



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

September 14, 2025



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art

Lisle Gwynn Garrity, "Lost & Found," newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing

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 dominoes. 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."

- 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 Fellowship Hall if you need to rock your little ones.



Transcripts of the sermon and large print bulletins are available at the sound table for those who need them.



Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



Restrooms are located on the hallway off the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to use the bathroom that best aligns with your gender identity (our gender-neutral, single-occupant restrooms are currently in a part of the building without HVAC).



Announcements | Church Events and Updates

A Morning With Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Cary Presbyterian Church invites you to join them for A Morning with Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove: *Looking to the Gospels to Make Sense of Our Current Political Climate*. The event will take place on September 27th in Cary Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Free lunch will be provided.

HVAC Update

Things continue to move along with our HVAC replacement. Piece by piece, the system is coming online and we expect to move back into the rest of the building by the end of September or beginning of October. As the work continues, we'll need volunteers to help come clean and reset the parts of the building that have gone unused the past few months, so keep an eye out for when we ask for help with that. Also, if you've pledged a gift to the HVAC project, you can go ahead and fulfill those pledges as invoices are now coming in for the replacement. Thank you so much for everyone's generosity and flexibility this summer!

Teaching Series 9/14-28

The next three Sundays we will have churchwide Faith Formation in the Fellowship Hall led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks. In "Apocalypse Now," we will approach the book of Revelation (and other apocalyptic literature) with fresh eyes—not as strange, scary, and violent predictions for the end times, but as a prism for understanding how we can and should relate to the powers-that-be in our own time. It's the end of the world as we know it...do you feel fine?



Sermon Series

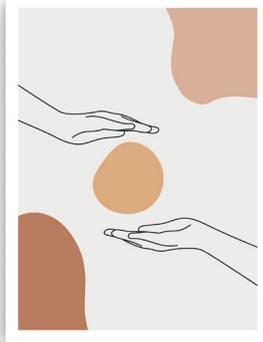
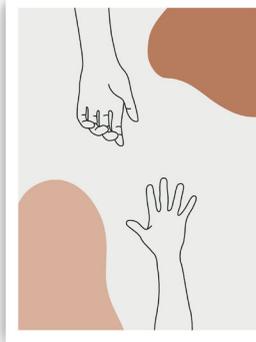
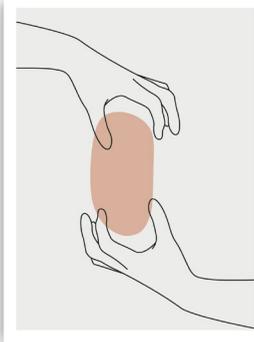
Jesus talked about money and how we relate to each other financially more than most topics. His parables often confront the ways we spend, save, and share in surprising ways for his time and for ours. For the next several weeks in worship, we'll be exploring Jesus's parables in Luke's Gospel for what they have to teach us about our relationship to wealth, possessions, and each other. Join us as we reimagine abundance together!

Thank You

From my heart to yours, thank you GFBC members for nourishing my body and soul with prayers, cards, food and love following the death of my husband, Hal Bowman.

- Mercedes Auger

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.

Jo Brooks
The Family of Shirley Edwards
Barbara Dial (Carol Carter's Sister)
Mac Graham
Jay and Doris Martin
Kathleen Wicker
Steven (friend of GFBC)
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.



Scan to Give
Online Today!

Order of Worship | Fourteenth 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 | Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland | arr. Andreas Nikolaus Vetter

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from Debra McKnight) 📖

We gather in abundance, away from the rush and the race, to celebrate the generous spirit that sings, without fear, "may all have enough."

We gather to live into the work of God's call.

We gather in grace, awake to the sin of despair and degradation, awake to the chance to be more, and the possibilities seeded within.

We gather to grow: to change moment-by-moment, in grace again-and-again.

We gather in hope, ready to do more than talk, ready to make change one letter, one meal, one home, one gift, and one hand at a time.

Ready to live and move and be. Ready to be the Change God calls us to be.

We gather to give of our time and our talents, our hopes and our energy.

We gather to be.

Invocation | Steve Denning

✝ **Hymn** | Just As I Am (pg. 7 vv. 1,3,5,6)

Offertory Prayer | Susan Beck

Offertory | What a Friend We Have in Jesus | arr. Jack Schrader

Today's color is **green**, representing spiritual growth.

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.

† **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. Wesley 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 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** | A Woman and a Coin (pg. 8)

Reading | Luke 15:1-10 | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Gather Us In | Lloyd Larson (pg. 10)

† **Sermon** | Risking It All | Rev. Hayes 📖

Hymn | You Know My Name (pg. 9)

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | When I Can Read My Title Clear | arr. Cindy Berry

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!

Just As I Am

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but
2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not to
3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with
4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight,
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, wilt
6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known hath

that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidd'st me
rid my soul of one dark blot, to Thee, whose blood can
man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears, with -
rich - es, heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need in
wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause Thy prom - ise
bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be Thine, yea,

come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

A Woman and A Coin



1 A wom - an and a coin: the coin is lost!
 2 A shep - herd and a sheep: the sheep is lost!
 3 A par - ent and a child: the child is lost!
 4 Dear God, you sought us when the world was lost;



How much it means to her, what time and toil,
 Far from the flock, the one in hun - dred cries,
 The par - ent feeds on mem - o - ries and hope,
 you gave your on - ly son at what a cost;



what part it was to play in her bright dreams!
 then, risk - ing life, the shep - herd's voice and staff!
 the prod - i - gal on husks and one last chance.
 your Spir - it wel - comes home the tem - pest - tossed:



Am I that trea - sured coin worth search - ing for?
 Am I that trea - sured sheep worth dy - ing for?
 Am I that trea - sured child worth wait - ing for?
 now we can be all you were dream - ing of.



I'm found, and you re - joice! What love! What love!
 I live, and you re - joice! What love! What love!
 I'm home, and you re - joice! What love! What love!
 We're safe, and you re - joice! What love! What love!

You Know My Name



1. You know my name, _____ you know my name, _____
 2. You know my name, _____ you know my name, _____



you know my name, _____ you know my name, _____
 you know my name, _____ you know my name, _____



Oh how you walk with me, _____ Oh how you talk with me, _____
 Oh how you com-fort me, _____ Oh how you coun-sel me, _____



Oh how you tell _____ me, _____ that I am your own, _____
 It still a - maz-es me, _____ that I am your friend, _____

Fine



So now, _____ I pour out _____ my heart to you, _____



Here in _____ your pre-sence _____ I am made new, _____

D.C. al Fine

Anthem Gather Us In

arr. Lloyd Larson

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness, vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.

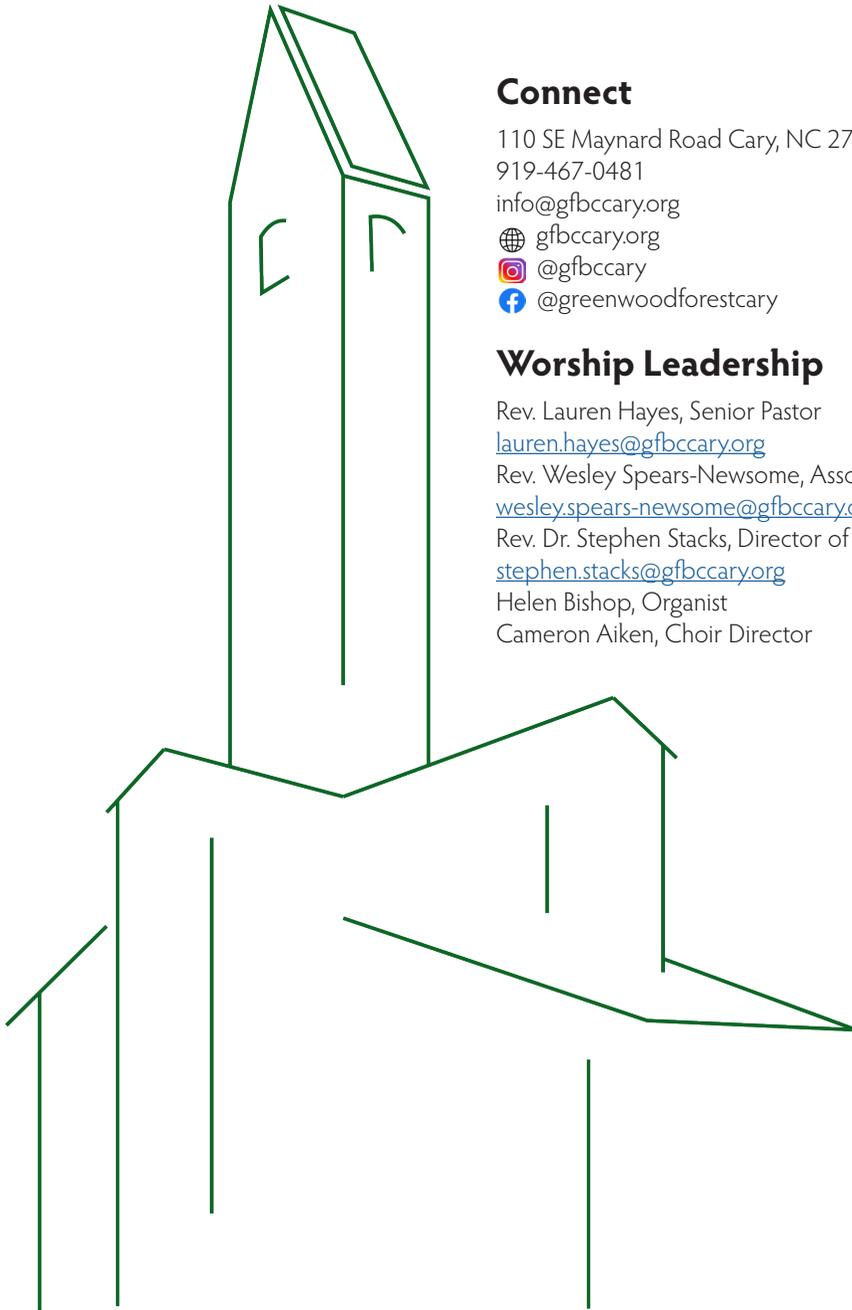
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat, the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us forever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.



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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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

stephen.stacks@gbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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