



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church



Paul in Prison

by Rev. Lauren Wright
Pittman

Inspired by 2 Timothy 4:9-18
*Hand-carved blocks printed
with oil-based ink on paper*

Paul's actions have returned to him. While in a position of power, as Saul, he persecuted people of faith, and now he sits alone at the end of his life, beaten and imprisoned for his own beliefs. It would make sense to me that Paul would be in turmoil, filled with guilt for his former actions, and troubled with resentment. He lists people who have abandoned him, which might have led him to instruct Timothy to right it all. However, Paul

chooses another way: "May it not be counted against them!" (2 Tim. 4:16) Perhaps he is able to offer forgiveness because of the blinding forgiveness he himself received ... maybe because he forgave himself too.

What does Paul need at the end of his days? He needs companionship, and he needs it quickly. He needs his cloak to wrap around his battered body and the company of books to keep his imagination engaged. He needs parchments to share his wisdom and to proclaim the Good News. He could've passed on bitterness to Timothy, but instead expresses gratitude for God's provision. I believe the foundational need of this text is the need for forgiveness. Forgiveness transforms Paul's life. It enables him to seek companionship and comfort instead of vengeance, and it is the essence of the message he carries.

In this block print, I carved Paul writing this letter to Timothy. The lines on his skin echo the twists and turns of his life while the lines on the page give him release. The cell bars obscure the view, however, the light of his halo and the power of his letter cannot be contained. His hand reaches just beyond one of the bars because in receiving forgiveness, reaching out for companionship, and letting go of guilt and resentment, he is free.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



**ORDINARY
TIME**

**an inclusive
community
of faith**

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Contents

Order of Worship	3
Connect	8
Pray	9
Act Give	10

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.



← You can scan with your phone's camera to give online!

If you need a hearing assistance device, they are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera if in attendance.



Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

An Appalachian Hymn

arr. Don Phillips

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship & Invocation

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Gathering Hymn (vv. 1 & 3)

Here in This Place

(see page 4)

Offertory Prayer

Sarah Walden

Presentation of the Offering

OLD HUNDREDTH

Transcendent God, we bless your name,
Incarnate Christ, the risen one,
The Spirit with us, Immanent,
The Source, the Word, the Breath of Life! Amen.



Here in This Place



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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.

Meditation on "What Do You Need?"

Andy Jarrell

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 4:9-18

Rev. Spears-Newsome

We affirm the reading of Scripture with the following response:

Reader: The word of God for us, the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

I Need Thee

Fernando Ortega

I need thee every hour

Most gracious Lord

No tender voice like thine

Can peace afford

I need thee, O I need thee

Every hour I need thee

O bless me now, my Savior

I come to thee

I need thee every hour

Stay thou nearby

Temptations lose their power

When thou art nigh

I need thee every hour

In joy or pain

Come quickly and abide

Or life is vain

Meditation on "Where Are You From?"

Rev. Efrid

Celebration of Communion

Rev. Efrid

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient disciples. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we've not loved our neighbors, and we've not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we've left undone, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mystery of Faith

Leader: Together we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Hymn

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

(see page 7)

Benediction

Rev. Efrid

Postlude

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

arr. Victor Labenske

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

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

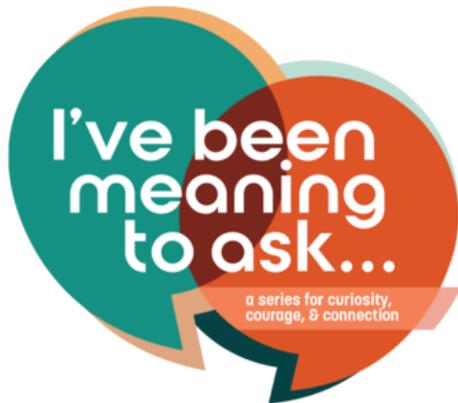
1. Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
2. He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er sound re - treat;
3. In the beau - ty of the lil - ies, Christ was born a - cross the sea,
4. He is com - ing like the glo - ry of the morn - ing on the wave;

He is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He is sift - ing out the hearts of all be - fore His judg - ment seat;
with a glo - ry in His bo - som that trans - fig - ures you and me;
He is wis - dom to the might - y, He is hon - or to the brave;

He hath loosed the fate - ful light - ning of His ter - ri - ble swift sword;
O be swift, my soul, to an - swer Him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
as He died to make us ho - ly, let us live to make all free.
so the world shall be His foot - stool, and the soul of wrong His slave.

His truth is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on. Glo - ry! glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry! glo - ry, hal - le -
Our God is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on.

lu - jah! Glo - ry! glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Our God is march - ing on.



► I've Been Meaning To Ask ...

This week concludes our a worship series called "I've Been Meaning To Ask..." focused on addressing some of the prominent realities we are all facing right now, particularly on our journey out of the pandemic. In the past year and a half, we have been isolated and disconnected and we are in desperate need on hope. Over these next weeks, we'll be asking some questions about where we are and what we're feeling, both in worship and in Faith Formation.

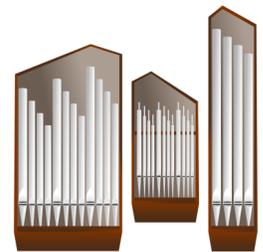
We hope that these questions serve as guiding questions in your life among those you love. We hope they bring us into deeper connection with God and with each other.

► Save the Date: July 11

We will be holding a town hall and business meeting on Sunday, July 11 at 2pm. Mark your calendars!

► Organ Update

Our organ renovators have begun detailed work on our project! The organ will not be used until the project is completed. This is



an exciting time in the music ministry at Greenwood Forest! If you are interested in donating to the organ fund to help us make the final payments, email Rev. Dr. Stacks.

A Theology of Inclusion

► Teaching Series | A Theology of Inclusion | July 11 through August 1

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. We will gather in person at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The Teaching Series will also be available via Zoom.

PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

▶ Prayer List*

Jim Allen
Nell Allen
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Don Beal
Gilles Bikindou
Jo Brooks
Bob and Alice Curti (Susan Beck's parents)
Sharon Edmondson
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Betty Griffin (Jane Griffin's mother)
Doug Hughes (Kathy Watkin's friend)
Angela McGee (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
John Miller
Sylvia Morgan
Alice Price
Fred Seeger
Randy Soyars (Mark Soyars' father)
Marvel Wahrman
Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's mother)
Jim Wigginton (Elizabeth Biser's uncle)
Alison Zieglmeier
Our partner church,
Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

▶ Poem for the Week

I got the call and almost
rushed right over.
I wanted to hold your hand and
tell you it would be okay.
I wanted to start a meal train.
I wanted to bring casseroles and
flowers
and hope of better days.
I wanted to take my heart
out of my chest
and put it in yours
so that the ache might fade.
I wanted to speak, and fight,
with the person in charge.
I wanted to get justice,
I wanted to make it fair.
I wanted to start a campaign.
I wanted to rewind time,
to easy, better days.
There is so much that I want to do,
but it's not about me.
It's about you.
So tell me—
what do you need?
I am here.
I am listening.

Rev. Sarah Are (sanctifiedart.org)

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

ACTACTACTACT

▶ Neighborhood Summer Program



Greenwood Forest is joining our partner churches to host the annual Summer Program which provides care, nourishment, and

enrichment for kids during the summer. There will be numerous health and safety precautions in place including masks, vaccine requirements, pre-registration, and limitation to one church's campus this year.

We need your help to make this vital mission of our church and our partners happen this year! We need both kitchen volunteers and volunteers to spend time with kids. Youth volunteers welcome. Pastors from multiple congregations will be on site to assist and lead volunteers.

If you can help on any of the Thursdays from July 8 to August 12 (9am-1pm), email Rev. Spears-Newsome at wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org! We can't make this happen without your help!

GIVEGIVEGIVEGIVE

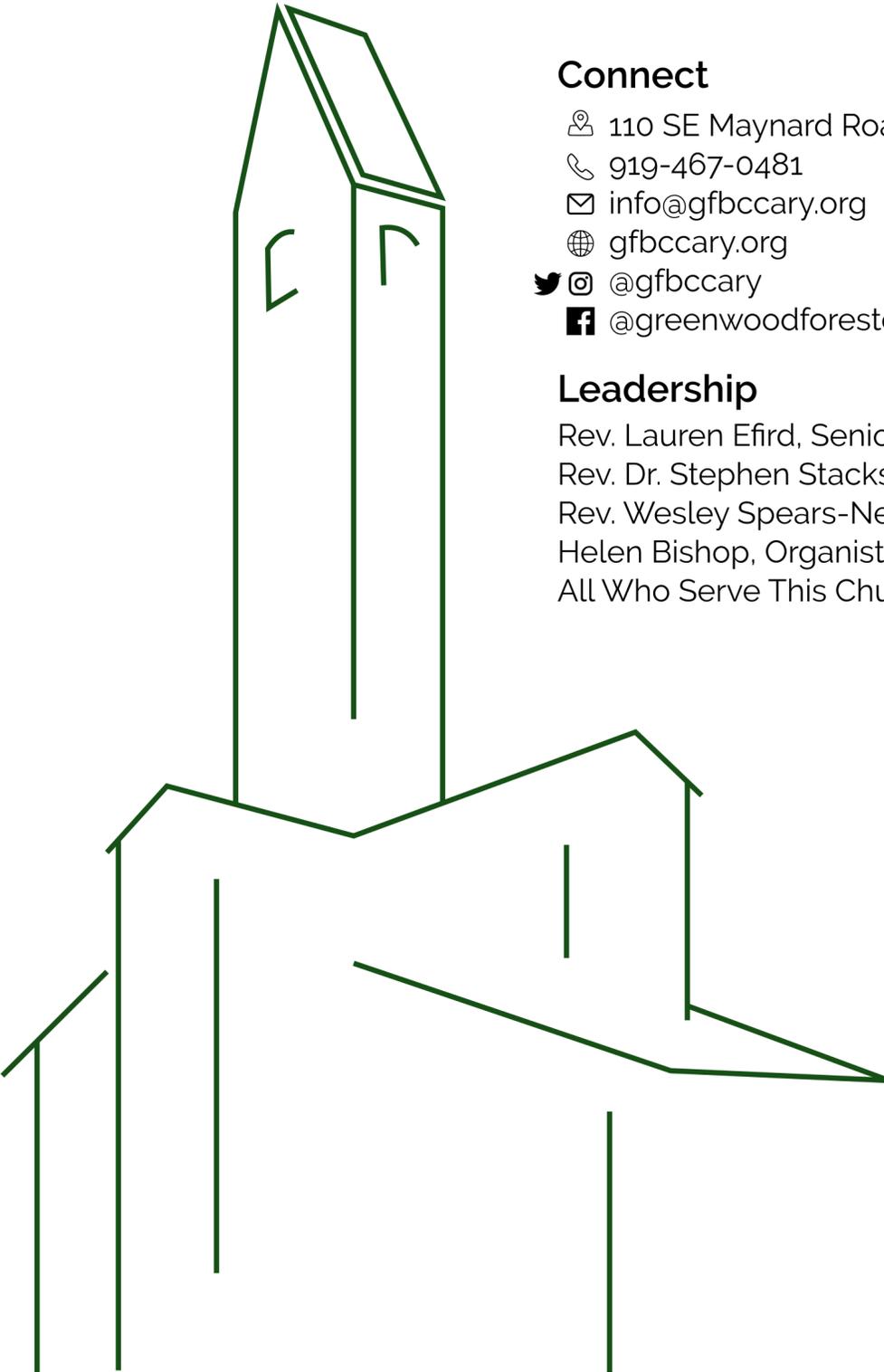
▶ Ways to Tithe

- Set up an automated bank draft by filling out a form requested from the church office, attaching a voided check, and mailing it back to the church office.
- Set up auto pay through you bank using the "Bill Pay" function. Then, your bank will mail a check to the church weekly or monthly.
- Give online through the church website at gfbccary.org/give.

▶ May 2021 Finance Update

Updated when the previous month's books have closed.

	May 2021	YTD
Congregational	\$58,008	\$500,140
Congregational Giving Target	\$67,030	\$540,722
Congregational Giving Under/Over	\$(9,022)	(\$40,582)
Other Receipts	\$2,413	\$18,489
Total Giving and	\$60,421	\$518,629
Total Disbursements	\$61,542	\$552,869
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	\$(1,121)	(\$34,240)
Together We Build	\$11,683	\$110,336



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
