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Sweet tea is a given for most people in the south and the sweat tea line is moving more north. When a meal is planned, where will the tea come from or who will make it. There are no church gatherings that include food and drink, with the exception of communion, that doesn't include sweet tea. I'm glad people have become more health conscious and include water as an option. Now, I can seem healthy which gets less strange looks and comments than me saying I hate sweet tea.

There is a lesson here for our congregations. People who have little knowledge of or interest in the church will not just automatically like what we do. Many of our churches became stagnate after the church may have peaked. Perhaps sometime between the 50's and the 80's the church peaked and these same practices have remained constant in many congregations to this day. Accepted changes have involved less people wearing their "Sunday best" to worship and service times have slowly changed, most recently as a result of Covid.

The attitude of many congregations reflects an inward focus. It is like, this is the way we do things and if you want to come along you

can learn to adapt. Missionaries learn culture and learn to adapt to culture to effectively share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A friend of mine serving as a church planter out west, planned a cookout as an outreach for Good Friday. One of his team with a Catholic heritage told him that even though they didn't attend mass, the majority of those also with a Catholic heritage, would not think of eating meat, other than fish, on Good Friday. With a little understanding of culture, the cook out turned into a fish fry and was much more successful!

Even though we are most like those in our congregations, we should not be like those in the majority culture. If we are going to reach our communities for Christ, we need to think and act like missionaries. Paul said it like this: "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." I Corinthians 9:22b

Looking forward,  
Chris

# Cooperative



*Florence Baptist Association, May, 2022*



National Day of Prayer  
Thursday  
May 5, 2022

First Baptist Church  
300 S. Irby Street  
12:00 pm

NewSpring Church  
1100 N. Cashua  
7:00 pm

**National Day of Prayer** information is on the front of this newsletter. I would like to encourage EVERYONE to take an hour out of your day to come and pray specifically for our country. AS you all know our country is struggling and this is way beyond Democrat and Republican and God is our ONLY solution. We are in a battle for the very soul of our nation and we need “all hands on deck” to fight this battle between right and wrong. America is a covenant nation with God and we know God keeps His promises **IF HIS PEOPLE** will cry out to Him. At the noon prayer time we will have prayers offered for the 7 mountains of influence – Government, Military/Law Enforcement, Media, Business, Education, Family, and the Church. This time of prayer is usually around 40 minutes long. Join us and bring some friends with you. WE NEED YOU!  
Louanne

**Senior Citizens Association of Florence County:**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Dorothy Blackwell Fundraiser is May 20, 2022, hosted by the Senior Citizens Association in Florence County. The theme will be: A Salute to Centenarians. **Individuals born in 1922 or before** and who reside in Florence County will be honored. If you have any members in your churches who are centenarians, **please let us know. Please submit their names by May 6, 2022**, at [info@scaflorence.org](mailto:info@scaflorence.org) or call us at 843-669-6761 ext. 231 or ext. 229.

Also, the Senior Citizens Association (SCA) in Florence County has been the Meals on Wheels provider for Florence County since 1968. Currently, SCA has over 50 senior citizens waiting for home-delivered meals in Florence County. In 2021, the SCA delivered a total of 103,485 hot/frozen shelf meals to homebound seniors and disabled citizens of Florence County. Nevertheless, this number is microscopic to the number of seniors who truly need our help. SCA serves over 250 senior citizens meals daily.

One of our newer projects is providing meals for Veterans who have no place to turn for a daily meal. With help from churches in the Florence Baptist Association, we can reach more. A donation of \$300 will provide 60 meals to homebound seniors with a hot meal Monday through Friday. Call 843-669-6761 ext. 229 if you would like to donate.

**LifeChangers June 19-24, 2022:**

Ways you can Help:

Provide an evening meal for the group at your church. (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday nights needed.)

Provide lunch(es) at the work site for a crew of no more than 15 people. Deliver 11:30 am.

Need houses to work on. To qualify as a LifeChangers house, the person must own their home – we do not work on rental property. House must be one story and only do outside work. If you know of a family that could use some help we would like to know.

If you would like to meet any of these needs, please contact Louanne at 662-5921 or [FBALouanne@sc.rr.com](mailto:FBALouanne@sc.rr.com).

**Clemson Center for Corporate Learning** is offering “Summer Reading and Writing Skills” programs for preschoolers through entering 11<sup>th</sup> grade. For more information call 1-800-715-1498.

**Financial Information  
March Month of 2022**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$18,250.11
Monthly Expenses:	\$19,532.92
Year to Date Budget:	\$230,000.00
Year to Date Received:	\$60,299.97
Year to Date Expenses:	\$53,311.18

**Senior Adult Rally  
September 15, 2022  
Greenwood Baptist Church**



Make plans now to join us for an Associational Senior Adult Rally on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>. Greenwood Baptist has agreed to host this event. It will begin at 10 AM and conclude after lunch. We look forward to good times with Glen Ward a professional humorist and inspirational speaker and Bryant Simms from the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Music will be provided by the Called Quartet of Lexington, SC.

**Francis Marion BCM!!** Ten Students will be serving as Summer Missionaries around the world this year. One student will be serving in North Africa, 2 students in New Orleans, and 7 students will be serving in Salt Lake City and Provo, Utah. Would your church consider supporting these students with a financial gift or special offering between now and May 30? The students will be raising about \$8000 in total for things like airfare, housing, and food during their trips. If you would like for some of them to come to you church or Sunday school classes to share before or after their mission assignments please contact Kendal Danford, 843.319.3266.



The FBA Office will be closed Monday, May 30th in honor of Memorial Day!

*May Birthdays*

1	Mrs. Louanne Stewart, (FBA)
1	Rev. Tom Brown, retired
1	Rev. Johnny McDaniel, (P) Greenwood
1	Rev. James Brown, retired
10	Rev. Travis Cook (P), Johnsonville
11	Rev. Kendal Danford, BCM
11	Rev. Dave Bult (P), Kingsburg
29	Rev. Nathan Neighbors, (MY) Ebenezer

*May Anniversaries*

6	Travis (P) & Holly Cook, Johnsonville First
11	Bryan (P) & Kim Chapman, PDC
12	Blake (P) & Bridget Godbold, Mizpah
14	John (P) & Melanie Collins, Grace
21	Bill (P) & Lila Greene, Hebron
21	Chris & Tracy Smith, FBA

**WE NEED A ROOF!** Thanks so much to those that have contributed to the FBA Capital Improvements Fund. Our goal is \$25,000 and we have on hand \$8,650. Several churches have promised funds but we have not yet received them. The roof will be the first priority and we will begin when we have received the approximately \$15,000 that it will cost. So far, we have received funds from individuals, churches and a church Sunday School class. No gift is too small or large! Looking forward, Chris

**NEEDED for  
High School Graduations:**  
White dress shirts  
Neck ties  
Belts

