



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

January 2024

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

If you have ever had problems with your computer or electronics, you may have called tech support. The person who answers your call has a list of problem-solving steps to walk you through. Somewhere in that list is the simplest solution, but works almost every time, restart. Oftentimes, this simple fix leaves us saying, "Why didn't I think of that?" or "I should have done that earlier." Our spiritual life is not so different. Life can get complicated. The fast pace prevents us from working correctly. The best solution is restart. But we get so caught up in the struggle of life that we forget to restart.



Restarting as a Christian means to pause for a moment, return to the basics of our faith practices, and look up to God. Through the season of Epiphany, I want to walk through the process of restarting. Starting with the Baptism of the Lord on January 7th, we will turn to God's tech support, His Holy Word, and go into this new year with a refreshed spirit.

Blessings,

Pastor Kyle

SPECIAL SERVICES



Join us Sunday, January 7th, at 10:00 for our annual congregational meeting where you will vote on the 2024 Nominating Committee, the Pastors Terms of Call, and Pastor Kyle will give the State of the Church.

During the 11:00 service we will install our new officers for 2024. We will have communion during both services on this Baptism of the Lord Sunday.



Progressive Dinner Highlights





CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sundays during the 11:00 service sermon.

Children will be escorted to the Chapel for a worship time with singing, learning how to use a hymnal and Bible, scripture, and a short lesson based on a catechism question. Then they will return to you during the last hymn or for communion.



Wednesdays 5:15 – 7:00

Date	Lesson
January 10	Psalm 23: Dark Valleys
January 17	Psalm 23: My Cup Overflows
January 24	Psalm 119: Delighting in Right Living
January 31	Psalm 119: God's Word is Forever

Mark Your Calendars for Our Opportunities to Sing in Worship in 2024!
February 11
March 17
April 21
April 24 (Wednesday Night)

Eleanor Elizabeth Reynolds
born March 16, 2023
daughter of Alex and Elizabeth Rogers

Lauchlin James Hobson
born June 9, 2023
son of Cauley and Anna Bryce Hobson

Michael James Tubbs
born July 17, 2023
son of Gordon and Brett Tubbs

Mills Harvley Peterson
born August 28, 2023
daughter of Adam and Mason Peterson

2024 CRADLE ROLL
January 14, 2024

Sundays@10 for Children

Sundays@10 is a time for our K3 - 5th grade.

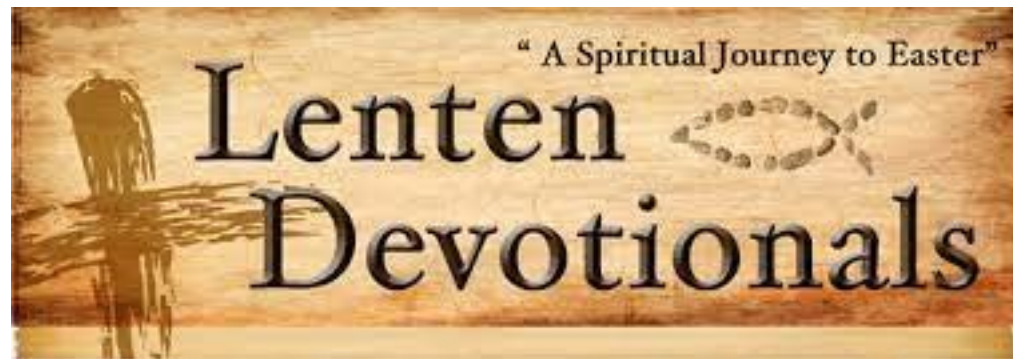


January 7: Jesus in the Temple – reading God's Word is a privilege.

January 14: Water Into Wine – miracles are real!

January 21: Jesus is Tempted – even Jesus was tempted!

January 28: Jesus' Baptism – what is baptism and why is it important?



Lent??? Already???

It's time to start writing devotions, thoughts, and/or ponderings for our Lenten devotional.

Photos, artwork welcome as well.

Email dce@firstgreenwood.com

by January 24th. Thank you!

Wednesday Night Fellowship



5:15 – Gather - Children on the playground; adults and youth in AH

5:30 – Dinner for adults and youth (\$10)
RSVP by Monday or request to be added to the weekly list.

5:40 – Dinner for children

5:55 – Prayer for everyone

6:00 – 7:00 - small groups

- ❖ SHinE for children in the Basement: Godly Play, Bible, & Music
- ❖ WNY for Youth upstairs
- ❖ Women's Small Group in room 206
- ❖ Men's Bible Study in room 205
- ❖ Disciple Bible Study with Pastor Kyle in HR



Menus:

January 10th: RING IN THE NEW YEAR!: Pork loin, greens, sweet potatoes, black-eyed peas, tomato relish

January 17th: Chicken Fajita night, bean casserole, rice

January 24th: Country ham, scalloped potatoes, peas

January 31st: Chicken stew, corn pudding, seasonal fruit

All meals include salad bar, bread, and drink.

Nativity Service Highlights



Nativity Service Highlights cont.



Birthday Party for Jesus Highlights



Middle Schoolers meet on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 am near the mall. Carpool to school.



EGGS:
Exalting a Great God
at Sunrise



We will meet on January 18th!



6th grade through 12th grade

5:30 dinner in Alexander Hall (\$10),
6:00 – 7:00 youth lesson/activities

We are using the curriculum from
Sticky Faith called **Can I Ask That 2?**

Parents:

Please note that these topics are facilitated through a perspective of asking questions and thinking through different viewpoints. We are always happy to share curriculum with you and encourage you to discuss the material with your children.

Date	Lesson
January 10	Can I do something so bad God won't forgive me?
January 17	Why do bad things happen to good people?
January 24	Is sex outside marriage wrong?
January 31	Why is it so awkward to talk about Jesus with my friends?

Sundays@10 for Youth

10:00 – 10:45

6th-12th grade

Colaborate: Presbyterian - NewTestament

Date	Lesson	Facilitator
Jan. 7	Colaborate NT: The New Testament - Maps	Gardner
Jan. 14	Colaborate NT: The New Testament – The Rest of the Story	Penney
Jan. 21	Colaborate NT: Jesus – Fully God, fully human	Sanders
Jan. 28	Colaborate NT: Matthew – A well-organized telling of the crazy good news	Purcell



Date	SNY Topic	Location
Jan. 7	I Believe 1: Where Do My Beliefs Come from and How Do I Know They're Legitimate?	Collins 114 Northwoods Road
Jan. 14	MLK weekend	
Jan. 21	I Believe 2: What Do I Believe?	Hite 112 Creekside Court
Jan. 28	I Believe 3: What Do I Believe In?	Church Dinner: Scotts

Wreaths Across America Highlights



A special thank you to our veterans, Kirk Boland, Brian Pinson, and Christopher Collins, for helping our Youth with Wreaths Across America.



In conjunction with Church of the Resurrection Youth, our FPC Youth and veterans went to Bethlehem Cemetery and placed wreaths on veterans' graves. Our Youth said a prayer and our veterans saluted each grave where wreaths were placed.

FPC Confirmation 2024

8th and 9th graders

Tentatively 10:00 – 10:45 a. m. in Room 206 unless otherwise noted

Confirmands	
Alex Bacot	Aubrey Kate Munnerlyn
Blu Beckham	Jamielynn Ortiz
Ladson Beckham	Ruby Ortiz
Cooper Hammett	Emma Phillips
Trey Hill	Katelyn Rouse
Brady Lloyd	Charles Scott
Annabelle McClendon	Sebastain Wiecki
Bryson McCurry	

If your child will be absent for a session, please contact Elise to make arrangements to make it up prior to the next session.

Date	Colaborate Topic	
January 7	Welcome to Confirmation	Elise Collins
January 14	The Beginnings	Stefan Wiecki
January 21	Reformed and Always Reforming	Philip & Libby Bell
January 28	The Sovereignty of God	Henry Logan
February 4	Sin and Human Nature	Beth Justesen
February 11	Jesus is Lord	Donna Thompson
February 18	Jesus is Savior	Penneys
February 25	Word and Response	Purcells
March 3	The Book of Confessions	Brad Christie
March 10	Statements of Faith....So Far	Andrew Goforth
March 15-16, Retreat	Polity, Worship, The Sacraments, The Life of Faith	Robbie & Lisa Sanders
March 17	Welcome to the Church	Rhonda flowe
March 24	10:00 Faith Statements Practice; Faith Statements for Session at 5:00 pm	Yarbroughs
April 14	10:00 Confirmation Sunday Preparation; 11:00 Service	Elise Collins

Youth Personal Safety Class



We send out a huge thank you to Chris Hammett for leading this class for our Youth!

Youth Progressive Dinner



Thank you to all who hosted:
the Clarks, Lloyds, and Stevens.



Mark your calendars: July 14-20, 2024

Rising 9th through graduating seniors

We have room for 10 youth right now.
We will have a waiting list in case we can get more spots later.

Pay your \$50 non-refundable deposit starting
Jan. 15th to hold your spot.
You may pay on Realm or in the office to Nan.



February 9-10

Lodging for 8 couples, tent campers welcome, commuters welcome!
Register by paying \$25 per person on Realm or to Nan in the office.
Registration opens January 15th.



Come, join us for our
2024 Annual
Women's Retreat
William Black Lodge
Montreat NC
Friday-Sunday
January 26 – January 28, 2024

Excerpt from Joyce Meyer's book Unshakeable Trust.

"God knows everything that has happened in the past, is happening right now and will happen in the future and He is in control of all of it, so He isn't anxious or impatient. Our impatience and worry come from the fact that we don't know many of the things we would like to know, especially during times of change, and it makes us feel uneasy. God, of course, could reveal everything that is going to happen in the future and let us know how the changes in our life will turn out, but He doesn't. That is because He expects us to trust Him. It is our privilege to trust Him!"

The four sessions of this Retreat "**I Believe. Help My Unbelief**" will provide insights into thinking this through and bringing the peace and understanding He wants for all of us.

At the Retreat we will focus on these points:

- 1) When we are fearful and worried, **God provides our calming peace.**
- 2) When we are waiting and desperate, **God protects the hope within us.**
- 3) When we feel lost or like we are suffering alone, **God's presence comforts us.**
- 4) No matter what we face or how we feel, **God stands in the gap – He is enough.**

Come join us for a wonderful weekend. Bring your wishes and worries to God, then have the Faith to leave them with Him.

Sign up envelope is in the Church Office. Register early to get the room accommodation you prefer.

Questions? Contact Patti Gagstetter (pgagstetter@gmail.com) or Elise Collins (dce@firstgreenwood.com).



WHY TAKE THE PERSPECTIVES COURSE?

God has a unique role for each Christian in His global purpose of evangelizing the nations.

Perspectives isn't a course solely about world missions. It's a study program rooted in Scripture, clarifying each believer's remarkable opportunity to join God in His global purpose.

YOU HAVE AN INTEGRAL ROLE TO PLAY IN GOD'S PLAN.

God delights when His people respond to His invitation to be a blessing to all peoples of the earth.



Perspectives is a 15-lesson discipleship course exploring different aspects of God's global purpose. The course examines the story of God fulfilling His promises from four "perspectives"—Biblical, Historical, Cultural, and Strategic.

A Perspectives course will be held on Tuesday evenings in Alexander Hall of First Presbyterian Church beginning January 9, 2023 (except Jan. 30, Feb. 13 & 27 when you will meet in the Henry Reynolds Room). Each week you will hear from a different instructor who has had direct experience in the mission field. You will meet other students from Greenwood and around the area who are looking to discern God's purpose in their own lives.

For more information, go to www.perspectives.org or contact Kim Purcell @ 864- 872-8589. The course is open to all ages and all backgrounds. Come and see what all the fuss is about!



**Sundays@10
for Adults!**



How well do you know your Bible? When was the last time you read either Book of Esdras? How about the books of Tobit, Judith, or Susanna? Surely you remember Bel and the Dragon!? Kaleidoscope 2024 will refresh your memory of these biblical books—or introduce you for the first time to—**The Apocrypha**.

That's right: all these books (and several more) are included in the apocryphal books of the Old Testament. These are books written and circulated between the Old and New Testaments. They are still part of the Roman Catholic Bible but are not included in the Protestant canon. So, if you don't know these biblical books, that's OK—you may still know your (Protestant) Bible very well.

But these are fascinating books, and we'll take a look at them in January. We'll explore the history and content of The Apocrypha and its connection to the Old Testament. And we'll consider what these non-canonical materials might add to our understanding of the Scriptures and of Jesus.

January 14, 21, & 28 @ 10:00 AM in Alexander Hall – All adult Sunday School classes will meet together for these weeks.



Our church family is big enough that sometimes our precious people may fall through the cracks. We certainly don't want that!

K-Groups are one way we can create a smaller group to love and care for each other. Koinonia means Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with fellow Christians.

Be one. Care for one. You are needed.

Questions? Thoughts? Contact Libby Bell.

Send us your pictures to share!

Our Books & Spirits Small Group



Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

To our church family: May all the blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance in the New Year.

May the Lord fill you with Joy, Peace, and Hope throughout 2024.

Anna Welborn
Moderator, Presbyterian Women



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Member begin the first of January and will be accepted until February 16, 2024. Nominations are to be submitted in writing, placed in a sealed envelope, and noted on the outside "Honorary Life Member Nomination."

The nomination envelope should be placed in a designated envelope in the PW mailbox in the church office to be collected by the chairman of the committee. A committee will review all nominations and choose the honoree.

Any person you believe deserves special recognition for their faithful and distinguished Christian service in any area of the church may be nominated for PW Honorary Life Member and nominations may be made by any member of the church. The honoree will be announced on Women's Sunday on April 28, 2024.

Nomination forms can be picked up in the front office.

We are excited to announce that Circle 4 (Sara Smith Circle) will be holding our ever popular Souper Bowl Sale on the morning of Saturday, February 10th, in Alexander Hall & Sunday, February 11th, in the lobby before & after services, until we sell out. We will be offering tasty snacks, delicious soups, dips, spreads and sweet treats. For the first time, we will also be offering a few frozen casseroles & goodies. You will not want to miss this yummy array of fabulous food! Mark your calendars for this amazing sale, and be on the lookout in the February Spire for information of available items and contact information. We will be offering one week of pre-sales of items. Cash or checks will be accepted for purchases. All proceeds will be used for missions.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 26 - 28 - **Annual Women's Retreat**, Montreat, NC

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29-Thursdays - **Circle meals to United Ministries** staff/volunteers

February 10, 11 - **Circle 4 Souper Bowl** fund-raiser sale of food items and baked goods

Trinity PW Annual Gathering - TBA

April 28 - **PW Women's Sunday** and installation of coordinating team officers, committee leaders, circle leaders.

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, January 2nd, at 10:30 am, at Wesley Commons.
Contact Jean Mabe 941-7817.

Circle 3 will meet Monday, January 8th, at 10:30 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).
Contact Rebecca Wise 554-6993 or Gigi Smith 554-8177

Circle 4 will meet Monday, January 8th, at 11:00 am, in Alexander Hall.
Contact Marilyn Towne 229-6990 or Bobby Kirkland 304-395-8002

Circle 5 will meet Tuesday, January 9th, at 12:30 pm, in Alexander Hall and includes lunch & childcare.
Contact Meg Stevens 993-7536

Circle 6 will meet Monday, January 8th, at 7:00 pm in the Barksdale Room (122).
Contact Jessica Willard (jesswillard81@gmail.com, 993-5980) or Nickie Murphy (famurphy01@aol.com, 205-317-5347)

Circle 7 will Tuesday, January 9th, at 10:30 am, at the home of Betsy Collins.
Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998.

Circle 8 will meet on Tuesday, January 2nd, at 11:30 am, at the home of Betty Williams.
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.



ATTENTION: ALL MEN OF THE CHURCH (MOC) Upcoming 2024 MOC Activities Planning

Now requesting any thoughts or ideas you would like to suggest for upcoming 2024 MOC activities the committee could consider.

**** Just Remember T.E.A.M. **** Together Everyone Achieves More
Please call or message anytime, Larry Falter, at 412-779-4828,
2024 MOC Committee Chairman. Thank you and God bless.

MOC Committee will meet Thursday, January 4th, at 5:30 pm,
in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110)

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT

American Leprosy Missions

On Sunday, January 21, there will be a Minute for Missions for World Leprosy Day, a day we join churches in the USA and around the world to raise the awareness of leprosy and offer our financial support to the American Leprosy Missions ministry. Every day, more than 40 girls

and boys around the world are diagnosed with leprosy. ALM has developed new programs to detect leprosy at an earlier stage, making it possible for individuals to achieve a full cure without a lifetime disability. *"The blind receive sight, the lame*

walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed..."

- Luke 7:21 - Dr. Rich Goodwin



KENYA FAITH MISSIONS UPDATE

Bishop Manasseh Mankuleiyo and his wife, Njango Mankuleiyo, arrived safely in Kenya on November 25 and have accomplished much in the few weeks they have been there. Manasseh led the week long Annual Ecumenical



Conference which included preaching, teaching, Bible studies, and a leadership conference for pastors. He has several revival meetings scheduled and an ordination service for new pastors.

Njango ministers separately to women at the conference, and she has several missions to rural villages planned. She reported that the well storage tank structure

has been completed, and the actual well portion of the project will begin December 18.

Due to insufficient funds, there is still a shortage of Maasai Bibles for distribution. The cost of one Bible is \$14. If you wish to contribute to the Bible fund, please make a check out to First Presbyterian Church of Greenwood and designate it for Kenyan Bibles. Thank you!



MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

THORNWELL BELLS

Our congregation responded so wonderfully to providing gifts and supplies for the children at Thornwell Children's Home in Clinton. We delivered two very full carloads of gifts. In addition, many items were ordered on-line through their Amazon site and were delivered directly to Thornwell.

We hope to continue supporting Thornwell throughout the year as their needs arise. Thank you to all who participated!



Update on the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lakelands Region from Executive Director, Sabrina D. Miller (STARZ24 Teen Center)

The organization is doing very well. We continue to serve students in Greenwood and Saluda and are excited about the possibilities of expanding into other communities to provide quality afterschool services to even more students in Greenwood and the surrounding counties. We currently are serving approximately 250 students daily in our Be Great Academy school programs. We recently celebrated with our 2nd annual Lights on Afterschool event to highlight the importance of Afterschool and all that we offer.

The Teen Center is doing extremely well, and we have about 50 students attending daily. The teens held their 2nd Annual Friendsgiving dinner on November 20th and heard from the Financial Aid office at Land-er University about the opportunities to attend college including scholarships and grants. We now have a Lego Team and they will be building a robot soon. The Music and Recording Studio remains a popular spot for teens, and we are currently partnering with some community volunteers to use the studio to record stories of veterans that will be shared with the community. The teens will be the interviewers and will be compiling the recordings to be held as a keepsake! They are getting instruction to use the equipment and many have interests of becoming sound engineers.

Most recently the organization began serving middle school students beginning at 6th grade in the teen center in an effort to maximize the continuum of care for our members. We wanted to ensure that during one of the most critical times in their lives as they transition to middle school, we wanted to be there for them to aid them in managing their behaviors and emotions.

We remain eternally grateful to you for all of your support and openly invite you to come out and visit us when time permits.

In Partnership,

S. D. Miller
Sabrina D. Miller
Executive Director

Christmas @ First Pres Highlights



notes

Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

Touting the (totally true) advantages of choir participation

- Superior health, as measured by numerous scientific studies
- Produces natural “feel-good” hormones
- Satisfaction of teamwork (EXACTLY the same as theater participation, soccer, baseball, dance)
- Service to your church, that produces great joy in the process

And yet, we have places vacant in the choir loft.

So, how about something different? True perspectives vs. false notions of “choir member” prerequisites

- Two “p’s” rule: you need a pulse, and the ability to match pitch (which can be taught)
- The overwhelming majority of choristers are not soloists
- Singing is a skill—it can be taught (and caught)
- Reading music is a skill—if you can follow a simple map, you can learn to read music fairly proficiently
- There are “seasons” of choir service—the “non-choir” seasons are not permanent for qualified singers
- If you sing and match pitch, and read a little music, what does God expect you to do?
- Your church needs your abilities as well as your gifts
- A weekly service assignment is a JOY, not a burden
- You are not too busy to serve the Saviour and your church (true for everybody, not just singers!)

C'mon—give singing a chance to transform your life into one of praise, gratitude, wholeness, and satisfaction.

Palmetto Girls Sing!



Girls in grades 4-12 are invited to audition for Palmetto Girls Sing. Palmetto Girls Sing is a girls' choir that serves girls in grades 4-12 in Greenwood, SC and its surrounding areas. Palmetto Girls Sing seeks to enrich the lives of girls through diverse and high quality choral music. An emphasis is placed on the joy of singing and its importance in our world. Palmetto Girls Sing offers girls opportunities for personal, social, spiritual, and artistic growth as the girls learn vocal technique, vocal health, music reading, and performance skills.

Palmetto Girls Sing presents its music, both sacred and secular, to the glory of God. As an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, Palmetto Girls Sing is a non-profit organization.

Wrapping Up 2023

Palmetto Girls Sing ended 2023 with style and grace! We performed for the Connie Maxwell Christmas, and the older girls performed for the PJ's with Santa Night at the Arts Center. We presented a "Winter Concert" on December 11 to a packed house of happy audience members. We finished the year with a social in Alexander Hall. Fun was had by all!

Spring 2024

- The spring will surely be packed with activity. Here are some things we are looking forward to!
- February- A Bake Sale to raise funds for NYC!
- March- a spring retreat
- April- Performing at Carowinds
- May- Spring Concert
- June- New York Festival at Carnegie Hall

We have an official Palmetto Girls Sing website!
Visit us at www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.com!

New York Bound

In the summer of 2022, Palmetto Girls Sing met and performed with the Portland Symphonic Girl Choir. The conductors of that choir have invited Palmetto Girls Sing to perform with them at Carnegie Hall in June 2024. We have 25 girls participating in the trip. Please help us raise funds if you can. This particular trip is quite expensive.

Would you like to donate to Palmetto Girls Sing? Any amount is so helpful! You may donate to a scholarship for a particular girl, or make a donation to benefit all of the girls.

Name_____

Gift Amount _____ Date_____

I would like my gift to help provide a scholarship. _____



2023-2024 SEASON

Sunday,
August 27
4:00 pm

Stacy Arnold, Guitar
Stacy Arnold is recognized for his artistry as a concert soloist, recording artist, and educator whose concerts have been described applauded for his innate musicianship, virtuosity, and beautiful tone. Mr. Arnold's concerts are characterized by performances that represent the entire history of the guitar, presenting composers from the 16th century Renaissance to the modern day, with an emphasis on the music of Spain and Latin America.

Sunday,
October 15
4:00 pm

A Family Affair...The Sequel
Organist, Robert P. Glick and Soprano, Allison Keepert, return to the stage in a family encore. Mr. Glick is active as an organ recitalist and consultant. He has been a featured organist on National Public Radio's Pipedreams program, and he is a published composer and arranger of music for both organ and choir. Ms. Keepert is a singer-songwriter based in Chicago, Illinois, and is the niece of Robert Glick. She holds a BMus in Sacred Music from the Moody Bible Institute and a Masters degree in vocal performance from North Park University.

Sunday,
October 29
6:00 pm

LEGIN
Nigel "Legin" Anderson is a spoken word artist, gospel hip hop artist, podcaster and preacher/ speaker who uses transparency to connect and art to communicate with his listeners. Inspired by his father's battle with addiction, Legin speaks about fatherlessness to forgiveness, as well as racial reconciliation and urban apologetics amongst other topics, and the hope of the gospel in his music.

Sunday,
December 17
7:00 pm

Christmas @ First Pres
Presented by First Presbyterian Church, Sing Noel is performed by choirs, handbells, and congregation. Readings and carols engage the audience in familiar melodies of the season. Join us in for music that will bring joy to all this holiday.

Sunday,
February 11
4:00 pm

Ensemble Radieuse (NEW ADDITION)
Pianist, Steven Graff joins Oboist, Kelley Vaneman and Flautist, Chris Vaneman for this ensemble performance. Ensemble Radieuse is dedicated to making a broad range of classics accessible and enjoyable to a variety of audiences--concerts are inevitably enlivened by spirited commentary from the stage. Their works span from the Baroque to the present-day and from the familiar to the surprising.

Sunday,
March 17
4:00 pm

Americana (REVISED DATE)
In its annual concert honoring the diverse heritage of American composers, the Greenwood Festival Chorale presents music for all ages. Director Mr. Steven Skinner leads the chorale in its musical offerings to the community throughout the year.

Sunday,
April 7
4:00 pm

Soothing Reflections (REVISED DATE)
Sisters Rita and Susan Dunn present exquisite harp and violin music. This talented duo charms audiences with musical selections from classical, celtic, folk, and sacred genres. Don't miss the chance to hear these exceptional artists!

MY GIFT TO SUPPORT THE 2023-2024 FESTIVA ARTS SERIES
FRIEND: \$50-\$99 \$_____; **SPONSOR:** \$100-\$599 \$_____; **PATRON:** \$500-\$999 \$_____; **ANGEL:** \$1,000 + \$_____

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____
Email: _____

Please complete this form and mail it to:
First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648
or leave it in the church office. Your check payable to
FPC is tax deductible.

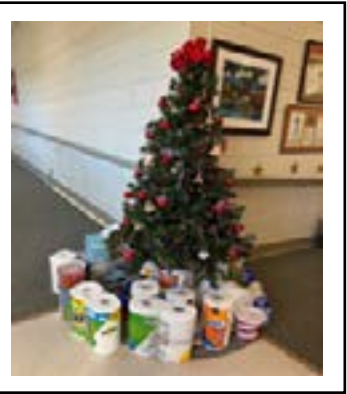
DATES TO REMEMBER

Please keep in mind that these events/happenings/places are not set in stone.
Keep watch in the bulletin, next month’s *Spire*, and the Pastor’s Update for more current information.

Monday, January 1	Church offices closed
Sunday, January 7	Baptism of the Lord Sunday Communion during both services Annual Congregational Meeting (10:00, Sanctuary) Installation of Officers (11:00 Sanctuary)
Sunday, January 14	Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Confirmation class begins (10:00, Youth Room) Cradle Roll (11:00, Sanctuary)
Monday, January 15	Church offices closed
Sunday, January 21	American Leporosity Missions Sunday Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Friday-Sunday January 26-28	Ladies Retreat
Sunday, January 28	Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Saturday, February 3	Choral Concert of Allen University and Benedict College (3:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, February 4	Communion during both services Noah's Ark Sunday
Friday-Sunday February 9-11	Couples Retreat (Steifle Farm)
Saturday, February 10	Circle #4 Souper Bowl Sale (8:00 am, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, February 11	Palmetto Girls Sing Bake Sale Fundraiser (Lobby) Festiva (4:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Wednesday, February 14	Ash Wednesday Lenten Lunch & Service (12:00, Location TBD)
Saturday, February 17	Trinity Presbytery Meeting (9:30 am, Shandon Pres. Church)
Sunday, February 18	First Sunday of Lent Communion during early service Scout Sunday

Noah’s Ark News

We wrapped up the year with a visit from Santa all while remembering the REAL REASON we celebrate Christmas! It was wonderful to see Christmas through the eyes of our children at the Ark. We had our traditional Chapel with Santa hosted by former Noah’s Ark Co Director, Julie McLaughlin. Our four-year-olds took a field trip to see Junie B. Jones at the Greenwood Community theater and to the Polar Express at Greenwood Railroad Historical Center. Our three-year-olds ventured out to Cedar Post Tree Farm for the first time. But through the hustle and bustle of the holiday, the children learned about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our prayer is the real reason for the season stays in their hearts and carries our children into the new year ahead!



Don’t miss the boat!
Registration for currently enrolled students, their siblings, and First Presbyterian Church members begins January 16th. Please email Lauren Trantham at noahsark@firstgreenwood.com or call 229-0902 for more information.

Our Noah’s Ark Giving Tree was another great success. We appreciate all our donations and were thrilled to deliver these offerings to the Hospice House here in Greenwood. It is so fulfilling to watch our children grow into “little givers.” In January, the children will explore our Fruit of the Spirit, Gentleness. Our goal is to surpass the 64 nonperishable items our three- and four-year-olds collected in Chapel for our local food bank. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!

Looking at our Sunday School Heritage Through a Kaleidoscope

by Andrew Goforth

For its one hundred and forty plus years of existence, our church has been blessed with a strong and stable Sunday School program. Pillars of our Sunday School heritage, such as our church’s earliest development as a Sunday School outpost of Rock Presbyterian Church, early sessions in the old Sunday School Hall adjoining Alexander Hall (currently the kitchen), the work of Dr. Samuel Hodges (a long-term Sunday School Superintendent in the early years of our church), and the Rally Day/Celebration Sunday tradition that marks the beginning of a new Sunday School year, have all been touched upon in previous articles. More recently, our month-long Kaleidoscope program has become one of those treasured traditions of our Sunday School. In recent decades, our church has hosted a joint adult Sunday School class in Alexander Hall in the month of January each year. This joint class has always boasted a wide variety of exciting themes, with recent topics ranging on the entire Bible, to specific books of the Bible, such as the Psalms, Revelation, or Job, and other various topics, such as the Holocaust.

Having one large joint Sunday School class is not unique to Kaleidoscope. In fact, our church has a very strong heritage of large joint classes. Before our church was even organized, Rev. John McLees taught a large Sunday School class in the old Chapel on Sunday evenings. That large joint class eventually developed into our church congregation. Prior to the construction of the three-floor education building in 1924, it appears that our church’s Sunday School hour began with a very brief large joint session, which was then followed by a more in-depth lesson in smaller classes for men, women, and children.¹ Once the education building was completed, our Sunday School program was completely departmentalized, and the joint session was done away with, adding value to the few occasions when a joint class is held. While they have not always been referred to as “Kaleidoscope,” there have been many joint Sunday School classes gathering in Alexander Hall. These joint classes become especially noticeable in the records during the ministry of Rev. Dr. Warren Gaw, who served as pastor of our church in 1968-1983. During the summer of 1982, our church went through the book “Casebook for Christian Living.”² Shortly before his retirement in 1983, Dr. Gaw taught joint Sunday School classes on the Plan of Reunion of PCUS and UPCUSA, as both northern and southern denominations, previously split during the Civil War, approached formal reunification. It wasn’t until the ministry of Dr. John Wall, that Kaleidoscope began to take on the form we know today, being held annually in January.

As we approach this year's Kaleidoscope, let us pray that it will not lose the spark of excitement that makes it such a treasured annual tradition. As we gather as one united Sunday School class during this month of January, just as the founding members of our church once did, let us be reminded of the joy of having our minds sharpened in the things of above. May we continue to hold on to the tradition of fellowship and discipleship offered by our annual Kaleidoscope and Sunday School program.

¹ Reynolds, Alice Hover. *A Centennial History of the First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, South Carolina, 1883-1983*. Centennial Committee of the First Presbyterian Church, 1983. p. 54

² *The Index-Journal*. Saturday, June 5, 1982. p. 3

Stephen Ministry Training Begins in January



Stephen Ministers are trained to provide high-quality one-to-one care for people going through difficult times in life. Stephen Ministry training provides informational and educational materials designed to equip lay caregivers to come alongside and support people who are hurting. Training sessions are conducted by trained Stephen Leaders and professional care providers.

Stephen Ministry training builds on caregivers’ own spiritual gifts. If you are feeling the tug to serve hurting people in our church and community, Stephen Ministry may be the perfect way for you to serve.

Stephen Ministry training sessions begin on January 30, 2023, and continue for ten weeks, through April 9.

For more information or to sign up for Stephen Ministry training, contact the church office or Dr. Brad Christie.

NEW OFFICER INSTALLATION
New Officers, you will be installed during
the 11:00 service on January 7, 2024.
If is very important that you are
in attendance for this service.

Stewardship
Kris Abell, Roy Hemphill,
Lelion Elledge

“The bread which you hold back belongs to the hungry; the coat, which you guard in your locked storage-chests, belongs to the naked; the footwear mouldering in your closet belongs to those without shoes. The silver that you keep hidden in a safe place belongs to the one in need. Thus, however many are those whom you could have provided for, so many are those whom you wrong.” — Saint Basil

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)
Pat Fronzak -- The Oaks
Phyllis Zuehlke -- Augusta Rehab
Julie Cooner -- GRRH

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to Rick May and his family on the passing of his stepfather, Stanley Crosier of Florida, on December 12, 2023; Adam Bacot and his family on the passing of his mother, Mishie Bacot, on December 20, 2023; and to Rebecca Wise and her family on the passing of her mother-in-law, Sarah Anne Wise, on December 27, 2023. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord’s Supper** during **both services on January 7, 2024**


Deadline for the February issue of *The Spire* is Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

The **church offices** will **closed** Monday, January 1, 2024 and January 15, 2024.

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES

We have new envelopes for special offerings and memorials. You will find them in the pew racks. Please be sure to check the appropriate box for which special offering you are giving to or the name for which the memorial is given.

These do not replace your regular offering envelopes.



ARE YOU FRAZZLED?

Have you or someone you know been sick or hospitalized?
Are you or someone you know homebound?
Are you or someone you know completely frazzled?

Please let the church office know so that we can visit with you, offer home communion, pray for with you, or set you up with a Stephen Minister.
We are here for you.

Feel free to contact the front office or one of our ministers.

January 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, January 8th, at 6:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Christian Education Team** will meet Sunday, January 14th, at 6:00 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Committed Prayers Team** will meet Monday, January 8th and January 29th, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Diaconate** will meet Sunday, January 21st, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Financial Oversight Committee** will meet Wednesday, January 17th, at 12:00 noon in Alexander Hall.

The **Men of the Church** will meet Thursday, January 4th, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Missions/Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, January 14th, at 4:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Noah's Ark Board** will meet Tuesday, January 9th, at 5:15 pm, virtually.

The **Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** will meet Monday, January 22nd, at 10:00 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, January 28th, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Stephen Ministry will meet Tuesday, January 9th, at 6:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, January 16th, at 5:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Youth Team** will meet Sunday, January 14th, at 4:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

Please note that the place, time, and date of these meetings are subject to change.

FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

ONLINE GIVING

If you still need to setup your recurring draft, you can do so on our church website, www.firstgreenwood.com. Look for the Giving link at the top of the page. Call the church office and speak with Nan Smith if you have any questions. You may contact her at 864-229-5814 or finance@firstgreenwood.com.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OR BANK

If you plan to give contributions from your investment portfolio or from your bank directly to the church, please let Nan Smith in the financial office know. Nan can be reached at 864-229-5814 or finance@firstgreenwood.com. Stock and other direct transfers often come with no additional information about the donor’s identity.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available on the desk in the front lobby. If you do not see yours or would like to start using offering envelopes, please contact Nan Smith in the financial office. These offering envelopes are mailable. There is no need to put them in another envelope to mail them, just put a stamp on them. If you give online or once a year, and would like to discontinue receiving the envelopes, please return them to Nan with a note letting her know.

Note that your envelope number may have changed. If you use offering envelopes, be sure to use the ones for the current year. As more people start giving electronically, we are ordering fewer offering envelopes, and your envelope number may have changed.



THE SPIRE - (USPS 736-430) is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church, 108 E. Cambridge Ave., PO Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648-0426. Periodicals paid at Greenwood, SC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648-0426.

@

Phone: (864) 229-5814 Fax: (864) 229-3489
Office hours: M-Th 8:00-4:00 and Fr 8:00-12:00 noon

e-mail: office@firstgreenwood.com
web-site: www.firstgreenwood.com

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Hite

Parish Associate

The Rev. Dr. Brad Christie

Parish Associate

The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain

Director of Christian Education

Mrs. Elise Collins

Director of Music Ministries

Mr. Steve Skinner

Interim Youth Leaders

Mrs. Meg Stevens

Mr. Brian Pinson

Music Associate/Organist

Mr. Timothy Walters

Audio/Visual

Mr. Adrian Yorick

Administrative Secretary

Mrs. Lea Jones

Financial Administrator

Ms. Nan Smith

Sexton

Mr. Vince Plotczyk

Noah's Ark Director

Mrs. Lauren Trantham

Church Treasurer

Mrs. Laine Orcutt

Clerk of Session

Mrs. Ruth LaForge

Moderator of Deacons

Ms. Carol Umphress

Moderator of Presbyterian Women

Mrs. Anna Welborn

Chair of Endowment

Dr. Jukie Leary