



Greystone

Baptist Church

Quarterly Newsletter - Fall 2022



This September we celebrate Greystone's 38th birthday with a day of worship, fellowship, food, and even some good old-fashioned fun. (Be sure to check out the bottom of page 2 for a full schedule of Heritage Sunday events). Unlike in years past, however, we are also using this day of celebration to kick off our season of stewardship. "Why would we want to do that", you may be asking? Well, stewardship and heritage actually have a lot in common. The most important commonality is that both require us to think beyond ourselves. Heritage speaks to inheritance, something that is passed down from one generation to the next. Heritage invokes our past, entrusts us with the present, and calls us toward the future. In much the same way, stewardship requires us to consider our resources, those which have been cultivated and passed down to us, and those we have gained by our own merit. What will we do with that which has been entrusted to us?

In the letter to the Philippians Paul says,

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (1:6)

These words are a reminder of God's continued presence among us, from beginning to the end.

Together with God, our founders built a church that would be rooted in the neighborhood of Greystone Village. Together with God, they prioritized mission, education, and creative worship. Together with God, they shared the journey of life and became more than a church, they became a family of faith. During the two-week series, *Heritage: Then & Now*, we will hear from some of Greystone's early members. They'll share stories of what Greystone has meant to them over the years. In addition, we will also hear from newer members who will share about their engagement and why Greystone means so much to them. Through it all, we hope to catch a glimpse of God's continued work among us - bringing us closer to completion - as we participate in God's story, God's dream, and God's mission in this place.

It is true that over the years we have experienced seasons of change and transformation, some greater than others. Ours was a mission that began with only 17 people who had no building and no annual operating budget - just a dream and a calling to minister to and with the people of Northwest Raleigh. Over time we have grown in number; we have built buildings and adjusted our ministries to suit those who called this place home. We've had a series of lay and staff leaders who cast visions and led in new directions. We've worshiped at different times, in different settings, with different styles of music and different levels of formality. We have cried together and laughed together. We have baptized and buried. We have broken bread and broken down. Through it all, God has been at work in us, around us, among us, and through us.

(continued on next page)

("Heritage: Then & Now", cont'd from page 1)

There have been two specific moments when we knew God was doing something new, and we celebrated it with a congregational procession. The first was when we moved from our worship space at Ravenscroft School to the campus we now occupy at the corner of Lead Mine and Sawmill roads. The congregation packed up the hymns, bibles, and other worship supplies and drove in a caravan to arrive at our new location. With a wooden cross in hand, one that had been shaped by a tree cut down from our land in the process of building the building, the people of Greystone processed into our new worship space celebrating what God had done. It was a new beginning.

Greystone continued to grow and expand and eventually needed a larger sanctuary. So we joined our efforts, our resources, and our talents to build the space in which we now worship. It took some time, but when it was completed we once again took up our cross - the same one that led our procession before - and we walked from the building we now call the Fellowship Hall to the new Sanctuary. It was a celebration of a church transformed by God. It was another new beginning.

In recent years we have experienced another kind of transformation. One marked less by careful plans and blueprints, but one that nonetheless shaped the nature of our church. In March of 2020, we began worshipping online, from our homes. Many of us never imagined that we would worship in such a way for as long as we did, but following the guidance of the CDC and our COVID Think Tank, we stayed home for 13 months. Slowly, then, we began a process of regathering for in-person worship and other activities. Over time we have regained a sense of safety and comfort in worshipping in our sanctuary but we are not the same as we once were.

Although the pandemic brought about a lot of unwanted and unprecedented change, Greystone is experiencing another new beginning. You, the congregation, are re-energizing our ministries and missions as we remember our past and dream about the future we are building together with God. Guests and new members are adding their voices to the conversation. Young people and emerging adults are engaging in ministries of fellowship, mission, and reconciliation. We are experiencing a transformation; God is making us new. And we want to celebrate that together.

On Heritage Sunday, September 11, we will gather for worship outdoors in the picnic area, where we held our worship services outside in 2021. The service will begin there at 9:30 AM. As part of worship, we will once again process behind the wooden cross from that outdoor space through the campus and into the Sanctuary. This procession will be a symbol of our ongoing transformation and of this new phase of our life together with God.

Pastor Chrissy



Stewardship Commitment Sunday

September 18, 2022, 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon Ordination and Installation

There is an old proverb that says: "A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit."

Sometimes when we think about stewardship and our commitments to the church, we think about it in terms of what we alone can contribute right now. With all of the economic insecurity we are experiencing right now, it is easy to think this way. We are all managing monthly budgets and monitoring cash flow, watching and waiting for receipts and expenses to balance out. However, if we can take a long view, remembering those words from the Philippian letter which promise God's eternal presence with us and God's continued work among us, we can begin to see our faithful contributions in a much bigger context.

For thirty-eight years, the people of Greystone have invested time, talents, and resources to build a church that will continue to grow in mission and ministry with God. These are legacy gifts, not gifts that always show immediate returns. These gifts are like tiny trees planted when the sower knows the shade is a long time coming. Because of these gifts, we now gather on a beautiful campus, one that is ours without debt! Because of these gifts, we are able to give more than 10% of our annual operating budget to ministries and mission partners beyond our own. Because of these gifts, we can afford a staff and a property that support this congregation and our community week after week. These gifts are like trees planted years ago by some very wise and generous sowers. What kind of seeds will we plant?

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

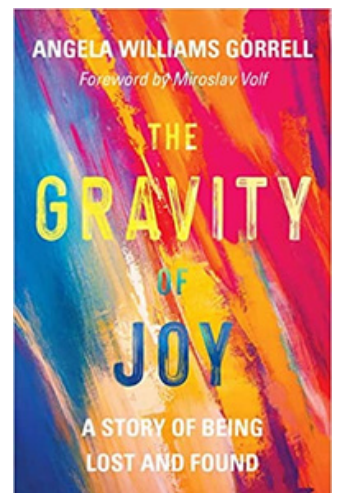
Sunday Morning Series: *Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus* | Begins October 9

Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus is a series of worship themes and educational curricula produced by CBF Global that calls us back to the central focus of our Christian faith, the risen and living Jesus. This new resource invites us all into deeper faithfulness with each other, equipping us to offer a bold witness, and transforming us while we partner with God for the transformation of our world. The themes from this series will inform our worship services from October 9 through November 20th. The Bible study curriculum is available for any Sunday school class that would like to carry the theme into those conversations. There will be an adult forum on Sunday, October 9th, to kick off the Bible study portion of the series. Fall adult SS classes are invited to participate in the forum as Pastor Chrissy leads the conversation using the *Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus* curriculum.

***The gravity of Joy* Book Club | Sunday Evenings, Oct. 9, 16, and 23 6:00 - 7:00 PM | Gathering Room**

Just as Angela Gorrell was starting her job as a joy researcher at Yale University, her life was interrupted by grief and loss. This book is a memoir of her journey as she discovers an authentic, grounded Christian joy. As such, it is also an invitation for others to discover or rediscover joy with resilience and courage even as we face the very real challenges of this historical moment.

On Sunday evenings this October (beginning on the 9th), we will gather to discuss the book and to partner together as joy-seekers in the midst of all the pain, suffering, grief, loss, and despair that we are experiencing in our own lives.





Buddy Break Celebrates 10 years at Greystone!

November 2022 will mark our 10th year of providing our community with this ministry. In that time we have served over 30 families and currently have 16 families that are active. Additionally, we have trained over 100 volunteers over the years, to serve in our Buddy Break program. I constantly hear from our families that Buddy Break has been a blessing for them, and many of our Buddies express that they feel blessed as well. The past 2 years have been challenging but we managed to reach out to our families on a regular basis with drop-off bags that we delivered to them and drive-through events in our parking lot. Now we are excited to return to our respite program in September.

For those who are not familiar with Buddy Break, I wanted to answer some common questions:

What exactly is Buddy Break?

Buddy Break is a free, monthly, 3-hour respite program that churches all over the US train for and provide in their community to help provide a break to parents who have kids with special needs. They are our VIPs. We also welcome siblings. These kids are given an opportunity to safely participate in activities that they may not otherwise have access to. Each VIP and sibling is paired one-on-one with a Buddy.

What happens at Buddy Break?

Buddies arrive at 9:30 to see whom they are paired with and provide any important information that will help. Kids begin arriving at 10:00 and are immediately introduced to their Buddy. Then Buddies and VIPs/siblings have the freedom to do any of the activities provided on their timeframe. Activities include crafts, board games, sensory play, video games, and other fun activities. As a Buddy, you are there to just play and show God's love.

How can I become a Buddy?

Buddies must be 14 years of age, complete a 2-hour training, and give 2 references. At age 18, all Buddies will need a background check as well. Each month, you will receive an e-vite for that month that we ask you to reply to so we can plan for the number of families we can take that month. Your commitment is only month-to-month. This is a great way for students to get community service hours and we welcome non-GBC members.

Are there other ways to help?

Not everyone is able to work with children, but there are many other ways to be involved. Some of our volunteers do registration, plan crafts, help set up or clean up, provide gifts at Christmas, and come to entertain us. If you want to help, we can find a place for you! We also encourage you to visit our Buddy Break as a visitor and experience the blessings for yourself! If you would like more information, contact Nancy Register (919-219-1438) or [April Alston](#).

CBF Worship series this fall



**SEEING
THROUGH
THE EYES OF
JESUS**

Beginning in October, we look forward to journeying along with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregations across the country as we call ourselves back to the central focus of our Christian faith, the risen and living Jesus! "[Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus](#)" is an educational and worship resource being offered through CBF that invites congregations into deeper faithfulness with each other and seeks to focus our active attention on the living presence of Jesus, here and now. As we explore this theme in worship through the fall, together we will reconsider what our commitment to following the way of Jesus means in a world that is full of divisiveness and distractions. We will fix our eyes on Jesus so that we can continue to let him change the way we see, feel, and act, creating a greater awareness among us of where Jesus is and who he is in our world.

I am personally honored to have served as a worship resource contributor for this series and to have written the theme song, "[Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus,](#)" which I look forward to singing with our Greystone community in worship. Throughout this series and beyond, we hope to remember to stay attuned to the ways the living Jesus continues to transform us individually and corporately as we co-labor with God to transform the world.

Pastor Christian



**Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina**

Save the Date for:

"How to Have Courageous Conversations in the Church & Beyond"

Sponsored by the CBF North Carolina
Racial Equity and Justice Team
Hosted at Greystone Baptist Church
October 22, 9 AM-Noon



GREYSTONE YOUTH



School is back in session, fall leaves are getting ready to appear, and a lot of exciting plans for Greystone Youth are just around the corner. As I begin my second year ministering with this group of students, I am filled with gratitude for what we have already experienced together and hopeful for what lies ahead.

This past year, everything we did together as a youth ministry was focused on identity: who we are as beloved children of God. As we look forward to this new school year, our focus will bridge the Christ-centered identities of our youth with the greater narrative and stories of scripture.

Stories bring imagination, awe, and wonder into discussions, and empower students to share their own stories too. By integrating the individual stories of the youth and the larger narrative of scripture, we will be able to dig deeper into God's authorship in our lives and in the world around us. We will ask questions and seek wisdom together, not necessarily correct answers. We want to create space for our youth to ask hard questions, have difficult conversations, and live out their faith together in unique ways.

This is what our new Sunday morning model of gathering will do. We are transitioning away from a traditional model of Sunday school, and providing spaces for creative discipleship to take place. We will provide a variety of avenues for the students to engage with their individual and communal interests, passions, gifts, and talents to flourish and intersect with their developing faith. Examples of the spaces we will create will be through our new music lab, through art, film, and through learning about various spiritual formation practices. The possibilities are abundant and we look forward to exploring new ways of engaging faith and the presence of God together.

Sunday mornings will be paired with our continued Youth Sunday Night Discipleship from 6:00-7:30 PM. These weekly gatherings will focus on the mentioned themes of our next year of ministry together, providing intentional times of discipleship, fellowship, learning, community, and fun. We wait with expectancy to see how God will work through our youth ministry this year.

Pastor Anna Beth



at Camp Greystone

When I was in college a friend's parents regularly invited me to Sunday lunch after church. Whether it was the buffet at the local hotel restaurant or their home dining table, I had a place at the table among my friend's siblings and her niece and nephew. Most weeks, I ate more vegetables during that lunch than I had all week. More important than the vegetables, though, was the radical welcome, care and understanding offered to me week after week. Some weeks, I was a ragged college student, worn out from classes and studying. Other weeks, I probably talked too much and told far too many stories or asked too many questions. More often than I like to admit, I sat at the table on Sunday mornings after a night of poor decisions, with a pounding headache and barely able to choke down the green beans for fear of those poor decisions revisiting me before I could finish my meal. Regardless of which version of me they got on any given Sunday, my friends' parents welcomed me to their table. Their radical welcome was much like that of Christ as he ate with Zaccheus and the grace he offered Peter as they ate breakfast around a fire on the beach.

Sometimes a seemingly simple meal can impact a person for many years to come. At Camp Greystone this fall, we hope to teach our campers about this kind of radical welcome, grace, and hope as we invite them to 'Come to the Table' and learn with us. Camp Greystone registration is open and we would love to welcome children and their families in grades K-5 from our community as well as 3 and 4-year-olds who are already connected to our Greystone family. Invite those you know to join us, it might just be an invitation that they remember years from now. If you want to be part of this beautiful and radical welcome, contact Pastor April to see where help is still needed.

Pastor April



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