



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 30, 2025





everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

Bulletin Art

Lisle Gwynn Garrity, "Lost & Found," newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing
inspired by Luke 15:1-7

I began my artwork for this series by collaging torn strips of newspaper articles together, overlapping global headlines with photos of current events. Along the torn edges, I added gold leaf. Then I photographed the result, editing the photos in black and white. These photos would become the backdrop for my pieces, as I wanted my digital drawings to emerge within the noise of the world's deepest pains, divisions, and everything in between. The collage is also a reference to theologian Karl Barth's famous quote about reading the bible and the newspaper together. I wanted the gold leaf to represent God's presence in the spaces in between the events and forces that tear us apart.

On September 27th, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as the wide bands of tropical storm Helene reached our high-elevation town of Black Mountain, NC. The next day, winds roared and threw trees to the ground like dominos. We lost power, then water, then cell service. We didn't know it yet, but every creek and river had swelled with enormous force, sweeping away everything in their path. Landslides, sinkholes, and extreme flooding ravaged the entire region of Western North Carolina, taking homes, towns, and human lives.

We were incredibly and graciously spared, having no flooding in our house or trees on our roof, so as soon as the storm relented, we headed out to find our friends and family by foot. As we walked through our small town, we found ourselves in a maze-like wasteland, changing our route every other turn due to downed trees or power lines, or washed-out roads. Progressively, we found family and friends, greeting them with great relief and urgent questions: "Do you have enough water to drink? Do you have water for flushing? Do you need any food?" It would be nearly 6 days before any emergency relief could arrive with food, water, and supplies. Meanwhile, neighbors survived by the help of their neighbors. Churches opened their doors. Firefighters and first responders persisted, despite perilous rescue missions. Helicopters air-lifted stranded people to safety.

When I began this artwork, I naively hoped to gain insight into Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. In that process, I did not wish to become the lost sheep and live through the greatest natural disaster to hit my hometown in over a thousand years. But as I read this parable again, now over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the pursuit of the shepherd, so singularly focused on the one who is lost, vulnerable, and at-risk. The Good Shepherd steadies the sheep on his shoulders and steps out of the frame toward us. His gaze finds mine, and I almost hear him whisper, "I will never stop searching for the lost. I will never stop rejoicing when one is found."

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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, citizenship statuses, 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, transcripts of the sermon, and large print bulletins are available at the back of the sanctuary.



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.



Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Carr Center at Cary Town Council on April 24

Please note the change of date!

The vote for rezoning of our land to build the Carr Center will be on April 24 at 6:30pm at Cary Town Hall. We invite everyone to come for what we anticipate to be a positive result. Anyone is also invited to join in celebrating at Bond Brothers Brewery (202 E Cedar St, Cary, NC 27511) afterward to mark this milestone!

Important Dates for Lent

April 13: Palm Sunday and Children's Ministry Egg Hunt (following worship)

April 18: Good Friday Tenebrae Service (7pm)

April 20: Easter Sunday

May 18 Block Party!

Save the date for a Block Party celebrating the Carr Center on May 18, 3-5pm in the GFBC Parking Lot. We'll be gathering the whole Cary community in support of the project and welcoming them to a time of fun, food, and games for all ages! Stay tuned for more.

Good Friday (April 18)

Join us for our annual Service of Tenebrae on Good Friday (April 18) at 7pm in the Sanctuary. We remember the last days of Jesus' life, take communion together, and hear the story of the crucifixion leading up to Easter Sunday.

Eastertide Flowers

Our Sanctuary Adornment team would like everyone to bring flowers from their gardens (or a local store if you lack a green thumb!) on Easter Sunday (April 20) for the Easter Cross decorations!

Also, our nursery has stopped carrying Easter Lilies, so we won't be doing dedications this year. In lieu of that, we invite anyone who wants to dedicate flowers to sign up on the sheet outside the office for any of the weeks in Eastertide (you can team up, too!). Dedications of those flowers will be printed in the bulletin.

Work Anniversary

March 24 marks Karen Burden's 11th year as our Office Administrator. Karen is the first voice you hear when you call the church phone and often the first face you see when you visit the church during the week. She is critical in ensuring our church functions and we are forever grateful for her hard work. While Karen recovers from surgery, you can send cards to the church office and we'll make sure they get to her!

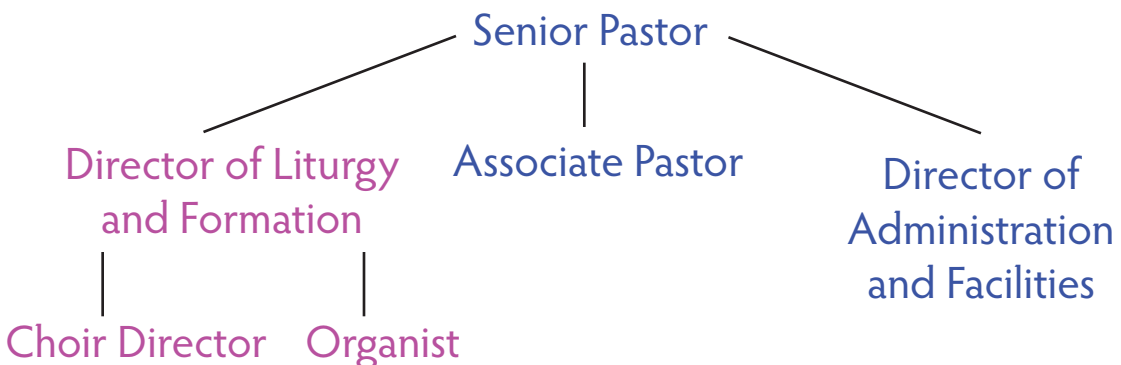
Announcements | Personnel Update

Director of Administration and Facilities Position created by Personnel Committee and Deacon Board

The Personnel Committee and Deacon Board have agreed to a revised staffing model to better respond to the existing and future needs of the church. Rather than hiring a new full-time ministerial staff person, it has become clear that the existing and future needs of the church will best be served by adding a new full-time person to serve in a newly created role as Director of Administration and Facilities. The person in this position will provide oversight to administration and facilities of GFBC, including administrative support to ministerial staff; assistance with the accounting contract; coordination of vendors, outside groups, and rentals; and maintenance of the church office and related systems (i.e. building security and HVAC controls). This role will be supervised by the Senior Pastor.

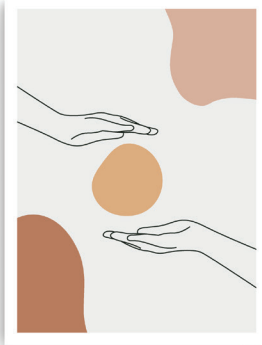
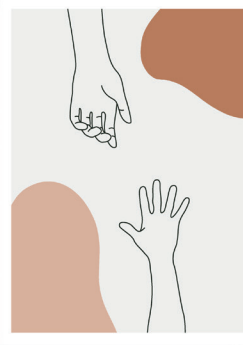
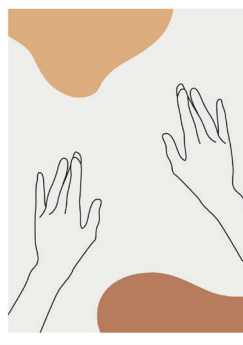
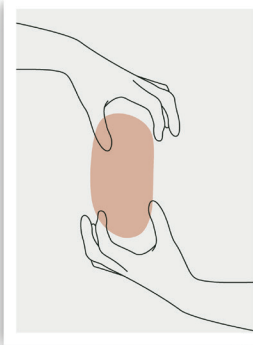
If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to Deacon Chair, Blair Biser, or Personnel Committee Chair, Leta Huntsinger. The full job description is available on the church website.

Personnel Organizational Chart



Full Time
Part Time

Community Notes | Prayer Requests and Giving



Prayer

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.

Helen Bishop
Jo Brooks
Karen Burden
Barney Graham
Doris Martin
Jennie Pegram
Fred Seeger
Mathias Warne (family of Gail and Virgil Jones)
Lee and Patti Webb
Anne Whelan
Kathleen Wicker
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: Youth Ministry

To begin the month of March, the GFBC Youth led worship on Transfiguration Sunday where they also wrote the prayers and helped plan the sermon. Our youth meet every Sunday morning to dive into Scripture, current events, and what's going on in their lives. Right now, they're planning on a summer trip to Asheville, NC with partner churches there and here in the Triangle to go learn and help rebuild after Hurricane Helene. If you'd like to serve with our awesome youth, reach out to Rev. Spears-Newsome!

Order of Worship | 4th 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 | Improvisation on Wondrous Love

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from A Sanctified Art) 📖

Our God is a shepherding God.

Our God knows us by name.

Our God will never stop searching for us.

So if you feel lost,

then know that God is seeking you.

If you feel found,

then know that God will never leave.

This is the promise of scripture.

This is the promise of God's love.

Let us worship our God-with-us.

Invocation | Rick Chappell

✝ **Hymn** | I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Natalie Patten

Offertory | Improvisation on Be Thou My Vision 📖

✝ **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.

Today's color is **purple**,
representing reflection and
repentance.

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, expressed through a peace sign, a handshake, a wave, conversation, etc. We hope you will take the time to greet and speak with those around you or with someone you haven't met!

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.

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. A short doxology follows as we offer our gifts.

The Prayers of the People | Jazzmoné Sutton

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

† Hymn | Amazing Grace (pg. 9)

Reading | Luke 15:1-7 | Natalie Patten

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Coming Home | Mary McDonald

I've wandered far away from God,
Now I'm coming home;
The paths of sin too long I've trod,
Lord, I'm coming home.

*Coming home, coming home,
Never more to roam,
Open wide thine arms of love,
Lord, I'm coming home.*

My soul is sick, my heart is sore,
Now I'm coming home;
My strength renew, my hope restore,
Lord, I'm coming home.

Sermon | Lost & Found | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† Hymn | Lost and Found (pg. 10)

Benediction | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Postlude | Improvisation on Lost and Found (BEACH SPRING)

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.

* = In the Lord's Prayer, you may say any name for God (e.g., Mother/Father/Parent).

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!

Thank You

Thank you to Bob Brewer for joining us in worship today while Helen Bishop is recovering!

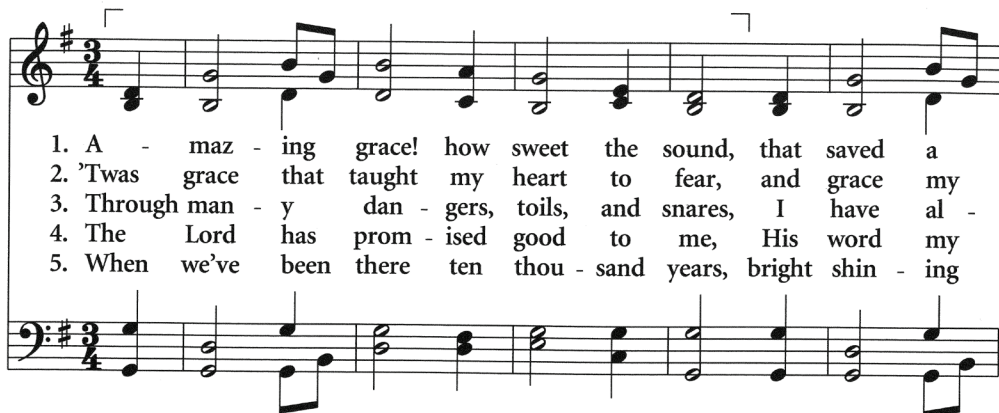
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -
 2. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low; though none go
 3. My cross I'll car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll
 4. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 with me, I still will fol - low; though none go with me, I still will
 car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll car - ry, till I see
 hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be - hind me, the cross be -

Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

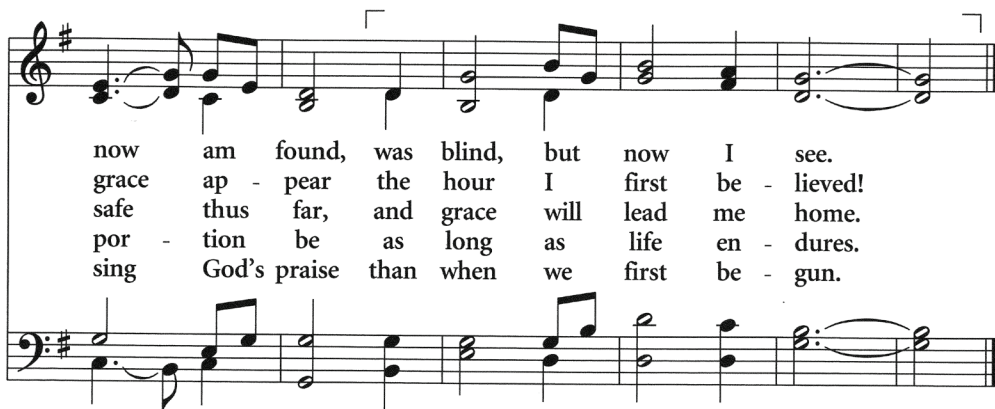
Amazing Grace



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing



wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
 hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we first be - gun.

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by B.F. White, 1844



In the flock I am sur-roun - ded by my sib - lings
 The ho - ri - zon starts to brigh - ten as I quiet - ly
 As I wan - der down the quar - ry a fa - mi - liar



and my friends Safe at home and feel - ing groun - ded with my
 slip a - way I can feel my spi - rit ligh - ten with each
 voice cries out It's my shep - herd search - ing for me; reck - less



shep - herd to de - fend But an ach - ing, long - ing feel - ing
 cau - tious step I take Un - fa - mil - iar paths un - fold - ing
 love has tracked me down Though I left my place of re - fuge,

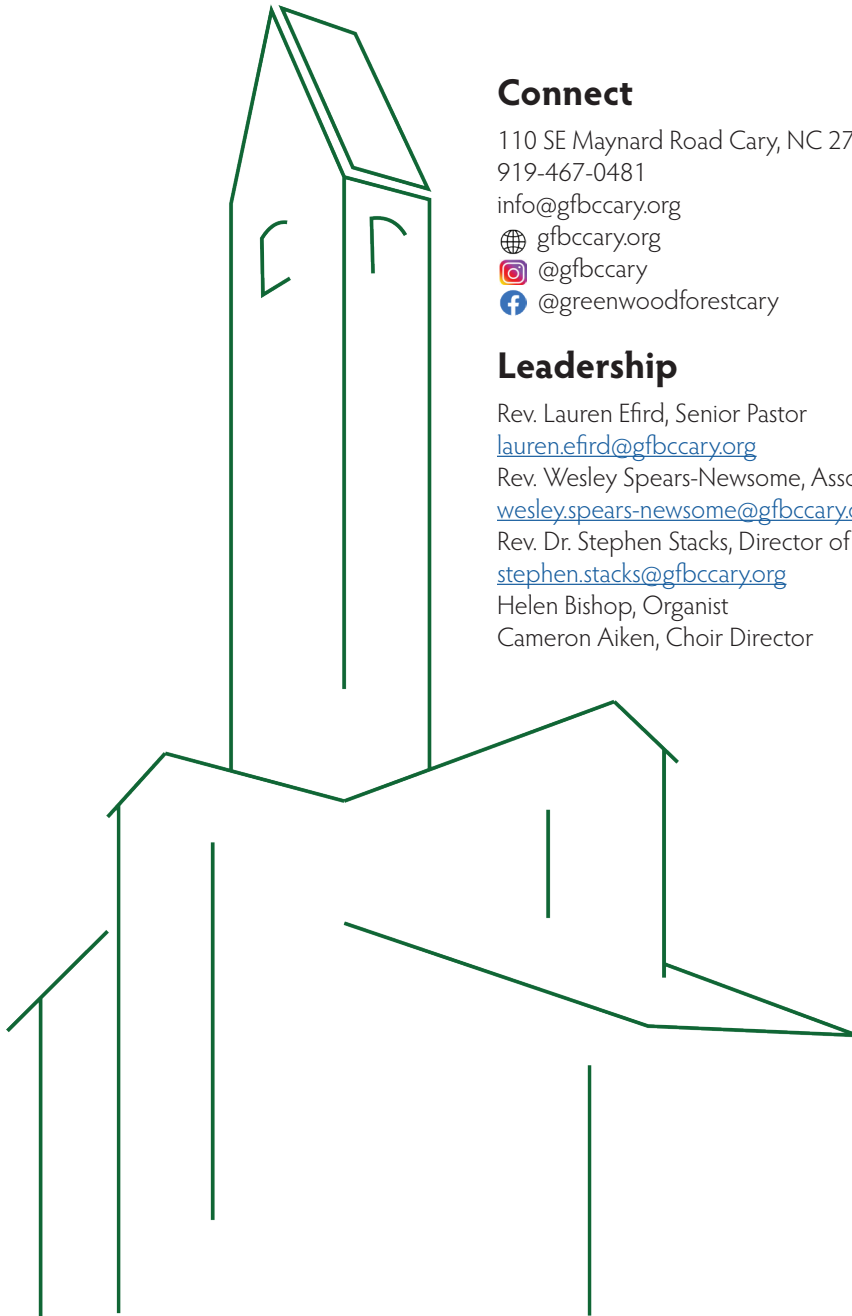


as the stars shine late at night Draws me in, my dreams
 as ex - cite - ment blends with fear All cre - a - tion now
 he has fol - lowed all a - long But I had to lose



re - veal - ing and I know I'm not quite right
 en - folds me like the flock I hold so dear
 my - self to find my - self where I be - long

Lost and Found



Connect

110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

919-467-0481

info@gfbccary.org

gfbccary.org

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

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

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

lauren.efird@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Director of Liturgy & Formation

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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