



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

Oct. 8, 2023



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art Detail from "Moses"

John August Swanson

John August Swanson comes from a Swedish and Mexican heritage and currently lives in Los Angeles, California where he paints in oil, watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media. He is also an independent print maker. He cites as major influences the imagery of Islamic and medieval miniatures, Russian iconography, the color of Latin American folk art, and the tradition of Mexican muralists. The detail on the cover of the bulletin comes from a painting called "Moses" depicting the Scripture reading for today. Swanson pairs it with two sentences in the full work (which you can find and purchase at johnaugustswanson.com): "Moses raised his staff and struck the rock twice. Water gushed forth, and the community was able to drink" from Numbers 20:11 (a second occurrence of the miracle in today's Scripture) and a quote from Pope Francis' climate-focused encyclical: "Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival."



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.

CONTENTS

- 3 | Announcements
- 4 | Community Notes
- 5 | Order of Worship
- 7 | Songbook

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



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



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

Announcements Church Events and Updates

Young Adult Event at Vicious Fishes in Apex

This Sunday, October 8, Greenwood Forest will have a special fellowship event for young adults at Vicious Fishes in Apex from 4-6pm. Come for fellowship and a good time with other church members!

Rev. Efir's Anniversary

October 2 marked Rev. Lauren Efir's 12th year of being on staff at GFBC. On October 23, we celebrate Rev Efir's 7th year as our senior pastor. We appreciate all Lauren continues to do to lead us forward as a church community. Be sure to tell Lauren thank you for all she does!

Also know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month and on October 15 all our ministers will be with us again in worship!

Fall Festival on Oct. 29!

Our annual Fall Festival will be on October 29 at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall and outside. Bluegrass Battleship will be playing music!

We'll have our annual chili cook-off, as well. If you'd like to sign up, visit gfbccary.org/chili23. There will be a children's bake-off and a youth baking competition, as well! Those do not require advance sign-ups.

We can't wait for you to join us!

Youth on Retreat

Our youth are out this week on their fall retreat in the North Carolina mountains. Pray for them as they spend quality time together and engage in this time of fun and focused

3 discipleship.

Let's hear your stories!

For the 60th Anniversary Celebration, we are collecting stories from the congregation of highlights of the past sixty years. What is an experience you've had at GFBC that you're grateful for? What was a high water mark for you? What memories, friends, and experiences do you treasure the most? We're looking for stories between 250-750 words to be shared in a collection with the congregation on November 19 at our celebration. Email stories to Rev. Spears-Newsome at wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org.

YMCA Day of Giving

Rev. Efir will be cycling from 3 to 3:30pm in the Taylor YMCA lobby to help the the Taylor Family Executive Director, David Heggie, get in 100 miles, for the YMCA's Day of Giving. Come cheer them on and/or consider a gift to the YMCA's annual campaign to support the subsidized after school program and summer camps offered to children in the neighborhoods surrounding our church.

Visit: <https://give.ymcatriangle.org/campaign/2023-taylor-and-nw-cary/c494505>

The Taylor YMCA is a partner in our property repurposing project, as they are hoping to offer after-care for GFCC in the new building so we can better serve the families in our community. We look forward to years of partnership in the future!

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
Toni Beal at the death of her stepfather,
Kevin Bergan
Gilles Bikindou
Mary George Brewer
Valerie Brooks
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Barbara Dial (sister of Carol Carter)
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)
Katheron E. Palmer (mother of Randy Palmer)
Fred Seeger
Felice Short (mother of Jennifer Whaley)
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:

Outreach Ministry

GFBC's presence in the community goes far beyond mission projects and partnerships! We host multiple recovery groups, community choirs, the PRIDE of Cary group, and more. People from all across the community connect with our space, our people, and our leadership outside of Sunday morning and Cary wouldn't be the same without these relationships. Keep an eye out for Outreach-sponsored events this fall, like the Fall Festival next month! **Your gifts make this ministry possible!**

Order of Worship 19th 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 | *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* | arr. Walther

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 78) | Dr. Abe Cáceres

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

Things that we have heard and known,

That our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;

We will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD,

We will tell of God's might,

And the wonders that God has done.

God established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,

Which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,

And rise up and tell them to their children,

So that they should set their hope in God,

And not forget God's works, but keep God's commandments.

Invocation | Dr. Abe Cáceres

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

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.

† **Hymn** | *God of Past, Who By Your Spirit* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | *Sally Shaver*

Offertory | *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* | arr. Berry 📖

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

The Prayers of the People | *Rev. Amanda Warren* 📖

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 Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Exodus 17:1-7* | *Leta Huntsinger*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *The Road Home* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* | arr. Braman

The Offertory

During the offertory music, we pass plates across the pews as a way to make our collective offering to God and the wellbeing of this community.

The Doxology

A “doxology” is a short hymn that usually praises the Trinity. We sing the doxology as we 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!

God of Past, Who By Your Spirit

1. God of past, who by Your Spir - it, led Your peo - ple
2. God of pres - ent un - der - tak - ings, give us wis - dom
3. God of hope, to Whom our ser - vice is en - trust - ed

through each age, may we learn from their ex - am - ple,
as we build for our ser - vice in Your king - dom,
for the day when Your king - dom is es - tab - lished

by their faith our doubts as - suage. May their stead - fast res - o -
that Your pur - pose be ful - filled. May our vi - sion be far -
and all peo - ple know Your way, by the lead - ing of Your

lute - ness as they fol - lowed in Your way be for us an
reach - ing, and our work by You de - creed, that in build - ing
Spir - it guide us now, new faith in - still, that we face the

in - spi - ra - tion as we serve the pres - ent day.
for the pres - ent, we dis - cern to - mor - row's need.
fu - ture bold - ly for the do - ing of Your will.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Unison

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me. I want Je - sus
2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me. In my tri - als,
3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me. When I'm trou - bled,

to walk with me. All a - long my pil - grim
Lord, walk with me. When my heart is al - most
Lord, walk with me. When my head is bowed in

jour - ney, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
break - ing, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
sor - row, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand —
2. When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near —

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone;

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light —
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall —

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

The fourth system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Anthem The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own
That I left, that I lost
So long ago
All these years I have wandered
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home

After wind, after rain
When the dark is done
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day
Through the air there's a calling
From far away
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home

Rise up, follow me
Come away, is the call
With the love in your heart
As the only song
There is no such beauty
As where you belong
Rise up, follow me
I will lead you home



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

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Dr. Abe Cáceres, Sabbatical Worship Leader
