



Greystone

Baptist Church

Fall 2021



Can you see it?

Fall is one of my favorite seasons of the year. Despite the fact that I've lived in this part of the country all my life, the first crisp evenings always seem to catch me off guard. They seem to come out of nowhere, breaking the oppressive humidity of late

summer with the grace of more breathable air. Then the leaves begin to change from their spring and summer shades of green to more earthy oranges, yellows, reds, and then browns. It is a beautiful show.

The whole process reminds us that change is one of the most basic, necessary, and yet miraculous experiences of life. The prophet Isaiah speaks:

"Behold I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
(43:19)

These words have become a refrain for our ministry together as we have learned to make plans and then revise and reimagine them as the pandemic carries on. As this kind of working and re-working can be frustrating, the word of the prophet provide some comfort.

The last several months (and years) have included their fair share of endings. Sort of like the changing leaves of fall, our programs, relationships, and ministries have gone through a season of letting go. But as we look ahead, even reading through the pages of this newsletter perhaps, we might begin to see that the Spirit of God has been at work the whole time, working to birth something new in us.

Can you see it?

What is Digital Discipleship?

Digital discipleship is a new ministry area for Greystone, but many of the ideas of digital discipleship are things the church has already been doing, especially during the pandemic. It is evident our world is more online than ever before. Almost every area of our lives is affected by the digital world, including our faith and worship. Though we will always prioritize in-person worship and ministry, it is also important we enter the digital space as ministers and the body of Christ. We want to be in spaces where people in the community are, which includes digital spaces too.

What will digital discipleship look like at Greystone? Our vision for this ministry area is to be able to connect online both with members of the church and members of the community. This might translate into Zoom webinars with church partners, continued series on "The Living Stone" podcast, spiritual formation practices, online events with the community, or digital theological conversations and resources. We are envisioning what digital discipleship can look like now through the remainder of the pandemic and beyond, looking to churches who are doing this well and thinking creatively about how Greystone can continue its ministry through new media. Our hope is that the work of the church can broaden through opportunities only made possible by being online, with experiences we would not be able to have otherwise. The possibilities of being online are endless and create new and exciting spaces for Greystone to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world.

- Anna Beth Mann

Close to Home: A series for the season of Advent

Beginning Sunday, November 28, 2021

Advent is a season of waiting, of wondering, of watching to see God at work in our world. It is a season of anticipatory hope for what God is doing. This Advent we employ the language of “home” to describe that for which we wait, wonder, watch, and hope. We are close to home, we can see glimpses of it, we can feel it in sacred moments, but we aren’t fully there yet. So how do we live in the meantime?



Music at Greystone

We are grateful to be singing together again (as safely as possible) at Greystone! The GBC Adult Choir has been regularly leading our music in worship since May, and we have all enjoyed worshipping together through congregational song – masked and distanced – since June. If you’d like to sing in the choir, our regular fall rehearsal time is 7:15-7:45 p.m. on Wednesday nights in the sanctuary. No experience is necessary! All are also welcome to ring with us in the GBC Handbell Choir, which will be meeting from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the choir room throughout the fall (masked and distanced). Please see or email Pastor Christian (christian.mcivor@greystonechurch.org) if you’re interested!

As the Delta variant has put our return to any kind of “normal” on hold, our fall youth and children’s music offerings will begin as part of their regularly scheduled meeting times. Pastor Christian will be leading group singing and other musical activities with our children during their 10:30 a.m. outdoor Sunday school time and with our youth during their 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sunday meeting time. We are hopeful that we will see COVID trends move in a positive direction and allow us to safely expand our youth and children’s music ministry offerings in the coming months.

Pastor Christian would love to hear from you about the role music plays in your life and faith! If you would like to participate in the choirs or any part of our music ministry programs, or if you would just like to talk about music and faith matters, please feel free to see or email Christian!

Wednesday Night Church “Music of Our Faith”

Please join us for a 4-part educational series on “Music of Our Faith,” from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights October 20, 27, and November 3. This series, which will focus primarily on congregational song (and include plenty of singing) will be presented in the sanctuary and made available on Zoom. We will discuss how the music we sing in worship leads us to build a “sonic canon” as a community, and how that canon both reflects who we are while also influencing who we want to be as a church. Through the lens of C. Michael Hawn’s “seven streams of congregational song,” we will explore the widely diverse range of congregational songs that are available to use in worship, from classic hymns to contemporary praise songs to global songs, and even including some “secular” songs. We hope to see you there!

- Christian McIvor



Children's Ministry

Our children's ministry is buzzing with all sorts of new opportunities this fall. On Sunday mornings, we gather outside for Earth Camp during the Sunday School hour. Earth Camp is a little bit Sunday school, a little bit VBS, a little bit missions & music and a whole lot of fun. For the next few weeks we will be focusing on food stories in our Bible and working in our missions garden.

An all new worship space is available to families with young children. The Fellowship Hall is being transformed into a livestream viewing space with all the comforts of home plus the joy of being with community. This space will be available any time we have indoor worship.

On Wednesday nights, we will focus our attention on building connections with each other. Pastor April will spend time visiting with individual families and hosting large group outdoor fellowship opportunities.

Lastly, we are working on a big library project that we can't wait to share with you soon. All of these opportunities are explored in more detail in the children's newsletter. If you know a family that would like to know more about the opportunities for children and families here at Greystone, please let April know!

- April Alston



Student Ministry



There are many shifts happening in the lives of our students this fall. A shift from isolation to constant interaction at school with missed friends. A shift in a flexible schedule to a structured week. A shift from a glimpse of hope in pandemic conditions to some of the most heightened we've experienced yet. A shift from virtual youth ministry to outdoor activities with a new youth minister.

All of these shifts are happening on top of the normal changes already happening in the lives of teenagers: new schools, changing friendships, harder classes, standardized tests, college visits, driver's ed, and so many others. With these shifts comes stress, pressure, expectations, and other external factors which impact students greatly. Shifts in the lives of adolescents lead to questions of identity, purpose, and meaning.

"... a space where all know they belong and are welcomed."

These types of questions are the ones we will discuss in our Sunday Night Discipleship with the youth this year. We will focus on identity formation, cultivating relationships with one another, and how these two things are founded in our identity in Christ as children of God. We will create space for all to bring their joys and laments to the table, a space where all know they belong and are welcomed. We will listen to each other's stories and hear the story of Scripture too.

I am excited to get to know the youth more and empower them as members of the church body, members whose stories are important to the body of Christ.

- Anna Beth Mann

Spirit of Justice Team – Year One

The Spirit of Justice team would like to take this opportunity to thank Greystone for having the courage and wisdom to support and foster a willingness to create a team that would begin to explore a deeper understanding of the social justice issues facing our community and our world. As we complete our first year, we have a number of accomplishments we are happy to share.

The breadth and depth of justice issues is immense. We learned this year that we cannot dive deeply into all of the issues that are prevailing at this time. However, we have begun the journey to appreciate and better care for our climate and the world we live in. We have begun to enhance and improve our resource list of books, podcasts, videos, movies, etc., which will be made available on our Greystone website. We have sorted through several potential areas to focus our efforts. Housing, poverty, education, healthcare, LGBTQ issues, and creation care have all come into focus as areas of interest that directly impact our Greystone and local Raleigh communities.

As of this writing we are doing a deep dive on housing. Regardless of the areas we prioritize, we have clearly begun to understand the importance of ensuring we take the steps to educate and bring along our Greystone members on the journey of understanding the issues we wish to embrace. An example of that direction is the current 4-part Wednesday night educational series on congregational advocacy. As we seek to provide a voice for those who have none and as we speak for the least of these, we ask that the church continue to lift in prayer that the work we do will be bold and worthy. As we continue, our hope and prayer is that the actions we take and the words we speak will bring about a Spirit of Justice in our midst.

- Bill Baxley

Action Fair is Coming!

November 6, the day of Greystone's first ACTION Fair, is fast approaching! It will be an exciting day of fun, food, and fellowship from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Lead Mine parking lot and Fellowship Hall. Have you decided yet how you will participate in the ACTION Fair?

Will you...

- fix some goodies for our bake sale?
- contribute items for our church raffle or craft table?
- be a vendor and sell your own goods?
- help provide musical entertainment as people enjoy lunch?
- man a table that tells the community about our church or be a greeter?
- do some early Christmas shopping with our vendors?



ACTION Fair

Arts and Crafts to Impact Others' Needs

If you would like to be a vendor at the fair, you can read more information get information and an application at the church office during work hours.

Don't miss out on the fun! More information to come later about volunteering and dropping off items. Thank you for your participation and your prayers for a successful event. See you in November!

Donated baked goods (that don't need refrigeration) and donated community craft table items may be brought to the Fellowship Hall between 10 AM - 2 PM on Friday, November 5. Go straight to the Fellowship Hall with your items and someone from the Action Fair team will receive them. Anything else may be brought the day of the Action Fair. Email Jill Pike (jillciconepike@gmail.com) with any questions or call her at 919-270-0091.



Important Notice: Regarding Keys/FOBs

All committee/team chairpersons and/or members who are rotating off this year must turn in any fobs and keys they were issued to Steve Rose. Do not transfer fobs or keys to another member or any individual. This helps control the number of fobs/keys in circulation, tracking by our security monitoring provider, overall security of the campus, and the cost of unnecessary duplication. Also, please report lost or misplaced keys immediately, and direct any questions to Steve Rose at steve.rose@greystonechurch.org. Thank you!



Tai Chi Classes beginning Tuesday, Oct. 5

Come and Join us for Tai Chi starting Tuesday, October 5 at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Tai Chi is a gentle form of martial arts intended to help with arthritis and joint pain, preventing falls, and stress release. Tai Chi has slow, gentle movements which relax your body and mind. No background knowledge is required for this class! It will start at a beginner level. I do suggest that you commit to coming as regularly as possible since we will build on learning as we go. All you will need is comfortable standing shoes, a water bottle and a mask. Contact me with any questions (cperk@nc.rr.com). I hope to see you there!

- Cathy Perkinson

Financial Update

As of August 31, 2021

Annual Budget - \$747,465.34

YTD Budget - \$498,310.24

YTD Receipts - \$467,058.18

YTD Expenses - \$435,911.52

Contact Us

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