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Cooperative

Florence Baptist Association, April 2017



Prayer Corner :

Please include the following prayer needs on your prayer lists and in your prayer times.

Churches without Pastors:

*Florence First
Northside Chapel
Rehoboth
Union*

New Work:

*Hispanic Ministry
New Covenant*

CLC Program

*Financial Support
Expansion to Lake
City*

Good News Clubs!

*More volunteers as
GNC expands to
other School
Districts; Financial
Assistance*

Family Promise

*Financial Support
Families served
Vehicles for Families*

As March brought snow and some of the coldest temperatures of this year, I will be glad when the schizophrenic weather patterns give way to predictable late spring and early summer patterns of hot and hotter. Pastors and church treasurers don't like snow on Sunday. The tithes and offerings often stay away with the people that don't come. It has a ripple effect because when church funds are down, ministry can be hindered. When church funds are down, often Cooperative Program funds are down and Associational giving from the churches. This too can affect ministry.

Now, here are some positive things. The NAMB sponsored a Collegiate Student Blitz during March. It was in the Johnsonville/Lake City and Hemmingway area serving in several counties. Over three weeks, we had over 350 college students from as far away as Penn State University, working on houses affected by the 2015 flood and/or Hurricane Matthew. We have had some of our Hebron Feeding Unit members, and other volunteers, helping in the feeding of these workers. Also others have helped to clean our shower units from Evergreen and South Florence. This will be the last large event to be hosted using the First Johnsonville and First Hemmingway churches. We continue to be thankful for the 18 + months that First Johnsonville has allowed Disaster Relief and SC Rebuild to occupy their facility. We are also thankful to First Hemmingway, for allowing their facilities to be

used several times for these large events.

As the SC Rebuild efforts will be coming to a conclusion at the Johnsonville site, future options are being explored especially in Marion County. Locally, we had a large turnout for Disaster Relief Training in Florence. Calvary hosted the training and the numbers being trained were the largest in many years. Also there were nearly half being trained for the first time. The end result of all Disaster Relief and Rebuild ministry is to bring people to Christ, and strengthen the church. We have seen these results in the lower part of Florence County and beyond. We have had chaplains and a church planter at work in the area and we have seen baptisms and a bible study started.

I will begin a study in April, with some pastors and staff, on revitalizing dying churches. One of the symptoms of a dying church is the lack of baptisms. 32% of our reporting FBA churches have reported zero baptisms in at least two of the last five years. 63% of our churches are trending downward in the number of baptisms over the last five years. These are disturbing trends that we must all not just be concerned over, but we should be actively praying and reaching out to the lost with the Gospel. April is a good month to reach out telling people of your Risen Savior! He Is Risen!

Chris

YOU ARE INVITED TO

SPRING WMU

Inspire

Where: First Baptist, Lake City

When: April 6

Time: 6 pm Supper

7 pm Meeting

Speakers: Sandra Tapp (SC WMU)

Mike Wallace (Missionary)

RSVP: By March 31

843-374-8521

Collecting Items for FSD1 Middle & High Schools:

Feminine Sanitary Pads (BIGGEST NEED)

Deodorant; Toothpaste/Dental Floss; Chap stick;

NEW underwear – all sizes/genders

Gently Used Items Needed:

Flip Flops; Sweat Pants; Socks;

T Shirts (Medium especially); Back packs

Belts – especially for males; Jeans – any size/gender

White Polo Shirts (For students interviewing for a job)



Family Promise of Florence Presents

FamilyFest 2017

Saturday, April 22, 2017
10 am until 2 pm
Calvary Baptist Church

Featuring:

• Artisans Faire

Local artists will have items available for purchase. If you would like to participate as an artisan, please contact Family Promise at 843-407-5745 or go to www.familypromiseofflorence.com for a registration form.

• Annual Bed Race

Age 16 up can participate in the actual race. Deadline to register is March 30 and only 30 beds will be accepted. For rules and registration information go www.familypromiseofflorence.com. Prizes will be awarded!

• Family Friendly Games and Activities

There will be activities for the whole family so plan to come out and support Family Promise.



National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 4, 2017

12:00 pm - County Complex
Irby Street, Florence

Theme:

*For Your Great Name's Sake!
Hear Us...Forgive Us...Heal Us!*

"O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord,
Hear and Act! For your Sake, O My
God..." Daniel 9:19

Ministry Health Kits
Due June 30, 2017

Health Kits are due in the associational
office on Friday, June 30th. Please
include the following items in a **two**
gallon zip lock bag.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 toothpaste (6 oz) | 1 washcloth |
| 1 toothbrush | 1 bath towel |
| 1 soap
(4.5 oz. bath size) | 1 comb |

April 2017

- 6 WMU Spring Meeting; Lake City First; 6:00 meal; 7:00 pm Conference
14 Good Friday; FBA Closed
16 Easter Sunday
20 Executive Committee Mting FBA; 11:30 am
22 Family Promise FamilyFest; Calvary

May 2017

- 4 National Day of Prayer; 12:00 pm
4 Christian Learning Center Banquet; 1st Presbyterian; 6:30 pm
14 Mother's Day
29 Memorial Day; FBA Closed

June 2017

- 18-23 LifeChangers
30 Ministry Health Kits Due in FBA Office



GOOD FRIDAY

The FBA Office will be closed Friday, April 14th in observance of Good Friday.

We Are Grateful!
February Contributions

Church	Feb.	Budget YTD
Ariel	76.00	117.00
Bethel	200.00	200.00
Beulah	.00	.00
Calvary	1,213.04	2,908.49
Calvary, Lake City	400.00	400.00
Cartersville	.00	.00
College Park	331.70	849.46
Coward	50.00	100.00
Ebenezer	1,111.14	2,217.99
Elim	666.47	1,332.94
Evergreen	443.41	986.18
Florence 1st	.00	30.98
Grace	894.75	1,899.18
Greenwood	816.99	1,691.02
Hebron	125.00	250.00
Hoffmeyer Rd	3,366.65	3,366.65
Immanuel	1,400.62	1,400.62
Kingsburg	500.00	500.00
Korean	.00	.00
Lake City First Baptist	.00	3,000.00
Mizpah	120.76	232.11
Mt. Zion	.00	600.00
New Covenant	50.00	50.00
New Hope	.00	.00
Northgate	291.66	649.12
Northside Chapel	.00	.00
Oakdale	334.00	877.16
Pamplico 1st	.00	2,255.75
Pee Dee Community	.00	.00
Peniel	.00	.00
Quinby	293.00	436.50
Rehoboth	.00	.00
Ridgecrest	752.84	752.84
Sardis	862.50	862.50
South Florence	.00	.00
Southside	1,776.17	3,906.02
Sparrow Swamp	782.96	1,500.78
Timmons ville 1st	200.00	400.00
Union	.00	1,209.16
Unity	171.90	171.90
Willow Creek	117.97	309.45

TOTALS 17,349.53 35,463.80

Support Associational Missions

Think - -
3% Basic
4% Glory
5% Hallelujah

April Birthdays

- 6 Rev. Jerry Aiken, retired
9 Rev. Greg Batchelor (P), Hoffmeyer Road
19 Rev. Ed Self, (MM) Ebenezer

Around the Association

Ministers Conference...Will be held on Tuesday, April 4 at the FBA Office at 11:30 am. Lunch will be provided for a cost of \$5 per person.

Ebenezer...Is accepting applications for Director of Weekday Early Education Ministry. Applications are now being accepted. Resumes, cover letter, and a minimum of three references should be delivered to Ebenezer Baptist Church Administrator, Dusty Kertis, via email or in person. Send via email to dustykertis@ebcsc.com. For detailed job description go to Ebenezer Baptist Church Weekday Ministry website: www.ebcsc.com/#/children/weekday-preschool.

Southeastern Medical International...Randy Shell who has the non-profit ministry of Southeastern Medical International (SMI) is in need of help raising money for medicine for Peru This is a worthy cause if you are looking for a mission/mission to support. You could have a fundraiser and donate the money to SMI, take up a love offering, use it as a SS project. Below is a message from Randy -

I am writing you with a heavy heart for the country of Peru. Our organization Southeastern Medical International has had a planned trip, for months to this country, with the pharmacy students from the University of Louisiana in Monroe. The scope of our trip has changed from a medical mission trip to a disaster relief recovery trip. We are in need of medicines. I need your help in raising money to purchase them and help these poor people in need in Peru. Please pray and consider donating to Southeastern Medical International a tax free gift as we make plans to respond to this horrific disaster April 14-21. You may donate through PayPal at South-eastmed@bellsouth.net or send check to Randy Shell, Southeastern Medical, 810 Thunderbird Dr., Florence, SC 29501