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Well, after March, April, May, June, and now well into July, we continue to be manipulated by a virus. Don't read political statements into the word manipulated. The virus is real and has affected life in our church families, ministers, and friends. Some choose to continue life as close to normal as possible while others are self-quarantining to avoid the virus. Most people have come down somewhere in the middle to try and find some semblance of normal.

It is my prayer that we continue to learn more about how it is contracted and who is generally more at risk than others. I believe that we are living in a time where we have to doubt information (news) more than ever. People will skew the news to fit their agenda. People are trying to make money with mask, sanitation, and the list goes on. The very thing that makes us great and successful, the free market system, also can be manipulated.

In general, our churches have fared well. There are some disturbing trends. It is reported nationwide that about 34% of regular church attenders have not come back since

churches have reopened. Families with children have struggled without children's ministry. Long gone are the days when children sat through "big church" and got pinched by their mother if they misbehaved. There are vulnerable people that have stayed away out of caution and I'm sure a few using the virus as an excuse not to attend.

Those churches that will be most successful are those that will adapt the quickest and not just simply ride things out until things get "normal" again. I am sorry, but what is normal anymore? Through history, the church has adapted to continue to spread the gospel. Just like the virus, the gospel is spread from individual to individual. Let's take the mission of the church seriously as the day of Jesus return draws near.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 10:2

Looking forward, Chris

Cooperative



Florence Baptist Association, August 2020

*Lead me by your truth
and teach me, for you are
the God who saves me.*

All day long

I put my hope in you.

PSALM 25:5 NLT

KLOVE

The uncertainty of how things will progress with COVID-19 makes it very hard to plan ministry activities. At this point we are continuing to plan for our fall ministries. Things could change, but for now we are moving forward.

BLISS Ball for children and adults with special needs is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd at Calvary Baptist Church. The ball for children up to 15 years old will be from 3 pm – 5 pm and the ball for 16 year olds through adult will be from 6 pm – 8 pm. There will be a photo booth, professional photographer, plenty of food and music. Registration is required and will begin in August, 2020.



Fair Ministry Schedule for October 13-17, 2020:



Monday, October 12; 5:30 pm - Chicken Bog meal
All churches are asked to provide individually wrapped desserts – cookies, slices of cake, etc.

Wednesday October 14; 9:30 – 12:30 Hair Cuts, Children’s Ministry, BP Checks, Photos, Eyeglasses, Doughnuts

Friday, October 16 – FREE Yard Sale, Breakfast, Devotion 10 am

Needed – Volunteers at 9 am to help set up and work the sale
Yard Sale Items

Items Needed – shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, Tylenol, Advil, over the counter cold medicine, 4 pack toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, unscented laundry detergent, Pop Tarts, cereal, “pop top” foods, blankets, twin sheets. Items may be brought to the FBA beginning September 25th or after.

Saturday, October 17 – 200 Snack Sacks

Volunteers are welcomed to come to the fair and help with any of the activities. If you are interested in helping distribute the Snack Sacks late Saturday night, October 17, please ask Louanne for details.

**Financial Information
Month of June 2020**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$15,681.19
Monthly Expenses:	\$18,242.51
Year to Date Budget:	\$115,000.00
Year to Date Received:	\$104,591.80
Year to Date Expenses:	\$98,900.51

The Jade Bridge needs our help!!

The Jade Bridge seeks to offer hope, encouragement and support to adoptive and foster families through various events. Because of COVID-19 they were not able to offer their Summer Blast for the children so they want to provide Summer Blast packets that they will deliver to their homes. If you would like to help provide some of the items for these packets, please bring them to the FBA as soon as possible. They would like to have them by August 5. We realize that is a VERY short turn around time but appreciate your help! Packets DO NOT have to be put together.

Needed items:

- 24 count crayons
- 12 count colored pencils
- Water balloons (Walmart has a ‘Bunch O Balloons 100 rapid-filling self sealing water balloons – 3 pack)
- 4 oz. playdough
- 4 oz. bubbles
- Lettuce seed packets

They would also like to give them some food so if you would like to donate money for that, that would be great. Checks should be made to The Jade Bridge. All items should be brought to the FBA office.



August Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Rev. Oscar Holland, retired |
| 3 | Rev. Henry Simmons, retired |
| 7 | Rev. Eddie Pettit (P), Evergreen |
| 14 | Mrs. Connie George (M.A.) FBA |
| 15 | Rev. Bryan Chapman (P),
Pee Dee Comm. |
| 19 | Dr. David Wike (P), Ebenezer |
| 21 | Rev. Barry Moon (P), Pamplico 1st |
| 23 | Rev. Julian Long, retired |
| 24 | Rev. David George (P), Cartersville |
| 24 | Rev. Chris Smith, FBA |
| 24 | Rev. Justin Simmons (WL), Hoffmeyer
Road |

August Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 4 | Leo (P) & Irma Carter, Alianzo |
| 19 | Wesley (P) & Dena Mayfield, Elim |
| 31 | Craig (P) & Beverly Tedder, Coward |

BCM Needs Your Help!

We are in the process of raising \$20,000 to add two interns on our team at BCM. Richard Brown and Morgan Peoples are two of our graduates from FMU who have devoted their college years to serving at BCM and have felt the Lord’s leading to continue working with the ministry over the next year. In order to have them on our staff we need your support. Here are three ways you can give: Send check to BCM, 290 S. Evander Dr., Florence, SC 29506; Text “fmubcm give” to 474747; or visit fmubcm.org/donate.htm.

Thank you!

The FBA Staff would like to thank Cooper Barr for taking care of the FBA yard maintenance free or at a reduced rate for a number of years. Cooper is retiring so we congratulate him on this new chapter in his life. Thank you for your service.