

Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

March 5, 2023 *Kevin*

Artist Statement Renacimiento

Carmelle Beaugelin | Inspired by John 3:1-17

Conté crayon, charcoal, acrylic, gold gild on paper

I was raised in a Spanish-speaking Pentecostal church in Miami called “Renacimiento.” A simple translation of renacimiento to English means “rebirth” or “renaissance.” For my small Pentecostal church, renacimiento meant far more than the symbolism of being “born-again” Christians. It was a perpetual reminder that each time the saints gather to encounter Jesus, the Spirit calls us to continuous transformation, calling dead things into new life and Holy Spirit-filled revival.

It is no wonder that Nicodemus seeks Jesus in the cover and darkness of night. It is in the quiet of night that our deepest fears startle us awake, that our anxieties of the day keep us from sound rest, and that the fear of the death of our dreams and bodies looms. As rapper Nas wrote in his debut album, *Illmatic*, “sleep is the cousin of death.” (“NY State of Mind,” Columbia Records, 1994)

Yet Jesus challenges Nicodemus’ seeking in the night with a call to be born again, to renacimiento. Not just improvement, but transformation. Not simply resuscitation of what is and was, but a complete resurrection of what could and will be.

In this image, a metaphorically disrobed, aging, and vulnerable Nicodemus, surrounded by the milky gray swirls of water and spirit, wonders: How can this be? Haven’t I reached past my benchmarks? How is it that you are calling me to begin again?

We may see ourselves in Nicodemus today, holding the same questions in the sleeplessness of our darkest nights. Yet, what if we chose to hold fast to the faith that responds to our seeking? Jesus promises us that the winds and waters of the Spirit will lead us toward our own new beginning. Each of us will experience renacimiento if we dare to seek it.





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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seeking:

honest questions for deeper faith

Lent began 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:

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)

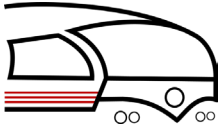
On Palm Sunday, we commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which sets off the series of events that leads ultimately to his execution.

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!



FREEDOM RIDE '23



July 2-8

Final Registration Deadline: March 27

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.

Itinerary Includes (but no limited to):

- **The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and The Legacy Museum: From Slavery to Mass Incarceration:** These are sites developed by Bryan Stevenson (Just Mercy, book and film) and the Equal Justice Institute (EJI). The Memorial and Museum are some of the best examples of history and storytelling in the country.
- **Footprints to Freedom Tour in Selma, Alabama:** We'll explore with local experts the sites of the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement in this unlikely but pivotal small Southern town. This tour includes museums and historical sites.
- **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and Sixteenth Street Baptist Church:** The BCRI has an unparalleled collection and experience for exploring the history of the Civil Rights Movement. We'll also plan a visit to a pivotal congregation in the Movement and site of one of its most horrific moments in Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

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.

Announcements Church Events and Updates



Cry of Jeremiah (3/19)

Join us on Sunday, March 19 for an unforgettable and moving performance by the GFBC Sanctuary Choir and the NC Central University Choir of Rosephanye Powell's *The Cry of Jeremiah*. The piece features a narrator speaking as the prophet Jeremiah, known as the "crying prophet," as he rages and grieves over the sins and injustice of his people, wrestles with his calling to speak truth, and ultimately praises God in the midst of his struggle. The music is arresting and inspiring, expressing beautifully the fire and hope at the heart of Jeremiah's vision. This is the second year of our collaboration with NCCU and it promises to be a special day—you will not want to miss it!

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.

Bird House Pickup (3/5)

If you ordered a Bluebird Box to support the Organ Fund at last week's Fellowship Meal, those will be available for pick-up after church in the parking lot by the church office. Cash or check payable to Diana Morde.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who attended this past Sunday's Fellowship Meal. We would like to especially thank Faye Beal, Steve Denning, Randy Medford and his grandson Wyatt, and Greg Upchurch for their wonderful help.. We hope you will join us at the next luncheon the last Sunday of March!

- Franz and Jill Bryant

Thank you so much for your many calls, cards, visits, and prayers these last several months. Each time I heard from one of you, it was a real day brightener and a tremendous blessing! Now I am looking forward to rejoining you in person one day soon. Until then, please know that I am continuing to pray for you each day.

- Love in Christ, Elaine Dodson

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)
Tonya Rankin (at the death of her mother, Patsy McDonald)
Kathy Seeger Rhoades (Fred and Marie Seeger's daughter)
Fred Seeger
Lee and Patti Webb
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:

Music Ministry

Music is a vital part of spiritual and communal life. Here at GFBC, we strive to express the diversity of God's beloved community by using a wide variety of music many different traditions. This month, we will experience Rosephanye Powell's The Cry of Jeremiah, performed in collaboration with the NCCU University Choir.

Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible!

Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Lent

✝ 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 | *O Sacred Head/What Wondrous Love* | arr. Reimer

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (A Sanctified Art)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

What is it like to begin again?

It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we find God in our seeking.

May we learn as we go.

May we be brave enough to begin again.

Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

✝ **Gathering Hymn** | *Come, Ye Sinners* (vv. 1-2; pg. 9)

Offertory Prayer | Anthony Warren

Today's color is **purple**, representing repentance and reflection.

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.

† **Doxology** | *Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH* 📖

Praise God, who forms us from the dust.
Praise Christ, who frees us through the cross.
Praise Holy Ghost who drives us on
To meet God in the wilderness. 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** | *Begin Again* (pg. 10)

Scripture Reading | *John 3:1-17* | *Johnny Jackson*

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

Anthem | *Land of the Seeking* (pg. 12)

Sermon | *How do we begin again?* | *Rev. Efird*

Communion | *Rev. Efird* 📖

**Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, we confess that
we have not 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: Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

† **Hymn** | *This is a Day of New Beginnings* (pg. 11)

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *I Am Thine, O Lord* | *arr. Maynard*

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.

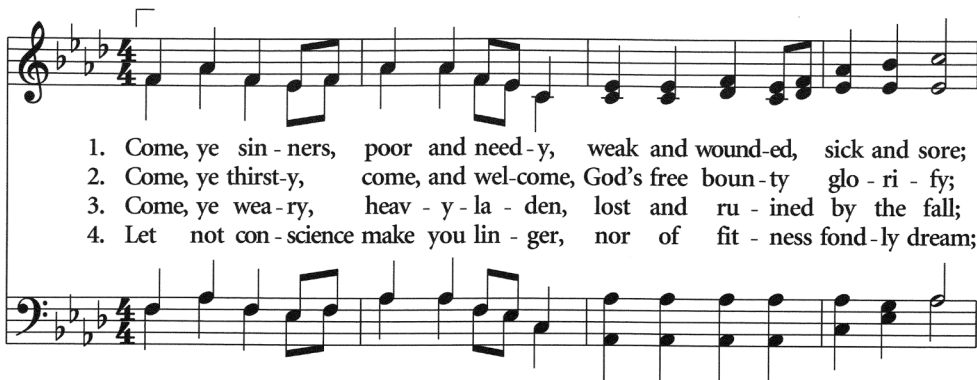
The Prayers of the People

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.

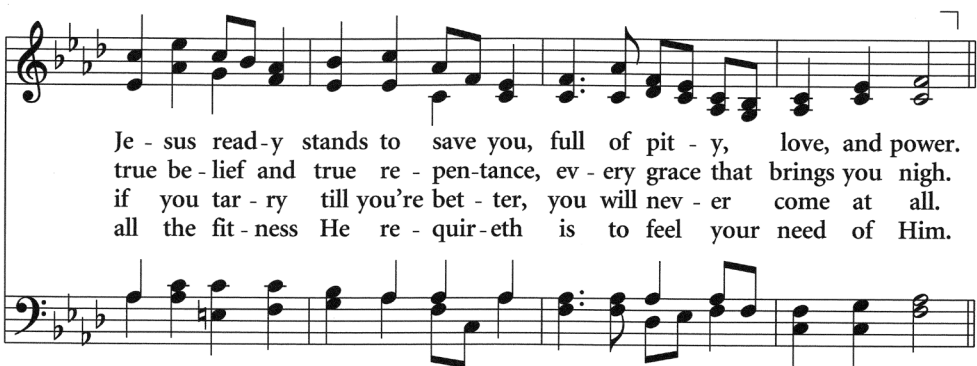
Communion

During Communion, we gather around the table as Christ showed us, to remember and give thanks. We have an open table—all who wish to take Communion are invited. We practice intinction, which means you receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. A gluten-free option is available on the altar.

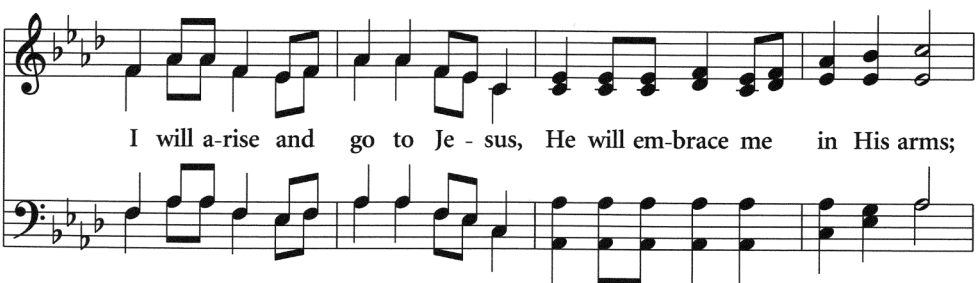
Come, Ye Sinners



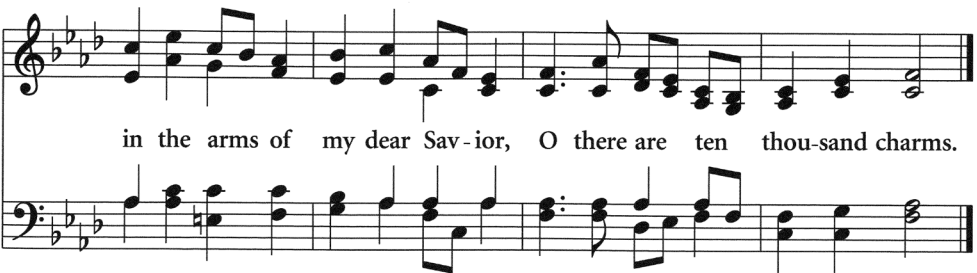
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed, sick and sore;
 2. Come, ye thirst - y, come, and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
 3. Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y - la - den, lost and ru - ined by the fall;
 4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and power.
 true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you night.
 if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.
 all the fit - ness He re - quir - eth is to feel your need of Him.

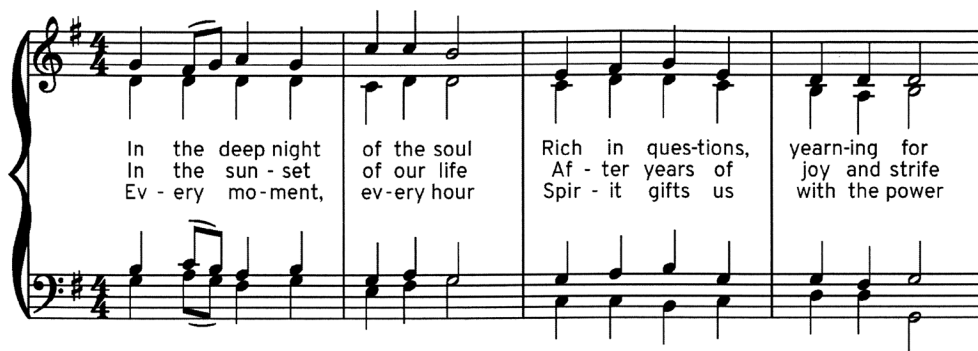


I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me in His arms;



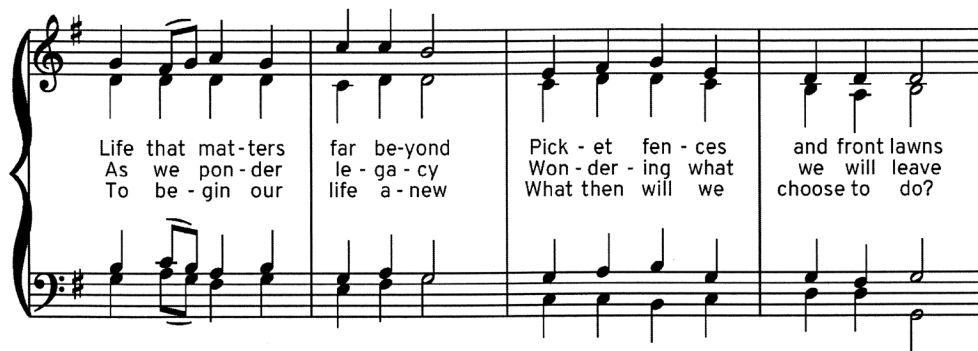
in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

Begin Again



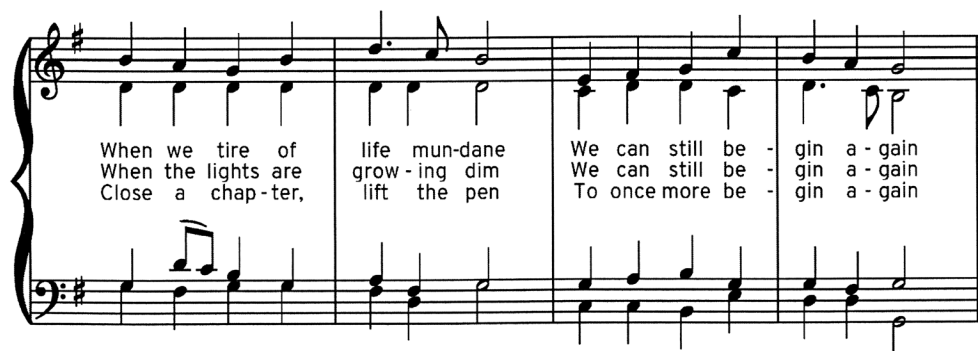
First system of musical notation for 'Begin Again'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staff.

In the deep night of the soul Rich in ques-tions, yearn-ing for
In the sun - set of our life Af - ter years of joy and strife
Ev - ery mo-ment, ev-ery hour Spir - it gifts us with the power



Second system of musical notation for 'Begin Again'. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Life that mat-ters far be-yond Pick - et fen - ces and front lawns
As we pon - der le - ga - cy Won - der - ing what we will leave
To be - gin our life a - new What then will we choose to do?



Third system of musical notation for 'Begin Again'. It concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the staff.

When we tire of life mun-dane We can still be - gin a - gain
When the lights are grow - ing dim We can still be - gin a - gain
Close a chap-ter, lift the pen To once more be - gin a - gain

This is a Day of New Beginnings

Unison

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings, Time to re -
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, Step from the
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us To show and
 5. In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble To taste and

mem - ber and move on, Time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, Can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind Our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, Lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - f'rence, As faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, Seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings; Our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings; Our God is mak - ing all things new.

1,2,3,4 5

Anthem Land of the Seeking

Spencer LaJoye

Evan and Lou Owoc-Edwards

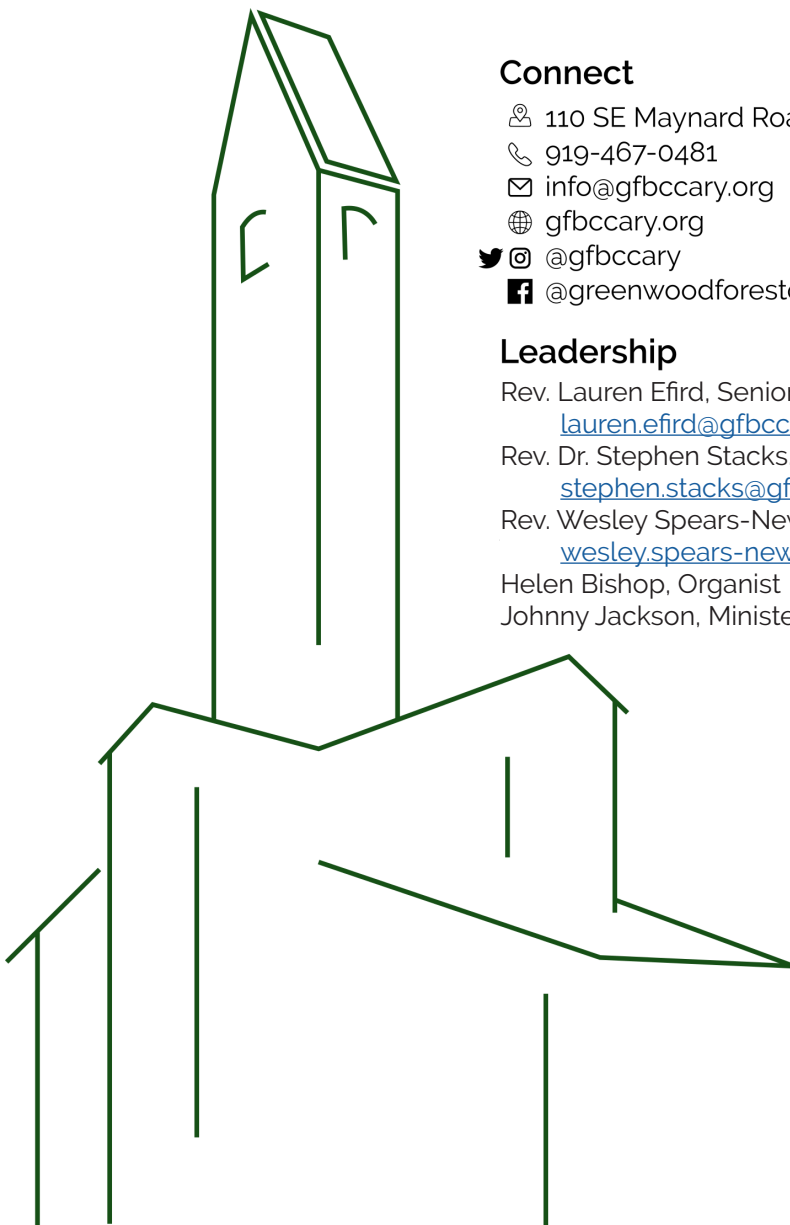
There's a place you can get to without any sound
It's a place where the wick has burned out
There's a place at the point that's past turning around
There is a place to be lost long after you're found
There's a land you can reach if you follow yourself
It's a land beyond hoarding your fears so to quell
There's a land where the bottom falls out of the well
There is a land where your worry and wonder can dwell

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties
There is room for these in the land of the seeking*

Draw a map without borders and see where you go
In the cover of night, call a question a home
Past the edge of defenses you're never alone
There is a place where your worries and wonder are known

The compass points straight to the heart of a shadow of a doubt
The key is the most honest thing that you can't speak aloud
There is no wrong way to be unsure of things
There is no wrong way to the land of the seeking

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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
