

## Ministers

**Paul Baxley**  
**Frank Granger**  
**Randy Brittain**  
**Janet Cleland**  
**Emily Harbin**  
**Brandon Pendry**  
**Anne Brittain**  
**Alan McArthur**

*Senior Minister*  
*Minister of Christian Community*  
*Minister of Music*  
*Minister of Children, Families, and Outreach*  
*Minister of College Students*  
*Minister of Youth and Mission*  
*Organist and Music Associate*  
*Pianist*



**First Baptist Church**

355 Pulaski Street/Athens/GA/30601-2860  
706.548.1359 Fax: 706.548.2302  
[www.firstbaptistathens.org](http://www.firstbaptistathens.org)



*First Baptist Church*  
*Athens, Georgia*

November 12, 2017  
11:00 a.m.

*The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*

# Creative Brooding

Among our acts of worship today, we will ordain Mary Conley, Pam Dillard and Jeff Randa to serve as Deacons. In a sermon preached for the ordination of Deacons in 1995, Jon Appleton offered a powerful charge. His words are appropriate to our new Deacons, but really to all of us.

*You have been called of God to a special service in the church. Unapologetically, look and listen, and have opened hands. Allow God to work through your eyes, in your ears, by your hands — to bring joy amid sorrow, peace amid conflict, hope amid despair, faith amid doubt, love amid neglect, and to effect the extraordinary among what is ordinary.*

- Jon G. Appleton  
“Deacons: Do You, Therefore?”  
From *This Hope We Have:*  
*Selected Sermons and Meditations of Jon Appleton*

---

*First Baptist Church is a thriving community in Christ  
where we all participate in worship  
and are transformed by mission.*

---

## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday, November 12

9:15 a.m. .... Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — Fanning Foyer  
9:45—10:45 a.m. .... Sunday School and Bible Study — throughout the building  
11:00 a.m. .... Worship Service with Deacon Ordination — Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. .... Children’s Choir  
4:30 p.m. .... Reforming Questions Small Groups  
5:15 p.m. .... Mission Kids  
5:15 p.m. .... Youth Choir — Choir Rm.  
6:00 p.m. .... Youth Shuttle to Goggin Home  
6:30 p.m. .... Youth Group at Goggin Home

### Monday, November 13

2:00 p.m. .... Staff Meeting — Room 7 (3rd floor)

### Tuesday, November 14

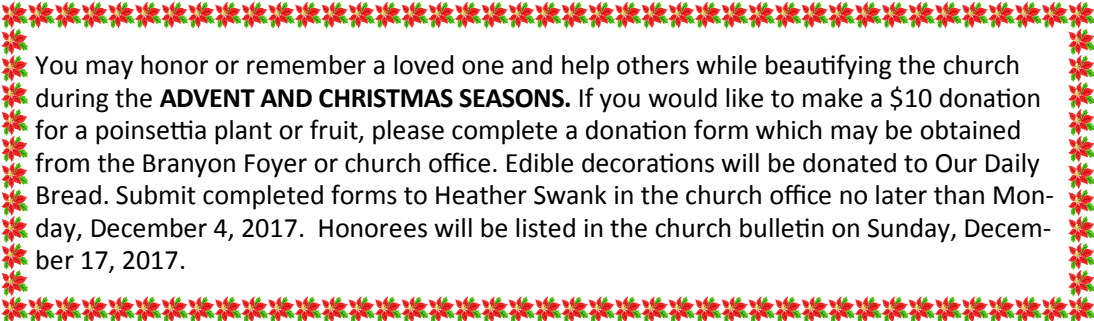
12:00 noon ..... Tuesday Noon Bible Study — Room 7 (3rd floor)  
6:30 p.m. .... Young Adult Dinner & Bible Study — home of Kelli & Steve Smith  
7:00 p.m. .... Boy Scout Troop #22 — Room 3 (3rd floor)

### Wednesday, November 15

5:00 p.m. .... Youth Mission Project  
5:15 p.m. .... Finance Committee — Room 7 (3rd floor)  
5:30 p.m. .... Property Management Committee — Room 5 (3rd floor)  
5:30 p.m. .... Reforming Questions Small Groups — Various locations  
6:45 p.m. .... Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

### Sunday, November 19

8:30 a.m. .... Mission Team Mtg. — Room 7 (3rd floor)  
9:15 a.m. .... Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — Fanning Foyer  
9:45—10:45 a.m. .... Sunday School and Bible Study — throughout the building  
11:00 a.m. .... Worship Service — Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. .... Interfaith Thanksgiving Service — Grand Hall: Tate Student Center  
6:30 p.m. .... Youth Friendsgiving — Youth Area

 You may honor or remember a loved one and help others while beautifying the church during the **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS**. If you would like to make a \$10 donation for a poinsettia plant or fruit, please complete a donation form which may be obtained from the Branyon Foyer or church office. Edible decorations will be donated to Our Daily Bread. Submit completed forms to Heather Swank in the church office no later than Monday, December 4, 2017. Honorees will be listed in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 17, 2017.

## The Sunday Messenger

### COMMUNITY NEWS

As our financial **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN** comes to a close, we invite you to prayerfully consider your response. During worship today and on Sunday, November 19, members will be invited to return pledge cards during worship. We ask everyone to submit their pledge card no later than Monday, November 20 so that we may begin the budgeting process for next year.

Please plan to join your neighbors for the Second Annual **INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE** on Sunday, November 19, AT 4:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens, the service will be held at UGA in the Tate Student Center Grand Hall. All are welcome!

### Serving Together

#### Co-Deacons of the Week

November 12-18:

Wayne Hogan, Debbie Hargrave

November 19-25: Cindy & Daniel Haygood

#### Welcome Center Team

November 12: Debbie & Tom Brown

November 19: Judy & Jim Ebert

#### November Fellowship Team

Tony Dillard, Jim Ebert, Leslie Gordon,

David Graves

#### Counting Committee

November 12: Ray Noblet, Kelli Smith

November 19: Lane Chason, Jackie Griffin

#### November Usher Team

Annette Barfield, Larry Divers, Wilson

Denney, Julie Jenkins, Bert Hill, Joanna Hill

### OUR CHURCH ON MISSION

#### Food Bank Needs:

Canned Soup, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Salmon.  
Please place donations in the marked bins in the Branyon Foyer.

Plans are in the works for an **INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP** to Slovakia this spring (March 8-18, 2018). We will be serving in partnership with Shane and Dianne McNary. Contact Brandon Pendry (brandon@firstbaptistathens.org) to learn more about this trip. Participants will need to commit by November 15.

Join our **MISSION MINISTRIES at FBC** by signing up for your choice of ministries on the two month calendar on the second floor hallway. On the **FIRST** and **LAST** Sunday of every month, a mission team member will be in the main hallway to help you sign up to serve with FBC's mission partners.

There are over 300 children in foster care with Clarke and Oconee DFCS. The Mission Team has committed to adopt 40 children for this year's **ANGEL TREE PROJECT** which provides an opportunity for church members to help make Christmas special for a foster child. Information about each child will be available at the Angel Tree in the Branyon Foyer at scheduled times beginning today. Please consider selecting a child to adopt for Christmas. Gifts should be returned to the church by Wednesday, December 6 at 4:30 p.m. Contact Carol Rayburn Cofer (770-725-6655 after 6:00 p.m.) for more information. Monetary donations are also welcome!

## The Worship of God

### Invitation to Worship

Paul Baxley

### Prelude

*I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

arr. John F. Wilson

### Invocation

Brandon Pendry

### \*Hymn 306

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

MADRID

### Anthem

*Inscription of Hope*  
Joyful Singers Choir  
Teresa Granger, Director; Margaret Earnest, Accompanist  
Sarah Deal, Flute

Z. Randall Stroope

*I believe in the sun even when it is not shining,  
And I believe in love even when there's no one there.  
And I believe in God even when he is silent.*

— Inscription on cellar walls in Cologne, Germany

*I believe through any trial there is always a way.  
But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair,  
My heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there.  
But a voice rises within me saying hold on my child,  
I'll give you strength, I'll give you hope, just stay a little while.*

Z. Randall Stroope

*Following the anthem, children in Pre-K 4, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2 are invited to depart for Children's Worship and Extended Session in E-117.*

**>>Please pick up your children immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service.<<**

### Silent Prayers

#### Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Paul Baxley

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**Scripture Lessons**

Acts 6: 1-6  
Colossians 3: 12-17

Janet Cleland  
Frank Granger

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus*

arr. Barlow Bradford

*I'm trying to be like Jesus; I'm following in his ways.  
I'm trying to love as he did, in all that I do and say.  
At times I am tempted to make a wrong choice,  
But I try to listen as the still small voice whispers,  
"Love one another as Jesus loves you. Try to show kindness in all that you do.  
Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought. For these are the things Jesus taught."*

*I'm trying to love my neighbor; I'm learning to serve my friends.  
I watch for the day of gladness when Jesus will come again.  
I try to remember the lessons he taught.*

*Then the Holy Spirit enters into my thoughts, saying:  
"Love one another as Jesus loves you. Try to show kindness in all that you do.  
Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought. For these are the things Jesus taught."*

Janice Kapp Perry

**Sermon**

*The Relational Question:  
How Do We Cultivate More Authentic Relationships?*

Paul Baxley

**\*Hymn 278**

*We Are Travelers on a Journey*

BEACH SPRING

**Presentation of Candidates for Deacon Ordination**

Cindy Haygood

Candidates: Mary Conley, Pam Dillard, and Jeff Randa

**Litany of Dedication**

Leader: The church has prayerfully considered your gifts of ministry for service in its diaconate and has duly called you to be a deacon. You have accepted this call as God's intention for your life. In the light of your calling to this responsibility, do you reaffirm your faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; do you seek the peace and unity of the church; and do you, in accepting the office of deacon in this congregation, promise faithfully to perform all the duties pertaining to your calling?

**Candidates: I do, God being my helper.**

Leader: Do you, the members of this church, receive these persons as deacon within the shared ministry of Christ's mission, and do you covenant to encourage and support them in the fulfillment of their responsibilities?

**Congregation: We do, God being our helper.**

Leader: I now ask the congregation to join with its new deacons in a covenant affirmation:

**All: Reaffirming our faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we gladly receive these deacons as servant leaders in our life together. We covenant to support them with our prayers, encouragement, and respect. We celebrate with thanksgiving the shared responsibilities for Christ's ministry, which is ours as the church.**

**Laying on of Hands**

**The Prayer for the Candidates**

Jill Dawson

**\*Benediction**

Paul Baxley

**\*Postlude**

*Am I a Soldier of the Cross?*

arr. Larry Shackley

**\*Please stand, if able.**



**Sanctuary Flowers**



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Madison Blair Hamilton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James D. Edwards, Jr. who were married at First Baptist on November 11.

**Branyon Foyer Flowers**

The flowers in the Branyon Foyer are provided by Angèle and John Barrow in honor of their friends and family at First Baptist on the occasion of their marriage this afternoon.