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Well, Christmas is upon us again. I think of the rather bland world that I lived in when I was a child compared to today. I remember the church gave Dad our first color TV one year. Since my world was not flooded with the bright lights and colors, that even many churches have for Sunday morning worship now, I say it was bland. I always rode with my nose pressed to the glass looking for "Christmas Lights" as we made our way into town. We never had Christmas lights on the outside because we lived in a parsonage and the church paid the electric bill. The bright lights and decorations were always something that I enjoyed. Families gathered and the kids enjoyed playing with each other's toys.

The lights and toys have changed, but that's not all. Back then, I only remember one friend that had to do a separate Christmas with his two parents. Oh, and there was no thought of not saying "Merry Christmas" because it might offend someone. Oh, but let's look at the

bright side! Because of the world of social media, you can keep up with people all over the world that you would not have been able to before. We can listen to "Christmas Music" on your cable or satellite TV, computer, or your phone. Hallmark movies, I don't care for them but compared to most programming on TV, aren't a bad choice.

All this being said, the reason believers celebrate is the birth of a Savior, Christ the Lord. It was simple, but the announcements, celebrations, reactions, and gifts were extraordinary! Since we have a mandate to "whatsoever you do, do as unto the Lord" wouldn't that also include our Christmas traditions and celebration. Decorate well, celebrate well, give well, and do it all in the name of "A Savior, Christ the Lord". Merry Christmas and Happy New Year friends!

Looking forward, Chris

Cooperative



Florence Baptist Association, December 2019 - January 2020

"Timeless Truths" Youth Worker Training

With

**Bill Cox,
Concoxiions Ministries**

Friday, February 7, 2020
6:00-9:00 pm

or

Saturday, February 8, 2020
9:30 am-12:30 pm

Ebenezer Baptist Church Youth House
524 Ebenezer Road
Florence, SC 29505

Bill Cox of Concoxiions Ministries will be with us for two training opportunities. Bill will present the same material at two different times. Friday, February 7, 2020 6:00-9:00 pm or Saturday, February 8, 2020 9:30 am-12:30 pm. This is a regional event, we welcome all volunteer and staff Youth Workers to come and benefit from this opportunity. Please register by calling 843.662.5921 or by email at fbaconnie@sc.rr.com.

Bill Cox believes it's important to be aware of the latest trends in student ministry. But that's not what his leadership training for those involved in ministering to teenagers is all about. Bill has a strong conviction that timeless truths top temporary trends. He will be focusing on basic, unchanging foundations for building and sustaining student ministry no matter who you are, where you are, or when you are. This time of encouragement, challenge, and instruction will have imperative teaching for anyone who cares about students from rookie volunteer leaders to veteran full time staff.

Needs for SFHS Health Room: We are continuing to collect items for South Florence High School as requested by their nurse. If you would like to share any of these items, please bring to the FBA office.

- New or gently used elastic waistband sweatpants - nylon or other - for males and females.
- New underwear, all adult sizes, for females.
- Gently used T-shirts
- Belts – guys and girls
- Hard, individually wrapped peppermints (Nurse can no longer give out cough drops.)
- Mini ginger ale cans (for health room)

**5th Annual Christmas Toy Ride
Benefitting
McLeod Children's Hospital
Saturday, December 21st**

The FBA will be collecting toys for this benefit again this year. This is a great project for children's groups like GA's and RA's, CIA's. Items needed for Pediatric ICU - stuffed animals, board games, dolls, cars, Barbie's, books. For NICU – board books, preemie onesies, baby blankets. All items should be unwrapped and brought to the FBA by Friday, December 13 by noon.

**Reach Out – GO FOR IT!
Children's MISSION Day
Saturday, February 8
South Florence Baptist Church
2720 S. Irby Street 10 am**

We will be working with the Leatherman Center to secure names of individuals who receive "Meals on Wheels" meals. We will collect the items requested and fill bags and make them cards. Each church will be given 1-3 people to visit and deliver their bags. Groups can prepare a song, Bible verse, or reading to share with the people they visit. Visits can be made that Saturday or at another convenient time. Please bring some of the following items for your bags: toothpaste, toothbrush, small mouth-wash, socks, gloves, paper towels, toilet paper, snacks.

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*



The FBA Office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 19 - Tuesday, Dec. 31 for Christmas Holidays. And Jan 1st for the New Year Holiday. FBA Office will reopen on Wed. Jan. 2, 2020.

**Financial Information
Month of October 2019**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$21,108.33
Monthly Received:	\$19,413.30
Monthly Expenses:	\$17,525.90
Year to Date Budget:	\$211,083.30
Year to Date Received:	\$191,757.61
Year to Date Expenses:	\$191,120.24

**Minister's and Spouse
Christmas Social**
December 5, 2019 - 6:30 pm
Calvary Baptist Church,
915 Cherokee Road, Florence, SC
Guest Speaker: Lawrence Chewing
\$20 per couple
Meal: Steak, baked potato and all
the trimmings

Mr. Chewing is the author of the song, "The Anchor Holds". He has been a pastor, served in other ministries and has an encouraging word and song for ministers.

Please RSVP by calling 843.662.5921 or email Connie at fbaconnie@sc.rr.com.

Love Packages – We will be collecting the old Sunday School material, Bibles, etc. for Love Packages January 13-16, 2020. Sorry we cannot accept it in December because of storage and use of the back room, plus prisoner packets coming in during that same time.

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

5	David (P) & Diana Wike, Ebenezer
19	Michael (P) & Deborah Crawford Florence First
29	Henry & Genelle Simmons, retired

January Birthdays

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

January 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
Tuesday, February 11, 2010
11:30 am - FBA Office**

Tuesday February 11th at 11:30 am we will have our Ministers Conference including guests from our neighboring associations. Our speakers will be an IMB Missionary Couple serving in East Asia. Please call the FBA office at 662.5921 or email Connie at fbaconnie@sc.rr.com to let us know you will attend.