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We skipped the April newsletter because of the shock and surprise of the Covid-19 crisis. I want to encourage each of you to continue to trust God and "lean not on your own understanding" during this time. I pray that by the time you receive this, we are coming out of the quarantine, hibernation, or whatever this is that has been imposed upon us!

I am writing to you just after a Zoom Meeting with some FBA pastors. We are getting used to doing things differently and using previously unused, or sparsely used, technology! Most of our churches are taking advantage of free ways to broadcast their services. Facebook, YouTube, and even FM transmitters for outdoor (drive-in) services are now common place. Churches are starting to make ways for you to give online in addition to the typical collection of tithes and offerings during the service.

I want to challenge you to embrace the opportunities that are coming out of these strange times. Some may make the argument that if you put the services online, some people will not come. But think of it this way, people that would not come or could not come, to the service "at church," can see and hear it. People are asking questions concerning the things of God and the end of time. Some margin-

al Christians are beginning to question their own commitment to Christ or His church during this time. Just think of the great opportunities we have with technology. The Gospel is going out in ways it has never before.

While we will never replace the personal interaction, think of the advantage of being able to facetime, and see our loved ones. I believe we will be able to gather as the church again. I also believe we will be able to embrace, pass the communion tray and offering plate again. God is not surprised by any of this and He has a plan. Just as Henry Blackaby urges us in "Experiencing God," find where God is at work and join him there." God is at work all around us. Don't miss it because it no longer fits into what we once knew as normal.

Looking forward,

Chris

# Cooperative



*Florence Baptist Association, May 2020*



Since we are not able to gather for cooperate prayer this year for the National Day of Prayer on May 7<sup>th</sup> we are including the prayer prompts for everyone to use to pray at noon on that day.

**Government: Psalm 102:15**

- That all elected officials would serve in God’s will with humility and justice.
- That God will guide President Trump and give him wisdom during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- That Light will shine into every government office and meeting, and all plans, deeds, decisions, strategies, and schemes will either be exalted or exposed according to the Word and will of God.

**Churches: 1 Kings 8:10-11**

- That churches would be the light that is needed during this COVID-19 time (online presence).
- That pastors’ marriages and families would be strengthened, appreciated and supported NOT criticized and exhausted.
- That every believer would understand that they have been called to pray, love, and share the gospel.

**Family: Ephesians 3:14-19**

- That husband & wives would love & respect one another with an ever-growing devotion of one another & God.
- That families would pray, read and study the Bible; worship and serve together

**Education: Ephesians 1:17**

- That all campuses will be a safe place to learn.
- That all curriculum taught will be true & beneficial to the spiritual & intellectual growth of students.

**Business: Colossians 1:9-11**

- That every worker would know that they have value and influence, and will work with excellence.
- That every workplace will be filled with those who are praying and living out their faith in Jesus.

**Military and Law Enforcement: Ephesians 6:10-12**

- That all of our service members would be well prepared and trained spiritually as well as physically, mentally and emotionally.
- That the chain of command would be filled with wisdom and understanding in decision making.

**Media: John 7:18**

- That all of those who work in media would be able to speak the TRUTH.
- That art, entertainment, and media would draw people closer to God.



Chris Smith, FBA Director of Missions, was presented with the Cliff Satterwhite Disaster Relief Award during the March Disaster Relief Training. Chris has led Florence Baptists to be engaged hands-on in missions.

Chris has also been instrumental in providing a site at the FBA office for staging supplies and equipment for future disaster responses to events along South Carolina’s northern coast and the Pee Dee region.

The FBA is proud of Chris’ leadership in Disaster Relief.

**Financial Information  
Month of March 2020**

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly Budget Needs:  | \$19,166.67  |
| Monthly Received:      | \$15,737.55  |
| Monthly Expenses:      | \$16,157.37  |
| Year to Date Budget:   | \$230,000.00 |
| Year to Date Received: | \$54,863.80  |
| Year to Date Expenses: | \$51,373.44  |

**From Your FBA Staff**

How are we at the FBA? Well, we are working in the office, at home, and in the field all at appropriate times. Connie comes in to take care of essential duties that can not be done from home. Louanne has finally gotten back into her house after months of being displaced from the fire. Perhaps working from home has been a bit easier for her while recuperating from a bout with cellulitis and getting back in her house.

As for the Smith House, Tracy is finding online teaching to be a challenge. Drew keeps on saying stuff is messed up because of the virus. Maggie has moved back from Anderson University and is challenged to do Music Education online. At times she is making use of a computer, I-pad, and I-phone, all at the same time. Lillie is doing online school and will have to virtually try out for cheerleading. She is very social and distancing is a stretch for her. As for me, while I am not one to watch much TV, I realize how much I miss sports on TV and playing as well. The upside of that is the work being done around the house and yard.

How can you help us? As the churches go, so go we. Be faithful to your church. Give and minister to your brothers and sisters in Christ. As you are faithful to God and your congregation, we will continue to reap the benefits of those contributions that come to us. This will allow us to continue to minister and function together as the Florence Baptist Association.

*May Birthdays*

- 1 Mrs. Louanne Stewart, FBA
- 1 Rev. James Brown
- 1 Rev. Tom Brown, retired
- 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, Pee Dee Community
- 14 John (P) & Melanie Collins, Grace
- 21 Bill (P) & Lila Greene, Hebron
- 21 Chris & Tracy Smith, FBA



As most Associations, we depend on gifts primarily from our member churches. Online giving will allow for churches, individuals and other organizations to contribute to the ministries of the Florence Baptist Association. We encourage you not to give designated gifts unless we have requested, or are requesting, them for a particular mission, ministry, or event. Thank you for your contributions of prayer, volunteerism, and financial contributions.

To give online visit our website [www.florenceba.org](http://www.florenceba.org) and click the tab labeled *Giving* and follow the directions.