

Florence Baptist Association  
2208 Pamplico Highway  
Florence, SC 29505-6828  
843-662-5921  
fbaconnie@sc.rr.com  
lgs5155@aol.com  
fbachris@gmail.com  
www.florenceba.org  
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Florence, S.C.  
Permit No. 34

# Cooperative

Florence Baptist Association, December 2018 -January 2019



## Minister's and Spouse Christmas Social

December 4, 2018

6:30 pm

College Park Baptist Church

1501 Third Loop Road, Florence, SC



I have a tendency to live in the moment and often have a problem planning too far ahead. Therefore, it's hard for me to think about Christmas while it is nearly 70 degrees outside as I write this, two days before Thanksgiving. When I think of our fast paced world, even faster at Christmas, and having three active children at home, I can truthfully say my favorite Christmas Carol is "Silent Night". What Christmas has become, and the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, are two very different things.

It's not hard to think about the Birth of Christ, but the fast paced parts of the commercial Christmas give me a headache. The only hurrying mentioned in the Christmas story was the shepherds running, jumping fences, as they went to see the Child whose birth had been announced to them by angels. Some people are not like me at all, like my wife. She loves the crowds, likes to shop, and would buy a gift for everyone in the world if we could afford it. I thank God she truly exemplifies, "It is more blessed to give than receive"!

Well here's my challenge to you as you celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas. Give Jesus a gift! What other birthday do you celebrate and

everyone gets a gift but the one with the birthday? Here is what I suggest to help keep the gift giving in perspective. Give a gift to Jesus through the Lottie Moon offering. Give as much, or more, as you spend on the most expensive gift you buy. How could you put a price tag on the Salvation Jesus has given, or is offering you? To give an **Offering, over and above the tithe**, is just a small way of telling Jesus thanks and supporting the International Missionaries. If we each take this to heart and do it, we would have offerings that would be recognized through out this state, but more importantly, would bring a blessing to the very Heart of God. Make it a merry Christmas by sharing in the excitement of the shepherds and use every opportunity to run to Jesus and tell others where you are going!

Looking forward,

Chris



**Merry Christmas**  
from the  
Florence Baptist Association

**Book Drive for Connie Maxwell Children’s Home in Greenwood:**

Connie Maxwell President Danny Nicholson and his wife Debra are making a huge impact on the ministry at Connie Maxwell. One of Debra’s passions is to help improve the reading level of the children in their care. As you know research shows that children who read and are read to are more successful in school. Children who are not reading on grade level by third grade struggle to be successful in school and many of them drop out.

A reading club has been started with the children at CMCH. They can always use more books so the children will have a variety of books to choose from. We will be collecting new and gently used books for preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. We will be collecting these books through February 14, 2019.

**Love Packages Collection:** Thanks to everyone who brought material for our first collection for Love Packages. We will be collecting material again January 7-11, 2019. Love Packages recycles material and ships it to English speaking third world countries.

**Items collected include:** BIBLES – any translation, any shape; SS Material – children’s and adult, **COMPLETE** VBS kits, Dictionaries, concordances, magazines from a Christian publisher – so any LifeWay publication; hymnals in fairly good shape, and sheet music.

Please put like material in **SMALL or MEDIUM cardboard boxes with a lid.** Please don’t overload the box and make it so heavy that it can’t be picked up. Bring the literature to the FBA January 7-11 ONLY! Material will NOT be accepted after this date.



**THANK YOU** for the response to the Gift Card Collection for Nichols. We received 511 gift cards from Walmart, Food Lion, IGA and Piggly Wiggly. They were delivered to the Marion Association who will distribute them to the residents left in Nichols.

**Help Combat Childhood Hunger!  
Vienna Sausage Food Drive**

January 20-27, 2019

(4,200 cans are needed each week for Help 4 Kids Florence)

This would be a great project for AWANA groups, mission groups, or for a church wide emphasis! Please bring cans to the FBA by January 31, 2019.



**Prayer Concerns:**

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

**Churches without**

**Pastors:**

*Elim*

**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 Thursday, Dec. 20 - Monday, Dec. 31 for Christmas Holidays. And Jan 1st for the News Year Holiday. FBA Office will reopen on Wed. Jan. 2, 2019.

**We are Grateful!  
Oct. Contributions**

Church	Oct.	Budget YTD
Ariel	112.00	948.50
Bethel	.00	200.00
Beulah	.00	3,600.00
Calvary	1,310.56	12,655.62
Calvary, Lake City	.00	1,825.00
Cartersville	.00	1,650.00
College Park	.00	5,064.38
Coward	100.00	850.00
Ebenezer	1,701.63	10,960.49
Elim	666.47	6,664.70
Evergreen	437.87	4,892.53
Florence 1st	1,262.43	6,881.20
Grace	1,255.26	14,695.25
Greenwood	1,689.56	9,046.96
Hebron	.00	1,800.00
Hoffmeyer Rd	1,327.13	13,271.30
Immanuel	.00	3,374.09
Kingsburg	.00	1,100.00
Korean	.00	.00
Lake City 1st	.00	6,000.00
Mizpah	115.43	1,263.06
Mt. Zion	.00	1,800.00
New Covenant	50.00	498.00
New Hope	.00	45.00
Northgate	1,448.68	4,037.00
Northside Chapel	.00	.00
Oakdale	.00	1,701.00
Pamplico 1st	.00	4,195.07
Pee Dee Community	.00	.00
Peniel	300.00	900.00
Quinby	191.45	1,608.60
Rehoboth	.00	550.00
Ridgecrest	607.08	5,998.37
Sardis	.00	2,587.50
South Florence	.00	2,449.58
Southside	1,549.18	14,298.76
Sparrow Swamp	729.65	7,071.57
Tans Bay	.00	600.00
Timmonsville 1st	200.00	600.00
Union	1,393.08	5,728.72
Unity	.00	1,352.38
Willow Creek	.00	1,176.74
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,447.46</b>	<b>163,941.37</b>

**Dec. Birthdays**

- 2 Rev. Brian Lynn (MY), Calvary
- 4 Rev. Stan Sullivan (P)  
Sparrow Swamp
- 12 Rev. Bill Greene (P) Hebron
- 21 Rev. Jim Crooks (P), Tans Bay
- 26 Rev. Landon Reynolds (MM)  
Calvary

**Dec. Anniversaries**

- 5 David (P) & Diana Wike, Ebenezer
- 29 Henry & Genelle Simmons, retired

**Jan. Birthdays**

- 7 Rev. Mike Mills (P), Calvary
- 17 Rev. Brad White (MY), Greenwood

**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



**Ministers Conference...**The next Ministers Conf. will be held on Tuesday, January 8th at 11:30 am. Lunch is \$5 per person.

**Florence First...**Has called Dr. Michael Crawford as pastor. Dr. Crawford will begin at First Baptist on Sunday, Dec. 2nd and will be moving from Austell, Georgia. We welcome, Dr. Crawford and his wife, Deborah to our association.