



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

Sept. 10, 2023



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art

The Laying On of Hands Is a Time Honored Ritual (1997)

Edgar Sorrells-Adewale (USA, b. 1936)

This color offset lithograph by Sorrells-Adewale gives the impression of the religious ritual by which we consecrate individuals and commission them, or by which we pray for them. The text in the bottom right-hand corner reads:

The laying on of hands is a time honored ritual regarding the awakening of insight. It's motion is the inexorable twinness of the serpent and its wisdom is the ability to see what's hidden in plain view.

The piece is at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Pennsylvania and carries this description:

The "laying on of hands" describes the action of a priest or other spiritual figure who physically touches a person or object of concern during a ritual. This act may be a symbolic or formal method of invoking spiritual intervention and is used in various religious practices throughout the world. Such rituals are typically focused on healing, blessings, or church-related sacraments.



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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Meet the 2023-2024 Deacon Board

Steve Denning, Chair



Born and raised in Cary; Campbell College graduate; not yet retired from IT practice (also a CPA). Married to the very patient Vivian, have been blessed with two children, one daughter-in-law, one grandchild and wonderful pets along the way. Enjoy cooking & spirits, woodworking, motorcycles, exercise, and reading. Have attended Greenwood Forest since 1999. Served as chair or member of Properties Committee and Technology Committee since 2000; at various times a member of most other committees. Have been a Faith Formation leader since 2011; served as a Deacon 2004-2007, 2015-2018, 2022-2024, and enjoy singing in the choir. This is a great place to grow your spirit.

Tim Carr, At-Large



My family transferred to the Triangle in 1996 and joined GFBC. I served on the Properties Committee and Deacon Board and my son Daniel engaged in the children's ministry and youth group. Many of his long-time friendships were formed in Alpha & Omega. After his graduation, we became involved in a church closer to home; I rejoined GFBC in April 2021. My current charge is overseeing the Property Repurposing Project. This is a very rewarding role as I'm able to share God-given talents and experience in design and construction program management. I am currently responsible for real estate development and facility management for the YMCA of the Triangle.

Carol Carter, Congregational Care



I joined GFBC in 1988 with my husband Greg and our three young children. I first served in the nursery on Sundays and Wednesdays. After a few years, I joined Greg in a couples Faith Formation class and began working with GAS on Wednesdays. I also served teaching 2nd grade Faith Formation, with the HOPE Group, the WMU, and as a wedding director for the church. Through the years, Greg and I watched and worked with our children as they were in our children's and youth ministries. Now, I've come full circle with the different age groups and programs at GFBC and belong to the Generations Faith Formation class and serve as chair of the Congregational Care Ministry.

Andy Jarrell, Personnel



I've been a member of the church since 2014 and been fortunate to serve in a variety of ways. I've taught Faith Formation classes for most of my time here, served on numerous committees, and am currently leading the Agape Faith Formation class. I grew up in the Baptist church as my father was a Baptist music minister and my mother was the organist. Church has always been an integral part of my family's life. My wife, Megan, also leads in many capacities and my two teenagers, Brooks and Anna Claire, are very involved, too. It is an honor to serve the GFBC community and I can't imagine life without it.

Natalie Patten, At-Large



I was born in Elon, NC and grew up attending First Baptist Church in Burlington. A born and bred Tarheel, I went to UNC Chapel Hill for undergrad and then moved to Washington D.C. to study at American University. I met my husband Brian there, and we moved back to NC in late 2018. Our 3-year-old daughter, Kathleen, keeps us busy, but in my ever-elusive free time, I enjoy ballet, piano, weekend getaways, and reading. I became a member of Greenwood Forest in 2019, and I currently teach the preschool faith formation, serve on the children's ministry committee, and direct the handbell choir. I am honored and excited to be a first-time deacon here, and I look forward to serving alongside you.

Ken Scott, Finance



We were members of GFBC from 2000 until I was transferred to Charlotte in 2013. I was finance chair for two years prior to our move. We returned to the Triangle (and GFBC) in 2020, a couple of years after my retirement from a career in finance. I have an MBA from UVA. My wife, Donna, and I have two adult daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren. I am currently serving as a member of the Finance Committee and as choir music librarian.

Sally Shaver, At-Large



I grew up in the church and have always loved attending church. I love the music - all kinds, and find that it enhances my worship experience. I have been a member of GFBC since 1995 and have enjoyed working with children's choirs and singing in the adult choir. I have also served as a deacon previously and have served on several committees.

Announcements Church Events and Updates



Cary Council Candidate Assembly at GFBC 9/18

Join hundreds of neighbors across Cary to publicly meet with candidates for Town Council. The fall election represents a major opportunities to win commitments from candidates, including:

- supporting fair compensation for the 140+ families likely to be displaced from the Chatham Estates mobile home community;
- ensuring that the redevelopment of town campus includes affordable housing;
- renewing or expanding the \$9 million affordable housing fund we won last year;
- support for ONE Wake member institutions in Cary that are developing affordable housing on church-owned land.

RSVP at gfbccary.org/onewake.

Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies ministry will again deliver food bags weekly to children at Farmington Woods and Briarcliff Elementary Schools this year. Your donations to the Backpack Buddies fund are appreciated and make this possible.

We will be packing bags the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00am. If you'd like to receive a reminder before each packing date, email Judy Vaccaro at judyvaccaro@gmail.com. Packing takes about an hour and there is no commitment, just come on the dates that fit your schedule. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

Join the Handbell Choir!

The handbell choir is recruiting new ringers for the Fall! All levels of experience and musical abilities are welcome. Rehearsals will start in September. Please contact Natalie Patten (nhpatten@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Wonder Room and Rainbow Room Open House (September 17)

We'll have a special open house for new families with children in the Rainbow Room (preschool and nursery) and the Wonder Room (K-5) on September 17th at 9:45am! If there's been someone you've wanted to invite to church with children, this would be a great week to do that! We'll have donuts available and a picnic lunch after worship (12pm) for families to play and get to know each other.

Ingathering of Pledges

This Sunday (September 10), we'll be bringing our pledge cards forward in an ingathering during communion. If you didn't receive your pledge cards in the mail, we'll have some available in the Narthex before worship. An ingathering is an offering of support for the community of faith. Simply place your cards on the altar before coming to receive communion.

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 Averde
Gilles Bikindou
Mary George Brewer
Valerie Brooks
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Anjar Hossain (friend of Kevin Schaefer)
Tony Izador (family of Roz Slawson)
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Fred Seeger
Eddie Stewart (friend of Diana Morde)
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 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:

Children's and Youth Ministries

As our younger members return to school, it's a great time to give thanks for our Children's and Youth Ministries! Our children meet in the Rainbow Room (Nursery and Preschool) and the Wonder Room (K-5) on Sunday mornings in creative and discovery-oriented spaces.

Our youth meet in what they christened The Youth House for Faith Formation on Sunday mornings and for Alpha & Omega (youth group) on Sunday afternoons. Our kids are amazing participants in our community and **your gifts make their formation possible!**

Order of Worship 15th Sunday after Pentecost

✝ 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 | *Listen God Is Calling* | arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Efird*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (by Joanie Thurman Williams)

Gentle and patient

God, you are calling.

Careful and persistent

God, you are calling.

In grieving and in praise

God, you are calling.

Through dawn and midday

God, you are calling.

Unexpected and planned

God, you are calling.

In a still small voice and in power

God, you are calling.

Spontaneous and prepared

God, you are calling.

Willing or protected

God, you are calling.

Our God is eager to share with us, wherever we are in our journey. May we be diligent to listen.

God, you are calling.

Invocation | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

✝ **Hymn** | *Let Us Build a House* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | *Steve Denning*

Today's color is **green**, representing growth and new life.

Flower Dedication

The flowers are in memory of Emerson Deese, provided by his family.

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* 📖

Transcendent God, we bless your name,
Incarnate Christ, the risen one,
The Spirit with us, Immanent,
The Source, the Word, the Breath of Life! Amen.

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** | *Spirit of the Living God* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Acts 6:1-6* | *Kevin Schaefer*

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

Anthem | *The Fruits of the Spirit* (pg. 10)

Deacon Testimony | *Natalie Patten*

Deacon Ordination and Laying on of Hands

Commissioning of the New Deacon Board

† **Communion and Ingathering** | *Rev. Efirid* 📖

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** | *Here I Am, Lord* (pg. 9)

Benediction | *Rev. Efirid*

Postlude | *Come Just as You Are* | *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

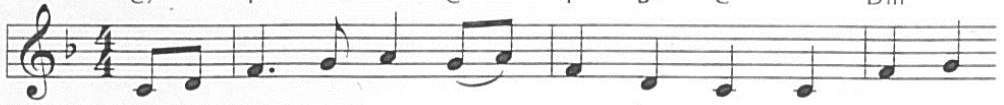
This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

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.

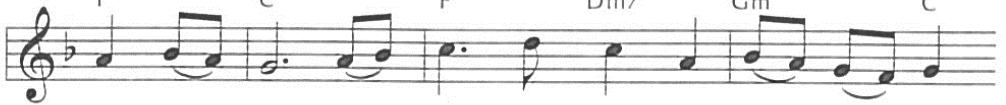
Let Us Build a House

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



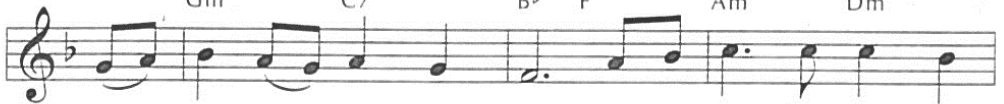
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 stran - ger bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B \flat A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B \flat F (C7)

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

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.

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night,
they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
My hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro-vide

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear My
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak My
till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give My

light to them? Whom shall I send?
 word to them. Whom shall I send?
 life to them. Whom shall I send?

Parts (optional)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You call - ing in the night. (in the night.)

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your peo - ple in my heart.

Anthem The Fruit of the Spirit

Abe Cáceres, World House Music

Refrain: First time choir or solo, thereafter with congregation

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is the refrain, which is repeated twice. The second staff is a choral or solo interlude. The third staff is the continuation of the refrain. The fourth staff is another choral or solo interlude. The fifth and sixth staves are the final two lines of the refrain. The seventh staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

Love, Joy, Peace Pa - tience, Kind - ness, Good-ness

Faith - ful - ness, Gen - tle - ness, Self - con - trol

Such are the fruit of the Spi - rit.

Love, Joy, Peace Pa - tience, Kind - ness, Good - ness

Faith - ful - ness, Gen - tle - ness, Self - con - trol A - gainst these

there is no law.

After the choral or solo interlude, the refrain is sung again by all.



Connect

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Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

lauren.efird@gfbccary.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Dr. Abe Cáceres, Sabbatical Worship Leader
