



GBC events

[Visit the website for a full schedule](#)

February

- 4 Pastor Search Team
Congregational meeting,
9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall
- 10 Buddy Break
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- 17 Segue Youth Choir Festival
Campbell University
- 25 Church-wide Pancake Breakfast
9:15 AM, Fellowship Hall

Orientation Sessions

Feb., 11, 18, 25
10:00 AM, Books on the Corner

worship@GBC

Sunday, Feb. 4

11:00 AM Joint Morning Worship
Guest Proclaimer, Bill Wilson

Sunday, Feb. 11, 18, 25

8:45 and 11:00 AM Worship
9:45 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Feb. 14

6:30 PM Family-Friendly Ash
Wednesday Service

NEW YEAR; NEW DIRECTIONS

By Randy Ashcraft

As we enter the New Year together our collective thoughts center around what 2018 will hold for Greystone Baptist Church. I am confident that you will have a new pastor this year and a new pastor brings new ideas, new leadership, and new styles of ministry. The thought of a new pastor/leader hopefully inspires you to think and pray about “new beginnings” for your church and the reach of the church into North Raleigh and to the outer most parts of the world. This is a time to stretch horizons and dream new dreams for “what might be” going forward. These days are pregnant with possibilities for newness and life.

Unless of course the focus is only on “past ways” of doing things, which neglects the realities of a changing culture and ministry environment not to mention the changing ways God seeks to “make love real” in the 21st century.

“Traditioned innovation” is a term that has been widely used in church life for over a decade now. Jaroslav Pelican in his work, “The Vindication of Tradition” wrote, “Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.” Those of us who love the tradition of the church must be aggressively creative and adaptive in how the tradition of the church stays healthy and alive, while also avoiding traditionalism which sinks us into a pining for the good old days. Change for change sake is never a good idea. Never changing anything is a negation of the ongoing presence of Christ in our midst. God is always moving forward seeking to bring new life to us. Getting stuck in the middle is not an option for a vital congregation!

In just a few days Greystone will begin church wide conversations centered around the strengths and capacities of the church. It will be important in these conversations for every person’s voice to be heard. More importantly, it is critical for all of us listen more intently and carefully

to God’s still small voice speaking to us with fresh ideas and encouraging us to new horizons!

Looking Forward with You! - Randy

PRACTICE RESURRECTION STUDY

In this time of transition at Greystone, it is really important to have practices and tools that strengthen our sense of togetherness. One of the ways we can do this is to study and discuss something together.

During Lent, our Adult Sunday School classes will be reading and discussing, *Practice Resurrection*, by Eugene Peterson. In *Practice Resurrection* Peterson brings the voice of Scripture -- especially Paul’s letter to the Ephesians -- and the voice of the contemporary Christian congregation together to unpack what it means to fully grow up “to the stature of Christ.” Through all of us reading and discussing this book by Peterson, my hope is that we will all understand how to bring Christian character to the center of our lives.

In addition to these Sunday morning opportunities to join in on the discussion, we will also offer study groups on Monday mornings at 10:30 with Randy Ashcraft and on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with Amanda Atkin. We hope you will find a way to join your friends and church family in this study. Paul’s letter to the believers in Ephesus was crucial in the development of the early church and can still be a trusted guide for us in today’s modern church.

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

We will be hosting a series of conversations to help orient guests and new comers to Greystone. These sessions will cover a bit of history about Greystone, our ministries and missions, ways for you to be involved, and time with our pastor, Randy Ashcraft. These conversations will take place in

(cont’d on back page)

FEBRUARY

1 Bruce Foster, Mike Sellers
 2 Lihua Zhao
 3 Bill King, Whitney Pearce, Walter Isenhour
 4 Gus Phillips
 6 Carmen Robinson, Karah Eller, Samuel Eller
 7 Becky Dean, Nancy Register, Bill Brewer
 8 Lilian Grant, Sara Register
 9 Roger Gardner, Hunter Ouzts
 10 Matt Gellatly
 11 Debbie Mikeal, Jay Sherron
 12 Evelyn Harper, Beth Allen, Jillian Brookshire
 13 Daryl Tunstall
 14 Ken Kirkham, Johnathan Eshleman, Megan Daniels

15 Brenda Oglesby, Charlene Wallace, Gretchen Phillips, Brandon Daniels
 16 Rick Chamblee, Hope Motahari
 17 Larry Lewis, Cindy Turner, Rachael Turnbo
 18 Dustin Tuttle, Sam Griesedieck, Samuel Brown
 19 Libby Moore, Katie O'Neal
 20 Nell Panten, Jerry Chiles, Cheryl Muncie, Jennifer Turnbo, Anna Claire Riggins
 21 Henry Kidd, Julia Glover, Walt Kennedy, Tracey Duncan
 22 Erich Brewer, Deborah Motahari, Becca Thompson
 23 Priscilla Crumpler, Rachel Kirkham
 24 Lorri Heilig, William Brewer
 25 Joe Cockerham, Adam Nix
 26 Steve Wheeler

27 Aiden Mabe
 28 Dottie Mitchell, Randy Ashcraft, Airen Murray

90+ BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY!

Becky Dean (2/7)
 Evelyn Harper (2/12)

Children's Ministry

IT'S AN EXCITING DAY!

On Sunday, February 4th, Greystone will have the first of three very important congregational conversations. I hope that you are planning to be here and join in the conversation. While the adults are meeting in the Fellowship Hall, the children will be meeting in their regular spaces beginning at 8:45. Donut holes will be delivered to the children's rooms so that adults can drop children off first and then head to their meeting to enjoy their own donuts and conversation.

The morning will be filled with both familiar and new faces. Pam Phillips, our GBC Preschool Director along with some of her teachers will be leading our preschoolers. Cody Staples, our youth intern last summer, will be leading our

elementary students along with some local college students and recent grads.

Our school age children will have an opportunity during their time together to participate in the own conversation using words and pictures. Please encourage your children to participate and join in the conversation. It will be a meaningful experience for all of Greystone. We are excited that our children will be part of this important process.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our crockpot chefs, dessert masters and all of those who served, cleaned up and planned. Greystone is full of talented and generous people. Over \$500 was raised towards a scholarship fund for children to attend our camps and retreats. Thank you for your support and thank you to our ministers for being such great sports.

GREYSTONE NUMBERS

Worship

[8:45] [11:00]

Jan. 7: 55 167
 Jan. 14: 73 181
 Jan. 21: 74 161
 Jan. 28: 52 163

Generosity (12/31/17)

2017 General Fund
 \$989,791.82

YTD General Fund needed
 \$989,791.82

YTD Operating Receipts
 \$857,096.99

YTD Operating Expenses
 \$877,859.73

Music Ministry

SEGUE YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL

Feb. 17 (Sat.) All-Day at Campbell University, Buies Creek — Student Choirs from all over our region will gather for one day of singing and fellowship which culminates in an afternoon concert. Our own Student Choir will be taking part in this annual event. The event is held at Campbell University in the beautiful Butler Chapel. Friends and family are welcome to come and enjoy the final concert that afternoon (6:00 PM).

The Student Choir will sing in morning worship services that following morning, Feb. 18.

MUSIC MINISTRY CELEBRATION BANQUET

Sunday, February 25 at 6:00-8:00 PM

All adults who serve in the music ministry in some capacity are welcome to join us for our annual celebration banquet on Feb. 25. This year's banquet is Olympic-themed. Come celebrate with us as we reflect back on a year of music and ministry together.

If you are an adult who has served in the Music Ministry this past year, you and your spouse are invited. Contact Mike Eller for more details and to sign up.

LIVING LAST SUPPER PRESENTATION

Sunday, March 25 at 6:30 PM
 Come to the Upper Room with us as we experience the Last Supper in a dramatic way in this multi-sensory presentation featuring music, drama and narration. We will take

communion together and remember the last week of Christ, a week that would change everything.

SUMMER MUSIC & ARTS CAMP 2018
JUNE 14-17, 2018

Camp Kickoff Night — Wed., June 13 @ 6:30 pm

Final Presentation — Sun., June 17 @ 11:00 am

SMAC is an opportunity for children to explore the rich world of music and the arts—including singing, movement, instruments, drama, crafts, and more—in a fun, energetic environment. The highlight of the week is always the Camp Musical. They will learn an entire musical in one week—drama, staging, singing, and all!

Student Ministry

WINTER MOUNTAIN RETREAT

Come away March 2 – 4, for a weekend of fellowship, recreation, and worship. We will travel to the Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center where we will explore the mountains of central North Carolina with a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, rock climbing, low and high ropes courses, and simply sitting amidst God's creation. Cost for the retreat will be \$100 with an early bird price of \$75 if forms and money are received by Monday, February 5. Full and partial scholarships are available. Please contact Allan Smith with questions, allan.smith@greystonechurch.org.

SHOEBOXES FOR HOPE

Thank you to all that contributed to the Shoebox Ministry at Hope Elementary. As a church, we filled up 125 shoeboxes and provided gift cards for 25 teachers and staff. A HUGE thank you.

The shoeboxes were delivered on December 19. Several 5th graders assisted with the unloading and sorting of the shoeboxes. It was so much fun to watch them check the names on the boxes and get so excited as they ran across their own gift. It was wonderful to experience the joy of Christmas with these students.

Our own youth sponsored the ministry this year and many of you donated funds for shopping. Our youth enjoyed the shopping as part of their Christmas Party on December 16. They were very thoughtful as they filled the boxes with hats, socks, and toiletry

items to go along with toys and candy. They even wrapped all of the shoeboxes they had bought for! (The wrapping was not as fun for some but they pushed through it anyway.) Thank you for your support of Greystone Youth. - Leigh Ammons and Pam Ouzts

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Stay informed of all youth activities by subscribing to our weekly email, "Happenings This Week". Subscribe by emailing the church office at office@greystonechurch.org.

RECEIVE TEXT MESSAGE NOTIFICATIONS

Sign up to receive text message reminders through Remind. Text the message @a963fd to the number 81010. If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @a963fd to (919) 336-5052.

Other Ministry News

GREYSTONE WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

Registration for our 2018-2019 Preschool year begins this month! Church members have a special window of opportunity for registering before we open the doors to the general public. Registration for church members will begin on Wednesday, January 24. Enrollment forms with details on classes offered and tuition costs will be available on the church website on January 5. We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful ministry of Greystone. Please help us fill each space by telling your friends!

A BIG BUDDY BREAK THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped us celebrate Christmas with our VIP families. It truly was a blessing for all who participated. From visiting Santa to decorating cookies, there was so much fun and excitement. For me, it really put meaning to the JOY of Christmas. - Nancy Register

SOLOS FOR LUNCH

This is for any adult who is single or whose spouse is out of town, etc. Meet at the back of the Sanctuary after the 11:00 service. February schedule: 2/4-Piper's Tavern, 2/11-Outback, 2/18-Kanki, 2/25-Red Lobster

MEMBER UPDATE

A few members received Christmas Cards from Verina Hawthorne this year. She still lives in California near her family and is doing fine. She wishes all at Greystone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

LUMBERTON RELIEF EFFORT

The Greystone family is invited to participate in the rebuilding of homes in the Lumberton, NC area. You may participate three days, two days, or one day in each of the designated dates. Please contact Jerry Chiles, jerrychiles1@gmail.com or the church office to participate. Dates: March 8-10, April 19-21, May 24-26 and June 20-24.

Community in Prayer

Hospital

- Eileen Trawick, Duke Raleigh
- Sylvia Goulding, Rex Rehab
- Duane Long, Duke Hospital

Health Concerns

- Steve Wheeler
- Ginny Liverance's friend, Renee Bischoff
- Jean Brown
- Steve Holden
- Evelyn Harper
- Joan Murphy's daughter-in-law, Karey
- Michael Rowe's mother, Jill Smith and grandmother, Augusta Schreyer-Smith
- Virginia Creamer's son, Jack Creamer
- Linda Peterson's friend, Finlay Judy
- Vercie Eller
- Ron Thompson's friend, John Darr
- Amy Vandersip's sister, Jill

- Joanne Thompson's brother-in-law, Tim Marshall
- Dottie Thompson's grandson, Edward Thompson
- Cathy Perkinson
- Elizabeth Cregger
- Sylvia Goulding
- Roger Gardner
- Deanna Choplin's friend, Emily Kinlaw

Residential / Health Care Facilities

- **Springmoor (SHC):** Vergie Baxley, Lib Daniels, Sallie Greene, Pauline Noble, Juanita Register

Sympathy

- Family of Nancy Godwin on her death, 1/18/18
- Family of Janet Pender on her death, 1/16/18

Greystone contacts

Main Office

Hours: 8:30-4:30 pm (M-Th)
Phone: (919) 847-1333

Minister On-Call

Phone: (919) 817-8975

Pastoral Staff

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ORIENTATION SESSIONS *(cont'd from front page)*

"Books on the Corner", our media center that is located just across the walkway from the Fellowship Hall. We will meet at 10 AM on February 11, 18 and 25. If you have further questions, please contact Amanda Atkin
(amanda.atkin@greystonechurch.org or 919.847.1333).

INVITATION FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

The Pastor Search Team is excited to announce that after an orientation with Dr. Bill Wilson with the Center for Health Churches, we have committed ourselves - and this church - to a time of prayerful discernment about who our next Senior Minister will be. To aid in that process, we are inviting you to a series of conversations about Greystone's past, present and future. These crucial conversations will help shape this work as a spiritual process, rooted in God's will for who and what Greystone is meant to be. Please join us for the first conversation on February 4 at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall (no 8:45 AM service or Sunday School that day). Donuts and coffee will be provided starting at 8:45 AM, as well as childcare/special programming for children birth - grade five. There will be one joint service at 11:00 AM during which Dr. Bill Wilson will preach. Additional conversations will be held on March 18 at 4 PM and in early May (date/time TBD). Please pray for our team and for our church as we embark on this holy work.

GREYSTONE GARDEN

The Greystone Garden is seeking a new administrator. Qualifications: 1) a desire for dirty fingernails, 2) ability to pray hard and long that deer and rabbits won't eat the product, 3) ability to research weather hoping rain is in the forecast, 4) a desire to provide food for those who are economically challenged, 5) willingness to accept the joy received watching real fruits of one's labor. Greystone has provided lots of vegetables for North Raleigh Ministries and it would be wonderful to continue this activity. If you are interested in running (or even being part of) the garden program, please contact Joanne Thompson at jtdunnm@aol.com.

The deadline for the March
2018 **CONNECT** is
noon, Thursday, 2/22/18.

...where every member is a minister
and is equipped to express God's
love by word and deed to all people.



If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe by calling the church office.