



John August Swanson, *Festival of Lights* (johnaugustswanson.com)



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

Nov. 5, 2023



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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



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



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

All Saints Day 2023

We remember ...



Mary Jo Clayton



Alice Curti



Emerson Deese



Vanna Fox



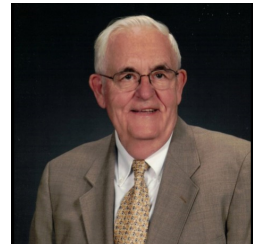
Fred Mangum



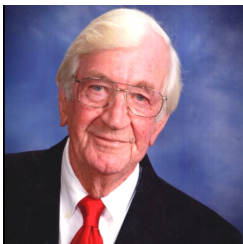
Annie Poe



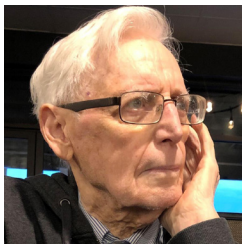
Ernestine Ragan



Dick Reinert



Harold Ritter



Frank Smith

Announcements Church Events and Updates

All Saints *Requiem* Concert

This Sunday, November 5, at 5pm a collection of church choirs from Cary and Raleigh will be performing John Rutter's *Requiem* with orchestra at Kirk of Kildaire during a special All Saints concert. Our choir will join and Rev. Dr. Stacks will be helping to conduct. The names of all beloved members of each church who have died in the past year will be recognized. Join us for this meaningful concert! Donations at the event will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Wake County.

GFBC's 60th Anniversary

We're celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church on November 19 with a special worship service and a luncheon to follow! Please RSVP to let us know if you're coming to lunch at gfbccary.org/gfbc60.

Our sixties-themed luncheon will feature stories from fellow church members, a special look at items from the church archives, a book of testimonies from across the congregation, a BBQ lunch, and more! Suggested donation for lunch is \$10 per adult and \$5 for kids.

As you recall our past sixty years, consider a special offering in multiples of 6! Can you give an extra \$6, \$60, or even \$600? All your gifts go toward the ministries of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church and the community we serve.

"Souper" Love Feast and Sanctuary Adornment

Save the date for our "Souper" Love Feast potluck, wreath-making, and sanctuary adornment event on November 26! You can sign up to bring food at gfbccary.org/souper.

Trip to Tucson, Arizona

We're taking a new trip this year for the Freedom Ride, this time to the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona. We'll be traveling as a group with an organization called **Borderlinks** based in Tucson, AZ.

We'll engage in some service, learning, and relationship-building activities with longtime residents of the borderlands and the migrants who cross them. The trip is scheduled for June 30-July 6. We'll be traveling by plane to AZ (not by bus!) and will be staying at a Borderlinks facility designed to accommodate groups like ours.

Register at gfbccary.org/tucson soon as spots are limited. Deadline to register is January 31. If you have questions, please direct them to Rev. Spears-Newsome.

Helen Bishop's Anniversary

November 1st marks Helen Bishop's 24th year at GFBC as our organist (and pianist and flutist and singer and general maker of amazing music!) Please be sure to tell Helen a big "thank you!" for her many years of service at GFBC and for sharing her amazing talents in worship. We are forever grateful.

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
Gilles Bikindou
Valerie Brooks
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Barbara Dial (sister of Carol Carter)
Elaine Dodson
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
Eddie Stewart (friend of Diana Morde)
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
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 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:

60th Anniversary of GFBC

Greenwood Forest has now been in Cary for 60 years! We've worshipped, served, grieved, celebrated, and more for over six decades. None of that would have been possible without the beloved community that gathers here each week. As you recall our past sixty years, consider a special offering in multiples of 6! Can you give an extra \$6, \$60, or even \$600? All your gifts go toward the ministries of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church and the community we serve.

Order of Worship All Saints Sunday

✝ 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 | *Come, All Who Are Weary* | Paul Zach (pg. 10)

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from Ps. 34)

I will bless the LORD at all times;

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

Let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the LORD with me,

And let us exalt God's name together.

I sought the LORD, and the Lord answered me,

And delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God, and be radiant;

So your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,

And was saved from every trouble.

O taste and see that the LORD is good;

Happy are those who take refuge in God.

O fear the LORD, you holy ones,

For those who fear God have no want.

The young lions suffer want and hunger,

But those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

The LORD redeems the life of God's servants;

None of those who take refuge in God will be condemned.

Invocation | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

✝ **Hymn** | *For All the Saints* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Carol Carter

Offertory | *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* | arr. Williams 📖

Today's color is **white**, representing 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: 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. Dr. Stephen Stacks* 📖

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Remembrance of the Saints

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** | *O God Our Help in Ages Past* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Revelation 7:9-17* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *At the River* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *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** | *The Church's One Foundation* (vv. 1, 4, 5; pg. 9)

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *The Solid Rock* | *arr. Labenske*

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.

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.

For All the Saints



1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
2. Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
4. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
5. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,



who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,



Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Thou in the darkness drear their one true light.
yet all are one in Thee, for all are thine. Al -
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:



le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



O God Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2. Un - der the shad-ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4. A thou-sand a - ges in Thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears mor - tals all a - way;
6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pening day.
be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

The Church's One Foundation

1. The church-'s one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der we see her sore op - pressed,
4. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5. Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

she is His new cre - a - tion, by wa - ter and the Word;
her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won;

from heaven He came and sought her to be His ho - ly bride,
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and Christ's great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with Thee.

Prelude Come, All Who Are Weary

Paul Zach

Come all who are weary,
I will give you rest.
Come all who are striving,
Lean upon my breast.
For my yoke is easy
And my burden light.
O come, all who weary, come.

Come, all who are wounded,
Crying out, "how long?"
Come all who are waiting
For the break of dawn.
Darkness will hide me
Forever from your sight.
O come, all who are wounded come.

Come, all are weeping,
All whose hope is gone.
Come, all who are silent,
All who've lost their song.
Your every tear is numbered,
Your every sorrow known.
O come, all who are weeping, come.

O come all who are weary,
Wounded and weeping,
All of God's children, come.

Anthem At the River

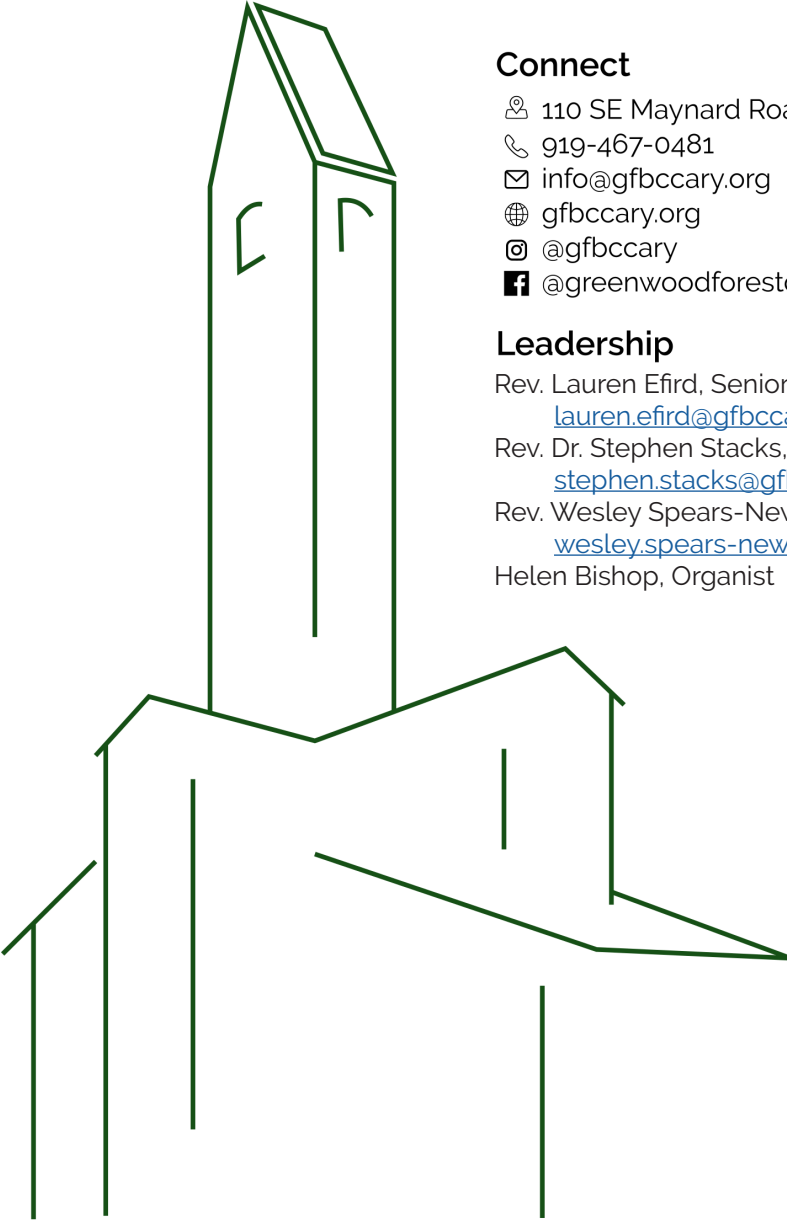
Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angel's feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

*Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.*

Ere we reach the shining river
Lay we every burden down,
Praise our spirits will deliver
And provide our robe and crown.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.



Connect

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Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist
