

## REQUEST FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

It has been a privilege and a joy to serve on the Pastor Search Team. The main reason for the joy has been that the whole process has been bathed in prayer. It began with the Nomination Committee. They spent many hours in prayer as they chose the members of our Search Team. This was evident in the make-up of the committee. Every talent that we needed in the search process was present in one of our committee members.

The team also spent many hours in prayer. Many of you served as our prayer partners and many others of you prayed regularly during the process that led us to Dr. Greg Barr. Thank you for that support.

The members of the PST want that prayer support to continue as we transition into the future that God has planned for us. To help with that the PST has developed a prayer booklet, "40 Days of Prayer for our new Pastor, our Staff and the Congregation of St. Matthews Baptist Church". Each day has a scripture and a prayer suggestion. If you would like the following in booklet form you can pick up a booklet in the office or at the Welcome Center. It will also be posted on our Facebook page.

### **40 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR OUR NEW PASTOR, OUR STAFF AND THE CONGREGATION OF ST. MATTHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit.  
Romans 15:30 (NLV)*

**Day 1 – Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38**

Pray that our new pastor, Dr. Greg Barr, our staff, and our congregation will love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

**Day 2 – And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:39**

Pray that our Dr. Greg Barr, our staff, and our congregation will love each other as much as we love ourselves.

**Day 3 – May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant. Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight. Psalm 119:76-77**

Ask God to comfort the Barrs and the members St. Andrews Baptist Church during the days ahead as they say goodbye to one another and transition to a new situation.

**Day 4 – Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10 (NIV)**

Pray that our congregation and staff will welcome our new Senior pastor and his family into our fellowship and do all we can to help them make a smooth transition to Louisville and St. Matthews Baptist Church.

**Day 5 – And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. Psalm 78:72 (NIV)**

Pray that Pastor Greg will lead with integrity and will shepherd our congregation with skill.

**Day 6 – For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)**

Pray that Greg will know the reality of this promise and will have a sense of God's plan for himself and for the future of our congregation.

**Day 7 – I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8**

Thank God for his watch care over SMBC during our interim time. Pray that God will counsel St. Andrews Baptist Church members during their interim time and as they form a search team to look for their next pastor.

**Day 8 – Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. 1 Peter 5:2(NLV)**

Pray that Greg and our other ministers will be good shepherds to the flock at SMBC because they are eager to serve God.

**Day 9 – We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith. 1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NIV)**

Pray that Greg will help SMBC to spread the gospel and will strengthen and encourage us in our faith.

**Day 10 – Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)**

Pray that Greg will put his trust in God and acknowledge him in all his ways. Ask God to make his path straight as he serves in a new church.

**Day 11 - My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26**

Pray that when the hard times come and when our heart and flesh fail us we will rely on the strength of God.

**Day 12 - I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.**

**Jeremiah 31:13b**

Pray for the Barrs and the members of St. Andrews Baptist Church - that God will turn their mourning into gladness and give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

**Day 13 – Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8**

Pray that we will grow to love our new pastor and his family, and that they will grow to love us. Pray that we will be slow to criticize and quick to forgive.

**Day 14 – All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5b**

Pray that our congregation and our new pastor will treat each other with humility.

***Day 15 - I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. Psalm 138:2 (CEV)***

Pray that our pastor will lead us to praise and worship God for His love and faithfulness.

***Day 16 –When I talked with you or preached, I didn't try to prove anything by sounding wise. I simply let God's Spirit show his power. 1 Corinthians 2:4 (CEV)***

Pray that Greg will rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to make God's message clear to our congregation.

***Day 17 – But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:2 (NIV)***

Pray that Greg will delight in spending time daily in studying and meditating on God's word.

***Day 18 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28***

Pray that all of our staff will turn to God for rest when they are weary and need to be refreshed.

***Day 19 – Those are the things you should teach. Cheer people up and give them hope. Titus 2:15a (NIRV)***

Pray that our new pastor will preach messages that give people hope.

***Day 20 – And how can anyone preach without being sent? It is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:15 (NIRV)***

Thank God for our new Senior pastor and our other ministers and their willingness to answer the call to share the good news.

***Day 21 –But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:21-2a***

Pray that the fruit of the spirit will be evident in the lives of our new pastor, our staff and our congregation.

***Day 22 - I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)***

Pray that there will be no divisions between our congregation, our staff and our new pastor and that we will be perfectly united in mind and thought through Jesus, our Lord.

***Day 23 - Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.***

***1 Peter 5:8***

Pray that Greg will be a person who is self-controlled and alert to the schemes of the devil.

***Day 24 - Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.***

***1 Timothy 4:14***

Pray that Pastor Greg and our other ministers will continue to learn and grow in their calling to the ministry.

**Day 25 – Correct them with full authority. Don't let anyone look down on you. Titus 2:15b (NIRV)**  
Pray that Greg will preach what we need to hear from God even when it is difficult.

**Day 26 - And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)**

Pray that the lives of Greg and Jackie, our ministers and our congregation will be rooted in and built on Christ and that our faith will be strong.

**Day 27 – No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)**

Pray that when Greg is tempted to sin that he will quickly see the way out that God will provide.

**Day 28 - Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble. Proverbs 17:17 (MSG)**

Pray that Greg, our staff and our congregation will become loyal friends who stick together in all situations.

**Day 29 – “May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord’s people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.”**

**Numbers 27:16-17**

Ask God to lead the members of St. Andrews Baptist Church to the man He has appointed to lead and shepherd their church.

**Day 30 – So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help. Hebrews 4:16 (CEV)**

Pray that Greg will take his needs and the needs of our congregation to the throne of our merciful God. Pray that our congregation will also take the needs of our Senior Pastor and our other staff to God in prayer.

**Day 31 - But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. Psalm 5:11**

Pray that Greg, Jackie and Ashley will find refuge in God. Ask God to protect them as the Barrs make the transition from Columbia, SC to Louisville.

**Day 32 –(Jesus said) “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” John 13:15 (NIV)**

Pray that Greg and our other ministers will always strive to follow Jesus’ example.

**Day 33 – Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)**

Pray that our congregation and staff will submit to the authority of our new senior pastor so that his call to SMBC will be a joy.

***Day 34 – But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. 2 Timothy 4:5 (NLT)***

Pray that Pastor Greg will think clearly in all situations and will complete the work of ministry that God has called him to do even when it is not easy.

***Day 35 – Teach older men to be self-controlled, serious, wise, strong in faith, in love, and in patience. Titus 2:2 (NCV)***

Pray that Pastor Greg will teach our congregation to be self-controlled, serious, wise, strong in faith, in love, and in patience.

***Day 36 – Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. Titus 2:3 (NLT)***

Pray that our Greg will teach our congregation to live in a way that honors God so that they can teach others what is good.

***Day 37 - Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Ephesians 5:16-17***

Pray that in a lost world SMBC will be a church that understands what the Lord's will is and will make a difference in our community.

***Day 38– So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLV)***

Pray that our senior pastor, our other ministers and our congregation will be strong and work enthusiastically for the Lord knowing that what we do for God is never useless.

***Day 39 - Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10***

Ask God to purify your heart and to renew your spirit to follow Him more faithfully.

***Day 40 – After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31***

Pray that SMBC will be fill with the Holy Spirit and that we will boldly proclaim the word of God in our community and around the world.