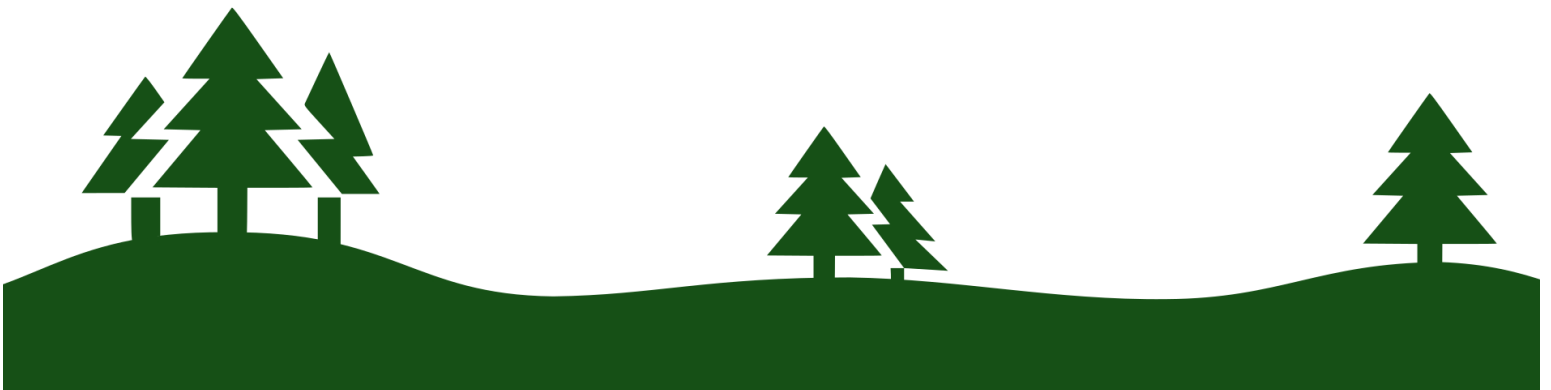




Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





ADVENT

an inclusive
community
of faith

Connect with us

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. 12! 🎄



Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Come, Thou
Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Schram

Lighting of the Joy Candle

Chiming of the Hour

Gathering Hymn

(see page 4)

Joy to the World

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 (Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: I will sing forever of your steadfast love, O LORD;

People: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

People: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

People: I have sworn to my servant David:

Leader: "I will establish your descendants forever,

People: And build your throne for all generations."

Leader: Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

People: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

Leader: I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

People: My hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

Leader: The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

People: I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

Leader: My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;

continued →

People: And in my name his horn shall be exalted.

Leader: I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

People: He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'"

Invocation

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

(see page 5)

Offertory Prayer

Gerry Ritter

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. 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

Luke 1:26-38

Luke Perrin

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her King;
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let men their songs em - ploy;
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 the glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His

1. And heaven and na - ture sing,
 1. And heaven and na - ture sing, and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of His love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

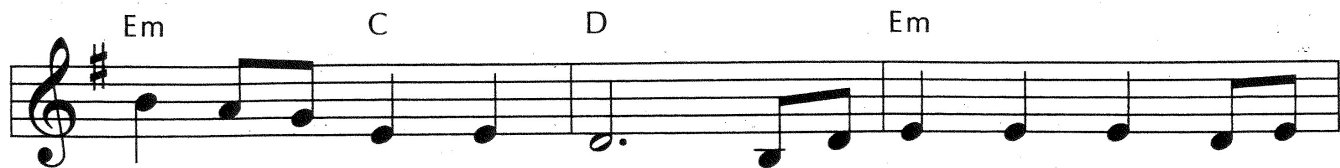


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

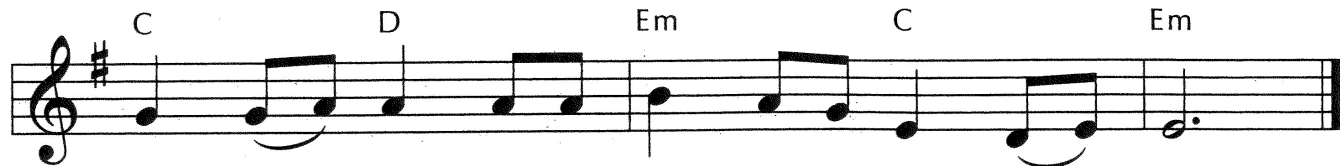
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Anthem

A Spotless Rose

Herbert Howells

A spotless rose is blowing
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark midnight.

The rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Sermon

Partners in Holy
Disruption

Rev. Efir

Hymn (vv. 1, 3-4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(see page 8)

Benediction

Rev. Efir

Postlude

The Angel Gabriel
from Heaven Came

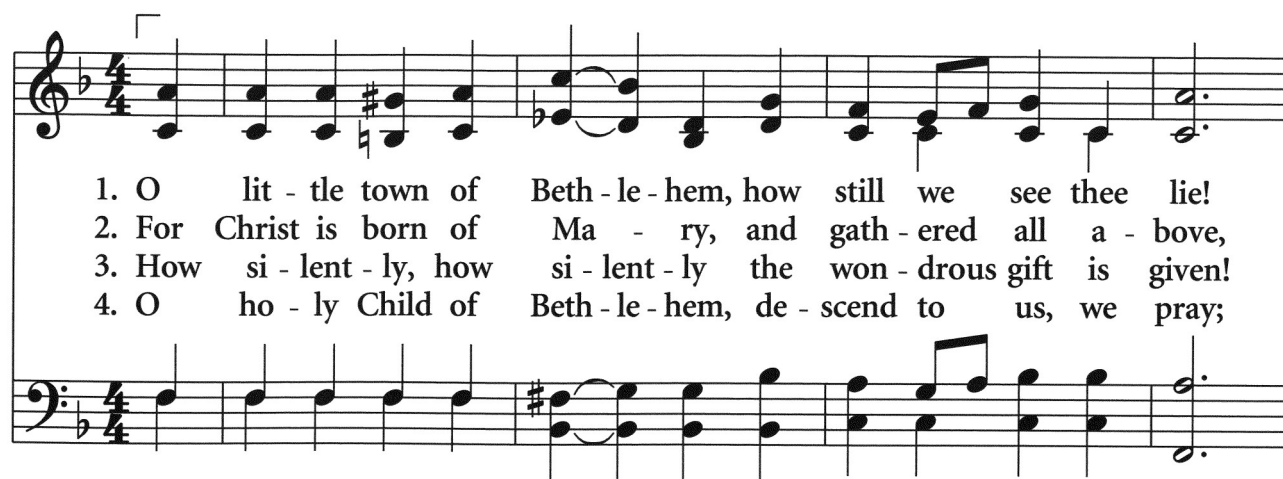
arr. Manz

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

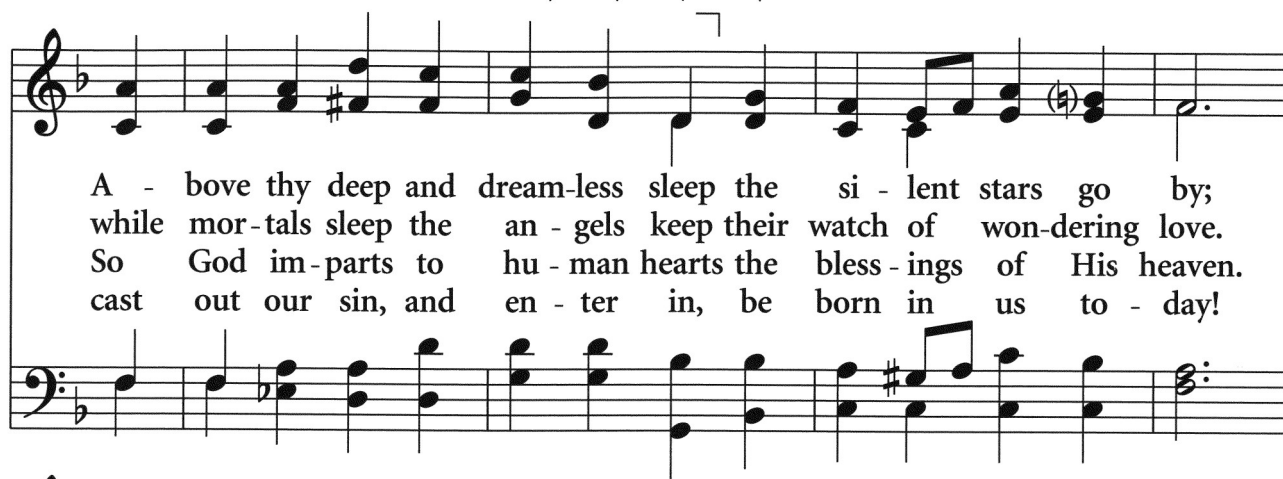


Annunciation, 2011 (acrylic on canvas), Patricia Brintle
patriciabrintle.com

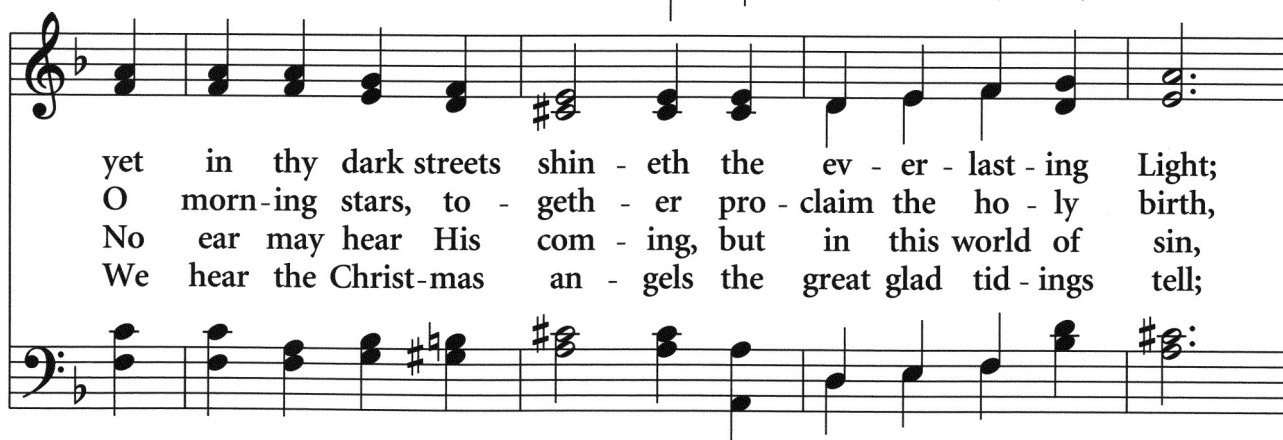
O Little Town of Bethlehem



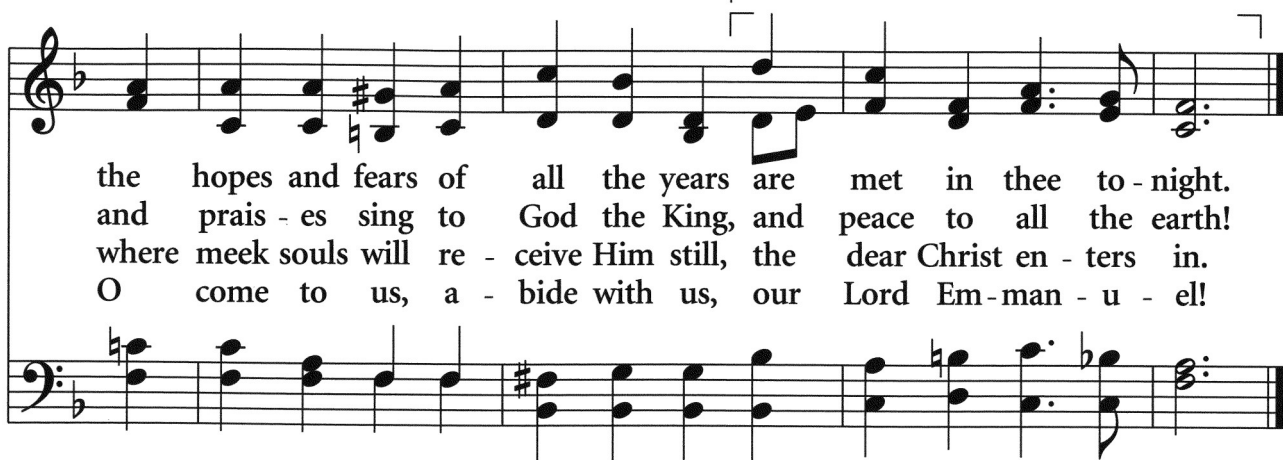
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of His heaven.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day!



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive Him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

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.



GFBC Christmas Celebration



We'll have an opportunity for pictures with the Greenwood Forest Christmas Tree and a Christmas Lights Caravan on this Sunday, December 13 at 4pm! Check your inbox for all the details.

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!

Virtual Christmas Breakfast & Cookbook

We'll be having a virtual Christmas Breakfast on December 20 at 10am before the Service of Lessons and Carols at 11am. Next week, you'll receive an invite to the Zoom call to join fellow church members over breakfast from our homes. If you'd like to prepare some of your fellow Greenwood Forest members' favorite dishes, you can access a special Greenwood Forest Christmas Breakfast Cookbook at gfbccary.org/cookbook/



ONE Wake accomplishes early victory on Downtown South; Additional Action Required

ONE Wake is an organization composed of 43 member institutions, including Greenwood Forest, representing over 50,000 Wake County residents. For the last month, ONE Wake has been negotiating with developer John Kane to secure binding commitments on community benefits in exchange for public investment in rezoning the property for the Downtown South Development (Kane has asked for upwards of \$120 million from Raleigh over the next several years and is already receiving substantial federal tax incentives for the development.).

ONE Wake's focus in negotiations with Kane has been on stormwater protections, affordable housing, and jobs. Stormwater protections have been addressed through a partnership with Partners for Environmental Justice. However, Kane has refused to continue to negotiate on jobs and housing. Consequently, ONE Wake succeeded in bringing this issue to the Raleigh Planning Commission with a record-breaking number of comments issued to the decision-making body. The Commission unanimously voted against rezoning the land for Downtown South because of these concerns. Crucially, any community benefits arrangement must be reached before rezoning occurs.

The decision for rezoning the land now rests with the Raleigh City Council, which does not have to abide by the Planning Commission's recommendation. ONE Wake members believe that the community should get back at least as much as it's putting into Downtown South. As such, ONE Wake has issued a public proposal for a community benefits arrangement, which you can view at onewake.org/dsp_counter. **Members of Greenwood Forest (most of whom are not Raleigh residents) can sign this petition to urge Wake County leaders to endorse this community benefits arrangement at onewake.org/tig_petition and we urge you all to do so!** If you are a Raleigh resident, you can contact the Council at onewake.org/dsp. The Council could vote as soon as Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Service of Lament

Dec. 16, 7pm on Zoom

We hope everyone will come share the burdens of those grieving in our community by surrounding them during this service. Lament is a communal act that we should not allow our siblings to do alone. Therefore, we strongly encourage all to attend, whether or not you personally are dealing with loss.





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*

Emma Aeppli
Jim Allen
Nell Allen
Peggy Allgood
Peter Barboriak
(Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Kitty Blanton
James Mark Frazier
(Sue Hughes' brother)
The Floyd Family
at the death of Marjorie
Randy Medford
Janet Merriman
(Roz Slawson's friend)
Sylvia Morgan
Frances Parker
(Felice Parent's mother)
Barry Patchett
Sara McMillan Perkinson
*(Leon and Sue Perkinson's
daughter-in-law)*
Miriam Rodriguez
(Roz Slawson's sister)
Dick Suddarth
Gladys Wells
Wayne Williams
at the death of his aunt
Alison Zieglmeier
Our partner church,
Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

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

Prayer for this Week

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

*My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For he has looked with favor on the lowliness
of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call
me blessed;
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
From generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of
their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
He has filled the hungry with good things,
And sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
In remembrance of his mercy,
According to the promise he made to our
ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.*

—Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

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.



November Finance Update

| | Nov. 2020 | Year-to-Date |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Congregational Giving | \$50,417 | \$147,837 |
| Congregational Giving Target | \$67,030 | \$174,278 |
| Congregational Giving Under/Over | (\$16,613) | (\$26,441) |
| Other Receipts | \$2,710 | \$4,043 |
| Total Giving and Receipts | \$53,127 | \$151,880 |
| Total Disbursements | \$54,116 | \$183,219 |
| Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements | (\$989) | (\$31,339) |
| Together We Build Giving | \$14,208 | \$29,599 |

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

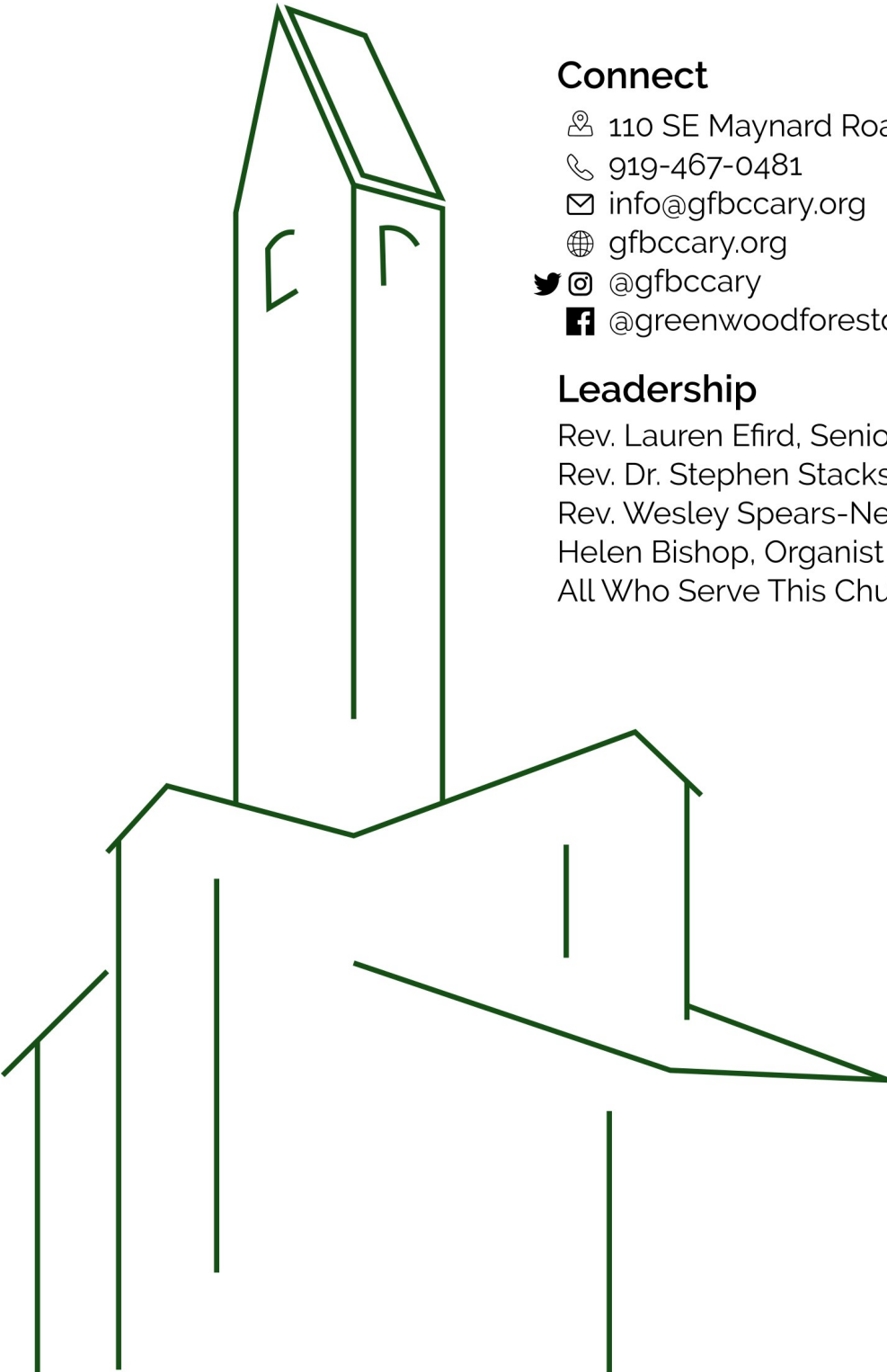
- If weekly, what day of the week: _____ (If on a holiday, debit occurs day before)
- If non-weekly, what date(s) of the month: _____

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

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efrd, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

Helen Bishop, Organist

All Who Serve This Church
