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I was able to attend the Southern Baptist Convention as I have, all but a hand full of years, since 1990. This year was most surprising to me in several ways. I will also say I did not leave the convention feeling like conservatism was defeated, as several articles (New York Times and Washington Post), stated. Perhaps I could sum up my feelings in a phrase from a once popular television show, "the tribe has spoken."

As Southern Baptist, we are a large tribe with many differing views on what many consider non-essential doctrinal issues. It has been this way for the duration of the SBC. At times we have been more united in our diversity, and at other times we have been split down the middle. While the presidential election seems to say split down the middle, some other issues showed more unity. I will mention three.

Critical Race Theory: This is a theory that explains everything through the lens of oppressed and oppressor. Just a quick example, I would be the most oppressive because I am a white, heterosexual male. Non whites are oppressed by whites, women are oppressed by men, non-heterosexuals are oppressed by heterosexuals. Perhaps an over simplification, but accurate. It is not biblical and obviously dangerous. There was a resolution in 2019 that spoke to this issue. Obviously, it seemed only to draw more attention to it. There were numerous attempts to continue to denounce Critical Race Theory. Ultimately the resolutions committee brought forth a resolution that did not condemn CRT directly. The con-

vention did approve a resolution rejecting "any theory or worldview that finds the ultimate identity of human beings in ethnicity or in any other group dynamic."

Racism: While numerous resolutions and apologies have been put forth in the past, there are those that continue to believe enough has not been done. Ronnie Floyd, the President of the Executive Committee, gave statistics of the growth among minority congregations and leadership positions. Some messengers made attempts to resend resolutions, from previous conventions dating back to the 1800's. They were ruled out of order. Resolutions stating opinions of a convention that can not be erased as opinions change.

Executive Committee: Throughout the convention there was strong evidence that the executive committee has lost trust among the messengers representing the churches. Much of this has to do with accusations concerning coverup of various sexual misconduct in SBC churches and entities. On Friday June 11, just before the SBC in Nashville, a firm was hired by the Executive Board, to investigate themselves. This was reversed by a vote of the messengers and the new SBC President will appoint a taskforce to oversee investigation. Transparency of the Executive Board and SBC entities is important to messengers.

Looking forward,  
Chris

# Cooperative



*Florence Baptist Association, July 2021*

## Happy Fourth of July!

MAKE THIS  
**4TH OF JULY**  
MEMORABLE  
\*\*\* by \*\*\*  
COUNTING YOUR  
**BLESSINGS**  
\*\*\* and \*\*\*  
TRULY  
APPRECIATING  
OUR  
**FREEDOM**





**LifeChangers 2021** **LifeChangers Update** – A huge thank you to all of you who prepared and delivered a lunch for a crew or donated money for lunches/breakfast – individuals from Grace, Florence First, Calvary Lake City, Sparrow Swamp, and Calvary Florence. A big thank you to College Park, Hoffmeyer Road, Greenwood, and South Florence Baptist Churches for preparing our evening meals. We had a great week with 41 participants from Calvary Florence, Elim, Grace and Trinity EPC. The group was smaller than normal they did a super great job on 3 homes and the students were the politest students we have ever had. I noticed it and so did several other adults. Thanks to Rev. George Atkins, Assoc Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach at Hoffmeyer Road for serving as our camp pastor and to Dr. Landon Reynolds and the Calvary Praise Band for leading in worship. Thanks to Calvary Florence for allowing us to use your facility again this year. Looking forward to LifeChangers 2022 – June 19-24!

## Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair is October 12-16, 2021!

### Fair Ministry Schedule:

Monday, October 11; 5:30 pm - Chicken Bog meal

*All churches are asked to provide individually wrapped desserts – cookies, slices of cake, etc.*

Wednesday October 13; 9:30 – 12:30 Hair Cuts, Children's Ministry, BP Checks, Photos, Eyeglasses, Doughnuts

Friday, October 15 – FREE Yard Sale, Breakfast, Devotion 10 am

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

**Items Needed** – shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, Tylenol, Advil, over the counter cold medicine, 4 pack toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, feminine hygiene items, UNSCENTED laundry detergent, Pop Tarts, cereal, "pop top" foods, blankets, twin sheets. Please start collecting these items now so we will have a good collection. Items may be brought to the FBA beginning September 27<sup>th</sup> or after.

Saturday, October 16 – 200 Snack Sacks

If you would like to provide an item for the Snack Sacks, please contact Louanne.

**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 16, please ask Louanne for details.

## Back to School Good News Club Party

July 12-16

6 pm – 7:15 pm

Florence First Baptist Church, 300 S. Irby Street

This is for rising 5K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children, to reintroduce them to Good News Clubs which will restart in the fall!!



## Financial Information Month of May 2021

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$19,485.36
Monthly Expenses:	\$16,184.55
Year to Date Budget:	\$230,000.00
Year to Date Received:	\$97,216.91
Year to Date Expenses:	\$84,754.84

**BLISS Ball** will be October 9, 2021 at Calvary Baptist Church, Florence; 3-5 pm (Children up to 15 yr. old); 6-8 pm (16 yr. – adult). The BLISS Ball will be a unique evening designed specifically for children and adults with special needs. This year we are using a 50's theme. There will be different activities planned for the evening including food, photo booth, prom pictures and lots of dancing!

Guests are required to register so we will know how to plan. Registration forms will be available soon. Each guest will be required to bring a chaperone that will stay with them the entire time of the ball. There is a need for volunteers on the day of the event, but there is also a lot to do before the event – preparing food and table decorations, etc. If this is something you feel God leading you to help with, please contact Louanne 662.5921.

## 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**.

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

## July Birthdays

- |    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 11 | Rev. Bo Treadway (P), New Hope    |
| 18 | Rev. Adam Pfahlert (P), Union     |
| 25 | Rev. Charles Larrimore (P), Unity |
| 26 | Rev. Peter Rivera (AP), Immanuel  |

## July Anniversaries

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | Doyle & Mary Francis Jones, retired         |
| 5  | James & Doris Brown, retired                |
| 11 | Cleve (AP) & Vaughn Calcutt, Greenwood      |
| 14 | Ed (MM) & Julie Self, Ebenezer              |
| 25 | Bobby (P) & Penny Earls, Northgate          |
| 27 | Burton (P) & Suzette Welsh, Sardis          |
| 30 | Eddie (AP) & Louanne Stewart, Calvary/FBA   |
| 31 | Shane (P) & Martha Patrick, Lake City First |



**Ebenezer...**Rev. Ed Self has retired as Minister of Music. Ed served as Minister of Music for 33 years.

**Sparrow Swamp...**A Retirement Celebration for Rev. Stan Sullivan will be held July 17th from 3:00-6:00 pm in the Church Educational Building. Stan has served as pastor for 29 years. No Gifts Please.