

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
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Permit No. 34

I have never been to a church that did not think they were “friendly.” The problem is usually that they are friendly to each other, but don’t know how to respond to guests. Guest is the proper term; visitors went out with button up shoes. Now if you had a guest in your home, I hope you would treat them well and make them welcome. I visit a lot of churches and I am sorry to report that most do not know how to treat guests.

There are two responses and guests usually get one of those, but sometimes both. One response is being invisible. This is often the case in churches that are over 100 in attendance. I was in one a while back and I had to ask an usher/greeter for a bulletin because the two of them were talking. A couple of people that actually knew me spoke, but beyond that, I was invisible. I wonder how invisible some people are? If I can be invisible with my 5’ 3”; 280-pound son with a disability, how about an average person?

The other reaction is people looking at you as if you have a big green bull frog on your head.

People will often stare and continue to stare as if to say “who are you and why are you here”? This is often the smaller church, it may or may not be, rural. Usually, this is accompanied by a whisper to someone nearby. So, how do you fix these things?

Regardless of church size, location, or make-up, find your friendly outgoing people to use as greeters/ushers. If the first person you see, preferably before you ever enter the building, has a smile and a winsome personality, any residual being invisible or stares, will have a minimal affect. It is amazing the people that want to speak to me after they find out who I am. Remember you only have one chance to make a first impression. Could there ever be a more important place to make a first impression? Peoples’ eternal destiny may hang in the balance as they enter a place of worship. Smile, speak to guests, introduce yourself, and don’t stare!

Looking forward,

Chris

Cooperative

Florence Baptist Association, June 2019



Vacation Bible School Offering For Florence Baptist Association

The overall contributions from our churches have been down over the last several years. Rather than trying to schedule another Associational Missions Offering, these videos present an opportunity for our churches to share the ministries of the FBA with their members. We have five videos approximately 2 minutes long to be used for VBS or however you wish. Feel free to use the videos as you see fit and let us know if we can help you promote our FBA. Titles of videos are:

- “What is your Baptist Association”
- “Where is your Baptist Association”
- “FBA and Disaster Relief”
- “FBA and Special People”
- “FBA and LifeChangers”

These videos are on the FBA website, www.florenceba.org for your use. Also, if you need help we can get them to you on a flash drive or CD.

Bilingual Book Drive: During the month of July, the Florence YMCA will be hosting Hispanic children at a camp formatted to help them with ELA and Math. The churches in our community have been asked to **help provide Bilingual children's books** that can be given away during the camp. 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. If you want to shop yourself, books should be brought to the FBA by July 12th.



Crayon Initiative: We are collecting used crayons at the FBA for the Crayon Initiative. 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 30. They do not have to be separated by color or have the paper taken off. Please help spread the word about this ministry.

The Voice of the Martyrs is committed to placing a Bible in the hands of every Christian believer in the world even in countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. This is a task that the global body of Christ can accomplish in this generation if we work together. They now have digital Bibles on a jump drive that they can get into the hands of believers in the hostile or restricted nations. Bibles can be purchased for \$6 each by visiting VOMBibles.com. "If you are not willing to die for what is in the Bible, you should not give money for Bibles. Because if you give, we will smuggle more Bibles. And if we smuggle more Bibles, there will be more martyrs." Richard Wurmbrand

Worship Leader Round Table

Thursday, September 19, 2019
 Hoffmeyer Road Baptist Church
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Cost \$10 per person
 Lunch provided
 Free gifts & training resources

WORSHIP LEADER ROUNDTABLE is a discussion-based networking and training event aimed at helping worship leaders of all varieties establish relationships with other worship ministry leaders, engage in conversations around topics related to best practices and worship in the local church, connect with the Worship & Music Office, and hopefully refresh a bit as we will spend time in worship & pray-er together.

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!

Bliss Ball
 October 5

Fair Ministry
 Eastern Carolina Fair
 October 8-12, 2019



The FBA Office will be closed July 4-5 in observance of Fourth of July Holiday.

**Financial Information
 Month of April 2019**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$21,108.33
Monthly Received:	\$20,721.65
Monthly Expenses:	\$18,554.30
Year to Date Budget:	\$84,433.32
Year to Date Received:	\$78,879.25
Year to Date Expenses:	\$75,910.53

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.

**Regional Prayer Time
 with Bill Eliff**

September 25, 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.

June Birthdays

- 20 Rev. Gerald McCants, retired
- 24 Rev. Doyle Jones, retired
- 30 Rev. John Collins, (P), Grace
- 30 Rev. George Koon (P)
 Calvary, LC

June Anniversaries

- 1 Justin (WL) & Briana Simmons,
 Hoffmeyer Road
- 4 Jerry & Sherry Davis, retired
- 6 Dave (P) & Jo Ann Bult, Kingsburg
- 10 David (P) & Flo Scammell, Beulah
- 14 Landon (MM) & Leah Reynolds,
 Calvary
- 16 Charles (P) & Marsha Pittman,
 Immanuel
- 19 Adam (P) & Mary Pfahlert, Union
- 19 Nathan (MY) & Ashley Neighbors,
 Ebenezer



Mizpah...is seeking a Youth Pastor/Youth Director. The emphasis of this ministry position is to lead our youth and youth in our community to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Resumes may be mailed to Mizpah Baptist Church, 233 N. Price Rd., Florence, SC 29506 or emailed to:

mbcflorence@gmail.com.

Greenwood...is seeking a part time Worship Leader. Responsibilities include leading and rehearsing a Choir, Praise and Worship Team/Band and enabling blended worship services. Please email resumes to gbc@gbcflorence.com.