



Πρίσκιλλα καὶ Ἀκύλας



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 7, 2023



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Greenwood Forest  
Baptist Church

an inclusive  
community  
of faith

# Welcome

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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](http://gfbccary.org)



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



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



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

# Announcements Church Events and Updates

## ***Dinner Theater (5/19)***

You are cordially invited to be our guest at a special night of music and fine food at GFBC on May 19 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall! Steve Denning (head chef) and Stephen Stacks (sous chef) will prepare a multiple course meal and the evening will feature a Broadway Revue put on by B.J. Facemire and the GFBC Music Ministry. Tickets are available for a suggest donation of \$75 and all proceeds will go to the organ fund as we prepare to complete our long-awaited renovation. You can purchase tickets at [gfbccary.org/dinnertheater](http://gfbccary.org/dinnertheater). Do not miss this incredible evening—register now!

## ***Blood Drive (6/2)***

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.

## ***Freedom School***

We’ll be hosting a special Faith Formation series on faith and freedom movements May 7, 14, 21, and June 4. The curriculum is designed to prepare Freedom Riders for their trip this summer, but everyone in the church is invited to attend if they are interested! Freedom School will meet in Room C221.

## ***Easter Egg Fundraiser***

In the Narthex, you’ll find 100 Easter Eggs that are a part of raising funds for our Freedom Riders’ trip to Alabama this summer. Here’s how it works: all the eggs have a dollar amount in them between \$1 and \$100 (no repeated amounts). Draw an egg and donate that money to the Freedom Ride at [gfbccary.org/give](http://gfbccary.org/give) or by check. Either way write “Freedom Ride Egg” in the memo line. But wait, there’s more! Each egg contains a prize from a Freedom Ride sticker and some candy up to a GFBC mug or a Freedom Ride t-shirt. You can donate more than once to increase your shot at a bigger prize!

## ***The Greenwood App***

A greenwood is a forest that is filled with life and abundance and that is what we hope for in your spiritual life. As a tool for you, we’ve developed an app called The Greenwood that you can use on your spiritual journey. The Greenwood includes most of the practices and disciplines we explored together on the Discipleship Retreat this year, daily prayer for each day of the week, and access to all of our available discipleship resources. The Greenwood is available in the Google Play store and coming soon to the Apple App Store (Apple users can access a preview right now at [gfbccary.org/app](http://gfbccary.org/app)).

## ***Calling All Graduates!***

Graduation Sunday is on June 11! We want to recognize all our graduates alongside our high school seniors, so please email Wes ([wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org)) and let him know your school and degree if you’ve graduated since last summer.

# 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  
Dan Barboriak (friend of Valerie Brooks)  
Gilles Bikindou  
Valerie Brooks  
Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)  
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)  
Elaine Dodson  
Vanna Fox  
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)  
Tayo Ogundipe (at the death of his sister)  
Diedre Scofield Queen (friend of Valerie Brooks)  
Fred Seeger  
Lee and Patti Webb  
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](http://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:**

#### **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're presenting pieces from Broadway musicals at a Dinner Theater to benefit the completion of the organ renovation! We can't make this happen without you, so be sure to sign up to come at [fbccary.org/dinnertheater](http://fbccary.org/dinnertheater). The suggested donation is \$75 for a four-course meal and a show, but give what you can!*

# Order of Worship Fifth Sunday of Easter

† 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** | *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* | arr. Berry

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16)** | Rev. Spears-Newsome

In you, O LORD, we seek refuge;

**Do not let us ever be put to shame;**

in your righteousness,

**Deliver us!**

Incline your ear to us; rescue us speedily.

**Be a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save us.**

You are indeed our rock and fortress;

**For your name's sake lead us and guide us,**

Take us out of the net that is hidden for us,

**For you are our refuge.**

Into your hand we commit our spirits;

**You have redeemed us, O LORD, faithful God.**

Our times are in your hand;

**Deliver us from the hand of enemies and persecutors.**

Let your face shine upon your servants;

**Save us in your steadfast love!**

**Invocation** | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | *Lift High the Cross* (v. 1 & 2; pg. 6)

**Offertory Prayer** | Carol Carter

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of the resurrection.

## 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: 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. 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** | *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story* (pg. 7)

**Scripture Reading** | *Acts 18:1-11* | *Johnny Jackson*  
The word of God for us, the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *Cantique de Jean Racine* (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | *Off the Beaten Path with Priscilla and Acquilla* | *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** | *Come, Share the Lord* (pg. 9) 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* | *Jamaican Folk Melody*

**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.

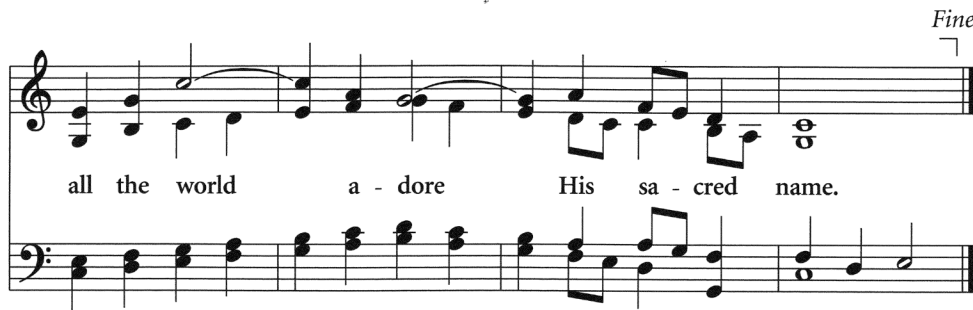
# Lift High the Cross

*Unison*



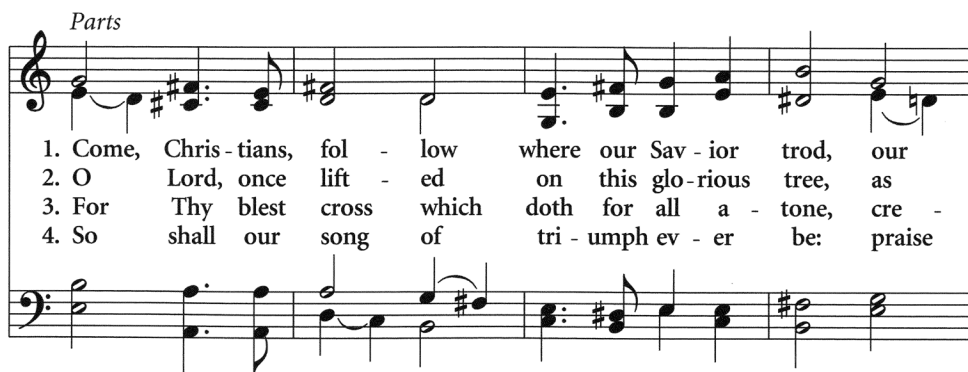
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till

*Fine*



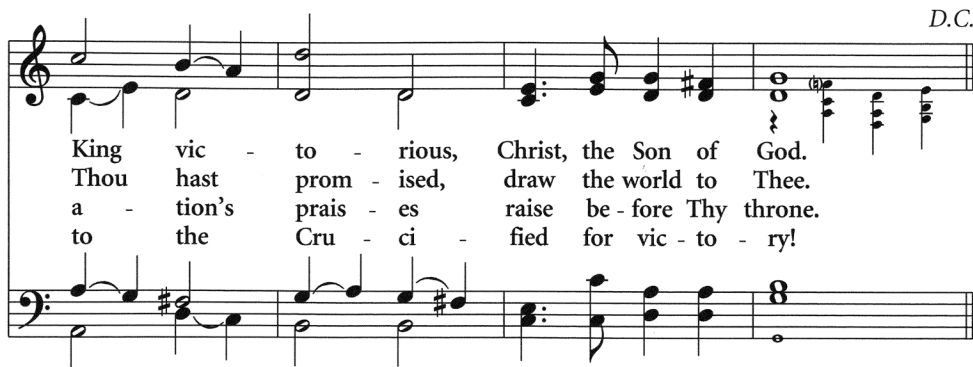
all the world adore His sacred name.

*Parts*



1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod, our
2. O Lord, once lifted on this glorious tree, as
3. For Thy blest cross which doth for all atone, cre-
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise

*D.C.*



King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
Thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to Thee.  
a - tion's prais - es raise be - fore Thy throne.  
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

# I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

1. I will sing the wondrous story of the  
2. I was bruised, but Je - sus healed me; faint was  
3. He will keep me till the riv - er rolls its

Christ who died for me: how He left His home in  
I from man - ya fall; sight was gone, and fears pos -  
wa - ters at my feet; then He'll bear me safe - ly

glo - ry for the cross of Cal - va - ry.  
sessed me, but He freed me from them all.  
o - ver, where the loved ones I shall meet.

I was lost, but Je - sus found me, found the sheep that  
Days of dark - ness still come o'er me, sor - row's paths I  
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous sto - ry of the Christ who



went a - stray, threw His lov - ing arms a -  
of - ten tread, but the Sav - ior still is  
died for me, sing it with the saints in

round me, drew me back in - to His way.  
with me; by His hand I'm safe - ly led.  
glo - ry, gath - ered by the crys - tal sea.

# Come, Share the Lord

1. We gath - er here in Je - sus' name, His love is  
 2. He joins us here, He breaks the bread, the Lord who  
 3. We'll gath - er soon where an - gels sing; we'll see the

burn - ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame; for through the  
 pours the cup is ris - en from the dead; the one we  
 glo - ry of our Lord and com - ing King; now we an -

lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one: come, take the  
 love the most is now our gra - cious host: come, take the  
 tic - i - pate the feast for which we wait: come, take the

bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.  
 bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.  
 bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

# **Anthem** Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Faure

O Redeemer divine,  
Our sole hope of salvation,  
Eternal light of the earth and the sky,  
we kneel in adoration,  
O Savior, turn on us thy loving eye.

Send down on us the fire of thy grace all consuming,  
whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell,  
and rouse our slumbering souls with thy radiance,  
that they may waken thy mercy to tell.

O Christ bestow your blessing on us, we implore thee,  
who here are gathered on penitent knee,  
Accept the hymns we chant to thine everlasting glory  
and these thy gifts we return unto thee!

## **Bulletin Art** Priscilla and Aquila

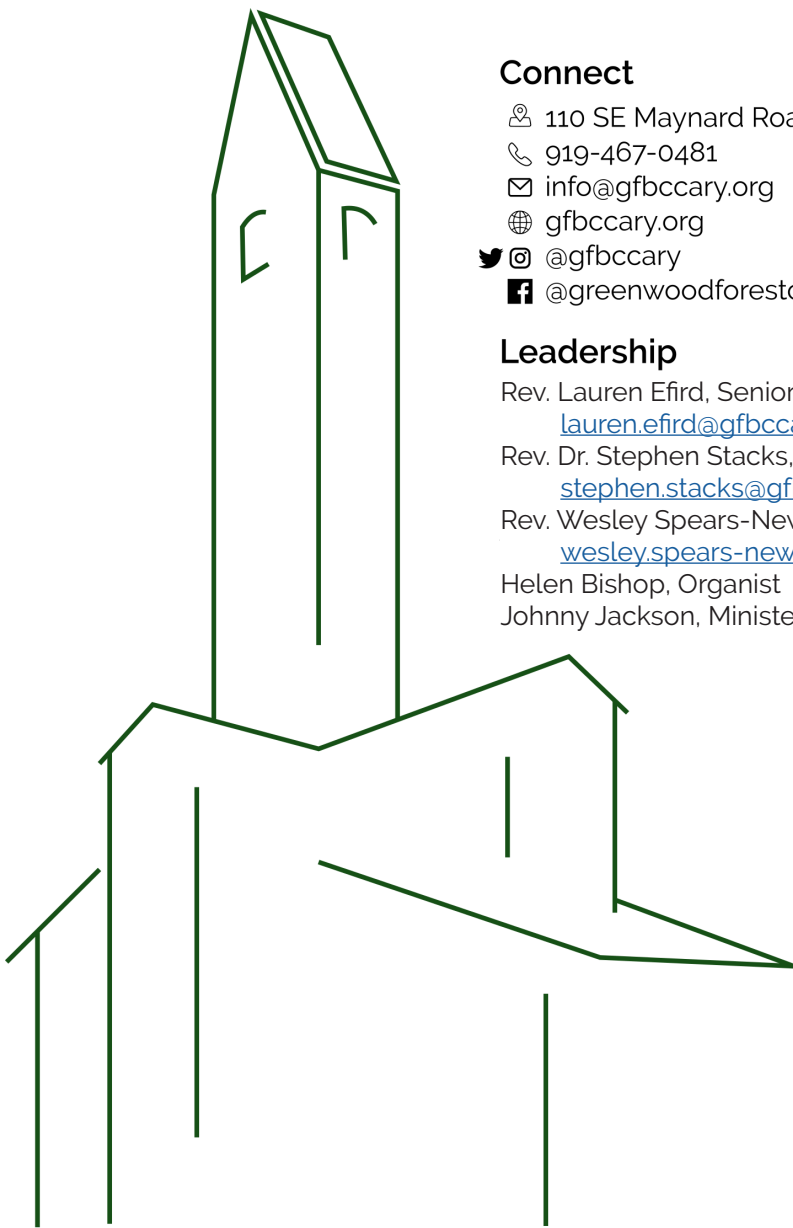
Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Digital Collage inspired by Acts 18:1-11

I came across this image of Priscilla and Aquila reading either sacred texts or potentially a New Testament epistle. That Priscilla is holding the text while Aquila looks on represents the radical nature of their partnership. Priscilla is mentioned before Aquila when they come up in the New Testament all but one time, a rare occurrence in literature of the time, suggesting that she had great prominence in her own right. Other New Testament letters suggest that she was most likely the regular pastor of a house-based congregation. She and her husband were good friends with Paul as well as teacher to Apollos, another prominent early Christian teacher. Some scholars even speculate that Priscilla may be the author of the anonymous Epistle to the Hebrews in the New Testament.

The rest of the collage takes some nods from Orthodox iconography. The gold in the background and the presence of saintly halos around Priscilla and Aquilla come from that tradition, as does the red frame and presence of their names in Greek. Orthodox icons are meant to be windows to another, more heavenly reality, and they highlight people of great importance to our own spiritual lives. Incorporating some elements from that technique seemed fitting because while Priscilla and Aquila may not be the most well-known biblical characters, their contributions mean we owe them a great deal and there's much we can learn from them.

- Rev. Spears-Newsome



## Connect

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## Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Johnny Jackson, Ministerial Intern

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