

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](http://www.florenceba.org)  
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Florence, S.C.  
Permit No. 34

May has always been an exciting month in my life. I graduated from College, Seminary, and got married in May. In fact, it was on May 21, 2012 that I was voted in as your Director of Missions. I'm sure that was not how Tracy wanted to spend her 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, but she has always been a good wife. This year, Maggie will graduate from The King's Academy in May. Time really does fly!

In many ways it seems impossible that I have been a part of the Florence Baptist Association for seven years now. During these seven years, we have seen pastors and staff change in congregations, pastors and staff that have reached their heavenly home, historical milestones for congregations, new buildings erected for congregations, and don't forget three natural disasters. We have had two successful Missions Partnerships and have really grown our work in Disaster Relief. During this time, the Bliss Ball was born as was the Joseph Project, which originated as the Human Trafficking Taskforce.

What the FBA will look like seven years from now, only the Lord knows. The church is changing fast, but not as fast as the culture. The FBA, being a group of congregations, is not in a good position to change as fast as the fastest changing con-

gregation, nor is it able to stay behind with the last congregation to make critical changes. We exist to assist and empower each congregation to fulfill the Great Commission. In doing so, we must be able to work with congregations all along the spectrum.

The most important element of all change is God's Will. As a congregation will you seek God's Will and not your own? Will you allow God to lead you into ministries that you have never done before? Is it possible that some ministry has outlived it's potential to make a significant impact on the culture or community? Is God's Will more important than your personal preference and/or the preference of your congregation? These are just a few questions as we boldly go, together, where no one has gone before!

Looking forward, Chris

# Cooperative



*Florence Baptist Association, May 2019*

**THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019**

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG #LOVE1ANOTHER

## **National Day of Prayer**

Thursday, May 2, 2019

12:00 noon

Florence County Complex

City Wide Prayer of Helping Florence Flourish

NewSpring Church

1100 N. Cashua Drive

7:00 pm

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

Love One Another, Just As I Have Loved You  
John 13:34



**The Crayon Initiative** was founded in 2014 and is a non-profit that recycles old crayons. The organization’s mission is to preserve the environment and to provide new crayons with one flat side and no paper on them to hospitalized children. The crayons are easy to clean and won’t roll away from the child. The Crayon Initiative has donated more than 20,000 new packs of crayons to pediatric patients in 38 hospitals in 17 different states. Last summer our association donated 436 pounds of crayons.

**We will be collecting used crayons again at the FBA. They can be broken or just pieces of crayons. Just put them in a box or zip lock bag and bring to the FBA office by June 15.** They do not have to be separated by color or have the paper taken off.

**Bilingual Book Drive:** The Florence YMCA is hosting the Migratory Education Program (MEP) during the month of July. This is when Hispanic children come from 9 am – 5 pm to get help in ELA and Math to help fill in the education gaps from changing schools so often. The YMCA is planning an evening event on July 18 for the parents of the children to help them know what services are available in our community. Most of the parents do not speak English so they would like to offer some Bilingual (English/Spanish) children’s books preschool – middle school reading level for the parents to take home. This will help the child as well as the parents.

The churches in our community have been asked to **help provide some Bilingual children’s books** that can be given away at the July 18<sup>th</sup> event. Realizing that you probably don’t have these books around your house to donate, Louanne will purchase them online if you want to donate money for this ministry. Money needs to be at the FBA office by June 15 to give us time to order, receive and deliver the books by July 18. If you want to shop yourself, these books are available online in multiple places – just google Bilingual children’s books. Books should be brought to the FBA by July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Regional Prayer Time  
with Bill Eliff**  
September 24, 2019

Bill Eliff was the speaker for the DOM and wives retreat in January. It was a wonderful experience. This opportunity will be for pastors, staff, and key people of prayer ministry in your congregations. More information will be coming with details of this day for our region.

***Prayer Concerns:***

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

***New Work:**  
New Covenant*

***CLC Program**  
Financial Support*

***Good News Clubs!**  
More volunteers ;  
Financial Assistance  
Church Sponsors for new clubs*

**Save the Date!**

**Fair Ministry**  
Eastern Carolina Fair  
October 8-12, 2019

The FBA Office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day  
May 27, 2019.



**Financial Information  
Month of March 2019**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$21,108.33
Monthly Received:	\$11,900.32
Monthly Expenses:	\$21,799.75
Year to Date Budget:	\$63,324.99
Year to Date Received:	\$58,157.61
Year to Date Expenses:	\$57,356.23

**LifeChangers**

June 16-21, 2019  
Students completed 7th grade and up  
Calvary Baptist Church

We are in need of churches to host the evening meal at their church for the entire group. We also need groups to take lunches to the crews at the work site Monday-Friday. Crews are usually 12-15 people. Louanne has lunch instructions and suggestions she will email you once you volunteer. You can feed a crew all 5 days or just part of the week – whatever works for your group. This is a great project for Sunday School classes

**RedWolves Faith & Family Night**

June 24, 2019  
7:00 pm  
Francis Marion Sparrow Stadium  
Tickets: \$4  
Children 2 and under free



The pastor of the church that sells the most tickets will throw out the first pitch and receive a hat!! Group ticket orders must be placed by Monday, **June 10** by calling Louanne Stewart 662.5921 or emailing her at fbalouanne@sc.rr.com

***May Birthdays***

- 1 Mrs. Louanne Stewart (FBA)
- 1 Rev. James Brown, retired
- 1 Rev. Tom Brown, retired
- 1 Rev. Johnny McDaniel (P) Greenwood
- 11 Rev. Kendal Danford (BCM)
- 11 Rev. Dave Bult (P), Kingsburg
- 29 Rev. Nathan Neighbors (MY) Ebenezer

***May Birthdays***

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



**Elim...**Has called Rev. Wesley Mayfield as pastor. We welcome Rev. Mayfield and his wife, Dena and daughters Jeanna and Kelsey to our association. Rev. Mayfield will begin his duties as pastor on June 2, 2019.

