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Let me start by wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Reflecting on the year past, I would have to say, (borrowing that phrase from Drew), it was better than the previous year. Ministry through the FBA has been much closer to pre Covid-19. We were able to do the ministries that could not be done the previous year. Bliss Ball, Fair, LifeChangers, were all successful even though they were slightly different than previous years. The Christian Learning Center was able to get going again in our middle schools. Moore Middle has been added and we have seen multiple students come to Christ through this ministry. Pee Dee One Night was a student evangelism event where there were over 50 first time professions of faith in Christ and over 20 that acknowledged a call to Christian ministry.

Our annual meeting, hosted by Grace, included a ministry fair and reports from 3 of our partners in ministry. The by-laws were amended to finish the process of moving to a leadership team. In September I began, in cooperation with the SCBC, facilitating a revitalization cohort including 5 pastors. This is a 13-month process to equip pastors to help bring about revitalization in congregations. Covid-19 has accelerated the decline in many churches. Many that were there before, aren't coming back. I continue to encourage you to embrace prayer and evangelism, personal and through service to the community, as the keys to church strengthening and growth.

On November 15, the newly elected Leadership Team met for the first time. Several things that were discussed were:

1. Some member congregations that are not involved in the association.
2. Funding for some needed work on the building.
3. How to communicate better with pastors, churches, and volunteers, including our online presence.

Thank you for continuing to support your Florence Baptist Association. Our financial situation is better than last year. We have yet to have a need for volunteers for ministry that has not been filled. We look to 2022 as a field ripe for harvest. We will all continue to cooperate and harvest together.

Looking forward,

Chris

Cooperative



Florence Baptist Association, December 2021 - January 2022

“A song was heard
at Christmas to wake
the midnight sky,
A Saviour's birth,
and peace on earth,
And praise to
God on high.”

- Christina Georgina Rossetti -

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?” James 2:15-16

Suggestions for a Food Pantry or a family in need: I saw this on someone's timeline on Facebook who had spent some time at a Food Bank and actually spoke to the people getting bags of food. It has great insight and is a great resource with the Christmas coming up and really year-round!

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Homeless blessing bag suggestions: With the weather getting colder, our hearts turn to those that are homeless or are living in a shelter. Here are some suggestions for items they may need. Put items in a waterproof, reusable, bag with handles to be easy for them to carry.

Socks – the highest quality you can afford, feminine hygiene products, reusable water bottle, travel size toiletries – shampoo, soap, hand sanitizer, razors, shaving crème, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, tissues, wet wipes. (The FBA has shampoo, soap, hand sanitizer if you want to make bags. Contact Louanne), first aid supplies – Band-Aids, antiseptic cream, hand warmers, gift card to fast food (some restaurants may donate if they know what you are doing), encouraging note - add your favorite Scripture, diapers and wipes – if you are taking the bags to a shelter

Christmas Stocking for Homeless - Get Christmas stockings and put some of the items listed above in them, plus Christmas candy and take to the Courtney McGinnis Shelter or give directly to a homeless person you see on the street.

**Financial Information
Month of October 2021**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$21,501.15
Monthly Expenses:	\$15,925.61
Year to Date Budget:	\$230,000.00
Year to Date Received:	\$193,303.64
Year to Date Expenses:	\$170,828.88

IMPACT 2022
February 17, 2022
Shandon Baptist Church

IMPACT is one day dedicated to creating a vibrant environment for networking and resourcing like mind pastors, church planters, staff, and church leaders. Also, this year their will be a track offered for Ministry Assistants. For information regarding costs and group rates please visit <http://www.scbaptist.org/impact>.



The Make a Wish Foundation exists to make the wishes of terminally ill children come true. Right now our area has about 34 families they are trying to help. Because so many of them are very fragile health wise, they are doing a drive through Christmas party again this year. In order to make this happen, they need some donations:

- Microwavable popcorn
- Gingerbread houses
- \$20 gift card (Walmart, Target, etc.)
- Financial donation

All donations can be brought to the Florence Baptist Association, 2208 Pamplico Hwy., by Tuesday, Dec. 14th at 4 pm. Some of the businesses that normally help Make A Wish are not able to help so it's time for the CHURCH to step up and meet this need.

Please consider helping Make A Wish put a smile on the faces of these children that have had to fight battles no child should ever face. Thank God for the healthy children in your life!

December Birthdays

2	Rev. Brian Lynn (MY), Calvary
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

11	Peter (AP) & Carey Rivera, Immanuel
14	Mike (P) & Caroline Mills, Calvary
24	David (P) & Nancy Cromer, Willow Creek

Executive Committee Meeting
FBA Office
January 18, 2022
11:30 am

Lunch will be provided for a cost of \$5 per person. Please contact Connie at the FBA Office if you plan to attend.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of Rev. David George, Cartersville, in the death of his half-sister.