

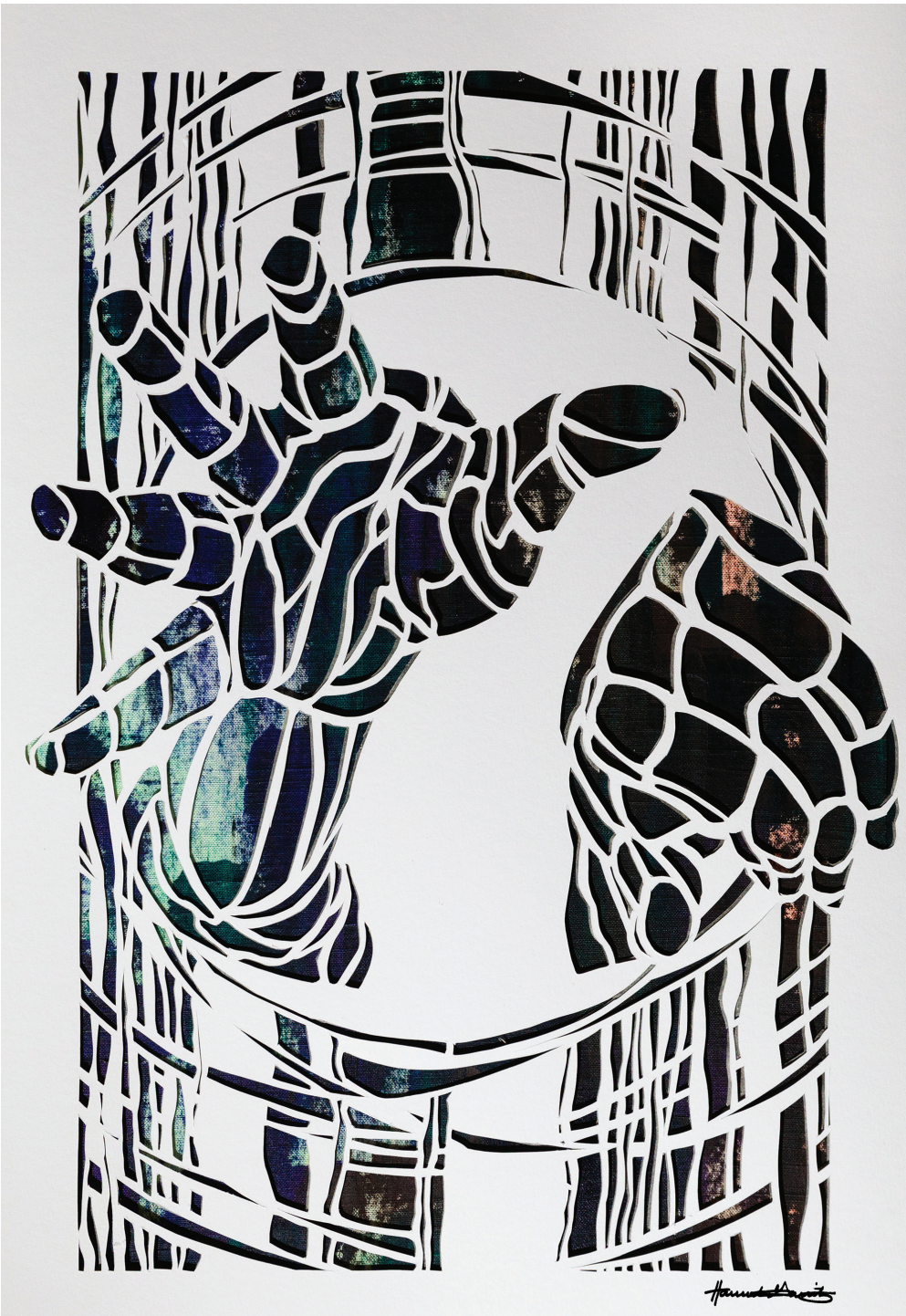


Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 26, 2023



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Artist Statement Unbind Him

Hannah Garrity | Inspired by John 11:1-45

Paper lace over oil paint on linen

As I met with this text, I was drawn to Jesus' call for Lazarus to be unbound. To represent the fabrics used in preparation for burial, I wrapped a canvas in linen. You're not really supposed to do that. The canvas was already stretched and gessoed. It was ready to resist the oil paint medium I was applying. However, the texture of the binding cloth matters for this tactile text. I began to scrape the paint onto the woven strands. The linen fabric absorbed the paint as I scraped it on with a palette knife. In the final image, the linen shows through the paint and the paper lace design, representing the bindings.

Jesus' call for unbinding also includes the community. The foreshortened hands of the community, tasked with unbinding his body, reach in toward Lazarus. They reach through the concentric binding lines so that he can go free. Can these bones live?

In the strength of community, they can. The community made up of Jews, Gentiles, Samaritans, and others all joined one another at the tomb to grieve for Lazarus that day. They came to support Mary and Martha. Jesus arrives as the community mourns together. Jesus cries in his grief. Their collective tears create the backdrop for this paper lace design. This diverse and neighborly community is who Jesus calls on to do the unbinding. Jesus makes sure that the community knows about this miracle so that they can share the news. Can these bones live? Lazarus lives, and Jesus' miracle lives on in the telling.

—Hannah Garrity





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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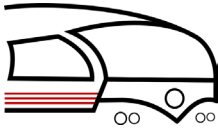
Church Finance Update

In August of 2022, we approved a budget that included the expectation of \$600,000 to be given in congregational receipts. As of February 28, 2023 (halfway through the budget year that began on September 1, 2022), we have received \$257,550 in congregational receipts, which is \$42,450 less than what we committed to giving.

With 152 giving units (adult members with coupled adults being counted as one unit), we have more than enough capacity to reach our commitment of \$600,000. For instance, if all 152 giving units gave \$4,000 dollars per year or \$75 dollars per week, we would reach our goal. (\$4,000 dollars a year is a tithe on an income of \$40,000/year). While we know that some have the capacity to give less and some have the capacity to give more than this average, we CAN reach this average as a congregation.

It is important that we all look at what we are currently giving and do our part to sustain the mission of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church. 45% of our giving units have contributed less than \$500 dollars since the start of our budget year. Of that 45%, 34% have not contributed to this year's budget. We invite your full, enthusiastic participation in what makes this inclusive community of faith possible, and that includes giving of your tithes and offerings. We are excited about the work of ministry we are doing together and the meaningful ways Greenwood Forest shows up in the community.

We hope that you will consider contributing or increasing your contributions in a way that will ensure we can be a presence in Cary for many years to come. If you need assistance setting up an automatic gift to the church, or altering your current automatic gift, please contact the church office.



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



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

Holy Week Events

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!

Fellowship Lunch (3/26)

We'll have another Fellowship Meal after worship on March 26 hosted by Franz and Jill Bryant. The cost for the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids with proceeds going to the Organ Fund. We hope to see you there!

Children's Egg Hunt

April 2, 12pm following worship

Following worship on April 2, the Children's Ministry Team will host an egg hunt for preschool through elementary school children. Make plans to join us!

Trans Day of Visibility

March 31, 7-8pm in the Sanctuary

Trans Day of Visibility is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and their contributions as well as highlighting the ways discrimination affects their lives. PRIDE of Cary, a local LGBTQ-supportive group that meets at GFBC, will be hosting a special event that includes a Q&A on Trans Day of Visibility. We hope that you'll join us as we celebrate trans people and raise awareness of the issues facing them today.

GFBC Dinner Theatre

On May 19, the Music Ministry will host a Dinner Theater to benefit the organ fund and we are looking for Broadway stars! If you would like to audition, please prepare a 1-minute excerpt of a song of your choice. We will hold auditions on March 29 from 6:30 to 7pm and 8 to 8:30pm and April 5 (at the same times).

Building A Clean Out

If you have been storing any personal items in Building A, they need to be removed by the end of March. The Properties Committee will be cleaning out the building in early April. Please contact Randy Medford or Rev. Stephen Stacks if you have any questions or need to access the building to retrieve anything.

Announcements Church Events and Updates

Thank the Town of Cary

It's budget season! Last season the Cary Town Council voted for an historic \$9 million investment in affordable housing. \$5 million of this investment was from one-off federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. \$4 million of this investment was local funding, which could be continued into FY 23/24 if the Council decides to continue funding.

ONE Wake is running a letter/email campaign to make sure that our current Town Council knows that there is a broad base of support for their past decision on affordable housing funding, as well as support for continued funding into the next fiscal year.

Please join us in sending Town Council a THANK YOU for last year's allocation, and a request to continue the local \$4 million in new local funding for affordable housing. Visit https://www.onewake.org/cary_email_action for a sample email and form to contact the Cary Town Council. Make your voice heard!

Blood Drive Appointments Available

The annual blood drive will be on June 2, 2023. You can mark your calendars now and even make appointments at the [Red Cross website](#). Use the sponsor code "Greenwood" on the website to find the blood drive hosted at the church.

Second (Last!) Chance for Bluebird Boxes

Last month, Diana Morde managed a fundraiser for the Organ Fund with Bluebird Boxes with great success! If you missed the chance to get a Bluebird Box, you get a second chance (and last chance!) at the Fellowship Lunch on March 26. We'll have signup sheets at the lunch or you can contact Diana directly with the contact information below:

Diana Morde
919-801-7433
dianamorde@yahoo.com

Work Anniversary

From the Personnel Committee:

March 24 marks Karen Burden's 9th year as our Office Administrator. Karen is often the first face you see when you visit the church during the week. She is critical in ensuring our church functions from day to day and we are forever grateful for her hard work. If you happen to call or swing by the church office this week be sure to give Karen an extra, "thank you!" for all her efforts.

Missing Table Cloths

We can't seem to find the table cloths for the round tables for the Fellowship Hall. If you've seen them, please contact us!

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)
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)
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 experienced a performance of 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 Fifth 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 | *Ah, Holy Jesus* | arr. Butler

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) | Johnny Jackson

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

So, come. Rest your weary bones.

Let us worship Holy God.

Invocation | Johnny Jackson

✝ **Gathering Hymn** | *What Wondrous Love Is This* (pg. 10)

Offertory Prayer | Chris Cook

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** | *Spirit of the Living God* (pg. 13)

Scripture Reading | *John 11:1-44* | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

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

Anthem | *Skeleton Bones* | *John Mark McMillan* (pg. 14)

Sermon | *Can These Bones Live?* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Can These Bones Live* (pg. 11) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Agnus Dei, Bizet* | *arr. L. Smith*

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!

What Wondrous Love is This

Unison

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing; to
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 down be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my
 Lamb Who is the great "I Am," while mil-lions join the theme, I will
 free I'll sing and joy - ful be; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

Can These Bones Live

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: John Goss (1869)

When the past is dead and bu - ried
 When our hearts are bowed in sor - row
 When our spi - rits feel so bro - ken

Life - less in the bar - ren ground
 And the Wrapped in grief is new - ly wrought
 in lin - ens and en - tombed
 What good Cry - ing
 With - out

can e - merge from ash - es?
 "If you'd on - ly been here"
 hope and with - out feel - ing
 Where can Weep - ing
 As the an - y
 for what storm clouds

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life we 'round be have us found? lost loom Breathe in Re - sur - Hear the deep rect words the our of rush - ing hearts and life from

Spi - rit spi - rits Je - sus Life is Liv - ing out, "Come out, grow - ing God whom be un - all we bound" a - round alt bloom

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Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me; Spir - it of the

liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me,

fill me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God

Anthem Skeleton Bones

John Mark McMillan

GFBC Praise Band

Peel back our ribs again
And stand inside of our chest.
We just wanna' love you
We just wanna' love you

Peel back the veil of time
And let us see you with our naked eyes
We just wanna' love you
We just wanna' love you

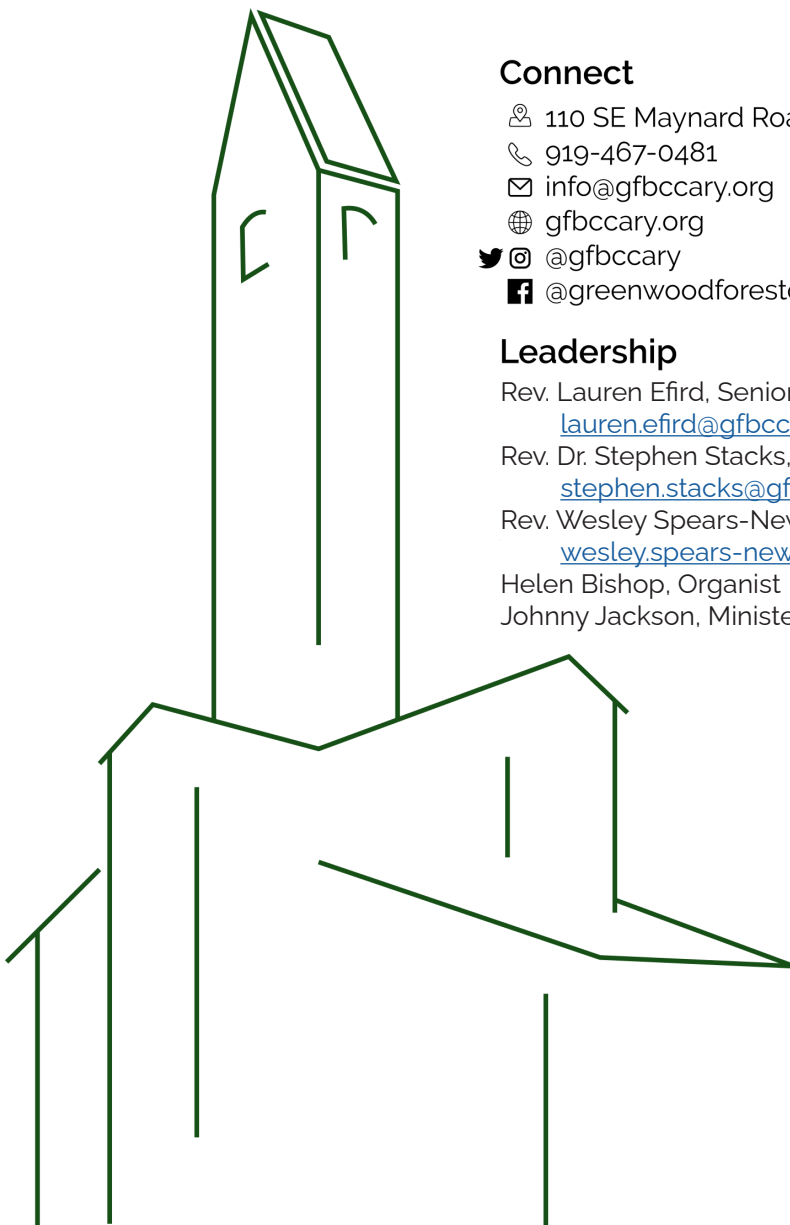
We want your blood to flow inside our body
We want your wind inside our lungs
We just wanna' love you
We just wanna' love you

Skeleton bones stand at the sound
Of eternity on the lips of the found
And gravestones roll
To the rhythm of the sound of you
Skeleton bones stand at the sound
Of eternity on the lips of the found
So separate those doors
And let the sun of resurrection in

Oh let us adore the
Son of Glory dressed in love
Open up your gates before him
Crown him,
Stand him up

We want your blood to flow inside our body
We want your wind inside our lungs
We just wanna' love you
We just wanna' love you

Skeleton bones stand at the sound
Of eternity on the lips of the found
And gravestones roll
To the rhythm of the sound of you
Everything that breathes
Everything that breathes, yeah



Connect

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Leadership

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Johnny Jackson, Ministerial Intern
