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March is a month of transition. As far as the weather we have experienced this winter, many of us are ready to transition to spring. When I was a pastor, according to mileage records, March was a busy month making hospital visits. I always believed it was because of the transition from winter to spring. I must say, as one who has serious seasonal disorder, I love the transition from winter to spring, or winter to summer as we often skip spring in South Carolina.

The local church congregation goes thru transition. According to Kevin Marsico, a church planting catalyst with NAMB, the average life span of a local church is 82.5 years. Not having the rest of the information to go with this quote, I will have to make some assumptions. One assumption is that he is talking about American congregations. The other assumption is that, at some point, local church congregations no longer have a life, or cease to exist.

With these assumptions in mind, let's think about the correlation, if any, of an Americans life span, or life expectancy. It is just over 80 for women; and are there not more females in our congregations than males? So, the life span of a congregation and the majority of her members are very close. Remember we are dealing with averages here. There are those people that die because of neglect, and local churches do also. There are those that seem to lengthen their life by making changes that are condu-

cive to healthy living, and congregations can too.

One thing different about congregations is that they go thru many seasons during their life span. Sometimes it begins with a new pastor, program, emphasis, or generation. Have you considered where your congregation is using the seasonal analogy? Congregations do not have to die when winter comes. When winter comes, you need to start thinking about spring. What has to be done during this time to make the conditions right for a new birth in the spring, and the harvest that follows?

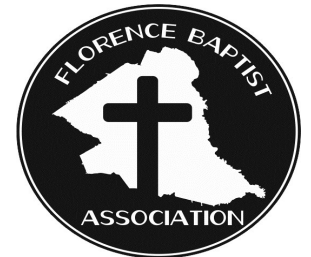
Don't forget another thing that happens in March.....the time change. You know "spring forward". Let me suggest that you pray and ask, the God that rules over the seasons, if you are in winter, to bring you out, personally and as a local church congregation! Let me take some liberty with a line from a couple different gospel songs: Send a great SPRING, in my soul and Send a great SPRING and let it begin with me.

Looking forward,

Chris

# Exposure

Florence Baptist Association, March, 2014



## Prayer Corner:

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

### Churches without

#### Pastors:

Ariel  
Greenwood  
Ridgecrest

### New Work:

Hispanic Ministry

### CLC Program

Financial Support

### Good News Clubs!

Pray as it expands to FSD 2 & 4 and to Darlington School District; Financial Assistance

### Family Promise

Financial Support Host Churches; Day Center

### Partnerships

Akron/Canton Ohio  
New Brunswick, Canada

Human Trafficking Task Force



## South Carolina State WMU Annual Meeting March 21-22, 2014 Calvary Baptist Church

The SC WMU meeting is being held in our region this year at Calvary Baptist Church in Florence.

### Friday

9:30 AM – Session 1  
11:30 AM – Lunch  
1:00 PM – Session 2  
2:30 PM – Conferences  
2:30-4:15 PM – Mission Action/Support Projects  
3:30 PM – Conferences (Repeated)  
4:30 PM – Session 3  
5:45 PM – Adjourn

### Saturday

9:30 AM – Session 4  
10:45 AM – Break  
11:30 PM – Session 5  
1:00 PM – Adjourn

### Features Include:

Mission Action & Mission Support Projects on Friday afternoon  
Break-out Conferences  
Exhibits  
Quilts Display  
Camp Store and WMU Materials Store

On Friday mission action and mission support projects will be done. One of the mission support projects is care kits for Whosoever Community Church. We are asking our churches to donate some of the items to help with this project. Items should be brought to the FBA, 2208 Pamplico Hwy., by Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Items needed are:

Used (NO NEW) book bags, duffle bags, totes, reusable shopping bags	Travel size shaving cream
Bars of soap (no liquid)	Men's regular size deodorant
Thin wash cloths	White socks for men
Thin towels	Pop Tarts, granola bars, breakfast bars
Travel size shampoo	Crackers-Peanut butter (no sweet crackers)
Toothpaste	Pop Top Foods
Toothbrush	
Razors	

To register to attend the State WMU Annual Meeting and/or the mission action projects, please visit [www.scwmu.org](http://www.scwmu.org) or call 1.800.723.7242 ext 8501.

Women’s Prayer Retreat Interest Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2014  
7 pm - FBA Office

This meeting is for pastors and the ladies in their church that are interested in more information about having a prayer retreat. We have 2 lay leaders that have been involved in planning and implementing prayer retreats in their churches. They feel like God has prompted them to involve other churches in this model. There is very little cost to the church or the individual attending - mainly the cost of lunch on Saturday. These ladies are willing to serve as “coaches” for any church that feels this is what God would have them to pursue. The format is, Friday night from 7-9 and Saturday from 8:30 am-2pm

**Testimony from attendee:** In the fall, our church held a women’s retreat. Up to that point, I hadn’t had women friends. I had spoken to the women at my church, but pretty much kept them at bay. I never felt as good as other women. They were always prettier or nicer...I had never seen women gather with a spirit of unconditional love...That weekend still touches my heart on a daily basis. I not only have women friends I have soul sisters. We prayed together, shared with each other, cried with each other, laughed with each other and gathered within the very Presence of God Himself. **HE** was there and for the first time, I got to meet Him.

Minister’s Wives Dinner

Thursday, March 20, 2014  
6 - 8 pm  
Red Bone Alley  
Cost: \$5 - (limited seating)

All staff wives are invited to this fellowship dinner which is meant to encourage and allow the wives to meet other wives in order to build lasting and strong friendships and a great support system. Register online @ [www.scbaptist.org](http://www.scbaptist.org).

Week of Prayer for  
North American Missions  
and the  
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
March 2-9, 2014



WMU Spring Meeting

April 28, 2014  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
6:15 pm - Meal  
7:00 pm - Conference

Items will be collected for the Pee Dee Coalition - more details to be mailed to WMU Directors.

FBA 2014 Mission Trips Dates

Canada Mission Trip

July 26-Aug 2, 2014  
Cost: \$1600 (in 3 payments of \$400)  
The first payment is due March 28th

Akron/Canton Ohio Mission Trip

July 12-19, 2014  
Cost: \$400 - estimate

Please call the FBA Office at 662.5921 if you are interested in either of these mission opportunities. Applications are available on line at [www.fbassociation.org](http://www.fbassociation.org).

March 2014

- 1 Children's Ministry Day; Bethea Home
- 2-9 Week of Prayer for NAMB
- 4 Ministers Conf; 11:30 am; FBA
- 6 Women's Prayer Retreat Mtg; 7 pm; FBA
- 8 Spring Forward; Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 15 Closet Ministry Calvary
- 15-16 Kid's Worship Weekend; Ebenezer
- 20 Pastor's Wife Event; 6 pm; Redbone
- 21-22 SC State WMU Annual Meeting; Calvary
- 21-23 Discipleship NOW Weekend

April 2014

- 1 Regional Tax Seminary; WOCC
- 1 Ministers Conf.; 11:30 am; FBA
- 8 Associational Council Mtg; 9 am; FBA
- 10 Executive Committee Mtg; 7 pm; FBA
- 18 Good Friday FBA Closed
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 28 WMU Spring Mtg; Immanuel;

**REMINDER!**  
**Children’s Ministry Day!**  
**March 1st**  
**Bethea Home**

We Are Grateful!  
January Contributions

Church	Jan.	Budget YTD
Ariel	65.00	65.00
Bethel	.00	.00
Beulah	.00	.00
Calvary	2,534.60	2,534.60
Calvary, Lake City	100.00	100.00
Cartersville	.00	.00
College Park	915.75	915.75
Coward	50.00	50.00
Ebenezer	.00	.00
Elim	.00	.00
Evergreen	144.48	144.48
Florence 1st	252.59	252.59
Grace	670.26	670.26
Greenwood	1,035.12	1,035.12
Hebron	100.00	100.00
Hoffmeyer Rd	.00	.00
Immanuel	.00	.00
Kingsburg	200.00	200.00
Korean	50.00	50.00
Lake City First Baptist	1,300.00	1,300.00
Mizpah	326.60	326.60
Mt. Zion	600.00	600.00
New Hope	.00	00.00
Northgate	357.57	357.57
Oakdale	474.30	474.30
Pamplico 1st	1,738.58	1,738.58
Pee Dee Community	.00	720.00
Peniel	.00	.00
Quinby	.00	.00
Rehoboth	.00	.00
Ridgecrest	.00	.00
Sardis	862.50	862.50
South Florence	133.12	133.12
Southside	2,321.27	2,321.27
Sparrow Swamp	854.48	854.48
Tans Bay	.00	.00
Timmons ville 1st	125.00	125.00
Union	1,462.35	1,462.35
Unity	393.92	393.92
Willow Creek	.00	.00
TOTALS	17,067.49	17,067.49

Support Associational Missions

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

Happy Birthday

- 1 Rev. Howard Starks, retired
- 5 Rev. Dennis Sartain (P), Mizpah
- 13 Rev. Howard Allen (P), South Florence
- 20 Rev. Shane Patrick (P), Lake City First

Happy Anniversary

- 20 Burl & Teresa (Children's Dr) Godwin, Southside
- 21 David (P) & Connie George, Cartersville
- 22 Gerald & Frances McKay, retired

Around the Association

**Ministers Conference...**Will be held Tuesday, March 4th at 11:30 am at the FBA Office. Jimmy Hanf, of Hanf Ministries, will be sharing about what the Lord is doing in the jungles of Peru. Jimmy is a former Pastor & Director of Missions. Lunch will be prepared by the FBA Staff. Please let us know if you are coming so we can prepare.

**Hebron...**Has called Rev. William “Ben” Greene as pastor. We welcome Ben, his wife Lyla and their son Dennis to our association. .

**Southside...**Congratulations to Brad and April White, in the birth of their daughter, Hannah Katherine born on February 10, 2014. Brad serves as Student Minister at Southside Baptist Church.

**Calvary...**Spring Cleaning Sale, March 1; 8:30 am - 12:00 noon. Items for sale include chairs, tables, piano, books, and many other items.

**Southside...** Is looking for a Weekday Director for their weekday childcare ministry which includes care for children 6 weeks through 6th grade along with 3K and 4K preschool. Previous experience as a childcare director in a similar setting required. Interested individuals can email their resume to [TGodwin@southsidebaptist.org](mailto:TGodwin@southsidebaptist.org).

Health Kits 2014

Health Kits are due in the associational office on May 1st or later. 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

