kane makes a binding commitment to provide community benefits on affordable housing and jobs before approving his rezoning request for Downtown South.

We want to send at least 600 emails by December 8 to the Raleigh City Council. You can customize your letter at onewake.org/dsp today. Let's help our neighbors and ONE Wake friends in Raleigh by demanding the council take this important step!

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.



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 |

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 if you need specifics on how to process a stock transaction.



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.

Ways to Tithe

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 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

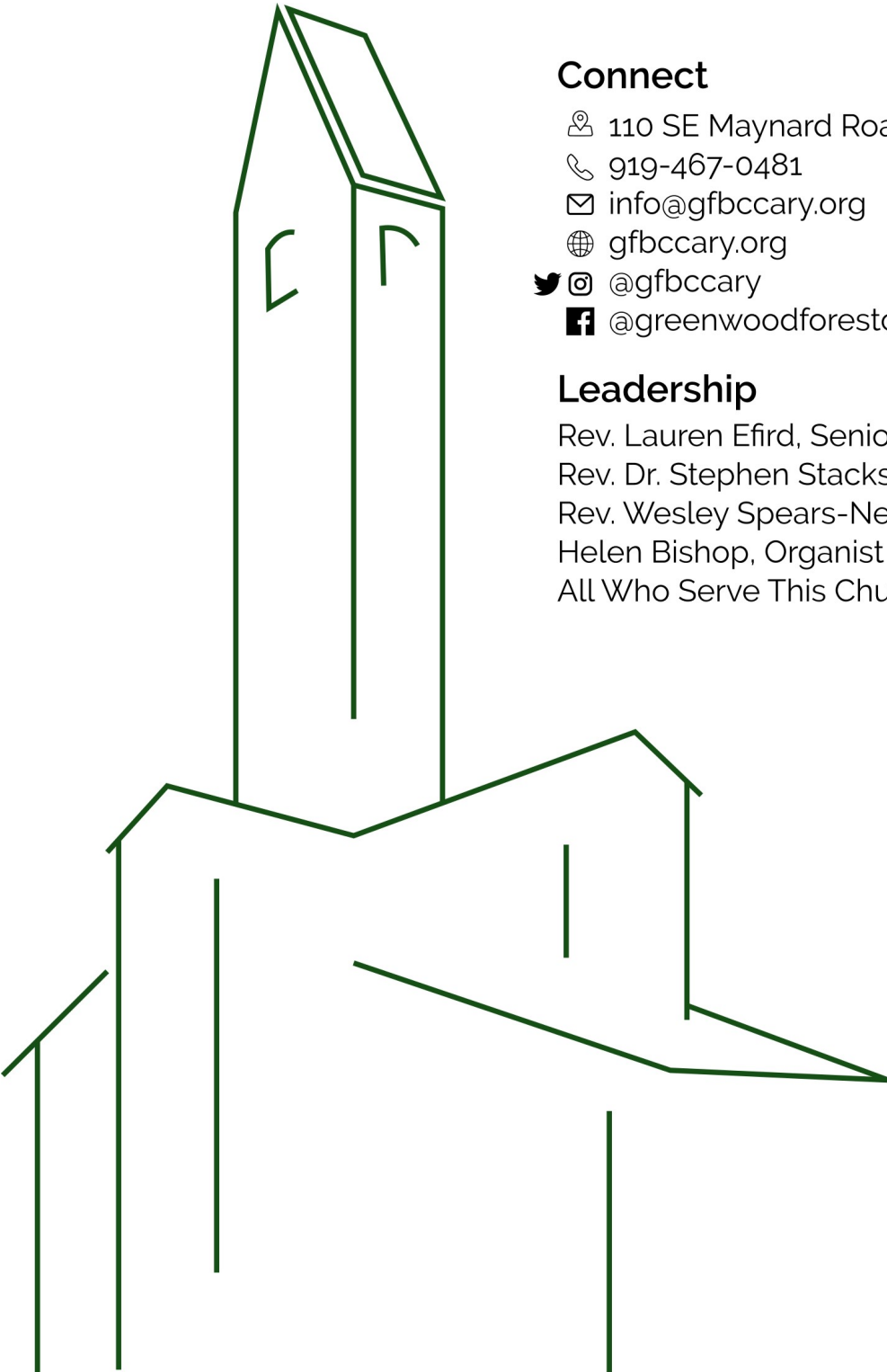
- If weekly, what day of the week: _____ (If on a holiday, debit occurs day before)
- If non-weekly, what date(s) of the month: _____

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

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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
