

# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

February 15, 2026



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## "The Wales Window" of Sixteenth 16th Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL Stained Glass | John Petts

When the Ku Klux Klan bombed 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham on a Sunday morning, killing four young Black girls attending Sunday school, it shook the world. 16th Street Baptist Church was a nexus of organizing and mobilization in Birmingham during the Civil Rights Movement and was at the center of campaigns in 1963. Martin Luther King, Jr. telegraphed Governor George Wallace that "the blood of four little children is on your hands." Wallace had days before said that stopping integration in Alabama would require a "few first-class funerals." The prosecution of the bombers would stretch on for decades.

When he heard about the attack, stained glass artist John Petts felt moved to help rebuild the parts of 16th Street that had been destroyed by the bombing. With a local newspaper, he launched a fundraising campaign of small donations in Wales to fund the creation of a new centerpiece stained glass piece for the window. When asked about why the funding was done this way, Petts said, "We don't want some rich man paying for the whole window. We want it to be given by the people of Wales." They raised almost double what they needed to fund the project.

The original window design was a series of peaceful doves with the beatitudes surrounding them. Petts, however, reconsidered, believing the piece to be too avoidant of the realm issues of racism and White supremacy that had led to the bombing. He said that to "make merely a lovely window in coloured glass would not be enough."

In the final design, which is on the cover of our bulletin during Black History Month, Petts wanted to depict Jesus at the heart of what was happening in Birmingham. He said that the Black Christ had arms up in protest, body twisting under the jets of water from Birmingham's fire hoses that were infamously turned on protesters and marchers. Petts said of the window that he wanted it to communicate to White Christians "that the Jesus you love identifies himself with the African American community, so you are really crucifying him again when you persecute someone who does not look like you."

Read more at [library.wales/discover-learn/digital-exhibitions/pictures/the-wales-window-in-birmingham-alabama](https://library.wales/discover-learn/digital-exhibitions/pictures/the-wales-window-in-birmingham-alabama)

# 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.



[gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)



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



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# Black History Month Guest Preachers



## **Rev. Annie Ross: Preaching February 8**

Pastor Annie Ross is a multifaceted gift to the world. With sheer charisma, she delivers a message of hope among many people from every walk of life. Her poetic art of public speaking, unmistakable love for helping people, practical wisdom and insightful teaching, has positioned her as a highly sought after presenter. Ross's love for spreading her inspirational message extends into artistic genres, and her passion for monologues, poetry and music is clearly at the forefront of this commitment. The heart of Pastor Annie Ross is beautifully captured in her poetic written work, "Erasure." On the heels of her many artistic contributions, Ross has launched several Outreach Projects, including "A Servants Heart" geared towards helping families with food insecurity. In addition, Ross established "A Pot of Grace," an effort that ensures that those healing from sickness, grief or loneliness receive meals, groceries and a visit to uplift and inspire them during their recovery and healing. As

an ordained minister, and passionate dedication to her Christian faith, Ross approaches her new assignment as the Senior Pastor of Imani MCC with a respect for the legacy of the Ministry and the opportunities in the future.

Pastor Annie enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, Bitcoin and AI technology, traveling, family and friends. She obtained a BS in Health Administration and BA in Religion from Auburn University and a Master in Accounting with a concentration in Taxation from Strayer University. She is married to First Lady Priscilla Ross and will soon celebrate 30 years together this October. They have two adult children, Matthew Coleman from Washington, DC and Jessika Coleman of Raleigh, NC. Ross's storytelling yet powerful delivery continues to inspire, impact, and empower many young and seasoned alike.



## **Rev. Dr. Mycal Brickhouse: Preaching February 15**

Rev. Dr. Mycal Xavier Brickhouse is a servant-leader whose journey in ministry is rooted in a deep commitment to faith, education, and community. Ordained as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, his ministry has included pastoring in North Carolina, deepening alumni engagement as Director of Alumni Relations at Duke Divinity School, and now, shaping institutional impact as the Managing Director of Programs and Grants at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity.

In addition to his work at Duke, he serves as the Director of Outreach and Church Expansion at Baptist Grove Church in Raleigh, NC, where he leads strategic efforts to extend the church's reach and witness into the broader community. Whether in the academy or the local church, Rev. Brickhouse brings a consistent call to form leaders, cultivate connection, and embody the gospel through justice and joy.



## **Rev. Racquel Gill: Preaching February 22**

Rev. Racquel C.N. Gill is a native of Winnsboro, SC. Racquel is a 2012 graduate of Columbia College in Columbia, SC where she holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Education. Racquel received her Master's of Divinity in May of 2015 from Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. Upon completion of her theological studies, Racquel served on the pastoral staff at the St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

After her time in Brooklyn, Racquel served as the Associate Chaplain at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC for 3 years and most recently as the Minister for Intercultural Engagement at Duke University Chapel. Racquel currently works in local government for the City of Raleigh, NC. She lives in Durham, NC with her spouse, Rev. Dr. Chelsea Brooke Yarborough, PhD and they are members of Southeast Raleigh Table United Methodist Church under the leadership of Pastor Lisa Yebuah. Racquel is an active member on the board of directors for the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice in Durham, NC.

# New Lent Series Begins February 18

*from A Sanctified Art*



Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this series, we asked: what are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus' life and ministry? What makes each of these good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us?

If we're being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus' teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus' ministry as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace.

The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

## **Key Dates:**

February 18 (6:15pm) - Ash Wednesday

February 20-22 - Discipleship Retreat

March 29 (11am) - Palm Sunday

April 3 (7pm) - Good Friday

April 5 (11am) - Easter Sunday

**Devotional Books Now Available!**

# Announcements | Church Events and Updates

## Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, our worship services during February will feature music from Black composers and artists, as well as liturgical elements from the African American Heritage Hymnal. Here at GFBC, we celebrate Black History Month alongside our Black congregants and Black siblings everywhere as a way to honor Black stories, beauty, and contributions, but also as a way to signal our continued commitment to Black lives throughout the year. For us, Black History Month is not a way to absolve ourselves of the year-round and life-long work of anti-racism, but a moment to celebrate and to recommit ourselves to the gospel work of inclusivity in our worship and in our lives.

## Chili Cookoff and Maker's Festival- March 1st at 4pm!

Join us Sunday, March 1st from 4pm-6pm for a special time of congregational sharing in food, fellowship, and craft! We want to share our gifts with one another, so if you're good at painting, pottery, quilting, music, writing, drawing, woodworking, or any other craft and want to share something you've made, we want to see it! If baking is your creative gift, please let Susan Beck (carygator1@gmail.com) know if you would be willing to provide a dessert for the event.

## HVAC Update

Thanks to your generosity, our HVAC project is almost fully funded! Only \$6,750 remains. If you feel led to give, now is a wonderful time to help us cross the finish line. Thank you for your faithful support.

## Ash Wednesday

Join us for Ash Wednesday on February 18 at 6:15pm in the Sanctuary. We'll participate in prayer and the imposition of ashes.

## Discipleship Retreat:

### February 20-22

#### Nothing but the Blood: The Meaning of The Cross

Why did Jesus die by violent execution? Why would God choose this method of saving the world? Why does it matter? For Discipleship Retreat 2026, we will be taking a deep dive into "atonement theory"—how we explain the crucifixion and what it accomplished. The cross is central to our faith, and how we understand it matters greatly to how we practice our faith. Join us as we explore deep questions together over a reflective and inspiring weekend. Register at [gfbccary.org/retreat26](http://gfbccary.org/retreat26)

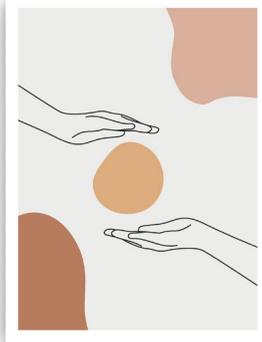
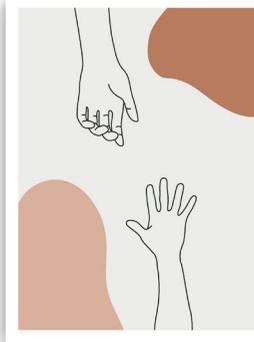
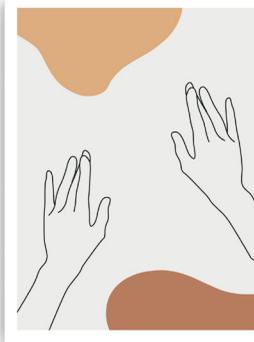
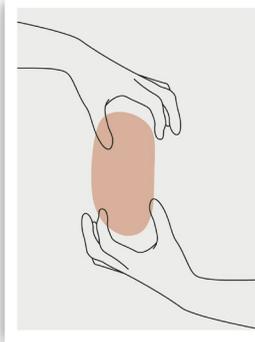
## Ministry Highlight

Greeters and Ushers serve our weekly worship service in two ways. Greeters stand (or sit) in the Narthex to welcome all who enter our church on Sundays. They provide a warm smile and get to know new members and visitors. You can help by taking this role on a rotating weekly or monthly basis to ensure all who enter our doors feel welcomed. Ushers serve to help make sure our service runs smoothly. They hand out bulletins, answer questions, and occasionally assist with other logistics. Most importantly, the ushers oversee the passing of the collection plates during the offering. If you are interested in joining this team, please speak with Nathan Bullock or reach him by email at [nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com)

## Faith Giving Sundays

We ask you to consider making a special investment of \$20 on the last Sunday of every month. This collective effort is essential in ensuring our budget remains on track, allowing us to continue making a difference in our community and beyond. Contact Susan Beck if you have any questions or want to give a Gratitude Testimony about what GFBC means to you and why you give.

# 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.*

Bess Averre  
Valerie Brooks  
Jo Brooks  
Carrie  
Carol Carter (at the death of her sister, Barbara)  
Sue Daniel (at the death of her husband, George)  
Mac Graham  
Lee Taylor  
Nancy Watson  
Anne Whelan  
Steven (friend of GFBC)  
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](http://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 | Transfiguration 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** | Beside a Quiet Lake, from *In Summer Fields* | Florence Price

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship** 📖

Wade in the water,

**Wade in the water, children!**

Wade in the water,

**God's gonna trouble the water.**

If you don't believe I've been redeemed,

**Just follow me down to Jordan's stream.**

Wade in the water,

**Wade in the water, children!**

Wade in the water,

**God's gonna trouble the water!**

**Invocation** | Diana McGahan

✝ **Hymn** | Lift Every Voice and Sing (pg. 9-10, v. 3)

**Offertory Prayer** | Nathan Bullock

**Offertory** | Oh Wondrous Image, Vision Fair | Erik Kihss

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of God.

## 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: LASST UNS ERFREUEN 📖

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
O praise God. Alleluia!  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
O praise God! O praise God!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**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** | We Are Marching in the Light of God (pg. 11-12)

**Reading** | 2 Peter 1:16-21 | Rev. Hayes  
The word of God for us, the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | I Believe This is Jesus | arr. Smith Moore

*I believe this is Jesus; come and see!*

*The light of God shines in his face, come and see.  
He offers all his pard'ning grace; come and see.*

*Oh, I believe this is Jesus, yes Lord, come and see!*

**Sermon** | Rev. Dr. Mycal Brickhouse

† **Hymn** | Total Praise (pg. 13-14) 📖

**Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

**Postlude** | Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor | arr. Penny Rodriguez

**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!**

Our songleader this Sunday is  
Blair Biser.

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en  
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning  
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had  
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning  
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry  
way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the

skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new  
 slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we  
 get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for

day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

# We Are Marching in the Light

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
We are march - ing\* in the light of God,

1.  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

2.  
kwen - khos' of God si - ya - we are  
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - we are  
march - ing in the light of the light of God, kwen - khos' of God'

\*Alternate text: dancing, singing, praying...

African phonetics:

See-yah-hahmb eh-koo-kah-nyen kwen-kose

See-yah-hahm-bah



# Total Praise

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills

know - ing my help is com - ing from You.

Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.

You are the strength of my life.

1.

I lift my hands in to - tal praise to You.

2. A - men. A -

You. A - men, a - men. A - men.

A - men, a - men. A -

men, a - men. A - men, a -

men, a - men. A - men.

men, a - men. A - men, a -

men. A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men.

men. A - men, a - men.

men. A - men, a - men.



## Connect

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## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Hayes, Senior Pastor

[lauren.hayes@gbccary.org](mailto:lauren.hayes@gbccary.org)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

[wesley.spears-newsome@gbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gbccary.org)

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

[stephen.stacks@gbccary.org](mailto:stephen.stacks@gbccary.org)

Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

[alex.filby@gbccary.org](mailto:alex.filby@gbccary.org)

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