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Florence, S.C.
Permit No. 34

Cooperative

Florence Baptist Association, May 2016



Most of us would love a definitive answer to the question: what is the best way to greet visitors to church. Because people, cultures, locations, and many other variables come into play, there is no definitive answer. There are some practices that have proven mostly successful and some that should be avoided at all cost.

Now, what not to do: don't ask people to raise their hand, or stand up. I actually heard of a church sending a microphone out into the congregation to let the "visitors introduce themselves". Now, the one thing that everyone can NOT DO, to help guest feel more comfortable, DON'T LOOK! You know the look, it last much longer than you think it does. It is not as piercing as a laser but it doesn't miss it much. It is right up there with the look that a Mother in the choir gives her misbehaving child. Most often, the whisper follows the look. After the initial look and the whisper, comes the next look. If a church doesn't have guest every Sunday, and sometimes even if they do, people tend to try to get a good look at them to see if they can figure out who they are. Here is a hint, they are in a church as either a believer or an unbeliever, either way they need to be welcomed and made comfortable. Most of us are not very comfortable with people looking at us as if we were green with two heads.

Some of the things that have proven successful are: use the word guest rather than visitor. If you have signage for parking, let it say guest parking. If you have a packet for those visiting, let it say welcome packet and include guest in the wording. Worship bulletins and other publications should use guest. Guest says you are welcome here, while visitor asks, what

you are doing here.

Greeters are a good way of identifying people, not just ushers smiling and handing people a bulletin. In the last church I pastored, I picked out a few of those that were a "people person" and they would be on the lookout for those that were our guest. If you introduce yourself to someone they will usually tell you their name. It will often put them at ease enough to give you a little more information. This information gathered through personal contact is always better than just filling out a card.

Cards aren't bad but they often contain so many questions that it would take a long time to fill it out. It also, again, singles out the guest. Our society has become much more impersonal. Often a guest just wants to fly under the radar and try out the church without too much interference. Some churches use pads that are on one end of the row and ask everyone to register their attendance. All these can be beneficial but nothing makes up for personal contact. Have a few folks, gifted with people skills, to work the room and greet guest. You will be surprised at the results!

Looking forward,

Chris

Prayer Corner:

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

Churches without Pastors:

*Florence First
Mt. Zion
Northside Chapel
Southside*

New Work:

*Hispanic Ministry
New Covenant*

CLC Program

Financial Support

Good News Clubs!

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

Family Promise

*Financial Support
Families served*

Partnerships

*Akron/Canton Ohio
New Brunswick,
Canada*

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 5, 2016
Florence County Complex
12:00 noon

St. Paul United Methodist Church
1629 W. Palmetto Street, Florence
7:00 pm

Come join your neighbors for a time of prayer for our nation, state, and community.

Children's Ministry Day

Saturday May 7th at 10 am
Calvary Baptist Church
in Collins Family Life Center
915 Cherokee Road in Florence



The emphasis of Children's Ministry Day will be on respecting and appreciating Law Enforcement Officers. We will have a speaker as well as activities. The children will assemble care bags for Law Enforcement Officers.

Each church that participates is asked to bring at least 15-25 (or more if you choose) of each of these items:

Mini hand sanitizer
Granola bar or protein bar
Notepad
Black pen
Pack of crackers
Sunflower seeds
Chap stick
Small Kleenex

The items will be placed in a quart size zip lock bags so be sure the items you buy will fit in that size zip lock. The bags will be assembled as part of the activity for the day! They will be given to Law Enforcement Officers as a thank you for keeping our community safe.

Big Give Pee Dee

May 3
12:00 am - 12:00 pm

Big Give Pee Dee is an online 24 hour fundraising event for non-profits in the Pee Dee area. Big Give starts at 12 am on Tuesday May 3 and goes to midnight that night. CLC (Christian Learning Center) and Family Promise of Florence are both participating in this event this year. CLC is listed under education and Family Promise is under Human services. Minimum donations are \$25 but any amount can be given.

If you would like to donate you can visit the website at <https://biggivepeedee.org>. You can also find links on the Facebook pages of CLC and Family Promise.

Ministry Health Kits
Due June 30, 2016

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

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 toothpaste (6 oz) | 1 Comb |
| 1 washcloth | 1 Soap(4.5 oz) |
| 1 toothbrush | 1 bath towel |

Children's Worship
with
Jeff Slaughter

Saturday, May 21, 2016
Family Life Center
of
Ebenezer Baptist Church
524 S. Ebenezer Road
Florence, SC

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Families & Church Groups are
invited!

Children and groups must be
accompanied by an adult(s).
Please call the church office at
843.669.1802 to register.

Tidal Wave Coupons are
available at the FBA Office.
They are \$10 for the \$20 car
wash. All proceeds help the
Christian Learning Center.



Canada Mission Trip
July 23-30, 2016

Cost: \$1600 per person
(projected cost)

Deposits are due:
May 1 - \$800
June 1 - \$400
July 1 - \$400

Call the FBA Office at
843.662.5921 for more infor-
mation.

May 2016

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Canada Mission
Trip Deposit Due |
| 3 | Big Give Pee Dee |
| 5 | National Day of
Prayer |
| 7 | Children's
Ministry Day;
Calvary |
| 8 | Mother's Day |
| 10 | Minister's Conf.
FBA; 11:30 am |
| 13-14 | Embrace The
Nations; First
Baptist Church;
Mt. Pleasant |

June 2016

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Canada Mission
Trip Deposit Due |
| 6 | Ohio Mission Trip
Payment Due |
| 12-26 | SERVEFLO |
| 14-15 | 2016 SBC
Convention;
St. Louis, MO |
| 19 | Father's Day |
| 19-24 | LifeChangers |
| 30 | Ministry Health
Kits Due |

July 2016

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 4 | July 4th Holiday;
FBA closed |
| 9-16 | Ohio Mission Trip |
| 23-30 | Canada Mission
Trip |



We Are Grateful!
March Contributions

Church	March	Budget YTD
Ariel	78.00	265.00
Bethel	.00	200.00
Beulah	.00	2,200.00
Calvary	1,156.28	4,217.80
Calvary, Lake City	200.00	600.00
Cartersville	668.00	668.00
College Park	.00	782.40
Coward	50.00	150.00
Ebenezer	1,924.15	3,422.11
Elim	666.47	1,999.41
Evergreen	341.25	1,236.18
Florence 1st	.00	186.54
Grace	2,094.68	2,999.45
Greenwood	659.02	2,092.27
Hebron	.00	250.00
Hoffmeyer Rd	1,819.17	6,504.74
Immanuel	655.61	2,827.31
Kingsburg	.00	.00
Korean	.00	.00
Lake City First Baptist	.00	3,000.00
Mizpah	97.96	381.40
Mt. Zion	.00	1,334.81
New Covenant	68.00	98.00
New Hope	.00	00.00
Northgate	.00	557.20
Oakdale	300.90	522.31
Pamplico 1st	.00	2,519.59
Pee Dee Community	300.00	300.00
Peniel	300.00	300.00
Quinby	228.35	634.88
Rehoboth	.00	.00
Ridgecrest	1,386.12	2,176.86
Sardis	.00	862.50
South Florence	.00	.00
Southside	1,737.13	5,838.81
Sparrow Swamp	656.80	2,233.17
Timmons ville 1st	.00	.00
Union	.00	1,345.17
Unity	608.96	807.26
Willow Creek	214.08	479.93
TOTALS	16,210.93	53,993.10

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 |
| 11 | Rev. Kendal Danford, (BCM) |
| 11 | Rev. Dave Bult (P), Kingsburg |
| 29 | Rev. Nathan Neighbors (MY), Ebenezer |

May Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|---|
| 11 | Bryan (P) & Kim Chapman,
Pee Dee Community |
| 14 | John (P) & Melanie Collins, Grace |
| 21 | Bill (P) & Lila Greene, Hebron |
| 21 | Chris & Tracy Smith, FBA |

Around the Association

Ministers Conference...The next Ministers Conference will be held on May 10th at 11:30 am at the FBA Office. Lunch will be provided for a cost of \$5 per person. Please make reservations so appropriate lunch arrangements can be made. The next Ministers Conference will be held on September 6th at 11:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Mark Hendrick from the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Hoffmeyer Road...Has called Rev. Greg Batchelor as pastor. We welcome Rev. Batchelor and his wife, Linzie, and their family to our association.

Florence First...You are cordially invited to attend a performance by the SC Baptist Singing Churchmen on Thursday, May 19th at 7 pm. The Singing Churchmen is a men's chorus made up of Music Ministers from across the state serving SC Baptist Churches.

Associational Missions Week
"Start Something New"

May is the month we emphasis Associational Missions. While we don't always emphasize a specific offering, and while most of our churches contribute regularly, we would not want you to miss out on an opportunity to share information about your FBA and receive a special offering. "Start Something New" is the national theme this year. Video and print resources are available through our office