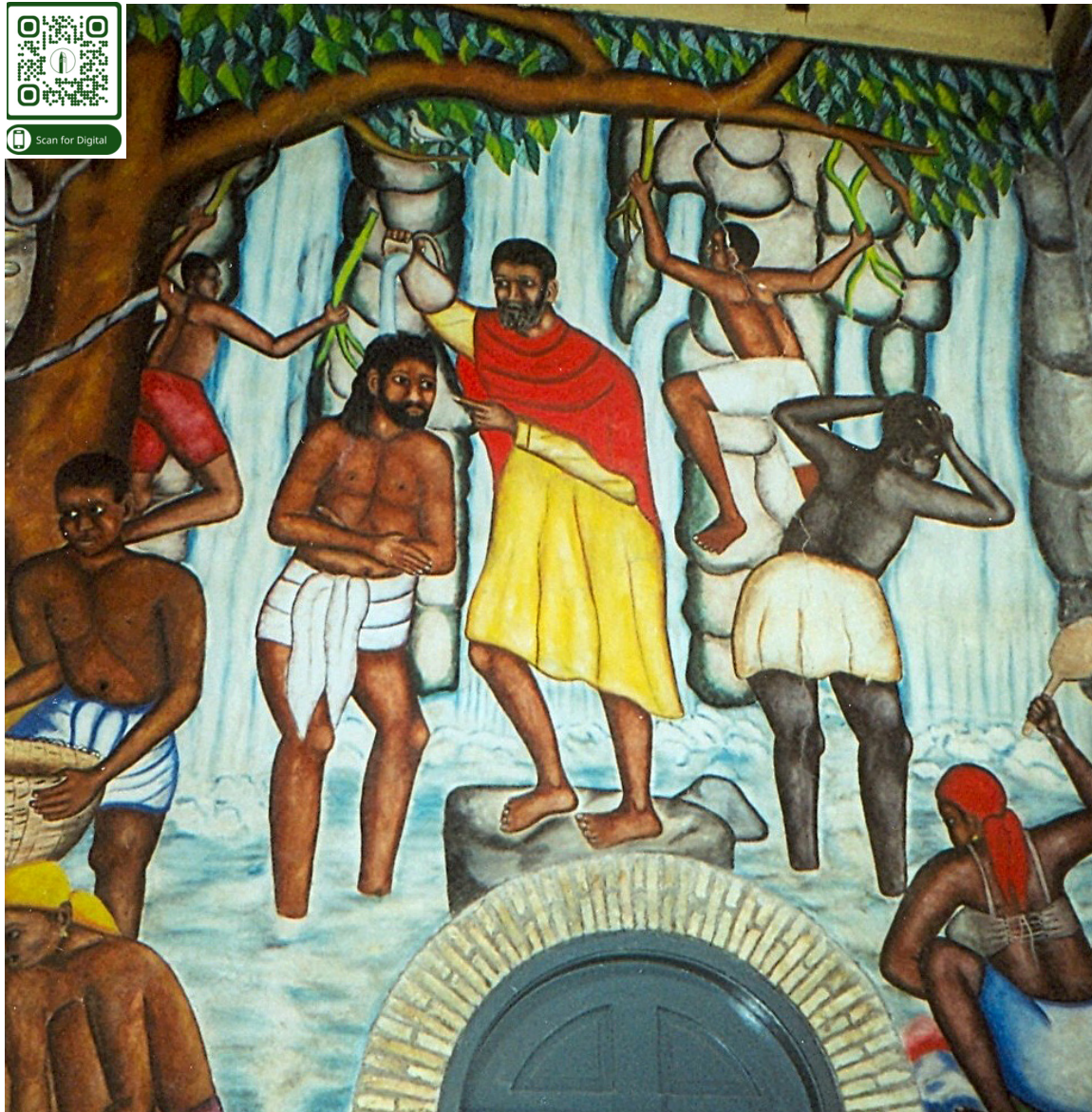




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Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

January 8, 2023

Bulletin Art:

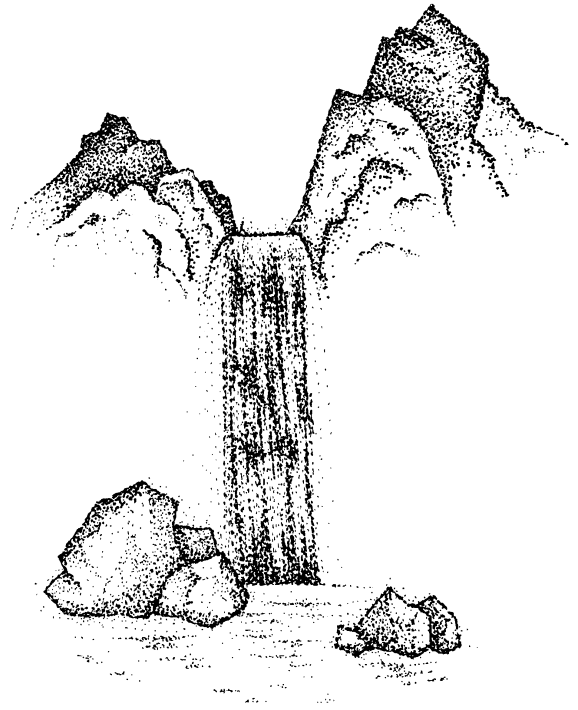
The Baptism of Jesus by Castera Bazile
(Mural)

The bulletin cover this week is the mural of the baptism of Jesus in Cathedrale de Sainte Trinite (Holy Trinity Cathedral) in Port au Prince, Haiti. The artist, Castera Bazile was a Haitian painter born in 1923. Bazile was self-taught and is considered one of the most famous Haitian master artists. He is responsible for three murals in the same cathedral with the subjects of the Ascension of Christ, the Baptist of Christ, and Christ Expelling the Money Changers from the Temple. The murals were mostly destroyed in the 2010 Haitian earthquake.

In this image, we see John (in red and yellow) baptizing Jesus in a river with waterfalls in the background. Others go about their daily work while the event is happening and the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove, as in the Gospels) sits perched on a tree. Both the scene and the figures resemble a mix of biblical imagery and images of daily life in Haiti.

Consider how this momentous event happens in the midst of daily life. Do the others even know the magnitude of the event that is taking place? The understatement of the event contrasts sharply with other depictions. What can it teach us? Consider: What could be happening in the midst of your life that you're missing? Where is God calling things "beloved" in your community and daily life?

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome





Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

an inclusive
community
of faith

Welcome

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 exactly as you are.

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REMINDERS



Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers. There is also a glider in the back of the sanctuary if you need to rock your little ones.



Hearing assistance devices are available at the back of the sanctuary along with a transcript of the sermon.



Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



Gender-neutral, single-occupant bathrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary in the Narthex.



gfbccary.org



[greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)



[@gfbccary](https://twitter.com/gfbccary)



[@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

Announcements Church Events and Updates

New Fellowship Meals

Starting Sunday, January 29, we will have monthly fellowship meals following worship hosted by Franz and Jill Bryant. The cost for the meal will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids, with all proceeds going to the organ fund. The menu for January is assorted soups, salad, pimento cheese sandwiches, chicken nuggets (kids only), cookies, and tea. This will be an excellent opportunity to gather and socialize, and to raise money for the upcoming organ installation. Plan on attending!

Thank You from Staff

Thank you for the generosity everyone exhibited to the staff and ministers of the church this holiday season! We love you too—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- GFBC Ministers and Staff

New GFBC Intern

Johnny Jackson will be serving as our Worship and Discipleship Ministry Intern for the Spring semester. Johnny is a student at Campbell Divinity School. You'll have an opportunity to get to know Johnny better in the coming weeks, as she serves in various ministries around the church.

Coffeehouse Theology

Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God." In this series, we'll test the hypothesis that every thing is sacred by looking at "secular" music and how it speaks to our spiritual lives. Each week, Rev. Dr. Stacks will select and perform a song and we will break down the song and discuss its resonance with our faith journeys. (January 15, 22, and 29)

Discipleship Retreat

This year's Discipleship Retreat will feature an exploration of what it means to pray and how we can strengthen our prayer lives. The weekend will feature sessions led by the ministers on a wide range of prayer styles including food and prayer, praying with nature, Ignatian imaginative prayer, and prayer journaling. Sunday morning's session will feature lay people sharing their insights as well.

We'll use James Martin's book *Learning to Pray* as our guide for the weekend (February 24-26). The registration fee is \$35 and includes the book and 3 meals.

Register on Realm (onRealm.org/GreenwoodForest) today! If you need assistance creating an account or registering, contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.

Rev. Spears-Newsome Work Anniversary

From the Personnel Committee:

On January 3rd we celebrated Reverend Wesley Spears-Newsome's 6th year of serving as our Associate Pastor of Community and Youth. Among Wes' many responsibilities are leading our youth, coordinating our church's participation in ONE Wake and our other local missions, and lending his design talents to the church website and bulletin. Be sure to give Wes a big "thank you!" for his six faithful years of ministering in our church and greater community.

Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



PRAY

Please keep in prayer these members of our community and their friends and family. To add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names rotate off and can be re-added upon request.

Nell Allen
Bess Averre
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Edna Overcash (Jay Martin's sister)
Annie Poe
Jerry Poe
The Reinert Family at the death of Dick Reinert
The Ritter Family at the death of Harold Ritter
The Smith Family at the death of Frank Smith
Fred Seeger
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba



GIVING

All of the ministries of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church are supported by members of our community like you. Thank you! Supporting us is easy. You can:

- Give online at fbccary.org/give
- Place your gift in the offering plate before or after worship.
- Set up an automated bank draft through the church office.
- Set up a recurring gift through your bank's "bill pay" function.

A monthly finance update is available in the weekly church email. If you're not receiving our weekly email and would like to, please contact the church office.

Monthly Ministry Highlight:

Discipleship Ministry

Our Discipleship Ministry is dedicated to the Christian formation of our community through regular Faith Formation on Sundays, special churchwide Teaching Series, and our annual Discipleship Retreat. Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible. Don't forget to register for the Discipleship Retreat on February 24-26!

Order of Worship Baptist of our Lord Sunday

† This icon indicates an invitation to stand or express reverence however you see fit.

📖 This icon indicates a worship aid is available in the righthand column.

🎵 Hymns and song lyrics are available in the songbook following the Order of Worship.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude | *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* | arr. Labenske

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Isaiah 42:5-9) | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;
Before they spring forth, I tell you of them.
Let us worship God!

Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† **Gathering Hymn** | *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (pg. 7)

Today's color is **white**, signifying an emphasis on the glory of God.

The Passing of the Peace

The passing of the peace is a symbolic enactment of the reconciling love and mercy of God in our midst. We express it through a peace sign, a handshake, a wave, or many other expressions of peace. Be mindful and considerate of others' desire for physical space or distance.

Prayer in Worship

We use many kinds of prayers in worship. The Call to Worship is a communal prayer using call and response. The Invocation is a single individual inviting (or invoking) God into our worship this morning. The Prayers of the People uses intercessory prayer to ask God to come to the world's aid. The benediction is a blessing offered over those gathered in worship.

Offertory Prayer | *Sally Shaver*

† Doxology | *Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN* 📖

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
O praise God. Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise God! O praise God!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Prayers of the People | *Rev. Spears-Newsome* 📖

Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

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.

† Hymn | *Take Me to the Water* (pg. 8)

Scripture Reading | *Matthew 3:13-17* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Just a Closer Walk* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *The Beloved* | *Rev. Efird*

Reaffirmation of Baptism | *Rev. Efird*

† Hymn | *With Water Freely Flowing* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Postlude in G Major* | *Handel*

The Doxology

A “doxology” is a short hymn that usually praises the Trinity. We sing the doxology as we symbolically present our offerings back to God.

The Prayers of the People

This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

Final Hymn: An Invitation

During the final hymn, if you'd like to join our community at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, we invite you to come forward to the altar. When you come forward, you'll be greeted by a minister and a deacon who will then introduce you to the congregation after the hymn. Welcome!

Our hymn leader for today is
Leanne Glasgow.

7 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise:
and I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home:
Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:

teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

Take Me to the Water


1. 7 Take me to the wa - ter, 7
 2. 7 None but the right - eous, 7
 3. 7 I love Je - sus, 7
 4. 7 In the name of Je - sus, 7
 5. I know I got re - lig - ion, I
 6. 7 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah, 7

Take me to the wa - ter, 7 Take me to the
 None but the right - eous, 7 None but the
 I love Je - sus, 7 I love
 In the name of Je - sus, 7 In the name of
 know I got re - lig - ion, I know I got re -
 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah, 7 Glo - ry, hal - le -

wa - ter to be bap - tized. *optional*
 right - eous shall see God.
 Je - sus. Yes, I do.
 Je - sus we shall be saved.
 lig - ion. Yes, I do.
 lu - jah, to be bap - tized.
optional

With Water Freely Flowing

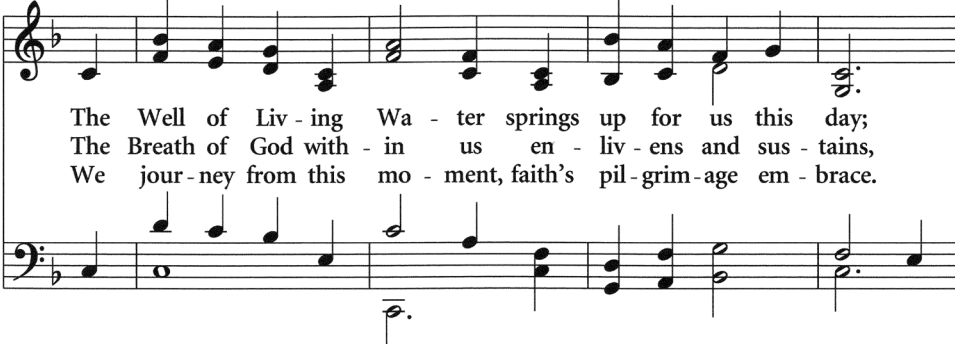
Unison



1. With wa - ter free - ly flow - ing we cel - e - brate new birth,
2. The Spir - it, swift - ly soar - ing, de - scend - ing as a dove,
3. By wa - ter and the Spir - it bap - tized in Christ, we rise



in sa - cred sign ex - press - ing God's love for all on earth.
con - veys the start - ling Pres - ence on all whose vow is love.
to walk new paths un - fold - ing be - fore our o - pened eyes.



The Well of Liv - ing Wa - ter springs up for us this day;
The Breath of God with - in us en - liv - ens and sus - tains,
We jour - ney from this mo - ment, faith's pil - grim - age em - brace.



en - gulfed by love's ac - cept - ance, our fears are washed a - way.
be - yond this rite of pas - sage with us al - ways re - mains.
By Spir - it and by wa - ter we feel and sense God's grace.

Anthem Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Arr. by Her Heart Sings

Performed by B.J. Facemire and Evan Owoc-Edwards

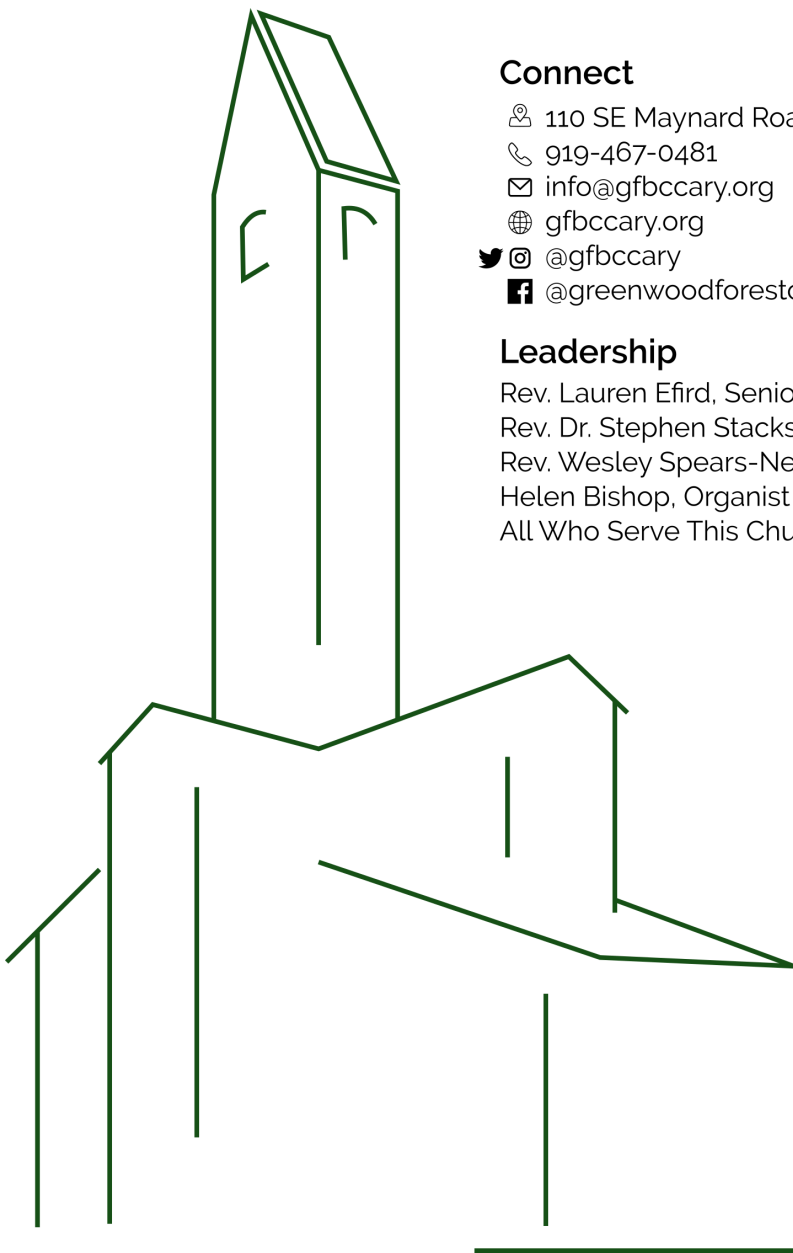
I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

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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
