



123 Arlington Ave.
Greenville SC 29601

webcgreenville.org

864.232.7312

OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday -Thursday
9am to 4:30pm
Open Friday
9am-Noon

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9am Classes
10am Coffee & Pastries
10:30am Worship Service

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w|e connect

MAY 2025 | ISSUE NO. 5

in this
issue

on the importance of knowing
why you believe
what you believe

w|e *look ahead*

mission: **w|e**
Philippines

Easter 2025
Seder/Passover 2025

embracing humility
to combat the repercussions of **PRIDE**

connections

congratulations,
 **graduate Annika Blackwell**

BA in English from
University of South Carolina
Summa Cum Laude

the newsletter of West End Baptist Church

w|e connect

the newsletter of West End Baptist Church | MAY 2025

the weekly schedule

*They devoted
themselves to
the apostles'
teaching and to
fellowship, to
the breaking of
bread and
to prayer.*

ACTS 2

SUNDAY	
9:00am	Classes/Sunday School
10:00am	Coffee Fellowship
10:30am	Worship Service
6:00pm	Men's Bible Study (2 nd & 4 th)
MONDAY	
6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study (2 nd & 4 th)
TUESDAY	
6:00 pm	GPS Children's Program
WEDNESDAY	
6:30pm	Price Small Group (1 st & 3 rd)
6:30 pm	Bible Recap study group
THURSDAY	
2:00pm	Swansgate Bible Study



Scan for daily
Bible readings





on the importance of knowing
why you believe
what you believe

I was raised in a Christian home. My parents prioritized having my brothers and me in church each week, and I attended a Christian school up until 8th grade. I can't remember a time during my childhood where I did not have a Christian influence. As a result, the gospel message was very familiar to me. This is certainly not everyone's experience, and it comes with its own challenges. But nevertheless, it was my experience.

Despite my familiarity with the gospel, I didn't start taking it seriously until around 7th grade. It was then that I realized that a personal response was required on my part. It was not enough for me to profess Christianity simply because my parents believed it or my teachers said it was true. I became aware that I had sinned against God and that Jesus took the punishment I deserved so that I could be forgiven. In the best way I knew how at the time, I gave my life to Jesus and asked Him to cleanse me from my sin and make me His. It wasn't immediate, but overtime my life changed. I began to read the Bible on my own and I saw the importance of personally seeking God through His Word and prayer. As I was starting out in my Christian life, I had another realization. I reflected on my upbringing and was struck with the question of how I knew what I believed was true. After all, I had been raised in a Christian home and had Christian beliefs taught and reinforced in nearly every social sphere of my life. I started thinking about how not everyone believed in Christianity. I became curious about what other people thought about God and the Bible. I questioned how I could know that what I believed was true while what other people believed was false.

These questions led me to something called apologetics. There are many ways to define apologetics, but it is simply the rational defense of Christianity. The root word "apologia" refers to a courtroom type speech in the ancient world. The accused would present an "apologia" or "defense" to their accusers. Apologetics deals with important questions such as "Is the Bible reliable?", "How can there be a good God when there is evil in the world?", and "Is Christianity the only true religion?" I soon found there were deep and rich answers to such questions and that many thoughtful Christians had addressed them over time. In addition to my own questions, I consistently encountered people who had doubts about Christianity when I would share my faith. These things showed me that knowing why I believed what I believed was important for my own Christian discipleship and for evangelism. The reality is that everyone has questions about what they believe, Christian or not. The important thing is whether those beliefs can hold up when they face such questions. Over time, I have found that the truths of Christianity stand strong under critical scrutiny. It is so important to know not only what we believe but why we believe it. Apologetics is a useful tool showing we have excellent reasons to believe that Christianity is true.



Find out more on Parks' podcast
Reasoned Hope
Thoughtful Christianity
at
<https://reasonedhopepodcast.com>



connections

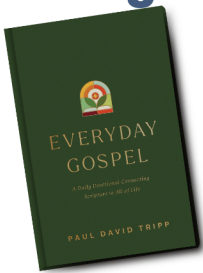
Melodie Edwards
Worship & Connections
Ministry Leader

Have you ever considered the importance of connecting in the local church with fellow believers? One thing that becomes increasingly more evident the longer we live in this fallen world as followers of Jesus is that we cannot do it alone. As we seek to obey Christ and make disciples of all nations, it begins with being connected in the Body of Christ. Not only is this important for our growth *personally* in our walks with Jesus, it's also important for us *corporately*. As believers at WEBC, we seek to connect to **God**, connect to **Grow**, and connect to **Serve**. All three of these are critical as we "run with endurance the race God has set before us!" (Hebrews 12:1)

As the Connections Leader here at WEBC, I'd love to help you connect! Whether you are interested in joining a small group, serving in a particular area of ministry, or you simply have questions on how you can further connect in our congregation, I'd love to talk with you! You can reach me via email at medwards@webcgreenville.org or call the office number at 864-232-7312. I look forward to chatting!

Melodie Edwards
Connections Leader

daily Bible reading



may

day	chapters
	1 Chronicles
1	10-11
2	12-14
3	15-17
4	18-21
5	22-24
6	25-27
7	28-29
8	1-4
	2 Chronicles
9	5-8
10	9-12
11	13-16
12	17-20
13	21-24
14	25-27
15	28-31
16	32-34
17	35-36
18	Ezra 1-5
19	Ezra 6-10
	Nehemiah
20	1-3
21	4-7
22	8-11
23	12-13
24	Esther 1-5
25	Esther 6-10
	Job
26	1-3
27	4-7
28	8-10
29	11-13
30	14-16
31	17-20

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*Live-stream worship services
& sermon recordings available
on our YouTube channel.
More information at our website:
www.webcgreenville.org*

**Together w|e Glorify God
by making mature
disciples of all nations,
starting right here
in the West End.**



Interested in learning more about West End Baptist, or becoming a member? We have classes periodically through the year for your convenience. Call the office at 864.232.7312 or email us at info@webcgreenville.org for more information. Our next class will be Sunday, June 29th.

Important giving information:
Our Text-to-Give number has been discontinued. You can still give online at <https://webcgreenville.org/giving/> or by mailing a check or putting an offering in one of the offering boxes in the worship center.

w|e celebrate!
*this month's
birthdays*

Tucker Weed	1	Payton Saxe	13
Michael Adcock, Sr.	2	Chris Blackwell	14
Emily Foster	5	Rayvon Glover	19
Anyla Miller	5	Mikayla Weed	21
Sully Alewine	11	Mattie Coleman	26



west end baptist



Scott Stephens
Pastor of
Biblical Counseling

embracing humility to combat the repercussions of **PRIDE**

We all know people whom we consider prideful. Sometimes, pride can be so prevalent in a person that as soon as we meet them, we are painfully aware of their self-serving, arrogant, and condescending persona.

Not all pridefulness is as blatant and obvious as the arrogant, narcissistic person you may know. Whether we acknowledge it or not, we all wrestle with pride to some extent.

Scripture warns us that pride will lead to a person's downfall (Proverbs 16:18). Overconfidence in ourselves, our abilities, our intelligence, our talents and gifts, and our position or status will ultimately lead to self-reliance that proclaims we need nothing or no one else. We believe we have all we need in ourselves. I've heard it stated this way: "Many of us approach life as if everyone else in the world has a 'bit part' or a role in the production of our story, and we are the star." Pride makes us believe that all things center on us.

Pride can be insidious, slowly growing, and becoming very harmful to our Christian walk. Pride is subtle and can manifest itself before we know of its presence. Small reactions of anger and frustration, quick thoughts of displeasure regarding another person, and criticisms of another person's abilities, status, appearance, intelligence... (the list is endless) can indicate that pride may be seeping into our lives.

God has clearly stated that this type of attitude is self-destructive. Even worse, it inhibits Christians' ability to represent Christ in this world effectively. We must understand how we exhibit pride and work, with the Lord's help, to remove it from our lives (Colossians 3:8-10).

The best way to recognize pride in our lives is to understand its opposite attribute better: humility.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."

Jesus' life was the most excellent example of perfect humility. Philippians 2:3-8 explains His humility this way:

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

We emulate Christ's humility by doing as He did. 1 Peter 5:6-7 explains that we are to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. When we humbly trust ourselves in God's sovereign care, we are to cast our cares upon Him, not exalting ourselves, but waiting on Him to exalt us in His timing.

In His humility, Christ became a servant to others (Mark 10:45). He taught the disciples that service is a primary task they are to practice (Mark 9:35).

We must acknowledge Christ as the center of our universe and emulate His life. When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus responded, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

We are to love God with every part of our being and love others MORE than we love ourselves. Because of pride, we already know how to love ourselves. Every day, we should set our love for ourselves aside and humbly make serving God and others the most important activity of our lives.



Disciples at the West End

West End Baptist Church partnered with the Upcountry Biblical Counseling Training Center for an inspiring Discipleship Weekend: "Growing in Knowledge to Grow in Grace."

Led by Jim and Caroline Newheiser, the event featured insightful teachings on biblical marriage, effective communication, and financial management. Caroline's women's breakout session highlighted key insights from her book, When Words Matter Most, equipping attendees to discern spiritual needs and offer heartfelt support.

The event was filled with energy and engagement, and recordings of the presentations will soon be available for the congregation to revisit. Stay tuned for more opportunities to deepen your faith!



GPS Fun Day!
GPS Last meeting
May 13 - 6:00 pm

We've had a great semester at GPS! So we're going to celebrate and have some fun for our last meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. We'll have fun and games, good food + fellowship!

men's
retreat



- May 16-18 (Friday - Sunday)
- Lake Jocassee
- \$50 per person
- for men age 18 & up
- see Steven Pearce for details
- scan code to pay/register



Vacation Bible School
July 16-18 at 6:00 p.m.

See Katie Penland or call the church office for opportunities to serve with Vacation Bible School!
Feeling crafty? See Patty Saxe to help make decorations for VBS on your own time at home!



PSBC Endowment Scholarships: The Endowment Fund Trustees will receive scholarship applications through July 13th. To apply, scan the code or contact the church office at 864-232-7312.



west end
counseling
center



Call 864-232-7312
Or email
sstephens@webcgreenville.org

w|e **GIVE**
generously

Our finances
as of 4.27.25

YTD TITHES	\$74,597.25
YTD OTHER INCOME	\$267,812.59
YTD TOTAL	\$342,409.84
YTD EXPENSES	\$219,007.75

give
online

www.webcgreenville.org/giving

thank!
you! FOR
GIVING

Cheerful and
sacrificial giving of
our finances is part
of our worship.

2 Corinthians 9:7
Proverbs 3:9
Malachi 3:10



And just like that, it's Mission: Philippines time already! On May 28th, twenty-one (21) team members will embark on the long plane trip to Masinloc, Philippines. The team is looking forward to serving our mission partners in Masinloc and other nearby villages, as well as having time to enjoy Christian fellowship in a different country with different customs and languages, but the same Almighty God!

The WEBC Prayer Team has written a 40 day Prayer Calendar specifically for this mission trip. It begins on May 1st and continues daily through the month into June and after our team returns. You will have a time of prayer for our mission partners and each team member through the 40 days. You can pick up a copy of the Prayer Calendar in the welcome area at church, or email us at info@webcgreenville.org to request your copy and we will email you a printable copy. Additionally, on Sunday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m. we are having a special church-wide prayer meeting for Mission: Philippines. Please join us and pray over our team members as a church family.

We're still accepting financial donations for the trip right up until we leave. These tax-deductible donations can be made at <https://webcgreenville.org/giving> or by mailing a check to WEBC, 123 Arlington Ave., Greenville SC 29601. Please be in prayer about how you can help send our team to serve in the Philippines.

TOYS for the Filipino children will be collected at the church throughout the month of May! We're looking for small toys that can fit in your hand. We will pack extra suitcases with these. Good toys to bring would be Matchbox Cars or Hot Wheels, small dolls, stuffed animals, hacky sacks, barrettes, jacks, etc. Please bring them to church on Sunday or to the church office during the week. Thank you for your donations!

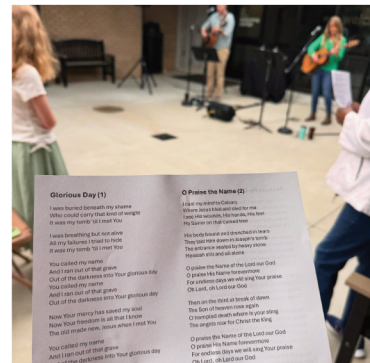
Ordering West End Baptist items helps support our mission trip! T-shirts, hoodies, notebooks, bags, and more! Order forms are available in print form at church, or you can call the church at 864-232-7312, or email info@webcgreenville.org to have an order form emailed to you. Or scan the code to download the catalog and order form!



Resurrection Celebrations *Easter 2025*



More pictures available at <https://webcgreenville.org/easter-2025/>



From the Seder/Passover Meal on Thursday, April 17th, to the Sunday morning services, the WEBC family had wonderful times together celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! More on our Seder Meal is in the article by Daniel Baker. Friday, some of our members got together and stuffed plastic eggs for the Egg Hunt for our little ones on Saturday morning. Easter morning, we had a lovely "SonRise" service in our courtyard, with our cross decorated with spring flowers. We all enjoyed our worship time together as well as our fun times. God is GOOD!



The Baker Family

Seder/Passover 2025

How different is this night from other nights?

By Daniel Baker



The story of Passover has been told and retold through countless generations for thousands of years. My family has celebrated a yearly Christian Passover for decades, telling the story to me and my brothers and whoever else happened to attend from year to year. This year we were blessed to have the opportunity to host a Passover Seder to tell the story to our own West End family! For those who were able to attend, we had a great experience! I have heard from many that it was a new and meaningful experience! For many though, questions remain; what is Passover, why does it matter, and what relevance does it have today?



While a little more than 60 of our West End family members were able to attend our Passover Seder and experience it for themselves, there were many more who were unable to make it so I will offer a brief explanation in hopes that those who were unable to attend may join us in the future. So what is the story of Passover? Why is it called Passover? Passover is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the freedom of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Hebrew word "Pesach" or in English "Passover" refers to the Angel of Death "passing over" the homes of those who had smeared the lamb's blood on their doorposts as God had commanded. On the night of the very first passover the Israelites ate their meals dressed and ready to flee the land of Egypt in faithful anticipation of what God was going to do. They spread the blood of the lamb on the doorposts as a sign that they were being faithfully obedient to God's commands and for that they were spared tragedy and were freed. The angel of Death killed all the first born of every house which did not have the blood of the lamb on it. With that final and darkest of all the plagues, God won the battle for his people and Pharaoh set the people of Israel free to go worship their God in their own land. That is why the Jews have celebrated the Passover for millennia and continue to celebrate it to this day. It is, in essence, the first Jewish independence day!



Passover is a Jewish holiday, so why do we as Christians celebrate it? The imagery and symbolism of Passover is so rich in meaning and stoically beautiful! The children of Israel obeyed God and covered themselves with the blood of a lamb to protect themselves and their first-borns from the Angel of Death, the Destroyer. Matthew 10 tells us not to fear those that can kill the body but to fear Him who can destroy the body and the soul in hell. For us as Christians, God has given us a solution so we no longer have to fear the destroyer of body and soul. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who freed his people from bondage in Egypt sacrificed his own first born son on our behalf. Jesus was both the first born and the lamb! His blood

protects us and he takes the penalty we deserve! Christians celebrate Passover not as rigid obedience to some ancient code of laws but as a way to remind ourselves of the great, awesome, powerful work that God has done thousands of years before any of us were born to accomplish our salvation! God has been working since the beginning, since a time before our minds can even comprehend to secure our place in the new Eden, the new promised land, forever dwelling with the Lamb whose blood covers us!

