



# **Greenwood Forest**

## Baptist Church





# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

September 26, 2021

## ORDINARY TIME

# an inclusive community of faith

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### Contents

Order of Worship	2
Act	6
Ministry Monday	7
Connect	8
Pray	9
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.

*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.*



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



# Order of Worship

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude Love Divine, All Loves Excelling arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome to Worship Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace Rev. Efird

Call to Worship (Alliance of Baptists Covenant) Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: We are a people of faith formed by a long tradition of dissent and historic Baptist freedoms.

**People: Celebrating this heritage, we seek to cultivate beloved community,**

Leader: Claiming our identity within the body of Christ in the world

**People: And our solidarity with all creation.**

Leader: We welcome and affirm all persons with full respect to gender, sexual, racial, and ethnic identities.

**People: We hold space for all persons with varying abilities, social standing, or economic status.**

Leader: As people embraced in baptismal waters,

**People: We freely gather to follow the radical way of Jesus.**

Invocation Rev. Spears-Newsome

Gathering Hymn From Wisdom Emerging

*(see page 3)*

Offertory Prayer Chris Cook

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.

# From Wisdom Emerging

1. From Wis - dom e - merg - ing, we fash - ion a space  
 2. Faith's jour - ney re - claim - ing, we blaze a new trail  
 3. For - ev - er ex - plor - ing, we seek to learn more  
 4. The fu - ture pro - gress - ing, we move through its change,

for peo - ple con - verg - ing in safe - ty and grace,  
 with oth - ers, ex - claim - ing: "Let jus - tice pre - vail!"  
 of Wis - dom's out - pour - ing, of Love's o - pen door.  
 old sys - tems re - dress - ing, new pat - terns ar - range;

to shel - ter the free - dom of one and of all  
 Re - ject - ing worn paths that op - press and mis - lead,  
 A - mazed at the mys - teries and grac - es we find,  
 pro - tect - ing all free - doms with ev - ery new choice,

in Love with - out bor - der or bound - ary or wall.  
 we walk in com - mu - ni - ty, cher - ished and freed!  
 we joy - ful - ly share them with all hu - man - kind.  
 we fol - low the Spir - it and raise our clear voice!

Words: Larry E. Schultz

Music: Welsh hymn tune

ST. DENIO

11.11.11.11

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*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 14:7-15

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

Plenty Good Room

arr. Joubert and Stacks

*Rev. Kadeisha Bonsu, Soloist*

*Plenty good room, plenty good room,  
Plenty good room in the kingdom, Lord,  
Plenty good room, plenty good room,  
Just choose your seat and sit down!*

I would not be a liar,  
I'll tell you the reason why;  
Cause if my Lord should call on me  
I wouldn't be ready to die.

I would not be a sinner,  
I'll tell you the reason why;  
Cause if my Lord should call on me  
I wouldn't be ready to die.

I would not be a backslider,  
I'll tell you the reason why;  
Cause if my Lord should call on me  
I wouldn't be ready to die.

Sermon

Plenty Good Room

Rev. Paula Clayton Dempsey

## Hymn

## God's Gonna Set This World on Fire

God's gonna set this world on fire  
God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days, hallelujah!  
God's gonna set this world on fire  
God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days!  
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table...  
I'm gonna eat and never get hungry...  
I'm gonna drink and never get thirsty...

## Benediction

Rev. Efir

## Postlude

Wonderful Words of Life

arr. Cindy Berry

\*\*\*

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

*Sally Shaver is our pianist this week.*

## Our Guest Preacher Today: Rev. Paula Clayton Dempsey



Paula Clayton Dempsey recently retired from her role as Director of Partnership Relations for the Alliance of Baptists. Paula served in this Co-Director role for the last twelve years, leading the Alliance faithfully through an era of constant growth and change. Taking the helm from long-time staff leaders Stan Hastey and Jeannette Holt, Paula's skills, wisdom, and collaborative spirit played a major role in bringing the Alliance to its current commitment to become an antiracist organization. We

would not be who we are today without her leadership.

Before her work at the Alliance, she had more than 25 years of ministry experience as a pastor, campus minister, hospice chaplain, and director of Advent Spirituality Center as well as degrees from Meredith College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Paula lives with her family in Western North Carolina where she enjoys watching wildlife from her back porch and cooking with fresh vegetables purchased at the local farmers' market.



## ► Penny for Housing Campaign

Our congregational partners in Cary in ONE Wake have been discerning a campaign to propose a policy to the Cary Town Council in advance of the spring elections and during the budget process for next year. We would love your investment in this campaign. You can learn more below.

### What are Cary churches proposing?

That the Cary Town Council prioritize a penny from the property tax rate generating an annual, local fund for affordable and workforce housing development and preservation. ONE Wake's initial work suggests this would equal \$35/year of the taxes paid by the owner of a home valued at \$350,000 and would total \$3 million/year added to the fund.

### Who would this solution help?

Teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, service sector employees, people on disability income, and others we know, care about, love, and depend upon. Many of these people are becoming unable (or are already unable) to live in Cary. In 2016, the Town of Chapel Hill approved a similar Penny for Housing initiative and the annual fund has led to the addition of about 300 units of affordable housing that would have otherwise not been built.

### Where has this solution been successful in the past?

In addition to the Town of Chapel Hill, both Raleigh and Durham have enjoyed similar success with both housing bonds and a Penny for Housing policy. Cary remains the only major municipality in the Triangle without either a housing bond or Penny for Housing fund.



### How can I support Penny for Housing?

Show your support at the petition at [onewake.org/10000strong](https://onewake.org/10000strong).

Come to the assembly with the Town Council members (and their electoral opponents) to hear their perspectives on our proposal. The assembly is virtual on November 11 at 7pm. Sign up for your invite at [onewake.org/carypennyaction](https://onewake.org/carypennyaction).

Email Rev. Spears-Newsome at [wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org) to become more involved with ONE Wake.



# **September 27**

# **Ministry Monday**

Ministry Monday: September 27 @ 6:30pm

**Schedule:**

6:30-7:17 pm | Team A Meetings

7:30-8:15pm | Team B Meetings

**Teams:**

Team A: Children, Congregational Care, Fellowship, Finance, Properties, and Youth

Team B: Discipleship, Missions, Outreach, Personnel, and Worship

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# Senior Adult Picnic

Oct. 5  
11:30 am

## CONNECTCONNECT



### ► The Wonder Room Now Open!

*Last week, we opened The Wonder Room, our new space for children (K-5) during Faith Formation. Below is an interview with Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, who designed the space:*

**Q.** What led to the development of The Wonder Room?

**Wes:** For a long time, we've wanted to fashion an experience for children on Sunday morning that was both engaging for the kids and sustainable for adults. The Wonder Room is a kid-driven, exploration-focused room that can accommodate all kinds of learning and adult engagement. Kids with different learning styles and abilities will all find something for them in The Wonder Room and adults don't need to plan a lesson every week. The room and its stations teach on their own in some exciting ways!

**Q:** Why is it called The Wonder Room?

**Wes:** At my ordination, we did a similar thing that Greenwood Forest does at our deacon and clergy ordinations where

you get individual messages from those in attendance. One of my professors in children, youth, and faith formation told me at my ordination the saying that's on the materials for The Wonder Room: "wisdom begins in wonder." I believe the wonder that exploration and play give to kids is essential for their development and their maturity. It's through wonder that we uncover many of the most important truths in life. That discovery is part of what church is for, especially in The Wonder Room.

**Q: How did the first week go?**

**Wes:** It was so much fun! Our youth joined a few adults in showing the kids around the room. We rotated between the four sections (Play, Reading, Crafts, and Church) and the kids never wanted to leave the section they were in! It's almost as if we needed to remind them, "You'll be here every week, don't do everything today!"

**Q: Can adults enjoy The Wonder Room, too?**

**Wes:** They certainly can! We tried to design The Wonder Room to accommodate a spectrum of ages and abilities of adult volunteers. There's seating throughout the room and no requirement to be on your knees with the kids. All you need is a heart open to our children and a spirit open to wonder about God.

*Feel free to stop by The Wonder Room and explore a bit for yourself on your way out after worship today!*

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## PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

### ► Prayer List\*

Jim Allen  
Nell Allen  
Peter Barboriak (*Valerie Brooks' friend*)  
Gilles Bikindou  
James Mark Frazier (*Sue Hughes' brother*)  
Mac Graham  
Lorraine Griggs (*at the death of her husband, Bill*)  
Janet Merriman (*Roz Slawson's friend*)  
John Miller  
Sylvia Morgan  
Zelma Palmer  
Betty Patterson (*Doris Martin's sister*)  
Fred Seeger  
Julie Tickle (*Bianca Fowler's aunt*)  
Emma Webster  
Elaine Whisnant  
Marta Whitehouse (*Al Whitehouse's mother*)  
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.*

### ► Thank You from the Beal Family

Our family would like to thank each of you for all the love and kindness you have shown to us during Don's illness and passing. We were truly lifted and carried by all of you. You saw our need and never hesitated to be the hands and feet of Jesus. With gratitude and thanksgiving,

- The Beal Family.



## ► 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](http://gfbccary.org/give).

## ► Aug. '21 (Preliminary) Finance Update

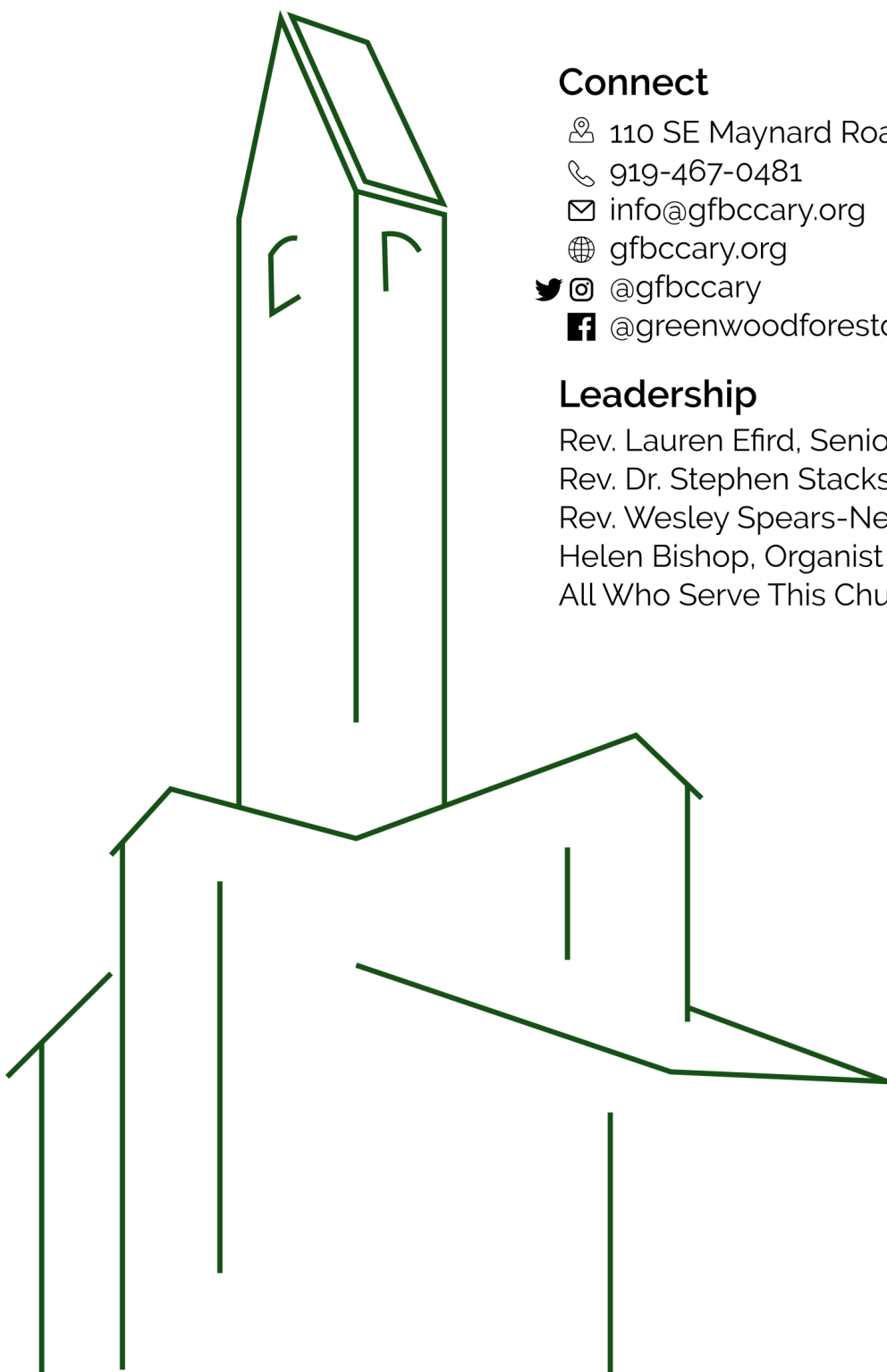
*Updated when the previous month's books have closed.*

	Aug. 2021	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$46,097	\$644,738
Congregational Giving Target	\$67,030	\$715,000
Congregational Giving	(\$20,933)	(\$70,262)
Other Receipts	\$47,178	\$150,702
Total Giving and Receipts	\$93,275	\$795,440
Total Disbursements	\$86,237	\$773,992
Under/Over Receipts vs.	\$7,038	\$21,448
Together We Build Giving	\$29,463	\$148,314



# Golf Tournament

October 18  
Contact Rev. Stacks  
to play!



## Connect

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## 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