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There has been much news surrounding the Southern Baptist Convention which met earlier this month. I had determined some time ago that I would not attend this year's convention even though I usually do. Being in California made the trip far more expensive than Nashville last year and New Orleans next year. I did watch portions of the meeting online. The "hot button" issues were the report of the investigation into sexual abuse which was released some time prior to the meeting in Anaheim. Steps are being implemented to assure there will be no future cover-up of sexual abuse by any Baptist entities. This particular issue has raised issues of transparency among our SBC entities. Financial transparency is important as some called for a forensic audit of the North American Mission Board.

Women in ministry continues to be a concern for many in the convention. The Baptist Faith and Message is clear that a woman not serve as a senior/lead pastor. Some churches that have women serving as pastors, that preach/teach but are not in authority, consider themselves in agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message. Ordination of women is also a concern for many. We unlike most denominations have a confession of faith which is our standard. There is no one telling any one church what they must do unless they are out of the boundaries of our confession, the BF&M.

Many years ago, the Southern Baptist Convention grew out of a need for working together in our missionary endeavors and educating our pastors.

This has grown to include many other ministries that we do together. Here in SC, we have Children's Homes, Retirement/nursing/rehab facilities, universities and other ministries. We have had as a guide the BF&M 1925, 1963, and 2000. This allows churches autonomy and the ability to practice ministry differently but within the confines of our current 2000 BF&M. In our own Florence Baptist Association, we have churches that allow women to serve in various roles including Deacon. We have others that would not have a Sunday school class of adults, taught by a woman. Most congregations are somewhere between in their practices.

We have the opportunity to continue to support missionaries, church planters and replants, our colleges and seminaries, children's homes, retirement communities and other ministries, while continuing to be an autonomous body. If your beliefs as a congregation go too far in one direction you have the opportunity to disassociate unlike the fight that continues among United Methodist Churches. We aren't perfect, but we are better than most. Strive to be the congregation/local church God intends for you to be.

Looking forward,

Chris

# Cooperative



*Florence Baptist Association, July, 2022*

## Florence Baptist Association Senior Adult Rally

September 15, 2022

Hosted By:  
Greenwood Baptist Church  
10:00 am

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. Bus drivers and church staff are also welcome.

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.

Registration for this event will begin on Monday, August 1. Please call the FBA office at 843.662.5921 or email Connie at fbaconnie@sc.rr.com to let us know how many from your church will be attending.



Glen Ward, Humorist



Called Quartet



Bryant Simms, SCBC

**LifeChangers 2022 Report!** We praise God for His work He accomplished during the week of LifeChangers. Satan fought hard all week – (no water in the shower trailer, no AC in girls sleeping area, etc.) – but he didn’t win, Praise the Lord! We had 4 crews that worked on 6 homes, plus painted the shop at the FBA and did some landscaping. Thanks to Blake Godbold for serving as our camp pastor, preaching on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday night. Our theme was – STAND – and our week’s verse was “Be on your guard; stand firm in your faith; be courageous; be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13. Thanks to Landon Reynolds and the Calvary praise band for leading in worship each night. Thanks to Calvary, Grace, Florence First and Elim for providing lunches and Hebron, College Park, Greenwood, and Hoffmeyer Road for providing our evening meals at their church. Most of all, thanks to Calvary Baptist Church for allowing us to make their church our home for LifeChangers for the 19<sup>th</sup> year. It was a great week! To God be the glory!

**WinShape Day Camp – July 18-22, 2022**  
First Presbyterian, Florence  
8 am – 5 pm (M-Th)  
8 am – noon (F) – Fun Day for whole family  
Children who have completed 5K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Cost \$224 per camper (Scholarships are available)  
Register online at [www.winshapecamps.org](http://www.winshapecamps.org)

**Welcome Back Packs** - Francis Marion Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) needs your help. They will be giving the “Welcome Back Packs” to new students arriving on campus in the fall 2022. This will be the 17<sup>th</sup> year of this outreach 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 1, 2022:**

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



**Operation Christmas Child (OCC)**

National Collection Week is November 14-21. That may sound like a long way away, but it will be here before you know it. It’s never too early to start purchasing things for your shoeboxes, especially since supplies could be limited this fall. If your church has never done OCC please get in touch with Louanne to find out how to get started. The suggested donation per shoe box this year is \$10 per box since shipping and everything has increased so much this year.

**Financial Information  
May Month of 2022**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$16,482.72
Monthly Expenses:	\$15,370.13
Year to Date Budget:	\$230,000.00
Year to Date Received:	\$95,565.31
Year to Date Expenses:	\$82,090.07

**Back to School Ministry**

It’s hard to believe that school will be starting in less than a month. Now is the time to contact the principal of a school near you and establish a working relationship with them by asking them how your church can help them. If you already have a partnership with a school, contact the principal and renew your commitment for another year. Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

- Schedule a Prayerwalk for the school. Some schools will allow you in the building to walk through the building and pray. Others ask you to stay out side and have prayer time. Either way, God hears the pleas for students, teachers, and administration for the coming school year. Louanne has prayer prompts if you need them.
- Write notes to the teachers telling them you are praying for them in the coming year and welcome them back to a new year. Place the notes in their box in the office area.
- Prepare a meal for the teachers, administration, support staff – either at your church or at the school.
- Prepare treat bags for the teachers for the first week of school.

*July Birthdays*

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

*July Anniversaries*

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | Doyle & Mary Francis Jones, retired         |
| 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 |

**Capital Improvement  
Fund Update!**

We want to continue to thank each of you for the contributions to our capital improvement fund. Evergreen Baptist found a very creative way to involve the whole church and feature the Royal Ambassadors. They had a basketball shoot out where individuals pledged money for each free thrown made by one of the RA’s. This was a great event including a church wide meal raised almost \$3,600.00 This event followed an FBA emphasis Sunday where I was invited to preach and share about the work of the FBA. Bids are now secured and the roof will be replaced soon. Looking forward, Chris.

“Ask and it shall be given unto you.”

**Eastern Carolina  
Agricultural Fair**

October 27 – November 5!

This is later in the month and longer, so we will be re-evaluating what we do.