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What a way to start a year. I am writing this article on Saturday morning, January 15th. I am on day 4 of Covid. At this point I am simply a little fatigued, probably more from the quarantine than the Covid. Some of our congregations have chosen to not meet in person this Sunday given the Covid challenges and the threat of inclement weather. We have postponed the Executive Board meeting that was scheduled for the 18th. This seems to be a wise decision.

Here is some positive news, the FBA was within about \$600 of meeting budget. Even so, I would say we met budget because the day after the year of contributions was closed out, we received several thousand dollars that were for 2021. This is typical, but the financial year does have to be closed out in a timely manner. Thank you all who contribute to the local congregation that in turn funds the work of your local association. We appreciate having the opportunity to serve each church.

Think of all the changes that have come about since March 2020 when response to Covid-19 began. Shut down, virtual learning, mask, mandate, "flattening the curve," in person, and other phrases have become common. Men didn't shake hands for a while, some still don't. Churches started changing things: tape on pews, no Sunday School, no choir, Facebook live and YouTube options and don't forget the FM transmitter for parking lot church. These are all BIG and Quick changes for a typical Baptist Church. We are typically just a short step in front of

the Amish when it comes to change.

Here is the startling reality that has been unveiled at a rapid pace. For years church leaders have been talking about the need for the church to be outward focused rather than inward focused. Most churches have ignored this counsel and have made little to no change for fear of losing those on the inside. I can only draw one conclusion; we don't really believe what we say we do. If we really believed our family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors were lost and in danger of Hell, would we not be more concerned? We can be convinced to stay home, go virtual, wear a mask, don't pass the offering plate, and make many other concessions for the sake of public health. Most are more concerned about getting back to "normal church" than making changes to help bring people from eternal death to eternal life! I encourage you to prove me wrong!

Looking forward,

Chris

SAVE THE DATE!

DNOW
March 25-27
South Florence Baptist

Cooperative



Florence Baptist Association, February 2022



David Barton

at 

THE AMERICAN RESTORATION TOUR:

Will America Remain Free?



February 7th, 7pm
Florence Baptist Temple
2308 S Irby St.
Florence, SC 29505

School Ministry – As covid still continues to make its rounds, teachers face harder times than ever. Some of our churches have “adopted” a school while others have not. Please consider investing some time and energy into helping a school near you or one with which you already have a connection. Here are some ideas from the Heart 4 Schools newsletter:

- PRAY by name for teachers and staff – ask secretary for a list of names or look online
- Replenish school supplies for teachers and/or students
- Provide coffee and donuts as teachers arrive for school one morning
- Seek out first year teachers and give them extra support
- Write personal notes of appreciation with Bible verses included
- Provide special treats for teachers at their next faculty meeting or in-service day
- Ask the principal if they have special needs that your members could meet

Intercessory Prayer Groups – Some of you may have an intercessory prayer group already formed at your church. If you do not, I encourage you to seek out those that might be interested in forming one. There are so many options now for people to pray together – zoom, on the phone, in small groups, etc. Intercessors for America – IFAPray.org – has some awesome prayer resources that can be downloaded to pray for our country. There is a resource that has pictures and names of the current administration so you can pray by name. We all need to be praying for America daily because God’s intervention is our ONLY HOPE!

LifeChangers is June 19-24, 2022 at Calvary Baptist Church. This is for students who have completed SEVENTH grade and up. We realize that sixth graders are in many of your youth groups now because of our school changes, but we feel that sixth graders just are mature enough to be working on someone’s house. Seventh grade is young enough. LOL! Cost is \$100 per person and you need a chaperone, age 21 or older, of the same gender for every 5 students. Registration is due on Wednesday, April 13. Registration info will be emailed out and posted on our website by the end of January. If you know of a someone who could benefit from having a LifeChangers crew work on their home, please contact Louanne. We will hopefully do one roof if we have students that are old enough and the rest will be painting and replacing rotten wood, etc.

The American Restoration Tour (see front page) is featuring David Barton as a speaker going throughout the state of SC. Florence Baptist Temple is hosting him on Monday, February 7 at 7 pm. David is the founder of WallBuilders which is dedicated to presenting America’s forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on the moral, religious, and constitutional foundation on which America was built. David has been described as “America’s Historian,” and Time magazine called him a “hero to millions - including some powerful politicians.” Newsmax named him one of America’s top 100 most influential evangelicals. Louanne has heard him speak on several occasions and he is a very knowledgeable person. This will be livestreamed on their website, fbt.org or their Facebook page or You Tube channel, fbtlive. It will be worth your time to attend. For more information about David Barton go to wallbuilders.com.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Rev. Bo Treadway, Pastor, New Hope Baptist, in the death of his sister.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Rev. Bryan Chapman, Pastor, Pee Dee Community, in the death of his mother-in-law.

Financial Information
Month of December 2022

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$18,711.91
Monthly Expenses:	\$25,919.21
Year to Date Budget:	\$230,000.00
Year to Date Received:	\$229,609.91
Year to Date Expenses:	\$212,961.37

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. The cost for Ministry Assistants will be \$25.00 Contact Connie at the FBA for more information.

Registration begins at 8:15 am. For information regarding costs and group rates, for pastor’s and staff, please visit <http://www.scbaptist.org/impact>.



Elim Baptist Church, 1303 Olanta Highway, is seeking a Youth and Children’s Minister. Elim is a missional congregation with a renovated worship center and new sound/video projection system, plus a family life center with a fenced playground.

Elim is waiting for the God-sent person to become part of this exciting ministry. The plan for ministry and compensation will be developed with the candidate and the Personnel Committee. Please contact Rev. Wesley Mayfield at 843.662.5860 (office) or email Wesley.mayfield@gmail.com.

February Birthdays

12	Rev. Harry Adkins, (MM) Florence First
14	Rev. Bobby Earls (P), Northgate
17	Rev. Dwight Elijah, (P), New Covenant

February Anniversaries

6	Johnny (P) & Anita McDaniel, Greenwood
25	Steece (P) & Julia Hayes, Oakdale

From Your Director of Missions

Friends we hope you and yours are having a great year so far. During the first Leadership Team meeting, held on November 15, 2021, we discussed the need for some work on the FBA office. The building is 21 years old and is in need of several things. A roof is in the very near future and will be an estimated \$16,000. Flooring in the large meeting room is another concern. We pray the three HVAC units continue to function but realize they too are 21 years old.

We are beginning a capital improvements campaign. Our Goal is \$25,000.00 which would take care of the roof, flooring and have some reserve for HVAC issues should they arise. In our, how to pay for it discussion, we quoted James 4:2 that says “you have not because you ask not”. Not being one to try to take scripture out of context, this scripture is referring primarily to asking for wisdom. We feel it wise, and scriptural, to ask the churches to share in covering these unbudgeted expenses.

The FBA would be happy to receive any gift a church, class, organization or individual would like to contribute. Just as the church encourages members to give above and beyond the tithe; we encourage any of these gifts to be above and beyond what the church ordinarily gives. One time and/or on-going gifts will be appreciated.

Looking Forward, Chris