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As we quickly approach the time to move the calendar to 2023, let it be said that 2022 was a good year. It was a year where people came to faith in Christ. It was a year where churches were forgetting about the effects of Covid and pressed on toward being the Body of Christ and fulfilling the great commission. It was a year where Good News Club came back to the elementary schools and CLC back to Southside Middle School. It was a year that the ministries of your Florence Baptist Association were mostly back to pre-Covid times. Even though there is record inflation, giving to the churches and thus the FBA has been good. If your congregation is doing well, remember and pray for one than is not.

There is much reason to rejoice! We had a great Senior Adult Rally and Pee Dee one night for the youth. We have much to be thankful for this year. As Christmas approaches, we rejoice in this: "For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord." Use this Christmas season to be a witness to your neighbors and friends. Be careful not to be a Grinch or Scrooge (I have to fight against this hard). Use it to start gospel conversations. Give someone an unexpected gift in

Jesus' name.

As you think toward 2023, don't focus on all the uncertainties. Focus on the truth of God's word. Know that God is working out His plan. It might not be your plan or what you want. If you truly have faith in Him, you believe his promises. "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 NAS

Merry Christmas to all of you and a Happy 2023.

Looking forward, Chris

Cooperative



Florence Baptist Association, December 2022-January, 2023



*From
Chris, Louanne & Connie*

It's been a busy FALL!!! So many of you help get ready for things but don't get to SEE things actually happen so I wanted to give a few updates.

Fair Ministry Update:

The fair ministry went great this year. The chicken bog meal on Wed, October 26 was fun and was attended by about 100 people. We had PLENTY of desserts for the meal and some to leave in the fair office. On November 2 we started hair cuts about 9:45 and didn't finish up to almost 1 pm which was passed the time we had planned to end. We did blood pressure checks, reading glasses and dental checks (each person got a new toothbrush and toothpaste if they did a check). Several problem areas were discovered. We also had donuts and coffee available. On Friday, Nov. 4 Ebenezer provided a hot breakfast for the workers before the devotion and yard sale. The Yard Sale was a huge success. We must have had around 50 blankets and they were all taken. The 200 Snack Sacks were given out Sunday night after 10 pm. They were very much appreciated by the workers as a food source for the rest of the night while they worked. The items that were left from the yard sale and the extra Snack Sacks were donated to the Courtney Graham Shelter. On Monday when I took the Snack Sacks, the lady started handing out the bags to people that were hanging around the shelter. All of a sudden I heard a lady squealing. I turned around and she was jumping up and down holding a blow pop saying, "I love blow pops and I haven't had one in a very long time! Thank you!" God can take something as insignificant as a blow pop and use it for His glory. THANKS to everyone who volunteered their time or donated anything to the fair ministry. It was a great year.

Operation Christmas Child Update:

We had a great National Collection Week for OCC November 14-21. Our Central Collection Center at Calvary Baptist Church, Florence put 24,062 showboxes in 1568 cartons on 4 full trucks and a partial load on the fifth truck. Our FBA churches donated 7,672 shoe boxes. Thank you to everyone who packed a shoe box for a child. Each box is a GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY for a child and their family to be reached with the saving message of JESUS!!!

Prisoner Packets Update: Packets were collected on Monday, November 28th. Thank you to all of you who checked your bags before you brought them to the FBA. Since SC WMU was requiring the gripper bags this year, I was prepared to have to switch a lot of them out, BUT I was pleasantly surprised that this was not the case. Our FBA goal was 800 and we ended up with 874 so we went over a goal. That was even with some churches not participating at all and some of you exceeding your goal. God ALWAYS works everything out. Several volunteers will be traveling to Columbia to Shandon Baptist Church on Monday, December 5 to work processing the bags for the chaplains to pick up on Tuesday to distribute to the inmates in SC. Thank you for your donations to continue to keep this ministry strong.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – LifeChangers June 18-23! This will be our 20th year so we will be having a birthday celebration during the week. If you haven't brought a group for a few years or have never brought a group, check out the LifeChangers Facebook page to see how much fun we have!!! Registration info will go out in January!! Questions – contact Louanne

**Financial Information
October 2022**

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|------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly Budget Needs: | \$19,166.67 |
| Monthly Received: | \$27,378.54 |
| Monthly Expenses: | \$16,211.65 |
| Year to Date Received: | \$190,316.03 |
| Year to Date Expenses: | \$169,127.72 |

IMPACT 2023

February 22-23, 2023
Church at The Mill

February 22, 2023
Wednesday Night Pre-Game
Church at The Mill
\$10 add-on for Pre-Game

February 23, 2023
Church at The Mill
Doors Open - 8:15 am
IMPACT- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

IMPACT is one day dedicated to creating a vibrant environment for networking and resourcing like mind pastors, church planters, staff, and church leaders. Don't miss the Wednesday Night Pre-Game from 6-8 pm to network with other church staff with BBQ and have the opportunity to get a glance of the ministries at Church at The Mill. There is a \$10 add-on for Pre-Game that you can select in registration.

Again this year there will be a track offered for Ministry Assistants.

For information regarding costs and group rates please visit <http://www.scbaptist.org/impact>.

December Birthdays

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 2 | Rev. Brian Lynn (MY), Calvary |
| 12 | Rev. Bill Greene (P), Hebron |
| 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 FBA |

January Birthdays

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 7 | Rev. Mike Mills (P), Calvary |
| 17 | Rev. Brad White (MY), Greenwood |

January Anniversaries

| | |
|----|--|
| 14 | Mike (P) & Carolina Mills, Calvary |
| 24 | David (P) & Nancy Cromer, Willow Creek |

For Your Information

The FBA Office will be closed Thursday, December 22nd through Friday December 30th for Christmas Holidays. The office will reopen on Monday, January 2, 2023. The FBA Staff wishes everyone a Christ filled Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of Rev. Charlie Pittman, Immanuel, in the death of his mother-in-law, Ms. Anita White.

