

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  
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Florence, S.C.  
Permit No. 34

Last month I shared with you concerning at risk congregations and the need for “Serious Change.” What does serious change look like? I believe it is a return to the seriousness of the apostles in carrying the good news to their neighbors. The apostles did not have the baggage of: buildings, liabilities, over organization, musicians or the lack thereof, nursery workers..... you understand where I am going with that.

There is an old story that tells of a pastor struggling to get a congregation to change. In a sermon, when he was particularly fed up with the situation, he paused and said “do you know what’s wrong with this church?” As soon as he said it a deacon responded very quickly with “preacher, we don’t know and we don’t care”, to which the pastor responded, “that’s exactly right, ignorance and apathy”. Now don’t hear what I am not saying. I am not suggesting that every congregation is filled with people that are ignorant and apathetic. What I am saying is we have grown more comfortable with the programs of the church than the GREAT COMMISSION! We have not taken seriously the greatest

commandment, love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and your neighbor as yourself.

Most organizations, including the church, will often need to be reminded of its purpose quite often. The next step is not simply being reminded but to take action to continue in that purpose. Serious change most often means being uncomfortable. Let me simply ask a question: are our comfort, facilities, preferences, and tradition more important than reaching our neighbors with the Gospel? I doubt if anyone in a church would give the answer yes with their mouth. The issue is actions speak louder than words. For many, years of inward focus, obsession with facilities, and lack of purpose has caused the church to be “at risk”. God forgive us, Holy Spirit convict us, and Jesus inspire us!

Looking forward,

Chris

# Cooperative



*Florence Baptist Association, June 2021*



Please pray for the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention. Last year’s was cancelled due to the pandemic. Just as our country is divided so is our convention. While we need to be Great Commission Baptist, we often spend time arguing over, theology, “isms”, politics, and the list goes on and on. There are four men being nominated for SBC President. More than likely there will be no clear majority on the first vote which means a runoff. Only a great move of God’s Spirit will allow us to come out of this convention united and moving forward as a Great Commission Denomination. Join me in praying for a great move of God’s Spirit in your life, the life of your family, the life of your church family, and across our Southern Baptist Congregations.

**LifeChangers 2021 will be June 20-25!** We are in need of lunches for crews of 10-13 which will need to be taken to the work sites. We also need 1 or 2 evening meals which will be hosted at your own church. If you can help with any of this, please contact Louanne as soon as possible – 843.662.5921 or [FBALouanne@sc.rr.com](mailto:FBALouanne@sc.rr.com)

**FMU Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM)** needs your help again this year. They want to give the “Welcome Back Packs” to new students arriving on campus in the fall 2021. This will be the 16<sup>th</sup> year they have done this and it has proven to be a wonderful way for the BCM students to reach out to other students on campus. It serves as a tool to begin a relationship with students and to invite them to their BCM activities. Don’t miss this ministry opportunity!  
If you would like to provide packets please put the following items in a **quart zip lock bag** & bring them to the associational office by **Monday, August 2, 2021**:

- 1 Pack of crackers
- 1 Pack of Pop tarts
- 2 mechanical pencils
- 1 Tic Tac or Breath savers
- 2 packs of gum



**The Blood Connection** is in dire need of donations! The Florence center is now located at 1617 S. Irby in the shopping center behind Kentucky Fried Chicken. They are in dire need of people to donate the gift of life by donating blood. The Blood Connection provides blood to our local hospitals. We were told that donations were much better during the height of the COVID crisis than they are now for some reason. You can make an individual appointment by going to their website [www.thebloodconnection.org/florence-sc/](http://www.thebloodconnection.org/florence-sc/). They really need churches to host a blood drive at their church. If you are interested in scheduling a blood drive at your facility, please call Chuck Collins at 843.250.0618 immediately.

**Financial Information  
Month of April 2021**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$20,794.74
Monthly Expenses:	\$15,127.14
Year to Date Budget:	\$230,000.00
Year to Date Received:	\$77,731.55
Year to Date Expenses:	\$68,570.29



**WinShape Day Camp  
July 26-30, 2021**  
First Presbyterian, Florence  
8 am – 5 pm

Children who have completed 5K - 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Cost \$219 per camper

Register online at [www.winshapecamps.org](http://www.winshapecamps.org)

**Christian Learning Center classes and Good News Clubs** will begin again in the fall!!! Praise the Lord! FS1 has granted permission for our CLC to begin again in our middle schools. They are also allowing GNC to restart in the fall. We are so thankful that both CLC and GNC met this past school year in Florence District 2 with much smaller classes but they kept going. Good News Clubs are having to re-enlist all of their volunteers. We realize that some volunteers will not be able to come back so if you would like to help with a Good News Club and your church does not sponsor one please contact Louanne for more information, 843-662-5921. Please be in prayer for both of these ministries to students in our elementary and middle schools because the students need to hear the truth about Jesus now more than ever.

*June Birthdays*

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

*June Anniversaries*

- 1 Justin (WL) & Briana Simmons, Hoffmeyer Road
- 6 Dave (P) & Jo Ann Bult, Kingsburg
- 7 Harry (MM) & Rita Adkins, Florence First
- 14 Landon (MM) & Leah Reynolds, Calvary
- 16 Charles (P) & Marsha Pittman, Immanuel
- 19 Adam (P) & Mary Pfahlert, Union
- 20 Nathan (MY) & Ashley Neighbors, Ebenezer
- 29 Kendal (BCM) & Jennifer Danford



**Mizpah...**Is seeking a Pianist for their morning service and choir rehearsals. Interested personnel can call 843.662.6940 or send resume to [mbcflorence@gmail.com](mailto:mbcflorence@gmail.com)



The FBA Office will be closed Monday, July 5th in honor of the July 4th Holiday.