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Back in February I started talking about some of the things that are important in the church that co-operates. First there was: Allow Pastors to lead / Pastors you lead, followed by, Have Godly men and women in leadership, and now, Keep the vision emphasized, "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained" Proverbs 29:18. Many of us remember this verse from the KJV which says the people perish. ASV says: "the people cast off restraint". CEB says: "the people get out of control". So it stands to reason that a vision is important in helping people to stay committed. If you are committed to the vision it is easier to cooperate with others who are also committed to that same vision.

Tracy and I were recently visiting her family in Wake Forest. We were turning into a shopping center only to be held up in traffic that was backed up into the street. The reason it was backed up into the street was because of the drive thru line at Chic-fil-a. They have been bashed in the media for their pro- traditional marriage and pro-family stand, not to mention not being open on Sunday. Well as if I needed to tell you, they are lined up to get Chic-fil-a! Why are they so successful? They have a page on their website that tells about being closed on Sunday. It says: "It's part of our recipe for success". They have not deviated from the vision.

If there is a lack of cooperation in a congregation there may also be a lack of vision. Where there is no vision, the people are: unrestrained, cast off restraint, get out of control, and perish. Sounds like, we need to keep the vision out there in front of the peo-

ple. Pastors, staff, deacons, leaders, even the occasional pew sitter needs to know the vision. You can't embrace it until you know it. Some congregations need to simply restate and emphasize what the church is all about. Others need to start over and get a fresh understanding of how they are called to fulfill the great commission through their congregation. Regrettably, some will fail to do anything and will fail to exist as a congregation.

There are three key words in the purpose of the Florence Baptist Association, as they appear in our constitution. They are: cooperation, encourage, and support. We provide an organization for cooperation among the Southern Baptist churches; encourage said churches to faithfulness in all endeavors and to support the Cooperative Program. Join me in a vision for healthy churches. Healthy churches are full of maturing Christians with a vision for fulfilling the Great Commission. Know that we stand alongside of each other as we minister together. Each healthy church will benefit the Kingdom, the Association, and the Cooperative Program. We don't have to look the same or use the same methods, but we do have to be concerned about our part in fulfilling the great mission.

Remember Chic-fil-a? They have not strayed from their purpose or vision and people are lined up to get in!

Looking forward,
Chris

Cooperative

Florence Baptist Association, May 2015



Prayer Corner:

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

Churches without Pastors:
*Hoffmeyer Road
Quinby*

New Work:
Hispanic Ministry

CLC Program
Financial Support

Good News Clubs!
*MORE volunteers
as GNC expands
to Darlington
School District;
Financial
Assistance*

Family Promise
*Financial Support
Director Search*

Partnerships
*Akron/Canton Ohio
New Brunswick,
Canada*

Joseph Project

National Day of Prayer

May 7, 2015

12:00 noon

Florence County Complex
180 N. Irby Street
City Wide Prayer Gathering



& National Day of Prayer

7:00 pm

Cumberland United Methodist Church
163 S. Coit Street

Join us as we pray for our nation and our community.

Associational Missions Emphasis

May 17-24, 2015





Ministers/Staff Golf Outing

Tuesday - May 5, 2015
The Palms at Oakdale
Tee Time: 9:00 am
Cost: \$20

Please call the associational office at 662-5921 if you plan to golf.

Florence Baptist Association
2015 Mission Trips Dates

Akron/Canton Ohio

Mission Trip
July 11-18, 2015
Cost: \$300
\$100 Deposit due June 8th

Canada Mission Trip

July 25-Aug. 1, 2015
Cost: \$1600

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.florenceba.org.

Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames Drama

Presented by
Bethel Baptist and Draytonville Baptist, Gaffney

June 28-30, 2015
7:00 pm

Bethel Baptist Church
1520 N. Jones Road
Olanta, SC 2914

Contact Bethel Baptist Church at 843.659.2568for more information.



Vacation Bible School!

Needed - VBS dates for your church. If you have not emailed us your dates please do ASAP so they can be included in next months Cooperative.

May 2015

- 5 Ministers & Staff
Golf Outing; The
Palms at Oakdale
- 7 National Day of
Prayer; 12 noon;
Florence County
Complex
- 7 City Wide Prayer
Gathering and
National Day of
Prayer; 7 pm;
Cumberland
United Methodist
Church
- 14 BCM Spirit Night
at Chick Fillet
- 14-15 SC Baptist
Ministry
Assistant Conf.;
Lexington Baptist
Church
- 25 **Memorial Day;
FBA Office
Closed**
- 28 Spaghetti
Supper
Fundraiser for
Joseph Project

June 2015

- 16-17 Southern Baptist
Convention;
Columbus, Ohio
- 21-26 LifeChangers

*FBA Office Closed
May 25, 2015*



We Are Grateful!
March Contributions

Church	March	Budget YTD
Ariel	76.00	220.00
Bethel	.00	.00
Beulah	.00	.00
Calvary	1,485.98	4,348.89
Calvary, Lake City	200.00	600.00
Cartersville	.00	.00
College Park	520.35	1,572.11
Coward	50.00	150.00
Ebenezer	902.24	4,682.83
Elim	666.47	1,999.41
Evergreen	669.42	959.54
Florence 1st	.00	235.92
Grace	860.20	2,573.70
Greenwood	706.76	2,021.65
Hebron	250.00	375.00
Hoffmeyer Rd	1,343.00	3,259.00
Immanuel	246.40	496.90
Kingsburg	100.00	400.00
Korean	.00	.00
Lake City First Baptist	.00	.00
Mizpah	103.77	279.05
Mt. Zion	.00	600.00
New Hope	.00	00.00
Northgate	.00	655.21
Oakdale	287.27	997.65
Pamplico 1st	.00	1,551.75
Pee Dee Community	800.00	800.00
Peniel	.00	.00
Quinby	.00	275.07
Rehoboth	.00	.00
Ridgecrest	.00	1,295.59
Sardis	.00	862.50
South Florence	.00	2,282.16
Southside	1,800.81	5,759.20
Sparrow Swamp	634.41	1,897.91
Tans Bay	.00	.00
Timmons ville 1st	.00	200.00
Union	.00	1,429.17
Unity	307.66	307.66
Willow Creek	87.74	290.76
TOTALS	12,098.48	43,378.63

Support Associational Missions
*Think - -
3% Basic
4% Glory
5% Hallelujah*

May Birthdays

- 1 Mrs. Louanne Stewart (FBA)
1 Rev. James Brown (P), Rise & Live
1 Rev. Tom Brown (P), Rehoboth
1 Rev. Johnny McDaniel (P), Greenwood
9 Rev. Randy Shell, SMI
11 Rev. Kendal Danford, BCM
11 Rev. Dave Bult (P), Kingsburg
29 Rev. Nathan Neighbors (MY), Ebenezer

May Anniversaries

- 11 Bryan (P) & Kim Chapman, PD Comm
14 John (P) Melanie Collins, Grace
21 Bill (P) & Lila Greene, Hebron
21 Chris (DOM) & Tracy Smith, FBA

Around the Association

Ministers Conference....Please note that the Ministers and Staff Golf Outing will take place of the May's Ministers Conference. Also, due to the Southern Baptist Convention their will not be a June Ministers Conference. The next Ministers Conference will be in September.

Calvary, Florence...honored Mrs. Ruth White Collins on Sunday, April 19th for **FIFTY** plus years of service as church organist/pianist. Mrs. Ruth said in the service on Sunday, "I have seen pastors come and pastors go and I'm still here." Mrs. Ruth has had to retire because of health issues. Thank you Mrs. Ruth for your service to our Lord over the years.

Southside...Ivan Parker will be in concert at Southside Baptist Church on Saturday evening June 20th at 6:30 pm. Doors will open at 5 pm.

Ivan is an accomplished gospel singer who has sung with Gold City, been on numerous Gaither concerts and currently averages about 200 performances per year. Ivan's signature song "The Midnight Cry" has blessed audiences throughout the world.

Tickets are on sale for \$10 each and can be purchased by Jim or Shelly Coker at 665.9897 or Joe Poston at 665.5787.