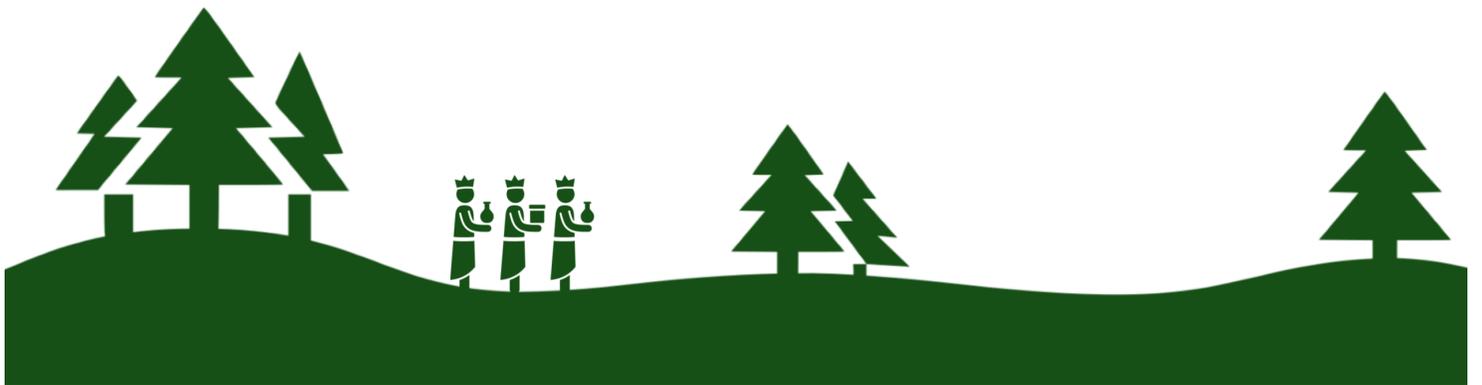




# **Greenwood Forest**

Baptist Church





EPIPHANY

an inclusive  
community  
of faith

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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.



# Order of Worship

Epiphany Sunday

**Prelude** Caroling, Caroling arr. Kraft

**Gathering Hymn** As with Gladness  
(see page 3)

**Welcome to Worship** Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Call to Worship (Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14)** Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God,

**People: And your righteousness to a king's son.**

Leader: May he judge your people with righteousness,

**People: and your poor with justice.**

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,

**People: and the hills, in righteousness.**

Leader: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,

**People: give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: May he live while the sun endures,

**People: And as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**

Leader: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,

**People: Like showers that water the earth.**

Leader: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,

**People: until the moon is no more.**

Leader: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render you tribute,

**People: May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

Leader: May all kings fall down before you,

**People: All nations give you service.**

Leader: For you deliver the needy when they call,

**People: The poor and those who have no helper.**

continued —>

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# As with Gladness

1. As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing  
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly  
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at the man - ger  
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the

star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its light,  
man - ger bed, there to bend the knee be - fore  
rude and bare, so may we with ho - ly joy,  
nar - row way; and when earth - ly things are past,

lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, so, most gra - cious  
Christ whom heaven and earth a - dore, so may we with  
pure and free from sin's al - loy, all our cost - liest  
bring our ran - somed souls at last where they need no

Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to Thee.  
will - ing feet, ev - er seek the mer - cy seat.  
treas - ures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heaven - ly King.  
star to guide, where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

Leader: You have pity on the weak,

**People: And save the lives of the needy.**

Leader: From oppression and violence he redeems their life;

**People: And precious is their blood in his sight.**

**Invocation**

Rev. Spears-Newsome

**Hymn**

What Child is This

*(see page 5)*

**Offertory Prayer**

Anthony Warren

**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**

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Efirid

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2. Why lies He in such mean es-tate, where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come peas-ant, king, to own Him;

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tians, fear: for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne Him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing:  
 Nails, spears, shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!  
 Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!

## Anthem

Personent hodie

arr. Hoggard

Personent hodie  
voces puerulae,  
laudantes jucunde  
Qui nobis est natus,  
summo Deo datus,  
Et de virgineo  
ventre procreatus.

Let resound today  
The voices of children  
Joyfully praising  
The One who is born to us,  
Given by the most high God  
And in a virgin's  
womb conceived.

In mundo nascitur,  
pannis involvitur  
praesepi ponitur  
Stabulo brutorum,  
rector supernorum.  
Perdidit spolia  
princeps infernorum.

He was born into the world  
Wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
Laid in a manger  
A stable for animals  
The master of the heavens.  
Lost his spoils  
The Prince of Darkness has.

Magi tres venerunt,  
Munera offerunt,  
parvulum inquirunt,  
Stellulam sequendo,  
ipsum adorando,  
Aurum, thus,  
et myrrham ei offerendo.

Three Magi came,  
They were bearing gifts,  
And sought the little one,  
Following the star  
To worship him,  
Gold, frankincense,  
And myrrh to offer him.

Omnes clericuli,  
pariter pueri,  
cantent ut angeli:  
Advenisti mundo,  
laudes tibi fundo.  
Ideo gloria  
In excelsis Deo.

Let the priests,  
Join with the children  
And sing with the angels:  
You have come to the world,  
I pour out praises to you  
Therefore, glory  
To God in the highest.

<b>Sermon</b>	Between Longing and Fear	Luke Perrin
<b>Hymn</b>		God of Light and Lord of Life
	(see page 8)	
<b>Benediction</b>		Rev. Efirid
<b>Postlude</b>	From a Distant Home	Puerto Rican carol

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*Today's hymns come from Celebrating Grace (Celebrating Grace, Inc.) and Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks and Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell. Copyrighted music use is covered by CCLI License #1243530 and OneLicense #A-721397.*

# God of Light and Lord of Life

1. God of light and Lord of life — you have heard your people's strife. —  
2. God of old and Lord of now — give us cou-rage, give us pow'r. —  
3. God of dreams and Lord of vi - sions you break down all our di - vi - sions.  
4. God of grace and Lord of truth — through your Word we find the proof: —

5  
In - to dark-ness you be - came rad - iant flesh, the new-born babe.  
For the world that we now see, make us your e - pi - pha - ny.  
Jew and Gen - tile, slave and free, all de - serve our dig - ni - ty.  
Death will ne - ver o - ver - come Life that ligh - tens e - v'ry - one.

9  
Call us forth from our old sto-ry! Make us shine with all your glo-ry!

13  
You re - veal the way a - head. By your star may we be led.

Emma Aeppli  
Jim Allen  
Nell Allen  
Peter Barboriak  
*(Valerie Brooks' friend)*  
Don Beal  
Gilles Bikindou  
Kitty Blanton  
Louise Faulkner  
James Mark Frazier  
*(Sue Hughes' brother)*  
Annette King  
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)*  
Carol Wells  
Gladys Wells  
Alison Zieglmeier  
Our partner church,  
Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

### Prayer for this Week

Epiphany is a season associated with gifts because of the story of the magi. Pray this week about what you might offer up as a gift to the work of Christ. Consider these words of Paulinus of Nola (d. 431, as quoted in *Common Prayer: Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*):

"We have no right to our possessions; they have been entrusted to us for the good of all. Let us then invest with the Lord what [God] has given us, for we have nothing that does not come from [God]: we are dependent upon [God] for our very existence."

A prayer:

*Bright Morning Star,  
your light has come,  
and the birth of Jesus  
has overwhelmed us with joy.  
Like the magi of long ago,  
may we be drawn to you  
and offer you such gifts as we are able. Amen.*

From "The Revised Common Lectionary"  
service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

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

## Teaching Series Update

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Pastoral Intern Luke Perrin got our 2020-2021 Teaching Series off to a wonderful start with his recently completed series on the infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke. We will have three more opportunities this programming year for these special Sunday morning formation opportunities:

### **February 14, 21, and 28: Rising Strong after COVID**

Rev. Dr. Stacks will lead in an overview of the concepts from Brené Brown's book *Rising Strong*, which is about embracing transformative and courageous recovery as individuals and as institutions in the wake of trauma. In this case, we will be applying the book (and its intersections with Christianity) to how we might seize the opportunities available to us in the wake of this collective trauma to rise strong as a church, and move courageously into the future.

### **April 11, 18, and 25: Why Do They Do That?! Insights From the Enneagram**

Andy Jarrell will lead us through spiritual insights from the Enneagram, a personality type system that has amazing potential for spiritual discernment and interpersonal awareness. You'll be amazed by how these personality types describe your, your loved ones', and your fellow church members' motivations and desires, and how they will help us work together to fulfill God's mission in the world.

### **July 11, 18, 25 and August 1: Developing a Theology of Inclusion**

Rev. Dr. Stacks will lead us through developing and understanding the scriptural basis for an inclusive theology. Rather than play defense against homophobia, racism, sexism etc. within the church, this series will play offense, showing how a high regard for Scripture and a deep commitment to Jesus should lead one to inclusion, and what that means for how we move into the future as a church.

### **Antiracist Reading Groups Update**

Our antiracist reading groups continue on their journey of discovery and transformation! In January, we will conclude our history unit with a Zoom call featuring author, pastor, and activist Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, after which we will begin a new unit on Whiteness and Blackness. Now is an excellent time to join the journey. Email Rev. Dr. Stacks if you are interested.





## Note of Thanks

The church staff wishes to thank everyone for their love offering for Christmas. We are honored that you remembered us and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

### January Employment Anniversaries

On behalf of the Greenwood Forest family, the Personnel Ministry celebrates the employment anniversaries of Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor of Community and Youth Ministry and Randy Palmer, Custodian.



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church called Wesley Spears-Newsome into ministry on January 3, 2017. Wes has led our ONE Wake organizing that addresses extensive community needs including affordable housing and community inclusion. Wes has also shepherded our youth through respect, love, and faith formation. And his powerful voice lifts us all up when he prays over us and offers scripture readings. We give thanks today for Wes, Meg, and Evelyn.



Randy Palmer became our Custodian on January 27, 2004 and throughout those 17 years has provided care and stewardship over our Sanctuary and throughout our facilities and campus. We celebrate what he does while we give thanks for who he is and for his joyful spirit. It is always a blessing to hear his voice in our Praise Team musical offerings, and it is especially a blessing when Zelma lifts us up with her own voice in praise and jubilation. We give thanks today for Randy, Zelma, and their grandson KJ.



# 2020: Year in Review

Without question, 2020 has been a very difficult year. Despite it all, Greenwood Forest's community has tried to make it a meaningful year. Here's a recap of many of the things we did together in 2020!



January

We launched the Together We Build campaign to retire the church's debt and lean into an inclusive vision of who Greenwood Forest could become. \$608,635.73 have been pledged already!



February

High school seniors went on a Senior Retreat to commemorate their time in the youth group and look toward the future.

March

Greenwood Forest hosts a Discipleship Retreat featuring Rev. Maria Swearingen on "Lenten Lies."



April

In a hotly-contested competition, Greenwood Forest's first annual Hymn Madness Tournament sees "It Is Well" take the title.



May

Greenwood Forest hosted a Blood Drive, meeting a dire need in the midst of a pandemic.

June

We graduated High School Seniors.



Inspired by protests around the country after the death of George Floyd, Greenwood Forest engaged in marches and started anti-racist reading groups that are still ongoing.

### July



Over the summer, we participated in a book drive when the libraries closed and a school supply drive in advance of a strange school year.

### August

### September

We ordained new deacons (including Anthony Warren as a first-time deacon) and welcomed a new ministerial intern (Luke Perrin, Duke Divinity School).



Greenwood Forest held a socially-distant outdoor worship service at the close of summer.

### October



After over three years of work, Greenwood Forest helped launch ONE Wake, a broad-based community organized dedicated to improving the lives in Wake County.

### November

We began a discernment process about how best to use our property to further the mission of the church.



### December

For the holidays, we donated Christmas gifts for our neighbors, held celebrations for all ages, had virtual services and gatherings, created a church cookbook, sung Lessons and Carols, and worshipped at all our Christmas Eve services.



In addition to all of these unique events and efforts, even during a pandemic, Greenwood Forest continued these important ongoing efforts:

## **Sunday Morning Worship**

We acted early and decisively when news reached us of community spread of the coronavirus. Greenwood Forest shifted to a brand-new livestream model of worship new to everyone involved. As the year went on, we improved and fine-tuned our livestream, which is available every week at [gfbccary.org/live](https://gfbccary.org/live).

## **Faith Formation Opportunities**

Many of our Faith Formation classes and Small Groups have continued to meet virtually (or even sometimes outdoors!) during the pandemic. We've also hosted special teaching series available to everyone.

## **Backpack Buddies**

An already vital ministry became even more important during the pandemic as food insecurity rates skyrocketed. We continue to deliver bags of food to families in need with members shopping, packing, and delivering these backpacks.

## **Family Promise**

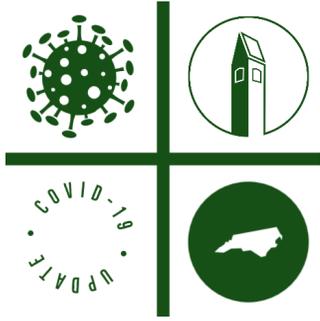
Greenwood Forest hosted the last in-person Family Promise week before the Wake County organization moved families into isolated transitional housing because of the pandemic. We also participated in a modified Family Promise week that involved delivering important supplies and groceries to families in the housing program.

## **Youth and Children's Activities**

Our children and youth have continued to meet during the pandemic, children on designated weeks during Faith Formation and youth weekly at their normal time for Alpha & Omega, a two-hour weekly discipleship event.

## **Music Ministry**

Our music ministry has continued to make beautiful music for worship through creative remote rehearsals and performances.



# 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](mailto:info@gfbccary.org)

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

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 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

Helen Bishop, Organist

All Who Serve This Church

