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Several Sundays ago, I was supposed to preach at Union Baptist down in Hannah. It was on my calendar for weeks and it was in my mind. Typically Drew will ask me about Thursday, "where are we going to church". When he asked, I told him Mt. Zion. He asked again on Saturday and then Tracy asked me Sunday morning and both times I responded, Mt. Zion. So, Sunday comes, I go to Union where I was supposed to go all along. As I am pulling into the parking lot, Drew looks at me with a puzzled look and said: "you do know this is Union".

I guess we all find ourselves with puzzled looks when someone tells us one thing and then does another. I guess I have gotten to that age where what I know and what I say don't always match. I had no intention of misleading Drew or Tracy about where I was preaching that Sunday. I had one thing in my mind and yet said something entirely different. This kind of thing happens often with church people. We have in our mind how we want things or think they should be, but say something else.

Church people will often say, "we want to grow". Typically, churches that are looking for pastors will tell potential pastors that they want to grow. The reality is most often that growth is

qualified. If the people that will bring growth, look like us, are able to adapt to the way we do things, and can contribute, we want them to join us so we can grow. It has always amazed me that church people often expect non-church people to somehow come and act like church people. Often the church people are concerned more about our own church people that lost people. Be careful not to say things that don't match what you know and eventually do.

I had to explain to Drew and later told Tracy, I was in no way trying to deceive you. Most church people are not trying to deceive people, they just have not realized that what they have been saying doesn't match what they really know and instinctively do. Realizing the mistake, owning it, and making things right are always in order!

Looking forward,

Chris

Cooperative



Florence Baptist Association, August, 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 15th. Greenwood Baptist has agreed to host this event. It will begin at 10 AM and conclude with 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. Registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 8th.



Glen Ward, Humorist



"The Called Quartet"



Bryant Simms, SCBC

WinShape Camp was AWESOME!!! There were 242 campers enrolled and 22 of these children accepted Jesus as their Savior during the week. GO GOD!! The camp in Florence is sponsored by Helping Florence Flourish. WinShap is connected to Chick fil A and they have the best professionally trained staff I have ever seen. They were truly team players and worked together so well. Florence had the Brown Team with 24 college age students and a full time WinShape staffer as their camp director. Thanks to Calvary, Florence First and Grace Baptist for feeding the staff an evening meal.

From the time the children checked in beginning at 7:45 am until it ended at 5 pm, there were constant activities – including worship, Bible study, skills like archery, basketball, crafts, master chef, recreation with water balloons and shaving cream. It was a child’s dream world. We needed a LOT more volunteers this year so I hope we will be able to recruit a lot more from our FBA churches for next year. First Presbyterian has shouldered the responsibility pretty much on their own for the last four years. This would be a great week for some of our older youth to get some experience which could result in them wanting to work for WinShape one summer.

ServeFlo - Helping Florence Flourish (HFF) is sponsoring **ServeFlo**, a season of service for Florence, during the month of October. They are encouraging churches to look around your community and see where God wants you to minister. This can be done on several different levels. It can be done church wide, or with children, youth, mission groups – however the Lord leads you. Think of groups that have been hit hard during this covid season – medical, business people, educators, law enforcement, EMT’s, firefighters, etc. Think of random acts of kindness – coffee & donuts, cookies, gift cards, etc. Target a favorite restaurant and ask them how many employees they have. Fix “thank you for your service bags” for each employee with gum, candy, gift cards, etc. - always include the plan of salvation and how to contact your church, etc. The ServeFlo project could be pressure washing, yard work, or simple construction. The HFF website, helpingflorence-flourish.org, will also have projects listed for which you can sign up. Projects will be added to the website as they are confirmed. Churches can also add their project to the HFF website. As more information becomes available it will be added to the website.

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 has increased so much this year.

**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.

**Financial Information
June 2022**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$15,258.71
Monthly Expenses:	\$19,963.95
Year to Date Received:	\$110,824.02
Year to Date Expenses:	\$102,054.02

**Bliss Ball
October 1, 2022
Calvary Baptist Church**

Bliss Ball is the prom for children and adults with special needs. This year it will be held on Saturday, October 1 at Calvary Baptist Church from 3-5 pm for children up to 15 and from 6-8 pm for teens 16 years old up to adults.

The theme is Dr. Seuss. We need volunteers to help with decorating on Thursday, Sept. 29 from 6-8 pm and on Friday, Sept. 30 starting at 4 pm - if we don’t finish on Thursday. We also need volunteers during each prom and we need food. If you would like to help with any of this contact Louanne at 843.662.5921 or fbaflorence@sc.rr.com.

**WMU Fall Meeting
Monday, Sept. 26th**
6:30 pm
Florence First Baptist



The FBA Office will be closed Monday, Sept. 5th in observance of Labor day

August Birthdays

3	Rev. Henry Simmons, retired
7	Rev. Eddie Pettit (P), Evergreen
11	Rev. Blake Godbold (P), Mizpah
14	Mrs. Connie George (FBA)
15	Rev. Bryan Chapman (P), Pee Dee Comm
19	Dr. David Wike (P), Ebenezer
21	Rev. Barry Moon (P), Pamplico First
23	Rev. Julian Long, retired
24	Rev. David George (P) Cartersville
24	Rev. Chris Smith (FBA)

August Anniversaries

4	Leo (P) & Irma Carter, Alianzo
19	Wesley (P) & Dena Mayfield, Elim
31	Craig (P) & Beverly Tedder, Coward

**Capital Improvement
Fund Update!**

We have a new roof! As advertised, we have completed the first phase of our work on the FBA Building. We continue to thank each of you for the contributions to our capital improvement fund. Thus far, we have received a little less than \$20,000.00 of the \$25,000.00 goal. We will begin to look at replacing flooring and some other needed upgrades!

Looking forward, Chris.

“Ask and it shall be given unto you.”