



## GBC events

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

### April

- 1 Grace Fellowship SS Class  
Pot Luck Lunch, 12:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall
- 2 Easter Monday - Church office  
closed
- 4 No Wednesday Night Live  
Activities (Spring Break)
- 8 Second Sunday Family  
Fellowship, 12:00 PM
- 14 Buddy Break Training  
9:00 – 10:30 AM  
Buddy Break  
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- 15 All Church Fellowship Breakfast  
9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall  
Leadership Council Mtg. & Lunch  
12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 19-21 Lumberton Relief Effort
- 29 Homegrown Greystone Music  
Program, 6:30 PM, Sanctuary

## worship@GBC

### Sunday, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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

## EASTER CHOICES

By Amanda Atkin

Throughout this season of Lent we have used one benediction. Every Sunday we have stood as one body and said these words:

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.  
Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.  
Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.

Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.

Give up worrying: take up trust in God.

Give up complaining: value what you have.

Give up stress: take up prayer.

Give up judging others: discover Christ within them.

Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.

Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.

Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.

Give up words: fill yourself with silence and listen to others.

Give up the ways of death: practice resurrection.

Practice resurrection. We believe that at Easter, Jesus rose from the dead. A once crucified, broken, lifeless Jesus was raised to new life victorious. We claim to be Easter people, but how does this resurrection impact our everyday, ordinary Tuesday and Thursday lives? How do we practice resurrection?

Our Lenten Benediction gives us a glimpse into Easter living. Much of our lives is based in fear. Yet, the words “Do not be afraid” appear in the Bible over seventy times. Now, I don’t think the Bible is saying, “There is nothing scary in this life, so you don’t need to be scared.” Let’s be real... life is scary. But usually when we see the command “do not be afraid” more often than not, it is followed by an action that God is or will be taking. Here are a few such examples:

“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today.” (Exodus 14:13)

“Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you.” (Deuteronomy 3:22)

“Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.” (Joshua 10:8)

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)

Scripture also pairs the command “do not be afraid” with the support “do not be discouraged.” We find this pairing ten times. In other words – do not be afraid, be filled with courage. Easter is God’s victory over all the scary parts of this life: rejection, pain, sorrow, hatred, deceit, death. Why should we be filled with courage? Because as Christians, the Lord is with us and in us. And He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.

Our Lenten Benediction asks us to cast aside very specific and often fear based actions and instead to make Easter choices. Choose Easter Greystone! Choose Easter! We are a part of God’s unfolding plan in this world and we have nothing to fear.

## DEACON NOMINATIONS

It’s time for our deacon nomination process to begin for candidates who will begin serving in September 2018. Please prayerfully consider who you would like to nominate to be a candidate. Additional information and nomination forms will be available in our bulletins, on Sunday School class clipboards, in the church office, and on the church website beginning on or about April 15.

## APRIL

- 1 Jim Herrmann, Dylan Austin, Andrew Millikan, Jackson Hollingsworth
- 2 Jim Bensen
- 3 Patti Ogden
- 4 Molly Walker
- 5 Jeff Dawson
- 6 Peggy Brown, Brad Ouzts, Robert Grant
- 7 Daryl Sherman, Elizabeth Worley
- 8 Marian Cregger, Joe LeNoir, Will Walker
- 9 Karen Dillinger, Wayne Kleven, Jeannie Miller

- 10 Davie Heilig
- 11 Louise Estes
- 13 Harris Hollingsworth, Josh Duncan, Jordan Turnbo
- 14 Patti Jenkins
- 15 Nina Cole, Jennifer Walker
- 16 Ron Thompson
- 17 Becky Hilliard
- 19 Lu-Ann Lesley, Trey Nobles
- 21 Ruth Norsworthy, Amanda Atkin, Parhum Nikaeen, Morgan Evans
- 22 Cindy Kleven, Kezia Paul, Jack Pappas, Katie Clay
- 23 Seth Steiner

- 24 Cathy Byman, Paul Hansen, Michael Steele, Bryan Hunt
- 25 Lib Daniels
- 27 Sara Vandersip
- 28 Shirley Mitchell, Paul Jansen
- 29 Jeannette Bensen, Chris Austin, Drew Tunstall
- 30 Bobby Hunter, Kira Ashurst

## Children's Ministry

### SPRING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday, May 2 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM we will host our annual Spring Carnival and welcome our neighbors to our campus. This is a great way to introduce our church to those around us. We hope that you will plan to be a part of this fun night. The Preschool and Children's Ministry Committee along with the Fellowship Team welcome your help. We need game attendants, craft guides, face painters, burger flippers, dinner servers, table wipers, smiling faces and so much more. Whatever your gifts or talents might be, we can use your help. Please let April Alston or Kim Craig know of your interest.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are going to have a tractor load of fun this year in VBS as we *Grow in God* together *On the Farm*. The dates will be August 2 – 5. Our Spring Carnival will serve as an advertisement to the community, and you will get a taste of the fun you can have as a VBS volunteer.

### SECOND SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Join us at Sawmill Taproom after the 11:00 worship on Sunday April 8 for fellowship around the tables. This is a great chance to meet new friends or catch up with long-time friends. All are welcome. Please let April Alston know by that Sunday at 11:00 if you are going to join us.

### GREYSTONE NUMBERS

#### Worship

[8:45] [11:00]

Mar. 4: ..... 54.....188 .....

Mar. 11: ..... 61.....150 .....

Mar. 18: ..... 71.....153 .....

Mar. 25: ..... 60.....170 .....

#### Generosity (2/28/18)

2018 General Fund  
\$989,791.82

YTD General Fund needed  
\$164,965.30

YTD Operating Receipts  
\$111,843.82

YTD Operating Expenses  
\$132,808.46

## Music Ministry

### MUSIC MINISTRY KEY DATES

April 4 — No Wed. Evening Rehearsals (Spring Break)

April 8 — No Student Choir Rehearsal (Spring Break)

April 25 — Last night of WAM! Children's Choirs

April 29 — WAM! Children's Choirs sing in AM Worship

April 29 — No regular evening rehearsals in light of Homegrown Greystone Concert

### HOMEGROWN GREYSTONE CONCERT

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 (6:30 PM)

This beloved event is coming back! Join us for an evening of inspirational music (folk, gospel and spirituals). This is a night of celebration featuring

Greystone talents such as the Grace Tones Ensemble, Adult Choir, Student Choir and many more.

If interested in being a part of this program in any way, contact Mike soon.

### REGISTER NOW - SUMMER MUSIC & ARTS CAMP 2018

JUNE 14-17

Registration is limited and ends May 31!

Camp Kickoff Night: Wed., June 13 (6:30 PM)

Final Presentation: Sun., June 17 (11 AM)

Camp Hours: 9-3 PM (June 14-16); 9-12 PM (June 17)

\*Early-bird drop-off (8 AM) available upon request

Camp Ages: Rising 2nd — Rising 6th graders.

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!

Visit the church website for more information (click on the homepage SMAC banner).

# Student Ministry

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO EARTH

Nearly 40 youth and adults traveled to Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center in Asheboro, NC for our Winter Mountain Weekend, March 2 - 4. The theme of the weekend was "The Gospel According to Earth". Students reflected on how their relationship with God is influenced by their relationship with creation, the world that has been formed by God around them. The students discussed the theme in student led small groups throughout the weekend, as the 12th-grade students led discussions amongst their peers. They reflected on how they can know God from looking at the world around them. They talked about how they can love the earth

because God loves the earth. They thought about where their food comes from. And they were encouraged to be advocates of love for the earth in their own lives back in Raleigh.

Additionally, the students enjoyed a variety of activities at Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center. They participated in a low ropes team building course, where they had to work together to complete tasks as a group. They went through a high ropes course, learning to push through their own fears. They hiked all over the mountain, including the tower climb where they could see for miles around the camp. They also sat around the retreat center for times of personal reflection, simply being in God's presence.

Thank you to all of the adults who helped to organize the weekend and especially to those who went along. It

was a meaningful weekend of fellowship, challenge, and reflection, as well as a time of connecting with God through being amongst God's creation.

## 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](mailto: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 fall 2018-2019 program and for our six-week summer camp program is underway! We would appreciate your prayers as we try to fill all our open spots in this important outreach ministry here at Greystone. Information about fall and summer programs is available on the church website or by calling the preschool office at 919-870-0040. Please help us spread the word!

## 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. April schedule: 4/8-Imperial Garden, 4/15-Assagio's, 4/22-San Marco's, 4/29-Bonefish Grill

## SENIOR ADULT SPONSORED TRIP

On Saturday, 4/28/18 we will go to the Black Mountain Chocolate Factory in Winston Salem to enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of how chocolate is made from bean to bar. Taste and shop delicious varieties and then stroll to Sweet Potatoes for a tasty lunch. Time

permitting, we will visit Mast General Store. Cost for tour is \$6.27 (pay Cathy Smith). We depart the Sawmill Parking lot at 9:30 AM. A Sign-up sheet is in the hallway.

## 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](mailto:jerrychiles1@gmail.com) or the church office to participate. Dates: April 19-21, May 24-26 and June 20-24.

# Community in Prayer

## Praise

- Birth of Owen Matthew Lee, grandson of Erich and Karen Brewer, March 20, 2018

## Health Concerns

- Jim Burris
- Sylvia Goulding
- Grace Parnell
- Eunice Bland
- Louise Estes
- Louise Estes' brother, Mike Jones
- Ann Ashcraft
- Helen Tugwell
- Karen Brewer's sister, Nancy
- Eileen Trawick
- Michael Graham, Paul and Elaine Hanson's son-in-law
- Ginny Liverance's friend, Renee Bischoff
- Duane Long
- Virginia Creamer's son, Jack Creamer

- Linda Peterson's friend, Finlay Judy
- Ron Thompson's friend, John Darr
- Dottie Thompson's grandson, Edward Thompson
- Cathy Perkinson
- Elizabeth Cregger
- Deanna Choplin's friend, Emily Kinlaw

## Residential / Health Care Facilities

- **Sunrise at North Hills:** Jean Brown
- **Springmoor (SHC):** Vergie Baxley, Lib Daniels, Sallie Greene, Pauline Noble, Juanita Register

## Sympathy

- Roger Gardner's family on his death, 3/20/18
- Paul Hansen's family on the death of his mother, Fran Hansen, 3/19/18
- Sandra Hunt's family on the loss of her grandmother, Elsie White Bazemore, 3/13/28

## 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

April Alston

Minister of Children/Preschool  
april.alston@greystonechurch.org

Amanda Atkin

Minister of Faith Formation  
amanda.atkin@greystonechurch.org

Mike Eller

Minister of Music  
mike.eller@greystonechurch.org

Allan Smith

Minister of Students  
allan.smith@greystonechurch.org

### Office Staff

Steve Rose

Property Manager  
properties@greystonechurch.org

Annette Variano

Administrative Assistant  
office@greystonechurch.org

Financial Secretary

finance@greystonechurch.org

### Weekday Preschool

Pam Phillips

Director  
weekdaypreschool@greystonechurch.org

**Greystone Baptist Church**

**7509 Lead Mine Rd.**

**Raleigh, NC 27615**

**ADDRESS SERVICE**

**REQUESTED**

**Non-Profit Organization**

**U.S. Postage**

**Paid**

**Raleigh, NC**

**Permit No. 2427**

The deadline for the May  
2018 *CONNECT* is  
noon Tuesday, 4/24/18.

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



**PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE** - On March 18, approximately 120 GBC members attended a group meeting intended to address current programs of the church. If you missed this meeting or wish to fill out more "KoolAid" sheets, a make-up session will be held April 8 during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. The 3rd Congregational Conversation will be held on May 6 at 4 PM, addressing GBC's future. Please consider attending these meetings and continue to pray for the Search Committee's ability, with your help, to discern God's wish for Greystone.

**ALL-CHURCH FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** - Join us for good food and fellowship, Sunday, April 15 at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING AND LUNCH** - The next Leadership Council will be after the 11:00 service on Sunday, April 15. You may bring your own lunch, or you can place an order from the Jason's Deli menu with the church office, 919-847-1333, or with Amanda, amanda.atkin@greystonechurch.org. Deadline for orders is 10:15 AM, 4/15/18.

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