



Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

February 19, 2023

← **Bulletin Art** Transfiguration

Street Art in San Francisco, California; Artist Unknown



seeking:

honest questions
for deeper faith

Lent begins on February 22 with Ash Wednesday, and this season we'll be exploring stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking. In each of these stories, someone is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Join us throughout this season of reflection and repentance to discover what God has for those who are seeking.

Key Events in Lent:

February 22 | Ash Wednesday (6:15pm)

On Ash Wednesday, we gather to remember that God made us from dust, the same dust to which we will return. This service involves the imposition of ashes.

March 19 | The Cry of Jeremiah Performance (11am)

*Our choir will be reuniting with the NCCU Choir to present a piece this year called *The Cry of Jeremiah* by Rosephanye Powell. Based on Jeremiah 29, the piece will draw on a variety of musical traditions from Europe, Africa, and North America.*

April 2 | Palm Sunday (11am)

On Palm Sunday, we commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which sets off the series of events that leads ultimately to his execution.

April 7 | Good Friday (7pm)

We gather on Good Friday for a Service of Tenebrae, a solemn recounting of Jesus' execution.

April 9 | Easter Sunday (11am)

We begin the Easter season and celebrate the resurrection and Jesus' defeat of death!



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



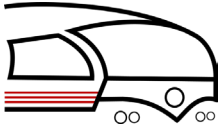
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FREEDOM RIDE '23

July 2-8

Join us on a pilgrimage of transformation and discovery.

Explore the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the struggle for freedom where it happened.

Meet experts and even eye-witnesses and participants in the Movement.

Discover what the freedom struggle means for your life now.

Join us on the 2023 Freedom Ride to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma.

\$500/person; includes transportation, lodging, and meals in Alabama.

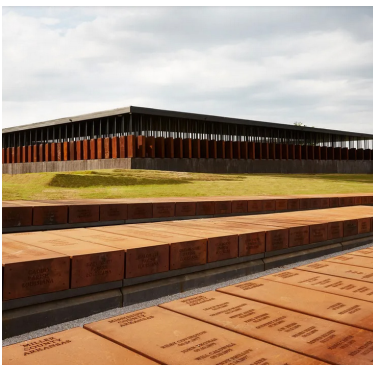
Note: This trip is deliberately intergenerational and based on the needs and abilities of participants. If you have reservations about your ability to attend, please contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.



Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (Birmingham, AL)



Sixteenth Street Baptist Church (Birmingham, AL)



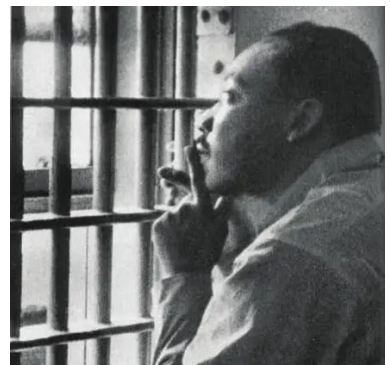
National Memorial for Peace and Justice (Montgomery, AL)



Edmund Pettus Bridge, Site of Bloody Sunday (Selma, AL)



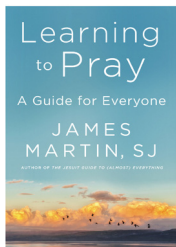
Voting Rights Institute (Selma, AL)



Martin Luther King, Jr. in Prison in Birmingham, AL

Announcements Church Events and Updates

Discipleship Retreat



Have you ever struggled with prayer? This year's Discipleship Retreat will focus on an exploration of prayer, different prayer practices, and how we can strengthen and expand our prayer lives. Our ministers will lead a wide range of

sessions, including food and prayer, praying with nature, Ignatian prayer, and journaling. We'll use James Martin's *Learning to Pray* as our guide for the weekend (Feb.24-26). The fee is \$35 and includes the book and meals. Register on Realm (onRealm.org/GreenwoodForest) today! If you need assistance, contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.

Schedule:

Friday

6:00pm | Dinner/What is Prayer?
Led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Saturday

9:15am | Coffee and Pastries

9:45am | Prayer and the Written Word
Led by Rev. Lauren Efird

10:30am | Break

10:45am | Formula and Improvisation in Prayer
Led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

12:00pm | Prayer and Nature/Prayer Walk
Led by Johnny Jackson

12:30pm | Picnic Lunch

Sunday

9:45am | Prayer and the Ignatian Imagination
Led by Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

11:00am | Worship/Prayer as Resistance

Business Meeting (3/12)

Mark your calendars for a church business meeting on March 12 to discuss matters related to the property and other regular business. We'll hold the meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am before worship.

Guest Preacher



Rev. Randy Palmer is a native of Arkansas and was bravely the first child in his area to integrate his elementary school. He has been on staff at GFBC, as Custodian, since 2004. He and his

wife, Zelma, are active members of our church. We have been especially blessed by both of their beautiful singing voices. They have 2 children and 7 grandchildren. Rev. Palmer was ordained in 1995 by the Second Missionary Baptist Church of Fayetteville, NC. Randy is an Army veteran and has spent his life serving God and others.

Fellowship Meal (2/26)

We'll have our second Fellowship Meal after worship on Feb. 26 hosted by Franz and Jill Bryant. The cost for the meal (Italian pasta dishes) will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids, with all proceeds going to the organ fund. There will also be Bluebird Houses for sale for \$20 (contact Diana Morde for more information) to benefit the organ. We hope to see you there!

Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



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
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)
Greg Clawson (friend of Rick Chappell)
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Charles Dial (Carol and Greg Carter's brother-and-law)
Elaine Dodson
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Betty Mayfield
Kathy Seeger Rhoades (Fred and Marie Seeger's daughter)
Fred Seeger
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba



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 gfbccary.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:

Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry shapes the lives and faith of our young people through weekly activities and unique experiences. Youth meet regularly on Sunday mornings, Sunday afternoons at Alpha & Omega, and go on special retreats and trips. The Freedom Ride was also born out of our youth ministry! Our youth will lead us in worship on Youth Sunday this February, as well.

Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible!

Order of Worship Transfiguration 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 | *Praise Him! Praise Him!* | Allen

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Efird*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 2) | *Johnny Jackson*

Why do the nations conspire,

And the peoples plot in vain?

The kings and rulers of the earth take counsel together,

Against the Lord and God's anointed, saying,

'Let us burst their bonds asunder,

and cast their cords from us.'

God, who sits in the heavens, laughs;

The Lord has them in derision.

Then God will speak to them in wrath, saying

'I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.'

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

Be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear,

With trembling kiss God's feet,

Or God will be angry, and you will perish in the way;

Happy are all who take refuge in the Lord!

Invocation | *Johnny Jackson*

✝ **Gathering Hymn** | *Lift Every Voice and Sing (pg. 8)*

Today's color is **white**, symbolizing the glory and presence 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.

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, our worship services during February will feature music from Black composers and artists.

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 | *Andy Jarrell*

† **Doxology** | *Tune: GLORIA PATRI* 📖

Glory be to the Maker,
And to the Christ,
And to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen! Amen!

The Prayers of the People | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks* 📖

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 | *Blessed Assurance (pg. 9)*

Scripture Reading | *Acts 10:34-35 and Galatians 3:28*

Rev. Welsey Spears-Newsome

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Praise the Lord (pg. 7)*

Sermon | *Rev. Randy Palmer*

† **Hymn** | *Total Praise (pg. 10)* 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Shine, Jesus, Shine | arr. Stan Pethel*

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!

Anthem Praise the Lord

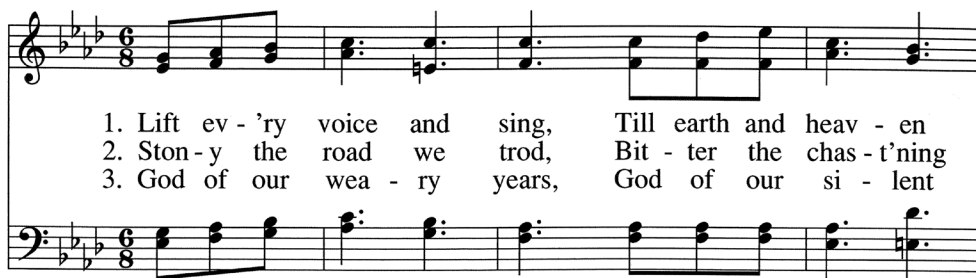
Florence Price

Praise the Lord, all ye nations!
Praise the Lord, all ye people!


Praise the Lord,
For his merciful kindness is great toward us,
And the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

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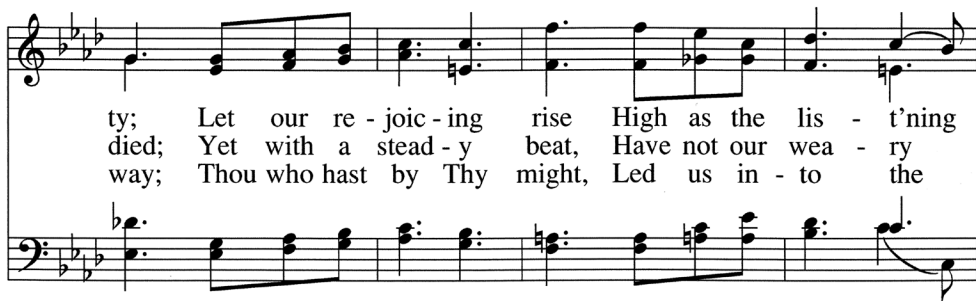
Lift Every Voice and Sing



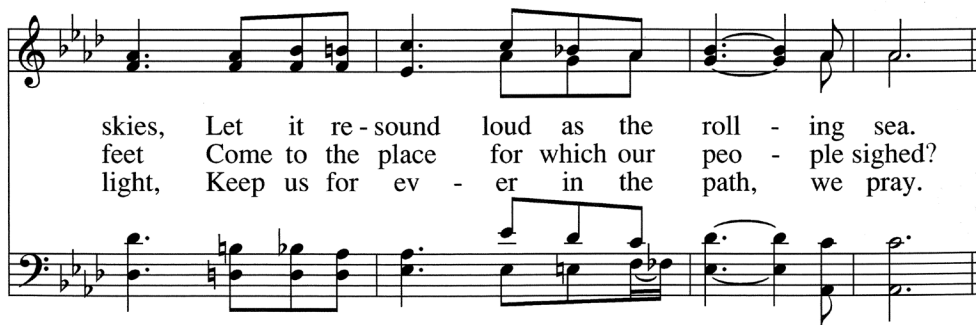
1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



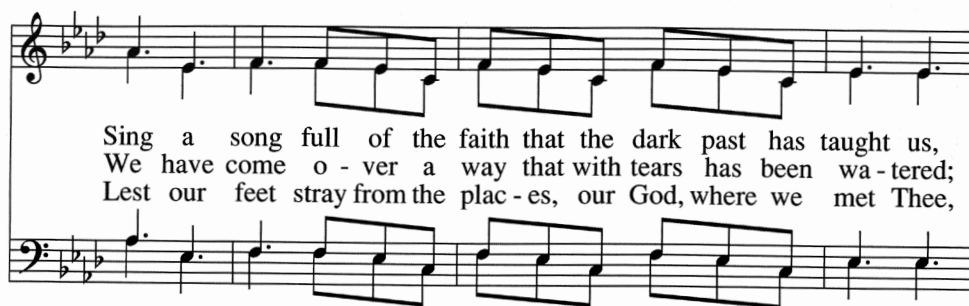
ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the



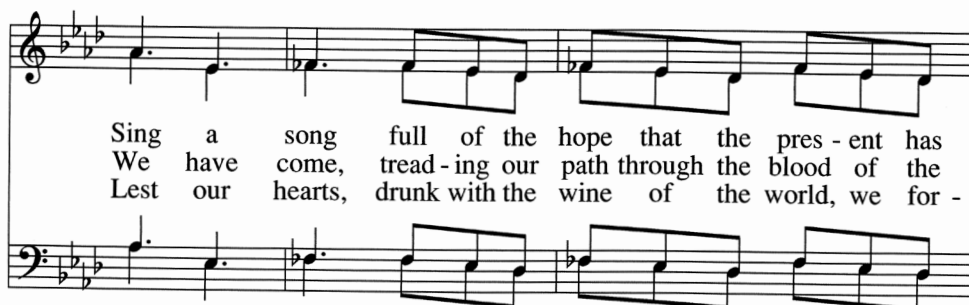
ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning
 died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry
 way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the



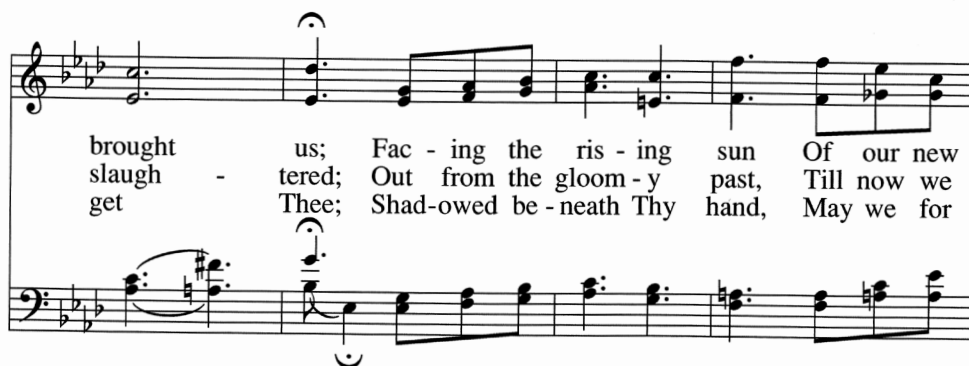
skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
 light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

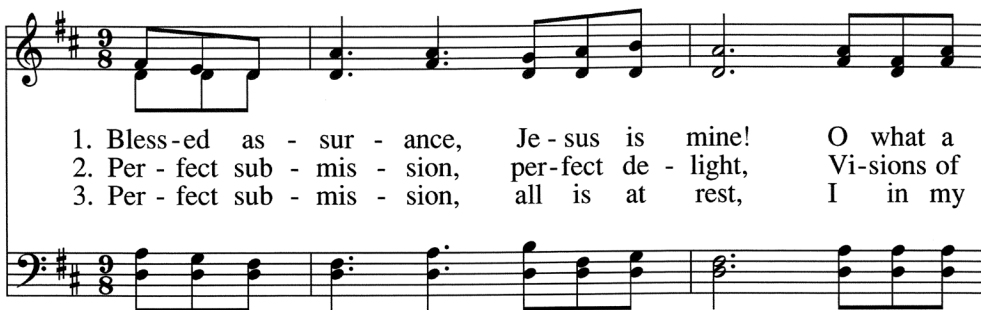


brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
 slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
 get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for

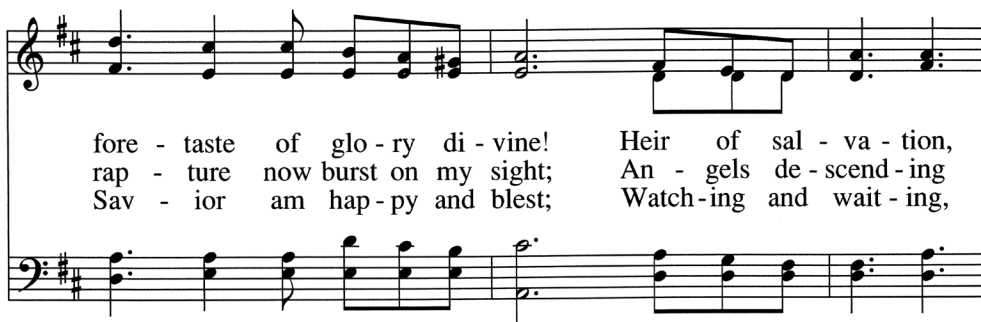


day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
 ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

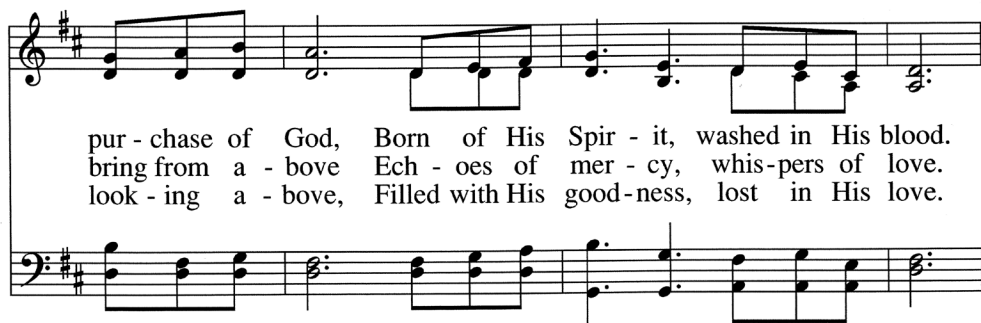
Blessed Assurance



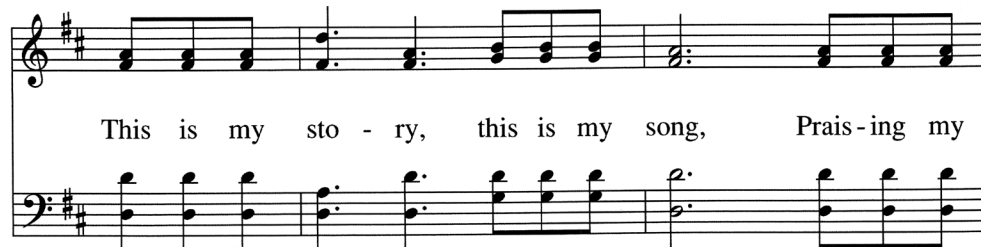
1. Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per-fect de - light, Vi-sions of
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my



fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest; Watch - ing and wait - ing,



pur - chase of God, Born of His Spir - it, washed in His blood.
 bring from a - bove Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
 look - ing a - bove, Filled with His good-ness, lost in His love.



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, Prais - ing my

Sav - ior all the day long; This is my sto - ry, this is my

song, Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Total Praise

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills

know - ing my help is com - ing from You.

Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.

You are the strength of my life.

1.

I lift my hands in to - tal praise to You.

2. A - men.

You. A - men, a - men. A - men.

A - men, a - men. A -

men, a - men. A - men, a -

men, a - men. A - men.

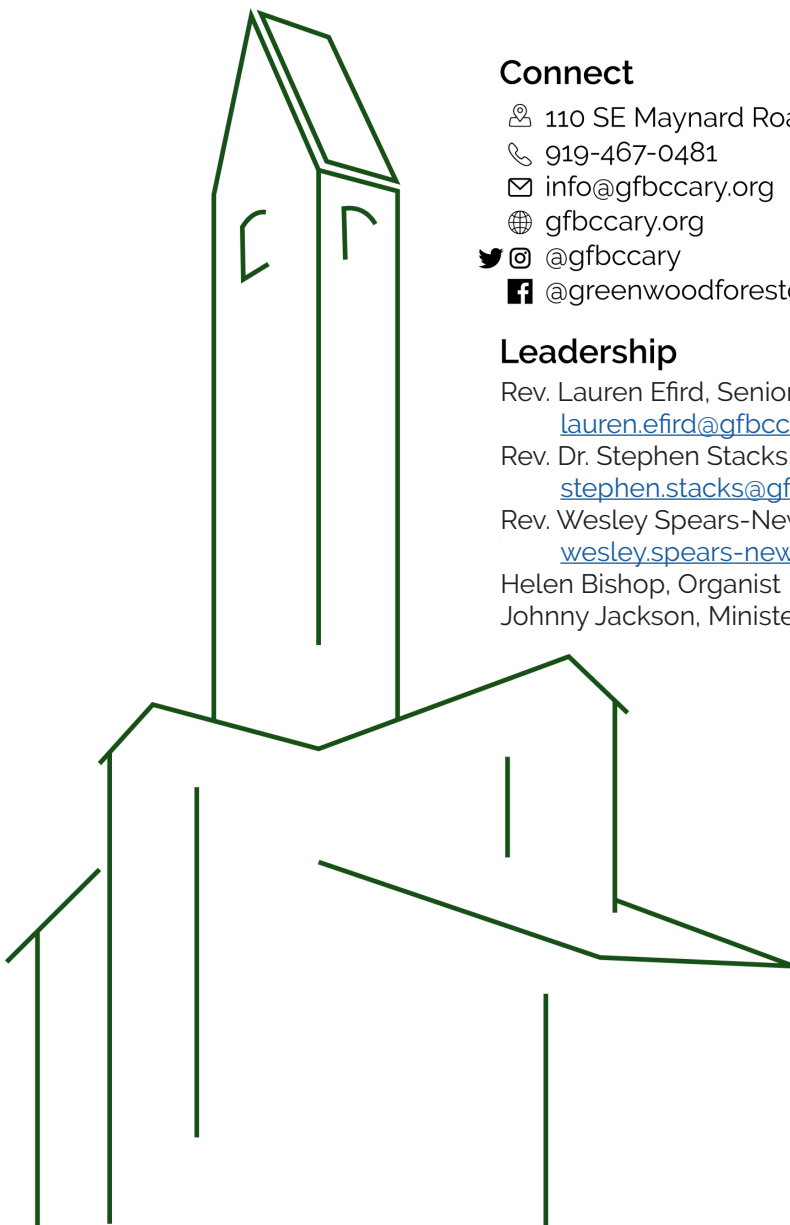
men, a - men. A - men, a -

men. A - men.

men. A - men, a - men. men. men.

men. A - men, a - men.

men. A - men, a - men.



Connect

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

lauren.efird@gfbccary.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Johnny Jackson, Ministerial Intern
