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In the mall in Cleveland there was a strange sight. Payphones were built into the wall; the handsets were gone and the hooks were modified to be flush with the wall. What was a familiar sight for most of my life, is now a relic. Go to many events now with no paper ticket, but you will have a barcode that can be scanned. Today, I just pull up the app to tune my guitar. Everything has changed so much through the years until..... you walk into many Baptist churches. We don't want to admit it, but, churches are going the way of the payphone. Phones are with us but they have changed from hanging on the wall to, being a computer. While the "baby boomer" generation has adapted to the cell phone, this generation has not allowed for change in the church. Is the focus of church, the comfort and fellowship of those that are already there, or the concern for the lost that are all around? For the local church to avoid going the way of the payphone, she must do things she has never done before and do things in ways she has never done them.

Being the church has to be more important than coming to church. Have you invited an un-churched person to take part in being the church? Have you asked a man to help the church men build

a handicapped ramp, asked someone to join in feeding the homeless or go on a mission trip? The problem is when the church is not being the church but only coming to church. There is no place for the lost and unchurched to connect except to come and experience the worship service and programs that have changed very little in the last 50 years.

Most of our services and programs are designed to be comfortable for the 30 % of the population born before 1964. A worship leader, in their teens, describe the hymn "In Christ Alone", as an older hymn. "In Christ Alone" was copyrighted 2001 which makes it a modern hymn, but an older song, to a teenager that has heard it all their life. It is a matter of perspective. Young people can watch and listen to the best preachers and musicians on their phone, but they probably won't. They need a connection: help when hurting, freedom from bondage, and support when struggling. Jesus came to heal the sick, release the captive, and most importantly, to seek and save the lost. Let's work at being the church so we don't end up like a payphone.

Looking forward, Chris

# Cooperative

*Florence Baptist Association, May 2018*



## Associational Week of Prayer May 20-27, 2018



### Theme: Mission Partnerships

Please consider taking an offering for the FBA to help with our ministry opportunities. Envelopes are available to use with your offering.

Associational Missions Week materials will be available via email. Please call the associational office if you would like for us to print the materials for your church.

**"During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' " Acts 16:9**

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

UNITY

EPHESIANS 4:3  
MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY  
OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE.

MAY 3, 2018

#PRAY4UNITY  
NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

National Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 3, 2018

City County Complex  
12:00 noon

Florence First Baptist  
7:00 pm

Evening service hosted by Florence First Baptist and New Life Church.

Ministry Health Kits  
Due June 29, 2018

Ministry Health Kits are due in the associational office on Friday, June 29th. Please include the following items in a **two gallon zip lock bag**. These will be used with the fair ministry, for the homeless, and other needs.

1 toothpaste (6 oz)

1 washcloth

1 toothbrush

1 bath towel

1 soap (4.5 oz bath size)

1 comb

FLORENCE

Red Wolves

Red Wolves Faith  
&  
Family Night

Monday - July 16, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

Tickets - \$4  
Orders due to FBA by July 2nd

Prayer Concerns:

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

Churches without

Pastors:

Elim

Florence First

Northside Chapel

Rehoboth

New Work:

New Covenant

CLC Program

Financial Support

Good News Clubs!

More volunteers ;

Financial Assistance

Church Sponsors for

new clubs



The FBA Office will be closed Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day!

We are Grateful! March Contributions		
Church	March	Budget YTD
Ariel	113.00	301.00
Bethel	.00	200.00
Beulah	.00	1,080.00
Calvary	1,148.07	3,905.02
Calvary, Lake City	200.00	600.00
Cartersville	500.00	1,000.00
College Park	1,189.00	2,578.88
Coward	50.00	150.00
Ebenezer	.00	2,127.96
Elim	666.47	1,999.41
Evergreen	468.98	1,233.76
Florence 1st	.00	120.58
Grace	2,384.43	5,176.31
Greenwood	691.98	2,441.61
Hebron	200.00	600.00
Hoffmeyer Rd	1,327.13	3,981.39
Immanuel	.00	.00
Kingsburg	.00	600.00
Korean	.00	.00
Lake City 1st	.00	3,000.00
Mizpah	119.22	389.24
Mt. Zion	.00	600.00
New Covenant	100.00	225.00
New Hope	45.00	45.00
Northgate	210.00	982.96
Northside Chapel	.00	.00
Oakdale	300.75	763.90
Pamplico 1st	.00	.00
Pee Dee Community	.00	.00
Peniel	300.00	300.00
Quinby	.00	513.09
Rehoboth	.00	500.00
Ridgecrest	.00	1,859.98
Sardis	.00	862.50
South Florence	.00	449.58
Southside	1,550.03	4,841.34
Sparrow Swamp	784.56	2,060.81
Timmons ville 1st	200.00	200.00
Union	.00	1,470.58
Unity	.00	.00
Willow Creek	216.56	442.43
TOTALS	12,765.18	47,602.33

May Birthdays

- 1
- Mrs. Louanne Stewart (FBA
- 1
- Rev. James Brown
- 1
- Rev. Tom Brown (Interim), Union
- 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, PD Comm
- 14
- John (P) & Melanie Collins, Grace
- 21
- Bill (P) & Lila Greene, Hebron
- 21
- Chris & Tracy Smith, FBA

Around the Association

**Ministers Golf Outing...**In lieu of the regular Ministers Conference a Ministers Golf Outing will be held on May 15th at 9 am. Please call the FBA office for detailed information and to register for this event.

**Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair...**Dates have changed from October to August 17-28 because of a conflict with a fall fair at the Civic Center. This may change some of our ministries but we will be doing the free yard sale. Please start collecting items for the free yard sale ASAP because August will be here before you know it. Items needed are: shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream. Tylenol, Advil, over the counter cold medicine, 4 pack toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, unscented laundry detergent, Pop tarts, cereal, "pop-top" foods, blankets, twin sheets.