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"Christmas times a comin, and I know it won't be long". The older I get the more Christmases I have to look back on. As I look back through the years, the ones that stand out are those where family was together. I remember a Christmas at my Grandmother's house and we were able to be with my two cousins on my Father's side. I do remember my main gift that year. It was an STP Crash-up-Derby set. We played outside and crashed the cars together so the hood, doors, and trunk lid would all fly off. How cool is that, a toy made to tear up. While the toy is long gone, and four of the ten that were gathered there, are no longer with us, it continues to be the family that makes the time and the memory special.

Twenty-one years ago, this Christmas, my family and Tracy's family were all gathered at our home celebrating the birth of our first child. We were also anxiously awaiting the test results that would ultimately confirm his having Down's Syndrome. As I look back there's not much to remember about the anxiety that had been brought upon us just a few days earlier. What I do remember, once again, was how special it was for our parents and other family members to be there. There was love and support which helped to see us through a difficult time.

Christmases that have fallen on Sunday also stick in my mind. Tracy got me a goat one year that

Christmas fell on a Sunday, which is another story for another time. Gathering with the church family is always special but even more so on the day we celebrate Christ birth. There are some who are closer to their church family than to their blood kin. There are also many that see so much more of their church family than they do their relatives.

However this Christmas is different than last, the important things just don't change. Keeping Christ as the focus of the celebration is of utmost importance for the believer. The joy of the shepherds should also be ours. The commitment of time and resources that the Magi made should be ours as well. The worship of the New Born King, which they shared, can come about in many ways. As you celebrate with your family and church family, allow your joy, commitment, and worship to be seen by those who share your faith, but more importantly, use this season to show Jesus to those who are not believers. I can't think of a better celebration or a better gift for one to receive than new life in Christ.

Merry Christmas!

Chris

Exposure

Florence Baptist Association, December 2014-January 2015



Prayer Corner:

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

Churches without Pastors:

*Ariel
Greenwood
Mizpah*

New Work: Hispanic Ministry

CLC Program Financial Support

Good News Clubs!
MORE volunteers for North Vista and FSD4 and as GNC expands to Darlington School District; Financial Assistance

Family Promise Financial Support Host Churches;

***Partnerships
Akron/Canton Ohio
New Brunswick,
Canada***

Joseph Project

What We Angels Saw

*We watched as You prepared to leave You had to go and save the world
Your Father prepared You for what was to come
Then sent You as a lamb so pure*

*We watched as You lay in Your mother's womb
As she rubbed and soothed You with her touch
We could tell she was scared and timid
But we knew she loved You so much*

*As the time grew near excitement built in Heaven and on earth
For soon You would come sweet Lamb of God
By way of a virgin birth*

*As she touched Your tiny fingers and Your tiny little toes
She could not imagine anything more wonderful
As the love in her heart for You grows*

*We watched as Your Father waited
In His eyes we saw tears of joy
As He put everything in motion
He planned the life of His baby boy*

*He would make You a great teacher He would make You a mighty King
As we watched from above Your praises we did sing*

*We knew You had so much ahead of You
But we knew it had to be
For that is the plan Your Father set forth
So from death they could all be freed*

*So go forth tiny One go forth
We will watch as You go on your way
We will lull You to sleep each night
Dreaming of Your return one day*

*Your presence was oh so radiant of Your beauty we were in awe
Nothing can compare to that night
Or to what we angels saw*

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Merry Christmas from the Florence Baptist Associational Staff!

Faith, Freedom and Public School Seminar
January 30-31, 2015
Calvary Baptist Church

Friday, January 30
7 pm – 8:30

“Keeping Their Faith in Public Schools”

For Parents/Grandparents/Ministers/School Volunteers
A love offering will be taken.

Learn how to help your children graduate with their faith and values intact.

A recent study discovered that 89 percent of young people who left the Church say their doubts about Christianity were planted during their middle and high school years.

As Warren Nord of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, wrote “Public schools clearly and forcefully discourage students from thinking about the world in religious ways.”* This seminar equips parents to counter these negative effects.

Saturday, January 31

9 am – 12:30 pm

“Faith, Freedom and Public Schools”

For Educators and School Leaders
Cost: \$30 (includes CD)
Register at www.calvarycares.com

Faith, Freedom & Public Schools is a professional development seminar for public school educators. This is not about “education theory.” You’ll learn practical ways to appropriately and lawfully include teaching about the Bible and Christian history, culture, and values across the curriculum. You’ll also receive the latest updates on federal and state religious liberty issues affecting students and teachers. Credit of 3 and half CPU’s will be given for this seminar.

Learn how the idea of “separation of Church and State” applies and doesn’t apply to your classroom.

Cooks for Christ benefit for
Rev. Robby Ott

January 29, 2015
West Florence Fire Department
off Pine Needles Road
Lunch served from 11 am-2pm
Dinner served from 4pm-7pm
\$7 a plate,
includes chicken bog, green beans, slaw,
and bread
Delivery available for orders
of 7 or more
Pre-order tickets at www.fbcflorence.org

Ministers and Wives
Christmas Fellowship
Sparrow Swamp Baptist Church
December 4, 2014

6:30 pm
Cost: \$15 per couple



Dec. 2014

- 30-7 Season of Prayer for International Missions
1 Prisoner Packets Due in FBA Office
4 Ministers and Spouse Christmas Social; 6:30 pm
5-6 Come to Bethlehem
22-26 Christmas Holidays; FBA Closed
31 Christmas Holiday; FBA Closed

Jan. 2015

- 1 New Year’s Holiday; FBA Closed
6 Associational Council Mtg; 9 am; FBA
6 Ministers Conf.; 11:30 am; FBA
15 Executive Comm Mtg.; 7 pm; FBA
29 Benefit for Robby Ott

Feb. 2015

- 3 Ministers Conf.; 11:30 am; FBA
7 Children’s Day; Bethea Home; 10 am

WMU Corner

Immanuel held their Christmas Shoe Box Party with 30 in attendance. They put together 40 shoeboxes. Afterwards they enjoyed a time of fellowship and food.

We Are Grateful!
Oct. Contributions

Church	Oct.	Budget YTD
Ariel	61.00	740.10
Bethel	.00	400.00
Beulah	.00	1,700.00
Calvary	1,472.97	15,134.17
Calvary, Lake City	125.00	1,025.00
Cartersville	.00	2,027.20
College Park	582.42	5,078.45
Coward	50.00	450.00
Ebenezer	.00	8,069.22
Elim	666.47	6,664.90
Evergreen	433.21	3,680.95
Florence 1st	941.72	3,347.43
Grace	484.49	5,580.06
Greenwood	609.81	6,892.72
Hebron	.00	900.00
Hoffmeyer Rd	.00	9,009.00
Immanuel	.00	2,191.62
Kingsburg	.00	900.00
Korean	100.00	500.00
Lake City First Baptist	.00	3,900.00
Mizpah	66.21	932.07
Mt. Zion	600.00	2,400.00
New Hope	.00	00.00
Northgate	267.54	3,277.85
Oakdale	718.10	3,561.15
Pamplico 1st	1,583.49	6,569.06
Pee Dee Community	.00	600.00
Peniel	.00	900.00
Quinby	338.92	1,820.21
Rehoboth	.00	550.00
Ridgecrest	1,264.76	5,496.13
Sardis	862.50	3,450.00
South Florence	.00	3,664.43
Southside	1,607.90	19,563.64
Sparrow Swamp	707.76	6,747.03
Tans Bay	.00	.00
Timmonsville 1st	125.00	500.00
Union	1,343.45	5,710.04
Unity	373.84	2,214.03
Willow Creek	85.29	1,917.78
TOTALS	15,471.85	148,064.24

Support Associational Missions

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

Dec. Birthdays

- 2 Rev. Brian Lynn, (MY), Calvary
4 Rev. Stan Sullivan (P), Sparrow Swamp
7 Rev. Darryl Davids (P), Quinby
12 Rev. Ben Greene (P), Hebron
21 Rev. Jim Crooks (P), Southside
24 Rev. Ray Rogers, retired
26 Rev. Jay Perez, (AP) Southside
26 Rev. Landon Reynolds (MM) Calvary

Jan. Birthdays

- 6 Rev. Lanier Singleton (P), Hoffmeyer Road
7 Rev. Mike Mills (P), Calvary
7 J. D. Weed (P), Union
9 Rev. Randy Oswalt (P), College Park
17 Mr. Brad White (MY), Southside

Dec. Anniversaries

- 5 David (P) & Diana Wike, Ebenezer
12 Pam (MEd) & Tom Gaddy, Ebenezer
29 Henry & Genelle Simmons, retired
31 Ken (P) & Anita Moore (Elim)

Jan. Anniversaries

- 6 Stan (P) & Donna Sullivan, Sparrow Swamp
11 Peter (AP) & Carey Rivera, Immanuel
14 Mike (P) & Caroline Mills, Calvary
24 David (P) & Nancy Cromer, Willow Creek

Around the Association

FYI....Please make a note of the dates and news in this newsletter because **YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A JANUARY NEWSLETTER.** We will be updating and making changes to the format during the end of December and first of January.

Tuesday January 6th will be our ministers meeting. We will have soup and sandwiches and will be discussing benevolent needs and how we can best meet them in the community and through the churches.

Tommy Kelly, our newly elected SCBC President, has expressed how the Pee Dee and Low Country are so poorly represented in our convention. He will here at our February Ministers Conference on Feb. 3rd. This date has not been confirmed with Tommy so it may need to be adjusted.

Come to Bethlehem

Live recreation of the first Christmas
December 5 & 6 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Free presentation at the Bethea Retirement Home

